

MINUTES OF THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Department of Natural Resources

January 25, 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pam Berger	Present
Paulette Welch	Excused
Steve Christensen	Excused – resigned via email today
Lucy Minahan	Present - left at 5:30
Troy Mann	Present
Guy Taylor	Present
Tim Gaylord	Present via conference call signed off at 4:45
Hank Cobb	Excused
Ray Schelble	Present

DIVISION OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION

Dave Harris	Boating Program Manager
Chris Haller	OHV Program Manager
Stacy Stickler	OHV/Boating Program Executive Secretary
Fred Hayes	Deputy Director of Operations

GUEST

Larry Dalton	Division of Wildlife Resources, AIS Program Coordinator
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Guy made the motion to approve the July 2010 minutes. Ray seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Troy made the motion to approve the October 2010 minutes. Guy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DIVISION UPDATE

Dave introduced Fred Hayes, Deputy Director of Operations for State Parks, to the Council.

Fred would like to thank the Council for their participation on the Council. The Council is of great value to the Division.

Legislature is in session, they recommended a \$3 million cut of State Parks, which is 30% of the general fund money State Parks receives. We maybe looking at park

closures, seasonal closures, service cut backs, facilities closed during the week, noticeable changes in the way State Parks run. State Parks just had an audit and there are recommendations in that audit of things we can do to reduce expenditures. We will exhaust every possibility before we shut down any parks.

Ray would like to have State Park Friends group updates sent to the Council. Stacy will get with Robin and have this information sent out.

CPFH ISSUES

UGO/CROA conference will be held in Grand Junction February 8 – 10, 2011. Chris and Stacy will be attending this conference. We will be partnering a booth with Utah Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks and their aquatic nuisance species personnel.

Flatwater river designation on the Green River, there is still some confusion on this issue so this will not be discussed at the February State Parks Board meeting. We will hold off on this issue until a later date. Dave and Tim will get together and look at a river map on these issues.

CPFH testing issues – the current test is a combination of a test that we have had for twenty years, and at a request from the river community, we rewrote some of the questions and developed more questions for the test. We went through and cleaned up a lot of the questions. We are still committed to have this test redone. We are looking at having Karen English of NAU to take a look at the test and see what they can do to help us with the test. If they cannot help us we will put this out for Request for Proposal (RFP) for a standardized river guide test.

Tim voiced his concern about the test bringing up similar questions being asked twice and how many questions the system pulls. Lucy would like to see quality questions instead on quantity of questions.

Dave reiterated that we will look at the test and make sure we get something new in the works as soon as we can.

Ray asked Dave about putting the phrase ‘fishing guide’ in the laws and rules so when someone is doing a quick search of the regulations the carrying passengers for hire rules reflects fishing guides. Dave has spoken with some of the parks about putting a flyer together to hand out to people who might be a fishing guide or something of the sorts. Chris brought up about putting examples in the definition of carrying passengers for hire. Dave asked the Council to come up with some of the popular names of these sorts of guides.

AIS UPDATE

Larry Dalton of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources gave an update on the aquatic invasive species issue. Powerpoint presentation is available.

MBA PROJECTS

FY2011

Lowest priority – did not fund

- Saratoga Springs docks
- Green River Launch

Highest priority – funded

- Saratoga Springs armoring
- Moon Lake ramp feasibility
- Yuba Oasis restroom
- Yuba Painted Rocks ramp widening
- Hyrum parking
- Corinne ramp phase II
- Yuba fish cleaning station
- Rockport fish cleaning station
- Jordanelle courtesy dock
- Steinaker dock ramp/trial
- Jordanelle ramp courtesy dock
- Yuba breakwater

FY2010

Lowest priority – did not fund

- Cedar Springs breakwater
- Cedar Springs docks
- Green River

Highest priority – funded

- Cedar Springs gangway
- Sand Hollow restroom
- Yuba restroom
- Strawberry ADA dock
- Rainbow Cove
- Steinaker parking
- Deer Creek parking
- Lucerne III
- Strawberry ramp feasibility
- Pineview

PFD LABELS

Guy brought up the concern about PFDs on PWCs. PWCs are more powerful now a days and he wants to make sure the PFDs will hold up to those speeds.

Dave brought in some examples of PFDs and the labels that are on PFDs. The test rating will hold up to the more powerful PWCs.

R651-215-11. PFDs.

All Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be used according to the conditions or restrictions listed on the U.S. Coast Guard Approval Label.

BOATING PROGRAM UPDATE

10 total fatalities

Panguitch

Piute

2 Strawberry

2 Jordan River

Utah Lake

Colorado River – commercial

Deer Creek

USCG Stats

3800 boating le, safety, education hours

1200 citations

46 BUI arrests

300 careless operations citations

60 navigation rules citations

133 citations for lack of equipment requirements

68 SAR cases

Total boat inspections 3906

Boating certificates 1000 issued

500 navigation aids we maintained

27% of boats were in total compliance

Upcoming training

Feb 15-16 boating officer conference

April 11-15 NASBLA boat accident investigation school

April 20-21 NAV/SAR

May 4-6 boat officer training

Legislature recommendations

Defining abandoned vessels

New definitions for abandoned vessels, beached vessels, moored vessels will need to work on once this bill is approved

Registration requirements to mirror motor vehicles

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Dave would like the Council members to contact at least one group in the area they represent and get their comments or concerns to bring to the Council. Dave would be willing to go with the members to make these contacts. We would like to get a base of issues to get a better knowledge of boater concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

65 foot rules and livery rules that were approved by the Council will be addressed at the Board meeting next week.

Steve Christensen would like his letter to be read into these minutes:

Steve Christensen

January 25, 2009

I ask that this letter be read into the minutes of today's Boating Advisory Council meeting.

As most of you know I suffered a stroke in July of 2009. After that stroke I was told I needed to eliminate stress from my life. That is a very difficult thing to do. I have been frustrated in recent months by the staff of the Boating Division of State Parks, particularly Chris Haller. I wish Chris the best in his new position.

It is my opinion the guide test is very poor and needs to be completely redone. I brought this to the attention of the staff in September and voiced my concerns at the October meeting. The minutes of that meeting don't begin to represent what I said. It is my opinion qualified guides have been denied a guide license due to an unfair test. Outfitting companies have been hurt by this practice. In the past couple of months I have had communication with several of you about my feelings and my frustrations. This problem goes way beyond a few poorly worded questions. Parts of the test are completely irrelevant. There are/were even questions with wrong answers. I realize the carrying for passengers rules were revised just a few years ago, but it needs to be done again. It needs to be done by people who understand rivers and guiding.

If I say anything more is will be even more derogatory and I don't want to leave the council in that manner. As an outfitter I will have continued interaction with the staff. I don't want them to resent me. I hope that is not too late.

I encourage State Parks to look for a person to replace Chris who has expertise in floating rivers. This is not an academic endeavor. You can't learn what you need to know by reading a book. I ask the council to please see that the rules and the test are revised and done so in a fair and objective manner. This was not the case when it was last reviewed.

With that, I resign my position on the board, effective immediately, and wish everyone luck in their future endeavors. I apologize for bailing out in this manner, but feel I must do so for health considerations.

Regretfully,

Steve Christensen

Dave will send out a press release for applications for a paddle craft representative. Pam would like to see a plaque or something of appreciation sent to Steve for his years on the Council. Stacy will look into this and get something sent to him.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.