

MINUTES OF THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Department of Natural Resources

June 9, 2009

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steve Christensen	Present
Lucy Minahan	Present
Paulette Welch	Present
Pam Berger	Present
Troy Mann	Present

DRAFT

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION PERSONNEL

Dave Harris	Boating Coordinator
Stacy Blake	Office Specialist
Bruce Hamilton	Deputy Director
Ann Evans	Education Specialist

ITEM NUMBER ONE – DECEMBER 2, 2008 MINUTES

Steve made the comment on page four the sentence ‘Steve made the motion to thank the two committees that have serve and disband them indifference of the CPFH Inspection Manual committee’ indifference should be changed to in deference. With that one correction Steve made the motion to approve the minutes from November 5, 2008 meeting, Lucy second that motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

December 2, 2008 motorboat access meeting minutes, Steve made the motion to accept these minutes, Troy second that motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

ITEM NUMBER TWO – BOATING PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave gave an update on the boating program.

We updated the boating highlights and he passed out a new brochure to the Council.

Other projects; Dave handed out a sticker with the WEAR IT! UTAH logo. The WEAR IT! campaign is a national campaign. We will be using this logo on our literature. This campaign is free and with the budget cuts this allows us not having to spend more money for media. This is put on by the National Safe Boating Council and other states are using this campaign as well. Steve would like some of these stickers for the rental boats they rent out.

Play Safe! Play Sober! is another campaign we will be using. We used this campaign last year to increase awareness of boating under the influence. All the DMV offices, state liquor stores and our parks have these posters.

NASBLA and the US Coast Guard initiated a nationwide program called Operation Drywater that Utah will participate in on June 27. Forty out of the fifty states will be participating in this. We will be having a BUI check point at Hall's Crossing Marina on Lake Powell. All boats in a particular area will be pulled over and checked. Various agencies including us will take part in this. This has been in two press releases and it is posted at Lake Powell.

Paulette asked about a checklist in the highlights for the required safety equipment. Paulette would like to make a motion that there is a required safety equipment checklist in the next updated version of the boating highlights. Lucy made the second on the motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

We did not have a boating conference for our rangers this year due to budget concerns so the boating section traveled to each of the boating parks to discuss the boating objectives for the year.

The boating strategic plan is near completion. The final document should be out in the next month.

We participated, along with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, in an event at Utah Lake kicking off Utah Safe Boating Week. We did not hold the On the Water Boat Show like we usually have done for Safe Boating week due to lack of participation and communication with the boat dealers.

We will be holding the Western States Boating Administrators Conference in June 2010 in Park City. We will have boating administrators from sixteen western states and territories along with vendors participating in this conference.

In October 2010 we will be assisting the Division of Wildlife Resources in hosting the SOBA (State Organizations for Boaters Access) Conference. This is a national conference so there will be three to four hundred people attending.

Bruce gave a budget update. State government is in a serious budget crunch mode. There has been a 3% cut this fiscal year. There will be a 15% cut in general funds starting July 1, 2009. We are cutting a number of positions. The boating program should not see too much of a direct impact. The boating program gets outside federal funding so the boating program shouldn't see too much of a difference.

Our boat registrations were down 5% last year so that takes away from the federal funding for the boating program.

We have had a high rate of fatalities this year so far, six so far. We only had four for the total year last year. Our boat accidents are about the same.

ITEM NUMBER THREE – AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

Wildlife Resources is the lead agency. There are new self certification forms for this year. Each boater is required to supply this form on their dash of their vehicles each time they launch.

Wildlife has gone from using the word infested to detected. They have added another level of detection. The lakes they were calling infested no one actually saw a mussel except under a microscope. So until the mussels start showing up on docks, buoys they will determine those waters as detected. We have two detected waters in Utah; Electric Lake and Red Fleet Reservoir. There are about five lakes that are on the watch list.

Pam made the suggestion to have an education session with our rangers to make sure everyone is on the same page about the self certification program. Pam is aware of one body of water that the staff is not allowing the biologist to contact boaters to have them complete the form. Bruce and Dave will make sure this is taken care of. The self certification program is not perfect and they are still working on ironing out the flaws.

Wildlife is stepping up on the enforcement on Red Fleet Reservoir.

Troy asked if there was a control for these mussels and Bruce said there really isn't anything to control the mussels. There are a couple biological controls that are being worked on in labs with limited results.

There are states back east that have been infested with mussels for years and they have done pretty good keeping it from spreading. So we are trying through education to do the same thing. Wildlife has over twenty decontamination units throughout the state, stationed at different bodies of water.

