

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
JOHN WESLEY POWELL RIVER HISTORY MUSEUM
1765 EAST MAIN
GREEN RIVER, UTAH**

October 28, 2014

Present:

Irene Hansen	Jaren Davis	Ryan Starks
Tom Guinney	Doug Thompson	Bob Murri
Kimberly Schappert	Corey Cram	Kevin Christensen
Fred Hayes	Jeff Rasmussen	Scott Strong
Julie Lovato		

Visitors:

Aaron Farmer	Tim Smith	Wayne Monroe
Jonathan Hunt	Ty Hunter	Darin Bird
Brody Young	Brad Peterson	Chris Haller
Pat Bradley		

Board Chair Irene Hansen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chair Hansen introduced the Mr. Pat Bradley, Mayor of Green River, and asked him to introduce himself. Mayor Bradley thanked everyone for choosing Green River for the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the State Parks in that area and for the fourth year of the River Rampage triathlon that the park is a part of. After many years of struggling in Green River he was very excited about the potential of two refineries and a nuclear plant that is looking in that area for development. Chair Hansen thanked Tim Smith, Southeast Region Manager, for hosting the board meeting. She asked the board members and staff to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Hansen reviewed the agenda and asked that a couple of changes be approved. She would like to add the swearing in of the new board member, Kevin Christensen. She would also like to remove the Government Records and Management Act Rules approval.

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT RECORDS AND MANAGEMENT ACT RULES CHANGE SINCE HEATHER SHILTON WAS NOT PRESENT AND TO SWEAR IN KEVIN CHRISTENSEN. MR. DOUG THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DNR Deputy Director Darin Bird swore Mr. Kevin Christensen in as a member of the Board of State Parks and Recreation.

Board Member Reports

Chair Hansen asked the board members to report if they've visited any of the parks since the last meeting.

Mr. Tom Guinney discussed the tourism and marketing efforts in the state of Utah. He reviewed the statistics of tourism.

Mr. Ryan Starks said a big part of Wasatch County's economy relies on golf. He discussed some of the marketing efforts to promote golf.

Mr. Jaren Davis said he had a family reunion in Moab and walked the rim at Dead Horse Point State Park for the first time. He said the yurts at Dead Horse Point were amazing. He said his family missed going boating at Utah Lake this year.

Mr. Doug Thompson said he is quite familiar with Bear Lake State Park. He spent some time at Hyrum and said it is beautiful. He said he had never been to Willard Bay so he drove through there. He was very impressed at how well maintained it is.

Mr. Bob Murri had nothing to report.

Ms. Kimberly Schappert said they had a great opening ceremony for the yurts at Dead Horse Point. She was able to spend five days in the Swell area and it is pretty spectacular. She did a drive-through of the Green River campground. She said the new hook-ups are a great addition.

Mr. Corey Cram said he participated in the Yuba State Park zipline opening. He is amazed at what they're doing at that park. He spent some time at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park and said it was good to see the improvements that have been made there. He said they were sad to see Jon Wikan transfer from Quail Creek. He works in the water industry and said there are some challenges with that right now.

Chair Hansen said he is very impressed with the board members we have right now. She appreciates the sacrifice they make.

Directors Report

Chair Hansen asked Director Fred Hayes to deliver his report. Mr. Hayes has asked Deputy Director Jeff Rasmussen to give his report first.

Mr. Rasmussen said he wants to start talking about the grand opening events that have been held. He listed them as follows: OHV Trail Connection at Steinaker; Intrepid Bike Trail at Dead Horse Point State Park (doubled to 16 miles); Archery Course at Starvation State Park; Zip Line at Yuba State Park; Grand Re-Opening at Willard Bay State Park; Dedication of three new yurts at Dead Horse Point State Park; and the Gift Shop and Visitors Center at Great Salt Lake State Park.

Mr. Rasmussen also discussed the new opportunities that were put in place during 2014. They include: New Campsites at Great Salt Lake State Park (5 with power and water hookups); TeePees at Red Fleet, Scofield, Fremont; Canoe and stand-up paddleboard rentals at Huntington and Millsite; 8.5" Holes at Soldier Hollow Golf Course – Trials for special events and groups – Silver; Building rentals at Frontier Homestead for Weddings, Family Reunions, etc.; Playground at Anasazi; New entrance at Jordanelle with electronic signs and auto gate - \$42,000 since mid-July; Fee Collection at Goosenecks - \$12k just this season; Many parks added utility hookups in their campgrounds; Swim Docks, Trampolines, Slides at various parks; New events including sand castle building, carp shoots, fun runs, triathlons, fishing tournaments, car/boat/trailer shows, fishing clinics.

