

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

**February 11, 2010**

**Present:**

Karl Bentley, Chair	Marty Ott, Vice Chair	Lois Bulloch
Bill Bleak	Joe Hull	Eli Anderson
Jaren Davis (9:30-9:45)	Mary Tullius	Mark Forbes
Bruce Hamilton	Wendy Griffith	Deena Loyola
Karen Krieger		

**Absent:**

Glenn Greenhalgh	Irene Hansen
------------------	--------------

**Visitors:**

Tom Wharton	Dan Clark	John Knudson
Ron Taylor	Dave Harris	Jamie Dalton
Heather Shilton	Jay Christianson	Steve Bates
Scott McFarlane	Jericho Whiting	Jim Karpowitz
Staci Coons	Ron Hudson	Alan Clark
Cindee Jensen	Robin Thomas	Susan Zarekarizi

---

Chair Karl Bentley welcomed board members, staff, and visitors to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Chair Bentley reviewed the agenda. He asked board members for approval of the board agenda as presented.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Bentley asked board members for review and approval of the November 5, 2009 board meeting minutes.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2009 BOARD MEETING. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Director's Report**

Director Mary Tullius mentioned that we held the fourth annual Managers' Academy in Richfield a few weeks ago, which was attended by 25-30 employees. The focus for the academy this year was leadership. It was a very impressive training session. Director Tullius reported that we have entered into an MOU with DWR to build two decontamination stations for Quagga/zebra mussels, one at Red Fleet and the other at Huntington. We have a new revenue management system and camping reservation system that is now online. This system will allow us to better account for revenue and streamlines many

processes. We have a new Field Guide this year, which is a passport edition. Planning Manager Rock Smith and Region Manager Jay Christianson retired in December. Jay will work nineteen hours a week as a seasonal employee until the end of March.

Director Tullius sent a memo out the end of December that discussed the budget cuts. The Governor asked for a 3% cut in personal services. All of our employees took a one-day furlough before the end of January. There were some funds taken from Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to cover the remainder of the required budget cuts. The committee voted on the FY 10 budgets and that is done. They have taken a total of \$1.9 million dollars of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands restricted funds. The committee also voted for an additional 5% ongoing cut for FY 11. We have been holding some positions vacant and also reduced the salary of the seasonal employees. This was presented and the legislative fiscal analyst came back and asked us to determine the savings to eliminate all four region offices and then also to reduce the region offices by two. This is a huge impact on the regions and would require some employees be RIFd. The committee will vote on this today. They also took an additional \$150,000 from our restricted funds. We asked them to consider our 5% proposal and if not, to allow us to eliminate only one region office. We will be eliminating one region office. We will put together a team to plan for consolidation. Senator Butters also proposed privatizing all state parks. The committee recommended intent language and they will vote on that today. They will come up with a list of six state parks that will have the potential to become privatized. Board Member Joe Hull mentioned that they attempted to privatize an area of Transportation several years ago, only to find out that it didn't work. There was discussion regarding the impact privatization would have. Heritage Resource Coordinator Karen Krieger talked with the director of Arizona State Parks yesterday regarding their budget cuts and how they are handling the impact.

Director Tullius directed the board members to a handout they were given regarding the legislative updates. She reviewed some of the bills. This update will be emailed to the board members weekly.

Director Tullius introduced our newest board member, Jaren Davis. He is only able to stay for a few minutes of the meeting today.

The Parks staff would like to thank Director Tullius for everything she is doing with the legislature this year. The legislative session has been very difficult this year and she is doing a wonderful job. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and Deputy Director Forbes was also presented a gift for his hard work. Deputy Director Hamilton was also thanked for holding the office together while the others are working on the legislative projects.

### **Construction Project Update**

Facilities and Construction Manager Dan Clark made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the construction projects that are going on at this time. He reviewed the funding sources that we receive. Mr. Clark suggested the board members get to know the building board members and discuss the ranking process with them to gain their support for State Parks. We need them to understand we are just trying to take care of the parks and the infrastructure in these parks. There is more than \$150 million worth of projects just to keep the parks open.

### **Boating Rule Changes**

Boating Coordinator Dave Harris presented the proposed boating rule change for R651-206-3(3) & (5). He reviewed the changes and the reason for the requested changes.

**VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CHANGES TO R651-206-3(3) & (5) AS PRESENTED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Harris also reviewed additional changes to Rule 651-219-7. He explained the reason for the requested changes.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CHANGES TO R651-219-7 AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Boating Advisory Council Member Approval**

Mr. Dave Harris mentioned the changes in the Boating Advisory Council that were approved by this board a few months ago. Due to the additional positions that were added to this council, there were a couple of members that requested to change which position they represented. Mr. Harris reviewed the requested changes.

**MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE STEVE CHRISTIANSEN AS THE PADDLECRAFT MEMBER AND PAULETTE WELCH AS THE MOTORBOAT MEMBER ON THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Recreational Trails Advisory Council Member Approval**

Trails Coordinator John Knudson reviewed the set-up of the Recreational Trails Advisory Council. He mentioned that there is legislation running this year requesting an additional position on this council. This member would be an employee of the National Park Service. There is currently a vacant position on the council for the equestrian representative and there were several applicants. Mr. Knudson made his recommendation for Craig Allen to fill this.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE CRAIG ALLEN TO A NEW THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE UTAH RECREATIONAL TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL AS THE EQUESTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Antelope Island State Park Bighorn Sheep Plan Approval**

Antelope Island State Park Manager Ron Taylor handed out a packet of information about Antelope Island to each board member. He discussed some of the events that have been going on at Antelope Island State Park. He mentioned that a group of National Park managers from Israel visited Zion National Park and Antelope Island State Park. They were amazed at how clean and beautiful our parks are. The NRPA convention held an excursion to Antelope Island State Park. There were 120 people that attended this. They said it was not only the highlight of the entire convention, but the best off-site tour they have ever attended. That was a great compliment to the staff. The park had their best revenue year ever. Park Manager Taylor said the Friends group does a lot to support the park and funds items the park needs. He said the group is a great asset to the park. He discussed the bison management program. He said the bison round-up was very successful this year.

Park Manager Taylor introduced Steve Bates, Jericho Whiting, and Scott McFarlane. These are the members of the team that put the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan together. They worked very diligently on this plan. Mr. Bates made introductions to the other members. Mr. Whiting reviewed the history of the bighorn sheep on Antelope Island. He also reviewed highlights of the management of the wildlife on Antelope Island over the past years. All of this information is included in the plan handed out to board members. Mr. Bates reviewed the plan and the strategy plans they have developed for the management of the bighorn sheep. Mr. Bates said there are several types of surveys they would like to conduct. They conduct an annual survey by aircraft every fall when the sheep are the most visible. He mentioned there is a helicopter company that has a small helicopter with a video camera on it they would like to look into. In the spring they will continue to do lamb counts, as outlined in the plan. The Antelope

Island Resource Management Plan states “limited hunting may be used as a management tool for the health of wildlife populations and their habitats when other management control options have not been effective.” Therefore, hunting bighorns on Antelope Island may be initiated when no suitable release sites have been identified or approved, and either of the following population triggers have been met: - Ram to ewe ration is >0.75:1 or the population exceeds 150 animals. When a population trigger has been reached, the trigger will be evaluated within context of the population trend. Population control recommendations will be submitted to both the State Parks and Wildlife boards as part of the Antelope Island Wildlife Program annual update.

Chair Bentley said last year the board asked the team to develop a plan to manage the bighorn sheep on Antelope Island. The team has developed this plan and has now presented it to the board and would like their approval at this time. There was discussion regarding the plan and some scenarios with transplanting, hunting and other options for management. Vice-Chair Ott asked if the count exceeded the recommended number of 150 sheep and a hunt were allowed to take four rams, would a transplant still be needed. Mr. Bates said that a transplant would still be necessary. Mr. Bates was asked if the visitors would rather see the big rams or the smaller sheep. He answered that after interacting with many of the visitors, they don't normally differentiate between the rams or ewes; they are happy to see any of the sheep. Vice-Chair Ott asked what areas in the state they are planning to do transplants, if any. Jim Karpowitz, Wildlife Resources Director, said he feels the biologists that developed this plan have done a wonderful job. It has the same principles in it that they use in other managed populations, but this is a less aggressive plan because the sheep are in a state park. If the biologists feel that the sheep are crowded, they are the ones to recommend a transplant. There may be a couple potential areas available for transplant, but nothing specific right now.

Chair Bentley clarified that the motion is not to authorize hunting or to condone hunting, but to approve the plan as prepared and presented by the biologists.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ON ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK AS PRESENTED. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Park Manager Ron Taylor asked which plan they would like them to continue this year, as they have been asked to do one plan a year. It was recommended they work on the mule deer plan for this year.

### **Sand Hollow State Park RMP and Boating Strategic Plan Review**

Planning Coordinator Jamie Dalton reviewed the highlights of the Boating Strategic Plan that will be presented to the board for their approval at an upcoming meeting. It has been ten years since the last plan was completed. A team was formed to update the plan. Utah State University recently completed a comprehensive plan to manage boating in the state of Utah. They did some extensive research on boating needs for this plan and gave several recommendations to our team. One of the other strategies they address in the plan is the funding and the best way to use the funds. We also need to make sure there is good inter-agency cooperation for safe boating and to have legislative support. Boating Coordinator Dave Harris explained the process they went through to develop the plan. He said the main issues are safety and education right now. They would like to see mandatory education for boaters and continue to work on this. Mr. Harris said the number of boat registrations have decreased over the last few years.