ITEM NUMBER FOUR –BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

It was brought to Dave's attention a while back about restructuring the Boating Advisory Council. They got looking at what each member represents and notice that motorboat users are not represented on the Council. Dave passed out a sheet of a Council restructure proposal:

- Boating Safety & Education Organization member
- Sailing enthusiast
- Personal Watercraft Enthusiast
- Marin Dealers Member
- Carrying Passengers for Hire Member
- Paddlesports Enthusiast
- Anglers Member

Watersports Enthusiast
Motorboat Enthusiast

Other optional positions:

Youth Member (hasn't been successful)

Member at Large

Marina Representative (slip renters)

Non-State Park water body managing agency (USFS, NPS)

Steve asked what their next step would be. It is an administrative rule that outlines what the representation of the Council is. So a draft rule would have to be drafted, the Council would then have to approve it. Once the Council approves it, it will then go before the Utah State Parks Board to be approved. Once the Board approves it then they can pursue recruitment for those positions.

Steve made the motion to restructure the Boating Advisory Council as proposed, Paulette made a second, all in favor, no one opposed. Dave will write up the descriptions for the administrative rule. Once he gets that draft done and if the Council doesn't meet before the next Board meeting, Dave will email that out to the Council to get their approval and then present it to the Board.

ITEM NUMBER FIVE – ONLINE BOATING EDUCATION

Ann gave an update on the boating education:

They have decided to put the boating education online. They have looked at other states and they have their education programs online. There are many advantages to have the education online. We will be out of the money part; the companies who provide the program online will process the payments. Any company who meets our standards will be able to provide their education program online. Going online will take all of the administrative duties out of our office. This day and age, kids are learning everything on the computer. It is getting harder to find locations to teach at and it's harder to find volunteer instructors who are willing to teach the students. The kids can do this in their own home on their schedule around soccer, basketball, whatever other activities kids do now. Right now we are paying extreme mailing fees, phone bills, and staff's time to be able to get kids into these classes. With this available online we will not have those costs.

Ann and Dave got a committee together to create a policy for companies to provide online boating education. Ann handed out a Policy for Internet Boating Safety Education Courses in Utah document that she would like the Council to look at and provide any feedback. Ann and Dave would like the Council to approve this policy so they can take it to the Board to get it a rule. There are some top notch education programs out there and there are some low quality programs and if this policy becomes rule those poor quality programs wouldn't be able to provide the education program online. For right now since

we are on a time frame, Dave and Ann would like the Council to review the policy and give feedback to them.

ITEM NUMBER SIX – PWC MEMBER APPLICATION

Lucy's term on the Council will come to an end in July 2009. It is first Lucy's choice to stay on the Council, then the Council will have to approve and then it will have to go to the Board to be approved.

Lucy accepts to stay on the Council for another term, Troy made the motion for Lucy to stay on the Council, Paulette second that motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

We did receive one application, Guy Taylor, for the Personal Watercraft position on the Council. Dave sent out a press release two or three times announcing this position and this is the only applicant.

The Council reviewed Guy's application, Lucy made the motion to accept Guy as the Personal Watercraft representative, Paulette second that motion, all in favor, no one opposed. Dave will get this recommendation to the Board. Once they approve the application, Guy will start on the Council.

ITEM NUMBER SEVEN – MEETING SCHEDULE FY2010

It has been difficult to get all the members of the Council together for a meeting. Dave would like to set up a schedule a year in advance so everyone can schedule around and be able to attend the meeting. It is also required by the Open Meeting Act to have a year schedule for this type of meetings.

The OHV Advisory Council holds their meetings the second Wednesday of the first month of the quarter.

Steve and Pam like the idea of having a formula so everyone knows when the meetings will be held.

After discussion, the Council likes the formula: first Wednesday of the first month of the quarter; July (counting tonight's meeting for July's meeting), October 7, January 6 and April 7 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. There may be some that need to juggle due to holidays but for now this will work. Steve motioned to adopt this formula, Troy second that motion, all in favor, no one opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve asked about the river guide/vessel operator testing locations. Dave said that we are in the process with Department of Technical Services (DTS) to get this testing online. Chris and Stacy have a meeting with DTS on June 22 to see the working test program. Steve would like to attend that meeting as well. Paulette asked what they were talking

about. DTS is building a program for us to use for the river guides to be able to go to a satellite location to be able to take the test at the guides' leisure. We are trying to mirror the program an EMT goes through to get their certification.

Meeting adjourned.