

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING  
CAMP FLOYD/STAGECOACH INN STATE PARK & MUSEUM  
18035 WEST 1540 NORTH  
FAIRFIELD, UTAH**

**November 4, 2010**

**Present:**

Karl Bentley, Chair  
Bill Bleak  
Irene Hansen  
Karen Krieger  
Bruce Hamilton  
Jim Harland  
Mark Forbes

Marty Ott, Vice Chair  
Eli Anderson  
Mary Tullius  
Deena Loyola  
Larry Gray  
Jamie Dalton  
Bruce Strom

Lois Bulloch  
Glenn Greenhalgh  
Fred Hayes  
Wendy Griffith  
Carl Camp  
Leon Tate  
Eric Stucki

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Chair Karl Bentley welcomed board members and staff to the board meeting. Board members Joe Hull and Jaren Davis are excused. He apologized for starting the meeting a little bit late.

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

**MR. GLENN GREENHALGH 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 August 5, 2010, board meeting minutes.

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2010, BOARD MEETING. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Director's Report**

Director Mary Tullius said the biggest news for State Parks since the last meeting is that Fred Hayes is now in the deputy director position. Director Tullius thanked Board Member Irene Hansen for participating on that interview panel. We have also hired a new Heritage Cultural and Interpretive Coordinator; she will start on December 1. Mr. Hayes' former position, OHV Coordinator, was announced and we will hold interviews soon.

Director Tullius mentioned that we planned to be working on a new division strategic plan at this time. This has been postponed until the audit is completed. There will more than likely be recommendations from the audit that will need to be incorporated into the new plan. She would like to have the team begin this process in the spring. Director Tullius would like to have a board member included on this team and asked Chair Bentley to help select one board member to participate in that process. There will also be members from the Friends of Utah State Parks, a citizen representative, a representative from the Utah Association of Counties, and staff.

Grant applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund have all been received. There are 32 project requests totaling \$7.4 million with only \$300,000 available for projects. The grant requests will be presented for the board's approval at an upcoming meeting.

The Building Board ranked our capital development project for the Wasatch Mountain renovation at #16. It has moved up on the list over the last few years, so that is encouraging. However, there is only enough money to fund perhaps only the top five projects.

For our fiscal year 2010, in the midst of an economic recession, our revenues increased by 6%, expenditures decreased by 2.3%, and visitation increased by 60,000 visitors. We are very proud of our staff; this is to the credit of our park and region managers.

Deputy Director Fred Hayes said during the weekly conference calls we are still hearing that some of the campgrounds remain full even at this time of year; even some of the northern parks are still getting visitation. Deputy Director Hayes referred board members to the Recreational Trails Program grants included in their board packet. The grants do not need to be approved by the board, but we would like them to be aware of the grant projects. If any board members have questions, let him know. We have had a really good year, operationally. Mr. Hayes discussed the Twitchell Canyon fire and its impact on staff at Fremont Indian State Park. It was very close to the park so they began loading artifacts in order to be ready to move them out in case the fire. Other park employees were willing to go assist with this if needed.

Mr. Hayes joined a group of folks from federal and state agencies for the NRCC tour in September. They began their tour at Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum. Park Manager Mark Trotter did a phenomenal job of assisting with the tour. Over the summer, we battled the quagga mussels; they are still an operational issue. We are still working with the Division of Wildlife Resources to resolve the issues. We have been working closely with the Division of Water Quality on water quality issues at our reservoirs.

Deputy Director Karen Krieger referred the board members to the Statewide Services report included in the board packet. Ms. Krieger said Deena Loyola and her staff do an incredible job with all of their projects. They are working on updating the website and developing social media, with which Region Manager Larry Gray has also assisted. This is an important part of marketing State Parks. The new reservation system is now operating at two parks. Leon Tate, KD Perkins, and Emily DeBois have worked very hard to get this new system up and running, and it has been a real challenge. We are now down to some of the finer details. We hope to have the entire system up and running by February 1. As Director Tullius mentioned, we have hired Justina Parsons-Bernstein for the new Heritage Resources Coordinator. She will be a great asset to State Parks with her experience in several areas. Rockin' Utah is adding winter programs this year. They will hold events at Wasatch Mountain, Territorial Statehouse, and Camp Floyd. This has been one of the most gratifying programs with which we have been involved. There were 16 successful programs held last year.

Chair Bentley asked how the bison round-up went this year. Ms. Krieger gave the details of this event and said it was very successful. The feedback from the riders was that it was the best ever. The rest of the operation begins tomorrow. Chair Bentley said everything he has heard or read about has been very positive.

### **Wasatch Mountain State Park Resource Management Plan Approval**

Planning Coordinator Jamie Dalton gave board members a handout on the Wasatch Mountain State Park Resource Management/Business Plan. Mr. Dalton reviewed the strategies they identified in the plan. The plan was reviewed at the last board meeting.

