

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

May 19, 2011

Present:

Karl Bentley, Chair
Glenn Greenhalgh
Bill Bleak
Mary Tullius
Deena Loyola
Darin Bird

Marty Ott, Vice Chair
Irene Hansen
Jaren Davis
Fred Hayes
Mark Forbes
Wendy Wack

Eli Anderson
Lois Bulloch
Joe Hull
Karen Krieger
Leon Tate

Visitors:

Ivan Djambov
Tim Smith
Christopher Quick

Jeff Packer
Tony White
Mike Styler

Elaine Packer
Brody Young

Chair Karl Bentley welcomed board members, staff, and Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Darin Bird.

Chair Bentley reviewed the agenda. He 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 AS PRESENTED. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bentley asked board members for review and approval of the February 3, 2011, board meeting minutes.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011, BOARD MEETING AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBER ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member Reports

Chair Bentley asked that each board member give a report of their activities as board members, such as visits to parks or with officials since the last meeting.

Board Member Irene Hansen said in Northeastern Utah they have had a big winter and a lot of snow. Starvation is low right now in preparation of the high run-off. She said the construction is going along well, according to their website. They are working very actively to get ready for the quarry reopening, which will bring a lot more visitors to that area. They have developed customer service training and providing it to the businesses in Duchesne County.

Board Member Glenn Greenhalgh said he has been working with Jeff Rasmussen at Yuba on the new ATV trail and a new brochure for the county. Jeff Rasmussen, the park manager, has been promoted to the Northern Region Manager and they will miss him at Yuba. Mr. Greenhalgh has spent some time with Carl Camp at Territorial Statehouse. Everybody there is still very concerned with the budgets.

Board Member Joe Hull has been active at Antelope Island and he and his wife enjoy going there often. The concessionaire there has a great business. Mr. Hull has been asked to work with the Roundup Reunion. He was surprised that Park Manager Ron Taylor retired last week. The horse rental concessionaire does a great job at Antelope Island. He said they have been trying to plan an annual ATV ride there.

Vice-Chair Ott said he has attended a couple of events at Coral Pink Sand Dunes. The Park Road Tour was there last Saturday. Their RV broke down. That is a great group of supporters for State Parks, very enthusiastic. The following Monday, Region Manager Larry Gray, Park Manager Aaron Farmer, Cheston Slater and Coral Pink staff, Fred Hayes, and Mr. Ott met with the county commissioners. He felt they understand the economic value of state parks at the very least, and possibly the intrinsic value of state parks. Park Manager Michael Franklin put together a great lunch for that group. Mr. Ott had a "stealth" visit to Kodachrome Basin State Park. He feels the board members need to let the staff know when they are visiting the parks and ask staff if there's anything that they can help with. He was able to talk with some of the seasonal employees at Coral Pink. They were very grateful to have a job working with State Parks.

Board Member Bill Bleak said he has been on the board for eight years, but it only feels like a year and a half. He is very concerned about the budgets for State Parks. He appreciates the board members and staff's patience with him.

Board Member Jaren Davis said he has visited Sand Hollow and Snow Canyon. He will be going to Green River State Park over Memorial Day weekend. He hopes the parks make it through this budgetary cycle.

Board Member Eli Anderson said there have been a lot of people camping at Willard Bay over the winter. There is a pipeline project going on there so he feels like they should have benefited from all of the campers. His neighbor said he is very happy that after three years he was able to get a slip at Bear Lake. The new cabins at Hyrum look great.

Board Member Lois Bulloch said she is very lucky to have Region Manager Larry Gray in her area. She has been taking quarterly tours to the parks in her area. There have been some interesting political issues in her area. The county has shown some interest in running Snow Canyon. She attended a meeting with the commissioners, but they had a different agenda. She is concerned about the political atmosphere in Southwest Utah. There was a recent meeting to replace Dennis Stowell and she feels like new, inexperienced, and young people are replacing the experienced people. She said her favorite park is Frontier Homestead and feels like it is very important to teach people about history. She said she made a huge donation to Frontier Homestead, which was a collection of pressing irons and some other miscellaneous items. She said we have great people working for State Parks. Chair Bentley asked who replaced Senator Stowell; Kasey Anderson was voted in as the replacement.

