

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING  
VERNAL CITY OFFICE  
VERNAL, UTAH**

**April 11, 2013**

**Present:**

Irene Hansen	Jaren Davis	Joe Hull
Tom Guinney	Lois Bulloch	Eli Anderson
Kimberly Schappert	Marty Ott	Fred Hayes
Jeff Rasmussen	Scott Strong	Wendy Wack

**Excused:**

Glenn Greenhalgh

**Visitors:**

Allen Parker	Darin Bird	Hollie Brown
Susan Zarekarizi	Wayne Monroe	Mike Murray
Steve Sroka	Brody Young	Ty Hunter
Tim Smith		

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Board Chair Irene Hansen called the meeting to order. She welcomed everybody to the Vernal board meeting; she has wanted to hold a meeting in Vernal since she has been a board member. She introduced and welcomed Allen Parker from Vernal City. Mr. Parker welcomed board members and State Parks staff to Vernal. He thanked everybody for what they do for the Basin area. He loves the state parks. He said he is excited to have everybody here. He said there is a new restaurant opening in a couple of weeks. Board Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Parker for everything Vernal City does for State Parks. She mentioned the celebration tonight that will be held at the Utah Field House of Natural History Museum.

Board Chair thanked State Park Manager Steve Sroka for the excellent planning he has done for the events that will be held tonight and tomorrow. Park Manager Sroka welcomed everybody to Vernal and thanked the board for their support of the Basin parks. He said if anybody has questions about the parks, he and Mike Murray, Steinaker and Red Fleet State Park Manager, will be happy to answer them.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Hansen asked board members for approval of the board agenda

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Hansen asked board members for review and approval of the December 4, 2012, board meeting minutes.

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2012, BOARD MEETING. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Board Member Reports**

Chair Hansen asked each board member to give a report if they have been to the parks since the last board meeting.

Ms. Kimberly Schappert said she was able to go camping at Dead Horse Point State Park about a month ago. She said as she was driving to the park, they had just let all the cattle out on the open range and there were oil rigs at the edge of the park. She feels it is very important that we have protected areas in the parks. She said this changes the whole experience of the parks. She said it was very emotional. She feels it is important that we be very protective of what we have and take good care of it.

Mr. Tom Guinney said he is looking forward to seeing numerous state parks during the summer. He also represents the Utah Tourism Coalition. He said the Coalition and the Governor supports State Parks. It was mentioned that the State funded the tourism promotion which will give us the opportunity to market the parks.

Mr. Joe Hull said he has visited Starvation State Park. He said he is very impressed. He said he drove by Willard Bay since the oil spill there. Antelope Island is the park he visits the most. He has stayed there several times. He said he saw a lot of wildlife and was treated very nicely. He has a family get-together at Antelope Island in May.

Mr. Jaren Davis said he hasn't had the opportunity to visit many parks this winter. He has spent a lot of time snowmobiling in the Wasatch area. They saw somebody grooming while they were snowmobiling and his daughter thought it would be fun to do that. Director Fred Hayes has offered that experience for them and he said he will take him up on that offer next year. He has spent some time with Director Hayes and Deputy Director Jeff Rasmussen and said it has been fun getting to know them.

Ms. Lois Bulloch said as she was driving by Starvation State Park, she was in awe of the beauty of that park. She mentioned that she received the magazine that had an article regarding the award of Boating Officer of the Year being presented to Deer Creek State Park Ranger Dawn Larsen. This is quite an honor. Mr. Brody Young gave the background of that award. Ms. Bulloch mentioned the steam shovel is in front of Frontier Homestead State Park; she said she has heard positive and negative comments about this. She mentioned the half-marathon coming up in May at Sand Hollow. This is a very big event and Park Manager Laura Melling does a great job on these events.

Mr. Marty Ott said his focus has been helping draft a conservation agreement for the tiger beetles at Coral Pink Sand Dunes. The Commissioner is hopeful this agreement will prevent any closures of Coral Pink Sand Dunes. The Commissioners are very supportive of State Parks. Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Ott for all of his work on this agreement.

Mr. Eli Anderson said he was at Bear Lake a couple of weeks ago. He said he was flipping through the tv channels and saw Chair Hansen on County Seat. He said she did a really good job.

## Director's Report

Chair Hansen welcomed Director Fred Hayes and asked him to give his report.

Director Hayes talked about what happened at the Legislature this year. He said it was a very good year. He said we have been spending a lot of time securing our budget for the long term. He and Mr. Scott Strong have spent a lot of time on the budget. As most will remember, during the 2012 legislative session, we talked long and hard to get a \$2.8 million backfill out of our restricted funds to carry us over. Because of some changes we made, that money was essentially turned in at the end of the year. This was coupled with an increase of collections at the gate, to the tune of \$1.5, which put us in a really good financial position going into the legislative session. We pitched a budget, which included our base budget as it has been for the last several years, and a \$1.95 million appropriation on top of that, as a replacement for the \$2.8 as we had gotten the year before, so another hit of about \$850,000. We figured we had shown what we were capable of doing and we knew we needed that additional money for some capital maintenance work and some minor development. The Governor's Office was supportive of that. The Fiscal Analyst came up with the same numbers; however, he asked for it to be a one-time appropriation. Mr. Strong has done a good job keeping in touch with the fiscal analyst and those at the capital. The Governor's Office had recommended an additional \$1.2 million in capital maintenance money and we certainly supported that. Our philosophy is that we will spend the money we need, but won't waste any. Director Hayes feels we have turned the corner with them. They were more than willing to listen to our needs. We met with a lot of individual representatives. The \$1.2 million was added to our base budget and for the first time in a long time, we have a secure budget of ongoing money. This feels really good. We were told that the committee thanked us for doing exactly what they have asked us to do. We stayed in constant communication with them also. They were very complimentary of us this year. During the last days of the legislature, the Governor's Office was able to pull out an additional \$1 million for capital maintenance. We have plans for this money to update some infrastructure and maintenance issues. This was a great session for us in regards to our budget. The fee schedule that was presented to the legislative committee was approved. They accepted our recommended maximums and that fee schedule will be implemented this year. There are still some things the legislative committee is looking at, including privatization.

