

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
168 NORTH 1950 WEST  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

**February 26, 2009**

**Present:**

Scott Parson, Chair	Karl Bentley, Vice Chair	Lois Bulloch
Marty Ott	Bill Bleak	Joe Hull
Glenn Greenhalgh	Irene Hansen	Eli Anderson
Mary Tullius	Mark Forbes	Bruce Hamilton
Wendy Griffith	Rock Smith	Deena Loyola

**Visitors:**

Gael Hill	Karen Krieger	Mike Nelson
Tim Garcia	Jay Christianson	Ron Taylor
Steve Bates	Heather Shilton	Dan McConkie

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Chair Scott Parson welcomed board members and staff to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Chair Parson reviewed the agenda. He asked board members for approval of the board agenda as presented.

**VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the October 9, 2008 board meeting minutes.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2008 BOARD MEETING. MR. GLENN GREENHALGH SECONDED THE MOTION. CHAIR PARSON AND BOARD MEMBER ELI ANDERSON DID NOT VOTE AS THEY WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING. IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS.**

**Board Member Reports**

Board Member Glenn Greenhalgh mentioned that he has been working with Yuba State Park on their OHV plan with BLM. It appears we have been able to come to agreement with the BLM to open the area to OHVs.

Vice-Chair Bentley mentioned that he has visited and golfed at Green River. He said the staff there are great to work with and they do a great job.

Board Member Lois Bulloch said they are still working on the name change for Iron Mission State Park.

Board Member Eli Anderson mentioned that he attended a meeting with some people from Utah State University and the issue was raised regarding a very noxious weed that is present at Antelope Island. They were very concerned that this weed could spread throughout Utah. It was suggested that this be brought up to the Antelope Island State Park staff this afternoon when they make an RMP presentation.

Board Member Marty Ott said he went on a horse ride with Southeast Region Manager Tim Smith and his wife, and also the San Juan County Commissioner. Board Member Ott said Tim is not only a great manager, but is also a great ambassador for State Parks. He said a lot of the progress made, is done outside of the office.

**Director's Report**

Director Mary Tullius mentioned that we lost our \$1 million match money for BOR renovation projects. This

was lost due to budget cuts this year. A meeting was held with DFCM to discuss this, but we were unable to secure the funding for FY 09. They did commit that we will have the money back in FY 10. This is for the project at Starvation. A meeting was also held with BOR to discuss this and they will try to get caught up on projects this year.

Director Tullius referred the board members to the Power of Play handout they were given. She mentioned that the legislators were not given a free state parks pass this year; they were given a coupon for a discount on their pass. Their coupon was for \$30 off a regular pass or \$15 off a senior pass. The coupon was included in the Power of Play handout that each legislator received the day of State Parks presentation. Deena Loyola and her staff did a great job on this handout.

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton said the third annual Managers' Academy was held this year. There were about forty people in attendance and it was very successful. This will probably be put on hold for a couple of years due to the budget cuts. Consolidated law enforcement training will be held next week and will probably continue to be an annual training session. We probably break even on this due to the number of law enforcement employees and the annual training required of them. The Bear Lake State Park slip rental process has changed this year. We have been given direction to look at ways to maximize revenue. This year, we will go off of the established waiting list. Next year, at least 50% of the slips will go through a bid process; the other 50% will go off of the waiting list. Board members may receive some phone calls regarding this, so Deputy Director Hamilton will make sure the board members receive a copy of the letter that will be sent out to potential slip renters. This process was put in place at Jordanelle State Park last year and worked out very well. Chair Parson feels this is a way for us to find out from the public what the slips are worth. There have been some promotions and retirements; they are listed in the board packet. Bevan Monroe was promoted to assistant park manager at Fremont Indian State Park Museum and Wayne Monroe was promoted to Willard Bay State Park Manager. Fred Rhoads, Park Ranger at Red Fleet, will retire on March 1, 2009, after almost 20 years of service. Chair Parson questioned the electronic timesheet training that was noted in the board packet. This was explained to him. He also asked about the homicide situation at Jordanelle and how State Parks was asked to handle it. Director Tullius mentioned what a great job our staff did in handling this very difficult situation. They all worked so hard and were very professional. She is very proud of the staff involved. He asked if the hiker that was lost at Goblin Valley over Thanksgiving was found. She has not been found. He also brought up the new trail at Dead Horse Point. Director Tullius said there is a tentative date set for the dedication of this trail, which is May 4, 2009. She is working with the Governor's Office to try to work it out with Governor Huntsman's schedule to see if he can be available for this.