Mr. Dalton asked Wasatch Mountain State Park Manager Bruce Strom to review some of the activities they have already implemented at the park. Mr. Strom reviewed these items and the success of each.

Mr. Dalton mentioned there was a lot of effort put into this by many people. He thanked those who participated in the planning process.

**MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Bentley thanked everybody for the good job they do on the resource management process.

### **Territorial Statehouse State Park and Museum Resource Management Plan Approval**

Planning Coordinator Dalton reviewed the process they have gone through to develop the Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum Resource Management Plan. Mr. Dalton reviewed the changes that have gone on at Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum. Board Member Glenn Greenhalgh commented on what has happened at Territorial. He said their work at the park is very positive. Board Member Irene Hansen also commented on what a great job the staff have done to make things work. Mr. Dalton asked Region Manager Larry Gray and Curator Carl Camp to make any comments on this plan. Mr. Gray thanked board members Irene Hansen and Glenn Greenhalgh for their involvement in the process. He said their help was very much appreciated. Mr. Gray also said most of the credit goes to Curator Carl Camp for everything he has been doing to make things work at the park. Deputy Director Krieger mentioned that Mr. Gray and Mr. Camp have been a huge part of making the park successful. Mr. Camp said the region and Salt Lake offices have helped out with big events at the park and the community recognizes and appreciates this. Mr. Camp reviewed recent and upcoming events. Deputy Director Hayes mentioned that when he participated in that tour he discussed earlier, they stopped at Territorial and had a great visit.

**MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TERRITORIAL STATEHOUSE STATE PARK MUSEUM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBER ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bill Bleak suggested Territorial Statehouse possibly being involved in the pioneer trek with the LDS Church. Park Manager Carl Camp said they have considered that, but it will take a lot of planning.

### **Jordanelle State Park Resource Management Plan Review**

Planning Coordinator Dalton said it has been about seven years since a joint resource management plan was completed with the Bureau of Reclamation for Jordanelle State Park. Mr. Dalton said we really need to look at cost effectiveness during the planning process. He mentioned there is a public meeting scheduled this evening to discuss Jordanelle State Park. He reviewed the process for developing a new RMP. They will be looking at opportunities for Rock Cliff at Jordanelle State Park. Other issues include: day-use beach access; redesign of facilities; and the trail system. This process will take several years and the Bureau of Reclamation takes the lead in the planning process. The final document is due out in mid-2012. Chair Bentley said if there's anything the board members can do to help with this process, to let him know.

### **State Parks Business Plans Update**

Planning Coordinator Dalton said Director Tullius would like business plans in place at every park by August 31, 2011. There have been four business plans developed since the first of the year (Dead Horse Point, Sand Hollow, Wasatch Mountain, and Scofield). The business plan process relies heavily on community members and park staff who know their respective areas and what will work. They look at a lot of economic data for the business plans for each park. This process has been very enlightening and

very useful to the parks. East Canyon, Palisade, Bear Lake and Willard Bay business plans are underway. Mr. Dalton said park managers are taking the initiative to develop the business plans on their own.

Deputy Director Krieger said Mr. Dalton's intellect and passion, and ability to work with numbers and write has inspired several different areas over the past 10 months. He provides a lot of value to the division.

### **Concession Management Team Presentation**

Special Projects Coordinator Jim Harland referred the board members to the information contained in the board packet. He reviewed the process used to revise the concession management guidelines.

Board Member Eli Anderson asked about the process with State Purchasing. Mr. Harland said Purchasing is very involved with the advertising portion of the concession process. Board Member Bill Bleak said a brainstorming session may be valuable to the park managers when they are writing business plans. Board Member Irene Hansen suggested that community members and economic development people be involved in the business plan process. Mr. Harland said the majority of the concession service operators are local residents. It has been suggested that training be provided for the concessionaires. Director Tullius said things have really evolved over the years with the concession management process. Staff has learned a lot during this process. Mr. Harland reviewed the concessions that are currently going through the process right now. Director Tullius mentioned we currently have 39 concession contracts or special use permits in place, which is very impressive. This shows how innovative the staff has been in finding opportunities to enhance the parks.

### **Building Blocks and Legislation 2011**

Building blocks are budget requests to the legislature. They include \$387,000 from our park fees to purchase the remaining portion of the dry storage at Jordanelle, \$400,000 from the OHV restricted fund to improve Little Deer Creek Campground, and \$500,000 from restricted funds for park renovation. It looks as though they will be included in the Governor's budget. The legislation will include boating insurance requirements similar in process and law as motor vehicles. We will also propose modifying OHV fees, following the same public process that we do with park and boating fees. Board Member Eli Anderson asked about the boating legislation and how that process would work.