Mr. Dalton reviewed the Draft Resource Management Plan for Sand Hollow State Park, which will also be presented to the board for their approval at an upcoming meeting. One of the items they looked at during the planning process is how to get more visitation during the off-peak periods. We need to improve our relationships with the partners in the area. The team will meet again later this month to review the comments that were received during the public comment period.

Mr. Dalton said he is also working on a resource management plan for Wasatch Mountain State Park and one for Territorial Statehouse. He will also be starting on a new strategic plan for the Division shortly.

### **Park Rule Change**

Director Tullius asked our Attorney General representative Heather Shilton to explain the recommended rule change. This came up during the contract issues with the concessionaire at Jordanelle State Park. It was clear that we are exempted from the Utah Administrative Procedures Act. This would include licensing, applications, permits, etc. It was felt that we include State Parks exemption in contracts and in our rules.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT WE APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IN UTAH ADMIN. CODE R.651-101-1 TO EXEMPT CONTRACT MATTERS AS FOLLOWS:**

**FROM: R651-101-1 AUTHORITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**(A) THESE RULES ESTABLISH AND GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE DIVISION OR DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 63-46B-5.**

**(B) THESE RULES GOVERN ALL ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1993.**

**TO:**

**THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO AN AGENCY ACTION THAT IS NOT GOVERNED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT AND THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF UTAH, INCLUDING:**

**(A) SUBSECTION 63G-4-102, ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT; AND**

**(B) TITLE 63G, CHAPTER 6, UTAH PROCUREMENT CODE; R651-202-1.**

**VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Antelope Island Comments**

Chair Bentley said after discussion regarding the previous issue of the management plan for bighorn sheep on Antelope Island, there was a question the board members would like to ask of Director Tullius. Vice-Chair Ott asked if she is comfortable with the plan presented earlier. Director Tullius said, "The current management strategy was arrived at after lots of public input. I support the strategy of the public's opinion that no recreational hunting occur on Antelope Island; however, if there are biological reasons as described in the Antelope Island Bighorn Sheep Plan, I support the recommendation with the plan that other management control options be discussed first. If through a thoughtful and prudent analysis, these are deemed to clearly not be effective and a hunt is the only remaining option, I would make that recommendation to the board."

Chair Bentley said this explains that the board does not support hunting on Antelope Island, but supports the mission of the park.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Approval**

Land and Environmental Coordinator Susan Zarekarizi said the previous grants coordinator, Seth McArthur, has resigned so she is filling in for him at this time. She reviewed the projects that were requested for Land and Water grant funding this year. She said seven applications were received this year and they were all good projects.

**MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT RANKING AND FUNDING UP TO THE AMOUNTS REQUESTED**

**BASED ON FEDERAL APPROPRIATION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION BE APPROVED. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **OHV Rule Change**

OHV Coordinator Fred Hayes presented a new rule for OHV education. He reviewed the rule and why it is being presented. He said the online education is working very well. The staff has been reduced from five full-time employees to two full-time positions.

**MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF RULE R651-412 AS PRESENTED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Utah State Parks Gift Card Recommendations**

Public Affairs Coordinator Deena Loyola introduced John Good, Publications Specialist and Stefanie Michaelson, Graphics and Interpretive Media Specialist. These are two outstanding employees. She mentioned that they both just earned awards for some of their work.

Ms. Loyola mentioned we have the annual passes available and we would now like to include one-time gift cards. She would like to develop a \$10 day-use card and a \$20 camping gift card for the public to purchase. This could be started by early spring and advertised on the website.

**VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TWO GIFT CARDS AND FEES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH CARD AS PRESENTED. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Boat Storage and Launching Fees at Jordanelle State Park**

Deputy Director Forbes explained why this request is before the Board today. The contract with the concessionaire at Jordanelle State Park has gone into default. This concessionaire operated the dry boat storage building. We would need to purchase the building in order to operate this and we have requested the funds through the legislature and we're not sure if this will occur or not, but we need to be prepared if it does.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING FEES BE ADDED AS PART OF THE DIVISION'S FEE SCHEDULE:**

- 1. PEAK SEASON (MAY – SEPTEMBER) COVERED BOAT STORAGE - \$200 PER MONTH.**
- 2. OFF-PEAK SEASON (OCTOBER – APRIL) COVERED BOAT STORAGE - \$100 PER MONTH.**
- 3. WEEKLY COVERED BOAT STORAGE - \$50 PER WEEK.**
- 4. WATERCRAFT LAUNCHING/RETRIEVAL FEE - \$25 PER TRAILER.**

**MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on May 6, 2010, at Camp Floyd.

**MR. ELI ANDERSON 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.**

Chair Bentley asked that each board member contact the building board members.

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