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reported for the first seven months we had a little bit of an increase in revenue. Expenditures went up, too, but not as much. The reservations are very close in numbers for 2007 and 2008. It looks like people are still making their reservations, but they are just waiting longer than in the past. So far, the trends are at least holding to last year. Our marketing budget has been cut so we are working closely with our partners to try to continue marketing as much as we can. Chair Parson mentioned a couple of tag lines we could possible use: "Stay where you play" and "An economy vacation in a world class destination." We are really looking at technology right now, such as the website. We will be working on a lot of web marketing. We are streamlining our technology to do more with less.

### **Anasazi State Park Museum Resource Management Plan**

Planning Coordinator Rock Smith handed out the highlights and recommendations of the resource management plan for Anasazi State Park Museum. Mike Nelson, Anasazi State Park Manager, assisted Rock Smith in reviewing the highlights. Former Board Member Gael Hill was a part of the Resource Management planning team and she is present at this meeting. There were several discussions regarding the information contained in the highlights. The name change for the park was discussed and Board Member Eli Anderson mentioned that we might want to work with the Native American liaison board on this. It was suggested that we possibly do a multiple-day discount and/or a passport program for the parks in this area.

**MR. MARTY OTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE ANASAZI STATE PARK MUSEUM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Special Recognition**

Forestry, Fire and State Lands Deputy Director Tim Garcia presented Board Member Joe Hull with a plaque for his services and participation on the Forestry, Fire and State Lands Advisory Board between 2002 and 2007. Deputy Director Garcia thanked Mr. Hull for his service and dedication.

Chair Parson acknowledged former Board Member Gael Hill. A plaque was presented to her for her service on the Board of Utah State Parks and Recreation. Ms. Hill said she didn't leave the Board of Utah State Parks and Recreation because she wanted to, it was because she became a state employee and there could have been a potential conflict. She was thanked for her service and she will be missed.

### **Antelope Island State Park DRAFT Resource Management Plan**

Planning Coordinator Smith, Antelope Island State Park Manager Ron Taylor, and Wildlife Range Manager Steve Bates handed out the highlights and recommendations and the Wildlife Plan Update for the Antelope Island State Park Resource Management Plan. The highlights were reviewed and discussions held on some of the items. There was discussion regarding movies that have been filmed on Antelope Island.

Board Member Eli Anderson questioned the Antelope Island staff regarding the noxious weed problem that was discussed earlier. Mr. Bates said the weed being discussed is common mullen. This has not been officially listed as a noxious weed at this point, but they have been looking into it, with the help of Dr. Dewey from USU. A recommendation will be made by Dr. Dewey this spring so they can determine how to handle the problem. Mr. Bates will provide the board members with a final report on the progress being made.

Mr. Bates reviewed the 2001 Wildlife Plan Update Overview that was handed out to the group. This update addresses the noxious weed issue and how they handle it, among many other issues they deal with.

Chair Parson thanked the Resource Management Planning team for the work they have done on this plan. This is still in draft form and will be presented to the board for their approval at an upcoming board meeting.

### **Friends of Utah State Parks Update**

Director Tullius introduced and welcomed Dan McConkie, Chair of the Friends of Utah State Parks. Mr. McConkie updated the board members on the Friends group. The Friends group was formed in November of 2007. Officers have been elected and by-laws formed for this group. The Friends group is able to lobby for Utah State Parks and attempt to gain funding and support. There was a conscious effort to not lobby this year, but they will work towards lobbying next year. He read the mission of the Friends of Utah State Parks to the group. They would like to bring public awareness to the state parks and get the legislators to recognize the state parks in their respective areas. A membership committee has been formed to recruit new members to the Friends group. Meetings for the Friends group have been held monthly. The next meeting will be held at Soldier Hollow in May. This group is very passionate about state parks. The board is very appreciative of the efforts of the Friends group. Director Tullius thanked him for his passion and willingness to take on this project.

### **Budget and Legislative Update**

Director Tullius handed out a budget reduction report. There have been several stages of reductions for this fiscal year. Director Tullius and the two deputy directors held individual meetings with each member of the division's leadership team to discuss their concerns and ideas regarding the budget cuts. These meetings were very helpful and informative. There have been several items looked at with this group in several different meetings. We have reviewed our vision and core mission. This approach allowed each person to look at where they felt we could take the budget cuts with the least impact. She reviewed the handout and explained these are just estimates because we won't know for sure what the budget cuts will be until the legislative session ends. There were discussions regarding the budget cuts. Chair Parson asked if we are faced with an additional years(s) of budget cuts, would it be better to possibly "mothball" some parks? Director Tullius said this has been discussed, but we would rather not do that unless we absolutely have to. We are looking at every single vacancy before we recruit to fill that position. We are also only recruiting from within for the positions that are critical to fill.

