

**MINUTES OF THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Department of Natural Resources

January 6, 2010

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pam Berger	Absent
Steve Christensen	Present
Lucy Minahan	Present (came in at 3:40 p.m.)
Paulette Welch	Absent
Troy Mann	Present
Guy Taylor	Present

**DIVISION OF STATE PARKS AND RECREATION PERSONNEL**

Dave Harris	Boating Program Manager
Chris Haller	Assistant Boating Program Manager
Stacy Blake	Boating Executive Secretary
Brad Adkins	Website Specialist

**GUESTS**

Hank Cobb	Utah Water Ski Club
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**ITEM 1 – NINE MEMBER COUNCIL**

The nine-member council was approved by the Utah State Parks Board. The recommendations for the new council to be taken to the Board are as follows:

Pam Berger, Boating Safety & Education Organizations member;  
Lucy Minahan, Sailing member;  
Guy Taylor, Personal Watercraft member;  
Troy Mann, Marine Dealer member;  
Steve Christensen, Paddle Craft member; and  
Paulette Welch, Motorboat member.

This will leave the Outfitting Company position; the Boating Anglers position and the Water Sports position vacant.

Steve would like UGO (Utah Guide and Outfitters) contacted for the Outfitting Company position. Utah State Parks (USP) made a commitment to UGO that they will be able to recommend people for this position, but it would be up to the Council to determine who would fill that position. Steve will contact UGO for recommendations for the Outfitting Company member.

USP will solicit applications for the Boating Anglers and Water Sports positions. Dave will prepare the application and synopsis for these positions and USP will email that to the Council and will also send out a press release.

Hank Cobb will send out the information for the vacant positions to his contacts as well.

## **ITEM 2 – EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS OVER 65'**

There are no specific equipment requirements for vessels over 65 feet. All equipment requirements are for vessels up to 65 feet. There are over 150 recreation boats that are over 65 feet.

Part of the Council decided in the October meeting to become a working group to find out recommendations for vessels over 65 feet. Dave is continuing to work on his part of this group and does not have an update at this time.

Guy's recommendations for vessels over 65 feet are to have a fuel shut off; must have one BI and one BII fire extinguishers; a bilge pump - automatic as well as a manual in each separate compartment; throwable life jackets; life raft; and length of vessel determines how many fire extinguishers. These are required for commercial vessels and just a foundation for the discussion of the equipment exceptions. Dave said commercial vessels are required to have a life ring on each deck of a vessel.

Chris will take over the work group and go forward with the exemptions.

Steve would like to see a rough draft of the equipment requirements for vessels over 65 feet at the next meeting. Guy made the motion for that rough draft to be presented to the Council on April 7, 2010, and Troy made the second. All were in favor.

## **ITEM 3 – EQUIPMENT EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN VESSELS**

### **Issue One**

Dave handed out a copy of the rule that he has proposed changes to (listed below). The discussion at the last meeting was to add the language in blue and omit the language in red. The stand up paddle craft has been a hit on the coast and is now moving inland. There is a group at the Great Salt Lake that is starting to use the stand up paddle craft, as well as people starting to use them on rivers.

It is not feasible to have a bail bucket or spare propulsion on a float tube or paddle craft.

R651-219-7 Equipment Exemptions

- (1) Sailboards, float tubes, standup paddle craft and personal watercraft are exempt from the following rules: Section R651-219-2 bail buckets; and Section R651-219-3 spare propulsion; ~~and Section R651-225-4 prohibiting riding on exterior surfaces.~~

## Issue Two

### R651-219-7 Equipment Exemptions

(5) Non-standard, manually propelled vessels such as an air mattress and inner tubes are required to be compliant with life jacket requirements when:

- (a) being used on any river; or
- (b) being used over 50 feet from shore except in a marked swimming area.

Currently everyone is required to have a life jacket available to them while on any vessel and on certain rivers it is required for people to wear them. This would clarify that non-standard, manually propelled vessels would be exempt from the life jacket requirements.

Guy made the motion to accept the changes above, Troy made the second. All were in favor.

## **ITEM 4 – BOATING PROGRAM UPDATE**

Dave gave a brief program update. Utah had 103 boating accidents in 2009, compared to approximately 80 in 2008. A lot of these accidents were water skiing related.

We had a couple of boat fires, and a couple of carbon monoxide poisonings.

We had eleven fatalities in 2009, up from five in 2008. Four of the deaths were on the river wearing life jackets, seven total fatalities on the rivers. The other four fatalities were on Lake Powell in one accident. Nationwide it was a bad year for multiple accidents.

Economic impacts of boating in Utah – Utah registered boat owners paid \$5.7 million to the individual counties for the age-based fee (property tax). Utah has around 75,000 registered boats.

Recreational Marine Research Center has an economic impact calculator on the internet done by the Michigan State University. This calculator came up with the impact of craft and trip spending by registered power and sail boats in Utah to be approximately \$466 million brought into the economy and created 3,900 jobs related to the marine industry; \$51 million for labor income and added value \$254 million.

The boating education is online for the mandatory personal watercraft education. We have two providers offering the classes online. This is going very well. The education class online is a managed course which makes the student spend an allotted time on each page. The minimum time spent on the course is three and one-half hours. The student has the opportunity to stop and start again with a username and password so they don't have to spend the whole three hours at once. At the beginning of the course the student is asked a series of questions that will be re-asked sometime during the course to make sure who started the test is the same person taking the course. We are one of the first Western states to have the online course.