Chair Bentley said they were sandbagging at Green River last night. He visits Green River often. There is a lot of angst in that community regarding the water level there right now. Chair Bentley took second place in one of the tournaments at Green River. He went to Scofield during the winter and there was still a lot of ice. He met the Road Trip group at Huntington and said the park manager did a great presentation on scorpions for them.

Board Member Irene Hansen added that she attended the Super Staff that was held in March. It was a wonderful training and she appreciated the opportunity to be there. Chair Bentley and Board member Jaren Davis attended the banquet.

Chair Bentley welcomed former State Parks Board Chair Jeff Packer.

Director's Report

Director Mary Tullius talked about the Super Staff training. Budget issues were the main discussion at this training. There were some people from Colorado brought in to conduct some very good training. An awards banquet was held that evening. On page 16 in the packet, there is a list of what's going on with construction in the parks, but wanted to highlight the cabins and yurts. She reviewed that list. We offered a retirement incentive for staff members that were eligible for retirement. John Knudson, Bruce Hamilton, Ron Taylor, Floyd Powell, Craig Brown, Joey Comp, and Garth Burnett are the ones that will take advantage of that offer. This helped to save some jobs and create movement within the organization.

Deputy Director Fred Hayes said Jeff Rasmussen has accepted the position as Northern Region Manager. He has been spending about half of his time at the region office and will be full-time after Memorial Day. One of his first assignments will be to fill the park manager position at Antelope Island. We are concerned about flooding in several areas. Green River was sandbagging last night because they are very nervous for the park. There are also water issues at Jordanelle, East Canyon, and Utah Lake. We have spent a lot of time working on audit issues the last couple of weeks. There has been some movement of staff due to the budget reductions. They also notified those staff members that were being RIF'd, which was very difficult. The parks are ready for a great summer, with a lot of water in the reservoirs.

Deputy Director Karen Krieger said a big part of our advocacy plan is trying to get the word out to the community. Deputy Director Krieger thanked Deena Loyola for all of her work with the State Parks Road Tour. She also thanked the board members that took time to greet the members of the tour. We have started to gear up for many promotional events, Smith's will be playing a short message over their radio system on June 11th. These promotions are supported by all the groups that she works with, such as the Reservations office and Justina's group. They are working on the "Get Your Play On" promotion. Justina has been contacting retailers that may be willing to sponsor programs. Ms. Krieger told the board members to look for a lot of promotions. We will be very busy trying to get our word out. We are very busy with business planning right now. The business plans are all due June 1st and the parks have had some great ideas.

Budget and Legislative Report

Director Tullius wanted to talk about what happened during the 2011 Legislative Session, how we fix this and our overall advocacy plan, and also how we will approach the intent language. She showed the board members a Power Point presentation that has been shared with all of the employees. The most unfortunate thing about the audit report was that we were unable to respond to the committee when the audit was presented. She and DNR Director Styler were both fully prepared to do that, but they weren't given the opportunity. She said we knew there was going to be a 10% cut going into the session. Director Styler's strategy was to only take the cut that had already been taken from State Parks, but by the end of the session, DNR took a very big cut. She discussed why we didn't get any backfill. Our employees asked why we didn't fight. Director Tullius explained that she and Director Styler were working with a lot of the legislators, but even some of the co-chairs were surprised at what was happening. She reviewed the bottom line of the budget cuts. She discussed what our plan is to still be able to maintain the parks.

Director Tullius directed the board members to the handout given to them regarding the Strategies to Save \$3 million. She reviewed this list with the board members. She then referred the board members to the next handout given to them regarding the Utah State Parks Advocacy Plan for 2011. Director Tullius was asked if UAC is a strong supporter of State Parks. She feels like it helps to have board members have conversations with county commissions to request their support for State Parks. Deputy Director Hayes said they have charged the park managers and region managers to meet with their county commissioners. Last year they held a dinner at Steinaker for the county commissioners in that area and that meeting was very productive. We would like to hold this type of meeting with every county commissioner. Director Tullius reviewed the list of partners for State Parks. There was a State Parks Fact Sheet and a letter written by Director Styler given to each board member, which asked the legislators to restore our ongoing funding. Director Tullius also gave the board members a sheet of frequently asked questions.