Director Tullius asked Financial Manager Mark Forbes to report on the budget information. Mr. Forbes handed out information to the board on the division's work programs. This work program is for FY 2011. He reviewed this information with the board and explained the budget numbers.

### **Park Enhancement Incentive Program**

Deputy Director Fred Hayes explained the Park Enhancement Incentive Program. We have been looking at ways to provide assistance for capital improvements in parks without receiving capital development money from the legislature. This program has been revamped a bit over the last couple of years to cover small capital improvements. Parks are asked to come up with ideas to improve visitor services, provide a return on investment, create a better facility, and at the same time generate revenue. The parks must meet some criteria in order to qualify for these funds. The parks have from October to June to complete their projects since the money used is lapsing. Mr. Hayes reviewed the list of projects that were approved this year.

### **Volunteer Program Highlight**

Deputy Director Karen Krieger said Robin Watson has done some great work over the last several years. She gave the board members a handout that outlines the Volunteer Program. One new program is the Adopt-a-Park program. She has had an intern, George Bawden, involved in this program.

He has contacted 14 different businesses and families that have agreed to adopt different parks or areas of parks. The camphost program has approximately 169 hosts statewide. These camphosts play key roles in operating the parks. Ms. Watson also registered State Parks in the "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" promotion. There were 267 people that donated 954 hours of service to our state parks and they in turn received a coupon for a day at Disney. There were a number of parks that participated and we had a lot of participation from families in this program. There is also a lot going on with the Friends groups, it has really expanded over the past few years. We now have seven different groups, in addition to the Iron Mission Foundation. The different groups are very helpful in fundraising for specific parks and are passionate about state parks. Ms. Watson assists and supports the various groups. Ms. Krieger reviewed the different Friends groups and some of the events and fundraising events and reported that in the spring, we would like to host a Friends of State Parks annual conference for all of the groups. The AmeriCorps program has helped us with providing four interns. All aspects of the volunteer program are handled by Ms. Watson, she really works to support the parks in any way she can. This is a very valuable program and provides some very good opportunities.

Mr. Dalton mentioned volunteers are helping to keep the costs down in the parks.

### **Recreational Trails Advisory Council Members Approval**

Deputy Director Fred Hayes said there are currently two vacancies on the Recreational Trails Advisory Council. He reviewed the nominations for the vacancies. Gael Hill is recommended for the at-large representative and Mike McCandless is recommended for the Utah Association of Counties representative.

**MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE GAEL HILL AS THE NEW AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE AND MIKE MCCANDLESS AS THE UTAH ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UTAH RECREATIONAL TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL. MS. IRENE HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **OHV Advisory Council Member Approval**

Deputy Director Fred Hayes said there is one vacant position on the OHV Advisory Council. He reviewed the nomination for the vacancy. Mr. Wade Allinson is recommended as the Off-Highway Motorcycle representative on the OHV Advisory Council.

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

### **OHV Program Grants Approval**

Deputy Director Fred Hayes reviewed the OHV grants that have been recommended by the OHV Advisory Council. Normally there is \$175,000 per year, but due to the economic situation the communities don't feel like they have the matching money this year. The projects recommended total nearly \$82,000. He explained what each project involves.

**MS. IRENE HANSEN MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE MATCHING GRANT PROJECTS AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **State Parks Fees Recommendation**

Director Mary Tullius said there was a different process followed this year in coming up with fee recommendations. Normally we look at fees every two years. We formed a Self-Sufficiency Team to

review what we could do to generate revenue. There were several items that came up and involved fees, so Director Tullius asked Mr. Harland to look at the fee information that was generated by this team. Therefore, we may not be able to finalize the fees. We may need to hold another board meeting or conference call in order for the board to approve the recommended fees. Mr. Eli Anderson asked if this is the right time to be raising fees, right before the legislative session. Director Tullius said this is the time due to the process that must be followed, which includes legislative approval on fee increases. Mr. Harland introduced the members of the fee team that are here at the meeting (Leon Tate, Jamie Dalton, Larry Gray, and Bruce Strom). Mr. Harland reviewed the Fee Team recommendations. He also reviewed the recommended changes to the guideline. The board members were asked to review the fee information and email any suggestions for changes to Wendy no later than November 24. It was suggested that another meeting be held in order for the board to approve the fee schedule. No action will be taken on the fees recommendation today.

Chair Bentley thanked Jim Harland and the rest of the staff for all of the work they have done on the fee recommendations. Director Tullius said Mr. Harland has done a great job since he has moved into the Salt Lake Office as the Special Projects Coordinator. Jim Harland, Leon Tate, and Jamie Dalton do a great job on their projects.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the Department of Natural Resources in Salt Lake City. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**MR. BILL BLEAK 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). MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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