With the youth course now online, we have more time to focus on the adult education. Right now we have less than 200 adults taking the home education course or the online education course. We promote this course everywhere we can (news releases, patrols, boat shows, etc.). Our goal is to have mandatory boating education for all boaters. Not this legislative year but next year we would like to propose a bill for mandatory education. The US Coast Guard, on the national basis, has asked to have the rule making authority for a nationwide mandatory education.

This time of year we are working on boating training for our staff. Chris is working on the navigation and search and rescue training that will be held at Utah Lake in April and also the officer training that is held at Lake Powell in May. Typically we get twenty-five to thirty officers from various agencies attend those trainings.

With the budget restraints, we have had to cut back on our travel so we are looking at taking our annual boating conference to a regional basis instead of having all our rangers come to Salt Lake for the training. We will attend the region meetings to present boating issues.

Western State Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA) will be holding their annual conference in Park City this year. WSBAA is the 16 western states and territories. The conference will be held June 13th through the 16<sup>th</sup>. Dave will keep the Council updated on this conference. Dave will see what he can do about having the Council attend and covering the registration fee.

We don't have any legislative initiatives this year, but we do have a clean up bill for language.

Aquatic Invasive Species - all the tests have come back and no new waters in Utah came back positive. The waters that have tested positive before came back negative as well. The decontamination program will be permanent.

#### Carrying Passengers for hire update from Chris:

The online testing is coming along very nicely, just a little slow. The endorsement study guides are complete and ready to go. They will be available on the website once the online testing goes into affect. The questions are written and Stacy is currently entering them into the database.

MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) are currently out and being signed. College of Eastern Utah and the Utah State University Uintah Basin campus have signed the MOU and returned it, so they are ready to start testing. We are waiting for the signed MOUs from USU Moab and Logan extension offices, Southern Utah University and Northern Arizona University. We may have a possible lead for a community college in Denver, Colorado, as a potential testing site.

The new online renewal process took effect on Monday January 1, 2010.

Chris gave a presentation on the changes in the carrying passengers for hire program in November to UGO at their annual winter meeting. It was very well received.

Chris will be conducting a vessel inspection training course for UGO. One of trainings will be held in February and the other in March, both in Moab. This training is for the Outfitters so they know what they will be inspected for on their annual or five-year dry dock inspection by a USP Marine Inspector. Chris is coordinating with UGO on times and locations for these trainings to make it convenient for the Outfitters.

We have sent out the annual Outfitter registration letter that includes information about the new online testing and renewal processes.

We have also sent out the annual Livery registration letter.

We had two new boats recently show up from Boston Whaler that will replace the boats at Lake Powell. We will also be downsizing our personal watercraft fleet from 16 to 12.

Chris has been creating video installments to put on the USP Facebook homepage. These installments deal with boating safety. They ask a question and the first person to answer that question receives a safe boating prize. It is one of the hottest items on USP Facebook site.

USP does have an iPhone application and the boating section would like to get the safety check off list on that application.

Chris is working on a new website that has up-to-date boating conditions and information on lakes and reservoirs. Chris will give updates as this project progresses.

We had a State Safe Boating Week committee meeting. State Safe Boating Week will be held May 22 through May 28, 2010. This will be held at Utah Lake starting at 10:00 am. The kick off event will be a Kids' Zone, the US Coast Guard will be conducting vessel inspections, and they will also be having a cardboard boat race. Chris would like the Governor to sign the Declaration of Safe Boating week at this kick off event. A Rockin' Utah event will also be held which will be a canoe guided ranger talk on the Provo River.

The Utah Boat Show will take place February 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Cabela's Outdoor Days will be March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and also March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and Chris will have a booth at that.

Steve added that Chris has received very positive comments and feedback for what he has done and what USP has done with the carrying passengers for hire program. Everyone is excited for the new online testing program.

#### **ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES**

Steve would like to ask the USP staff to get the minutes out within three weeks after the Council meeting so if a Council member is absent, they are aware of what happened at the meeting. He would also like those minutes sent out right before the next meeting.

Guy made the motion to approve the minutes, Lucy made the second. All were in favor.

#### **ITEM 6 – BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Brad asked Dave if the Boating Advisory Council would like to have a page on State Parks website. Brad developed the web page and showed the test of this to the Council. It has a brief description of how the Council came about and what each position represents and who holds that position.

Stacy will also get a general Boating Advisory Council email set up that will be on this site so the public can contact the members. Stacy will forward those emails to whichever member it pertains to.

Brad also showed the Council that the agenda and minutes of the Council meetings will be posted on the website. The public will be able to see the agenda so if they would like to attend, they know what is being discussed.

Steve would like to have the minutes approved before they are posted on the website. After brief discussion, the Council and staff agreed with this.

#### **ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS**

Dave would like to give an update on the Boating Strategic Plan. It is open for public comment and will close on January 10, 2010. After that period, they will have a meeting with the Director of USP to review those comments. The Boating Advisory Council will be able to review the Strategic Plan at the next meeting. It will then go to the Utah State Parks Board to be approved.

Meeting adjourned.