Previous State Parks Board Chair Jeff Packer addressed the board and thanked Chair Bentley and Members Bill Bleak and Irene Hansen for their service. Mr. Packer discussed the Friends of Utah State Parks and said he has been suggested to be the chairman of that group. He talked about how important the Utah State Parks board members are and he would like to assist them and also Parks administration to accomplish what Director Tullius has set out to do. Mr. Packer said our board is an advocacy board, as well as a policy board. Mr. Packer is asking the Friends groups to be advocates for State Parks. He said State Parks is in a crisis right now and we need to fix it. Mr. Packer invited the board members to join the Friends group in going to the legislators to sponsor the right bills to get the funds back as ongoing. He has great admiration for the board members and the job they've done for State Parks.

Chair Bentley thanked Mr. Packer for his work and passion. Board Member Joe Hull said it is important for people to contact the legislators. He said it's great to have the Friends groups and it's important for them to contact the legislators.

Director Tullius said as a staff, we have spent a lot of time talking about advocacy and putting this plan together. Every staff member has a role in our advocacy plan. We work together with so many groups of people on so many different levels.

Director Tullius has given each board member a handout with the Legislative Intent Language listed on it. One thing they've asked us to do is to let the legislators know what State Parks would be like if we were at a \$4 million general fund. If we do this we'll have no choice but to close parks. Director Tullius doesn't want to give the legislators a list of parks to close because that causes anxiety for the employees at those parks. Board Member Bill Bleak said if we don't specify which parks to close, doesn't that cause anxiety for every park? Vice-Chair Ott also said that if the legislators aren't given a list, they will ask for it. His suggestion is that when legislators hear that a park in their area is on the list to be closed, they will understand and fight a little bit better. Board Member Irene Hansen said she is at the legislature quite a bit and said lists have different repercussions. Board Member Bulloch said that producing a list may produce more supporters. Vice-Chair Ott said we want to make sure we present credible information to the legislators. He also said he would be interested in to know how state parks were created and what the vision was since 1957.

Director Tullius thanked the board members for their thoughts and guidance. She said she will involve the board members as they prepare the report to the auditors. Chair Bentley asked who the author was that created the intent language. Director Tullius said she's not sure.

Concessions Update

Deputy Director Kreiger said we have been working really hard to provide a consistent application of the rules and requirement for concession agreements. There are two types of concession relationships, one involves a full concession contract and the other is special use permits. Special use permits are used for short-term business partnerships. These are initiated and handled at the park level and coordinated and tracked at the region level. For longer-term situations, we use a concession contract. There is a team that works on all contracts and reviews all of the agreements. We are still working to get our own delegation so that Purchasing doesn't have to sign off on all agreements. We are also still working on our guidelines. We have definitely come a long way. The board members were given a handout of the most recent assessment of all of our concession contracts. It also includes some of the special use permits, but not all of them. She highlighted a few things on the handout.

Long-Term Camping Rule Change

Deputy Director Hayes said for a long time our park managers have looked at ways to fill the empty spaces in their parks during the off-season. The current fee schedule only allows for a maximum of fourteen days in one place. The change we are requesting allows more than a fourteen-day stay in one park, with the approval of the park and region manager. There is a draft of an agreement included in the board packet. He asked that the board consider this. Board

Member Bulloch asked if the fee compares to the other camping facilities in the area. Deputy Director Hayes said he will look into this. Board Member Eli Anderson asked if we were in violation at Willard Bay. Director Tullius said we entered into a special use permit with Ruby River Pipeline for the project that was being done there.

MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO RULES 651-606-5 AND 651-611-3 AS PRESENTED. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

State Parks Road Trip Presentation

Ms. Deena Loyola, Public Affairs Coordinator, said there were six people that had the idea to visit all 43 state parks in three days. They had several sponsors and media involved. They started at Antelope Island, with a big kick-off, and then continued on to every state park. They were very enthusiastic and had great energy as they traveled to each park. Director Tullius was told that we have the best employees in state government. Ms. Loyola showed the board members a video of the interview done at Hyrum State Park during this tour. Director Tullius said we heard over and over from these folks on what great employees we have. Our brochure is a passport edition this year, so they made a point to get every stamp in their brochure. Director Tullius thanked Ms. Loyola for all of the work and time she put into this tour. She worked from the time they left Antelope Island until the time they returned three days later. Board Member Eli Anderson asked when this was going to be planned for the board members. He also mentioned that the legislators don't realize that we have a lot to do with the trails and bodies of waters outside of state park boundaries. Director Tullius said our new cost accounting system will define this.

Boating Rule Changes

Boating Coordinator Dave Harris said the Boating Advisory Council has reviewed a few different boating rules and has requested changes to them. The first rule pertains to the definition of tow(ed)(ing). The second rule pertains to the identification of outfitting companies.

Chair Bentley asked Mr. Harris if he could interrupt him for a minute. Director Tullius introduced Christopher Quick, Tony White, and Brody Young, and Southeast Region Manager Tim Smith. Mr. Smith said the individuals that assisted with the incident involving Brody Young were honored at the State Capitol today. Assistant Region Manager Tony White said there were several things that fell into place that night that saved Brody's life. Mr. White presented Director Tullius with the award given to them at the Capitol. Director Tullius said one of the things she has heard over and over is that the training Brody received is what saved his life. That is a credit to Mr. Quick and Mr. Smith. We are very proud of both of these people for the training they provide to State Parks employees. Brody Young addressed the board members and said there were a lot of things that went right that night and it was due to training and professionals taking their job seriously and his will to live that saved his life. He is grateful to be here and his doctors say he is ahead of schedule with his healing.

The meeting returned to the discussion on the boating rule changes.

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE BOATING RULE CHANGE AS PRESENTED. MR. GLENN GREENHALGH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Harris said the second rule pertains to the identification of outfitting companies. The Boating Advisory Council recommends that the rule be clarified as presented.

MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE LIVERY AGREEMENT CARRIAGE BOATING RULE CHANGE AS PRESENTED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The third rule pertains to the clarification of ski flag use. He explained the change they have suggested. Chair Bentley asked for clarification of the rule and Mr. Harris explained what the rule changes.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE SKI FLAG USAGE RULE AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council Member Approval

Off-Highway Vehicle Program Coordinator Chris Haller said there is a vacant position on the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council, the youth representative. This position has never been filled. We are requesting that Tanner Hardy be approved to fill that position. Mr. Haller shared a couple of items Mr. Hardy included in his application.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE TANNER HARDY AS THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. GLENN GREENHALGH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next Meeting

The next two meetings are scheduled for Thursday, August 18, and November 3, 2011. Director Tullius said we can determine the location for this meeting. Chair Bentley said this meeting is the last meeting for three of the board members. He invited them to make some comments.

Ms. Irene Hansen's term expires on June 30, 2011. She said it has been a wonderful, enjoyable time serving on the State Parks Board. She said the people that work for State Parks are great. She said she loves State Parks and will continue to be a part of State Parks.

Mr. Bill Bleak said it is incredible that eight years have gone by. He has enjoyed the opportunity to work with the members of the board and previous members. He appreciates the experiences he has had and the personal relationships he has made.

Chair Karl Bentley said he will remember the people he has worked with over the past eight years and the relationships he has had. He said it has been a real honor for him to work with the State Parks Board and staff. He said he has had a wonderful time. He has enjoyed getting to know the members of the board. He encouraged the board members to work directly with the parks they are responsible for.

Director Tullius thanked these three board members for their service, which collectively adds up to twenty-four years. Each member has contributed to state parks on a different level. She presented a plaque to each departing board member.

Department of Natural Resources Director Mike Styler thanked each board member for their commitment to State Parks. This is a difficult time for State Parks and he thanked the members for their leadership, along with Director Tullius. He thanked them for their continued support.

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. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED.