

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SOLDIER HOLLOW CONFERENCE ROOM
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

November 5, 2009

Present:

Karl Bentley, Chair
Bill Bleak
Jaren Davis
Mark Forbes
Deena Loyola

Marty Ott, Vice Chair
Glenn Greenhalgh
Eli Anderson
Bruce Hamilton

Lois Bulloch
Joseph Hull
Mary Tullius
Wendy Griffith

Absent:

Irene Hansen

Visitors:

John Knudson

Howard Nuttall

Chair Karl Bentley welcomed board members, staff, and visitors to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting conference call. Chair Bentley welcomed Mr. Jaren Davis to the board and congratulated him on his appointment. He asked Mr. Davis to introduce himself.

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

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MR. GLENN GREENHALGH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bentley asked board members for review and approval of the August 20, 2009 board meeting minutes.

MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2009 BOARD MEETING. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Bentley mentioned that Ms. Bulloch, Mr. Greenhalgh, and Mr. Anderson have been reappointed for an additional four-year term. These board members will take the oath of office at the next board meeting.

Director's Report

Director Mary Tullius welcomed everybody. She mentioned the land transfer with Salt Lake City was signed and completed on October 5. Ms. Tullius referred board members to their board packet. She discussed the building board ranking list included in the packet. Wasatch Mountain State Park campground was presented to the Building Board as our Number 1 priority. It was initially ranked as Number 9, but in a subsequent ranking was moved to Number 19. The handout that was presented to the Building Board is included in the board packet. She is pleading for the help of our board members to

contact the building board members to advocate for State Parks projects. There is a list of the building board members included in the packet, but we were told it is not public information. We will continue to try and get the phone numbers for the individual members. Jaren Davis mentioned that he knows a couple of the Building Board members. Chair Bentley asked each board member to contact at least one of the Building Board members. It was suggested that the members of the Capital Facilities Committee also be contacted. He listed the Building Board members and who will contact them: Mel Sowerby (Joe Hull); Steve Bankhead and Jeff Nielson (Karl Bentley); Cindy Gilbert (Lois Bulloch and Karl Bentley); Wilbert McDougal and Sheila Gelman (Jaren Davis). He asked everybody to make contacts prior to Thanksgiving and report back if possible.

Director Tullius updated the board members on the Beverage Container Legislation. The Friends of Utah State Parks met this week to discuss this bill and remain passionate about it. They are going to reduce the deposit from six cents to five cents per container. It is very important to maintain the integrity of these funds. We are trying very hard to keep these funds for things that are related to natural resources, recreation, and use of the land. We have some ideas for sponsors. They include: Representative Garn, Senator Killpack, Senator Karen Morgan, Senator Stuart Adams, Senator Hillyard, Senator Pat Jones, Representative Sheryl Allen, and Representative Howke. Members of the Friends group will be making contact with these individuals. They will also be attending the Association of Counties meeting to make a presentation. Deputy Director Mark Forbes mentioned the group would like to make sure they have an impact in the upcoming legislative session. Wendy will send out a list of the Capital Facilities Committee members and if any of the board members can contact them, please do so.

We will begin the development of a new five-year strategic plan. Rock Smith, Planning Manager, will be retiring the end of December and Edie Trimmer, Planner, is retiring next week. Jay Christianson, Northwest Region Manager, is also retiring the end of December. We are definitely going to miss all of these employees.

The first five months of the fiscal year have gone well as far as visitation and revenue collected; we are slightly bit ahead of projection. Our intention for these funds is going to be to replace some seasonal funds that were cut from the parks. We were instructed to plan for 1, 3, and 5% budget cuts two months ago and have just been told that we also need to develop a plan for 7 and 10% cuts. We were also just told that the FY10 revenue targets have not been met, so there may be additional cuts for this fiscal year. We have been told by Executive Appropriations that we will keep parks open despite the budget cuts.

The Governor has appointed an Efficiency Commission. We have been working very hard to compile a lot of different information that DNR will be supplying to the commission. A preliminary report will be coming out shortly and a more detailed report will be out later in 2010.

Deputy Director Mark Forbes said we are doing okay in terms of revenue and expenditure so far this fiscal year. Camping reservations are up about 12%; day use is up significantly; and golf is down just a bit. The Public Affairs section is doing great things and has set us up in the social network. We are on Facebook and Twitter. Our first draft of the new Field Guide has gone through. We are putting together an online registration system and have put OHV education online. Mark said he has never worked with a better group of people.

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton mentioned that our OHV education has been online for a couple of months now, with great results. Right now we are certifying about 30 kids per week for the summer course. The Utah Captains and Guides licenses and permits will be available online at cooperating colleges very soon. The momentum we gained with the new Intrepid Trail at Dead Horse Point has been carried on by John Knudson. He is completing finish work on the Crandall Point Trail and Trailhead, rerouting the perimeter trail at Jordanelle and working on the Palisade lake shore trail. Managers' Academy planning is entering the final phase for the fourth year. This is a great training and a good investment for our leaders of tomorrow. The blast furnace dedication was held at Frontier Homestead State Park Museum and it was a great event. This will add a great interpretive component at this park. The Utah Field House was recognized by the Scenic Byway Commission for the movie they have in their

museum about the fossil journey. The annual bison round-up is underway at Antelope Island State Park. Mr. Hamilton said our people have been doing this so well for so long, that they make this difficult task look really simple.

State Trails and Pathways Fiscal Assistance Recommendations

Chair Bentley welcomed State Trails Coordinator John Knudson to the meeting. Mr. Knudson said we have zero appropriations for state trail dollars for this year. We have \$1,500 that was left over from FY 09 appropriations specifically for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. The Utah Recreational Trails Advisory Council is requesting that we enter into a contract with Salt Lake City to utilize that final \$1,500. The work will be done on this trail from Red Butte Gardens to City Creek Canyon. There is \$26,500 that was appropriated last year for an equestrian trailhead off the Mirror Lake Highway on Forest Service property. The Forest Service has informed us that project is going to take longer than it normally would to utilize the funds, so they have graciously given up that award. The Advisory Council is recommending the Board approve that money to go to Moab to build two new mountain bike trails.

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL GRANT RECOMMENDATION BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Lois Bulloch mentioned that she had somebody contact her asking about a check-off for non-motorized trails like they have for motorized trails on the tax return form. Ms. Tullius said she received a call from the same person. Mr. Knudson offered to send Ms. Bulloch a list of people and organizations that are involved in non-motorized trails that could help with that effort.

Utah Federal Recreational Trails Program Recommendations

State Trails Coordinator Knudson reviewed the recommendations made by the combined trails (motorized and non-motorized) council regarding the Federal Recreational Trails money. The list of recommendations has been included in the board packet.

Mr. Howard Nuttall works with the Utah State Department of Health and represents the Gold Medal Mile trails. He is attending this meeting to learn what he can about the trails in Utah. Mr. Knudson mentioned they have been working with the Mountain Trails Foundation on a trail near Coalville. He asked Mr. Nuttall to contact him to work on this.

2010 Board Meeting Schedule

Chair Bentley proposed the following dates for next year's board meetings: February 11th in Salt Lake City; May 6th at Camp Floyd; August 5th; and November 4th. Locations for the last two board meetings will be determined at a later date.

Other Business

Ms. Lois Bulloch mentioned that she has received a phone call complaining about the fee for Disabled Veteran's passes. Mr. Mark Forbes has been doing some research about disabled veterans. This will be looked into further and Mark will summarize the information he has and send the information to the board members.

Upcoming Board Meeting

MR. GLENN GREENHALGH 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. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD MEETING ADJOURN.