A handout was given to the board members regarding the legislation and the bills we are tracking this year. We had no division-sponsored bills this year. She reviewed the bills listed and explained how each one would affect State Parks. There was only one bill that came up this session that would affect us, but it was defeated on the floor. This bill was to allow free entrance to state parks for senior citizens.

### **Vision 2010 Strategic Plan Update**

Planning Coordinator Smith handed out an update on the Vision 2010 Strategic Plan. The board will review this plan on their own. Chair Parson commended Mr. Smith and staff on the great job that has been done working with this

plan. It was suggested that we start looking at a team to begin the next strategic plan, possibly have a team formed by the June meeting. Director Tullius mentioned she is very proud of this plan and encouraged every board member to read through it. There were some areas highlighted that have been completed or close to being completed.

It was suggested that we be very careful when we are looking at cutting training budgets, this could hurt us in the long-term. It was also suggested that we search out training opportunities in local areas or through vendors. It was requested that a presentation be made at one of the next board meetings on the Managers' Academy. It was noted that we don't have the Flight Park listed in the accomplishments in Vision 2010.

### **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**

Planning Coordinator Smith gave everybody a handout regarding the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). He reviewed this handout and reviewed the purpose of this plan, which is mainly to keep Utah's eligibility for Land and Water Conservation Funds. This plan is completed every five years.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Approval**

Land and Water Conservation Fund Coordinator Seth McArthur mentioned the SCORP, as reviewed above, was made to assist with this program. It helps to prioritize the projects and applications received. He handed out a review of the priority system for these projects. The priority list and projects were reviewed.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT RANKING AND FUNDING UP TO THE AMOUNTS REQUESTED BASED ON FEDERAL APPROPRIATION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MS. IRENE HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Fee Increases**

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reviewed the request to increase the golf fees at Wasatch Mountain State Parks (to include Soldier Hollow Golf Course). We are trying to keep the costs reasonable so the public can still afford to enjoy golf.

There was discussion regarding the fee increase approval process. We will get more clarification regarding this. Deputy Director Forbes will research this. There was a question if we could possibly ask the legislature to approve fees up to a certain amount and then set the fees up to that amount. It was recommended that this be included in the entire fee schedule and presented to the board members at that time. The board members discussed this and made the decision to vote on the proposed fees at this time.

**MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE PROPOSED GOLF FEE INCREASES FOR WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GOLF COURSES BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING THE 20 PUNCH PASS AND THE SENIOR PASS. VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. BOARD MEMBER ELI ANDERSON OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Zion National Park License Plate Fund Rule**

Deputy Director Forbes explained the request to approve the Zion National Park license plate rule as included in the board packet. State Parks will receive a portion of the funds received by Zion National Park. There was a suggestion made that the State Parks Friends group look into getting a license plate for State Parks.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTION "R651-636. PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION TO RECEIVE FUNDS FROM THE ZION NATIONAL PARK RESTRICTED ACCOUNT" BE ADOPTED TO RULE AND READS AS PROPOSED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Recreational Trails Advisory Council Member Approval**

Deputy Director Hamilton reviewed the positions up for reappointment on the Recreational Trails Advisory Council and also the vacant position. The letters and applications are attached to the board packet.

**VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT SEAN DAMITZ AND DAVID OLSEN BE APPOINTED TO A SECOND AND FINAL THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE UTAH RECREATIONAL**

**TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL. HE ALSO MOVED THAT DAN FAZZINI, JR. BE APPOINTED TO A NEW THREE-YEAR TERM COUNCIL, REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF BICYCLISTS. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **OHV Advisory Council Member Approval**

Deputy Director Hamilton reviewed the vacant positions on the OHV Advisory Council. He presented staff recommendations for these positions.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT DR. KEVIN KESSLER BE APPOINTED AS THE ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE REPRESENTATIVE AND MR. TODD ADAMS BE APPOINTED AS THE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **2009 Board Meeting Schedule**

It was suggested that we hold the next meeting on April 23, 2009, possibly at Antelope Island. The following meeting will be held in June to discuss and vote on a new fee schedule. That meeting will be held on June 25, 2009, possibly at Wasatch Mountain. There will be one more meeting held during the last six months of this year.

#### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

**VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD CONVENE INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO START THE NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REAL ESTATE AND CONTRACT STRATEGY AND LITIGATION ISSUES, PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT EXEMPTION AT UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 52-4-5 (1A). MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD MEETING ADJOURN.**