Willard Bay State Park had a pipeline break and spilled diesel fuel into the area. The clean-up efforts continue. They figure they will be cleaning until about the end of May. There have been a lot of visitors displaced, which is a huge concern of ours. Chevron has assured us that the park will be in better shape once they're done and they will compensate us for our lost revenue. Deputy Director Jeff Rasmussen said Chevron has the same goal as we do. They are working with us. Director Hayes said if any of the board members want to go see what they are doing at Willard Bay, to let him know and he will get them into the park.

Director Hayes said there was a new conservation agreement drafted for Coral Pink Sand Dunes regarding the tiger beetle issue. Without the opportunities for OHV use at Coral Pink, we would be unable to manage it financially.

Quagga mussels were found in Lake Powell, which changes our efforts in all of our parks with water bodies. Our folks have taken over the quagga mussel efforts with an agreement between Wildlife Resources. We will spend a lot of time addressing this issue at the parks. Chair Hansen mentioned that as you drive into Idaho, there is a sign telling all boats they must stop for inspection at the first rest stop.

Director Hayes said we have been fighting a boundary at Escalante State Park. He commended Southwest Region Manager Wayne Monroe for assisting in the resolution of this issue.

Dead Horse Point State Park scored a \$50,000 grant from Fidelity Oil to upgrade the displays in the visitors center. We have a chance at another \$50,000 next year. Fidelity Oil is trying to help us minimize some of the concerns at the park. In addition, they were granted another \$30,000 from Intrepid Potash to extend the mountain bike trail. It's neat to see that kind of money coming in.

We have been talking about continuing to implement the golf plan. Chris Stover is the new golf pro at Wasatch Mountain; he transferred from Palisade. He will lead the golf team. We are going to look at all options of managing golf. There was intent language telling us that we needed to issue an RFP for privatization of golf operations. That didn't survive the session, but we're going to do it anyway. Mr. Strong and his section is working on it right now. We will see what the private industry has to offer and look at partnerships.

Jeremy Shaw, Antelope Island Park Manager, has been in China. He went over to sign an MOU to establish a hiking sisterhood with China.

Ty Hunter is our new boating coordinator.

We have some concerns—we are headed into a low water year. Our park managers are working hard to find other activities for the visitors to do in the parks. There are other issues that pop up now and then, but nothing we are very concerned about. We are hoping for a good summer.

### **Snow Canyon State Park Management MOU**

Chair Hansen said we don't need action on this item, but we do want to address any concerns. Director Hayes said there were some concerns raised at the last meeting. Those concerns were taken to the entities involved. The MOU was modified to address those. The major concern was that there was nobody specified as being in charge. It was specified that the Division is ultimately the one that manages the park. Director Hayes feels like we have a pretty good document and good opportunity for us to partner with the entities involved. He is ready to sign it. Ms. Lois Bulloch had some questions regarding the MOU and Director Hayes was able to answer these to her satisfaction. Region Manager Wayne Monroe was thanked for his work in getting this MOU to finalization.

### **Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council Appointment**

Director Hayes reported that Dr. Kevin Kessler's term on the OHV Advisory Council has expired. Mr. Kevin Taylor has expressed an interest to be appointed as the Safety Representative on this council. Director Hayes said he would be a great addition in this capacity.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN TAYLOR AS THE SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **2014 Utah State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Approval**

Lands and Environmental Coordinator Susan Zarekarizi explained that the 2009 Utah State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was updated. This plan is required in order for us to distribute funds. She gave some background on this plan and explained what the process entails.

**MR. MARTY OTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2014 UTAH STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN. MR. TOM GUINNEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Boating Rule Amendments**

Assistant Boating Coordinator Brody Young presented the amendment to R651-216-8 that is being requested. He explained why this amendment is important.

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO R651-216-8. USE OF NON-NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS AS PRESENTED. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Assistant Boating Coordinator Young presented the amendment to R651-214-1 that is being requested. He explained the reason for this request.

**MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO R651-214-1 AS PRESENTED. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Assistant Boating Coordinator Young presented the amendment to R651-204-2 that is being requested. He explained the importance of this amendment.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO R651-204-2 AS PRESENTED. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **WILDLIFE HUNTING CHANGE AT GUNLOCK STATE PARK**

Director Hayes presented the change requested for Gunlock State Park. He explained that the rule did not authorize water fowl hunting at Gunlock State Park.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO R651-614-4 AS PRESENTED. MR. MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Other Business and Next Meeting**

Director Hayes introduced Ty Hunter as the new Boating Coordinator. Dave Harris, former Boating Coordinator, has been promoted to the Northern Region Manager. Ty Hunter was the previous Park Manager at Utah Lake. Mr. Hunter introduced himself to the Board. Chair Hansen congratulated

him on his recent promotion. Director Hayes said with Mr. Hunter in place, this puts us in a position where our senior staff is fully staffed.

Director Hayes and Ms. Wendy Wack presented the board members with a jacket from the Department of Natural Resources.

Vice-Chair Jaren Davis thanked the staff of State Parks for what they do and the passion they have for their jobs.

Dates for the next meeting were discussed. It was decided that the best date for the next meeting will be August 22, 2014, in Salt Lake.

**MR. JOE HULL 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. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**