Mr. Rasmussen said there are some other opportunities in the works for 2015. They include: Zip Line and Challenge Course at Deer Creek; Possible Wakeboard Park at Utah Lake; Petrified Tree at Escalante (50 foot with root ball) – 150 million yrs old; Bike Trail at Goblin Valley; New primitive campground and a bike trail at Goosenecks -Valley of the Gods Expansion; Disc Golf Course at Green River Golf Course – Other parks – Rockport, Goblin Valley; Possible Archery Ranges at Deer Creek, Jordanelle/Rock Cliff, Utah Lake; Fossil Digs led - Utah Field; House staff on oil shale property – more exhibits Field House; Concession-run dinner cruises from Antelope Island and GSL – (53 foot yacht); 90 additional boat trailer parking spaces at Utah Lake – (doubles parking capacity); Interpretive improvements on Camp Floyd property – 2 acres (arsenic); Many parks are considering adding Yurts or Cabins; and Goblin Valley Expansion.

He said they are looking into expanding opportunities at “traditional” parks. These include: East Canyon – Historical component where the Donner Party, Mormon Pioneers and the Pony Express trail went right through the park! Adding interpretive signage and development to attract more visitors. Fremont Indian – Known as a museum park we plan to emphasize all the recreational assets this great park includes where it is located on the Piute OHV trail system, has one of the best campgrounds in the state and has tons of great hiking trails.

Mr. Rasmussen said besides managing the operations of our state parks, many of our folks are quite frequently involved in life-saving and search and rescue efforts. He wanted to highlight just a few of those efforts to give you a taste of some of the great things our folks do:

Jeff Steele, assistant park manager at Red Fleet State Park was on duty recently when a person on a side by side off-highway vehicle came up to him at a high rate of speed and stated his cousin was involved in an accident and thrown from his side by side and was in really bad shape. Jeff drove to the crash site and found a person lying face down in the middle of the road. Jeff and one of his part time deputies helped to get the person rolled over after they put on a C collar. The victim was not doing well at all and was non responsive. Jeff noticed he wasn't breathing and that he did not a pulse so he started administering CPR. After a short number of compressions the victim started to come around and was breathing. Steele and the other officer on scene from the USFS both thought he had died until the compressions brought him back. Jeff and his seasonal deputy continued to monitor and help the victim until the medical helicopter arrived 30 minutes later to fly the victim directly to the U of U Trauma Center in SLC. Although the victim broke his back in two different places, we have heard that he was later recovering at his home in Vernal.

On September 27th one of the many big thunderstorms we experienced this past summer was making its way through the Carbon County area leading to major flooding of the Price River. **Larry Johansen**, Assistant Park Manager at Scofield State Park got a call from the local county law enforcement dispatch asking for help at a trailer court in Carbonville. People were trapped in their trailers with water coming through the doors. Larry was one of the first to respond to assist with this dangerous situation and brought numerous lifejackets with him that came in handy with the deep water. Some of the homes had water almost halfway up their sides and many vehicles were filled up to their roofs. Larry assisted in going door to door for several hours to search for anyone trapped by the water and found numerous individuals that required assistance. He carried several children out and even floated one lady out on top of a backhoe tire in about 4-5 feet of water. Larry played a key role in the evacuation efforts with this situation.

Nathan Martinez is the Assistant State Park Manager at Green River and Goblin Valley State Parks and gets numerous search and rescue calls every year in the Sand Rafael Swell area that we will be touring tomorrow. Part of Nathan's responsibility involves regular OHV patrols in the area and because he lives on-site at Goblin Valley he is more often than not the closest person to respond when people are in trouble and need help. Recently, Nathan got a call in the late afternoon reporting a victim that had a broken tibia and fibula in Dang Canyon.

Nathan loaded up the 4 wheelers and drove to the trailhead with two of his seasonal employees. They rode to the head of Dang canyon and then hiked in about 20 min to get to the injured party at about 630 pm. The victim had an obvious broken ankle and was unable to walk. They were tucked under an alcove so that he could stay out of the rain and were essentially trapped with a 30 foot cliff up the canyon and a 15 foot cliff down the canyon and it was too dangerous to stay put with the continued rain and the threat of flash flooding. Their best option was to try and get a helicopter and hoist the victim out. The Sheriff's posse arrived at about 12 midnight and set up a hauling system to hoist the victim out of the canyon since it was too stormy for a helicopter to respond. By 3am they were finally able to lift the victim up over the top of the canyon wall and transported him to an ambulance. Nathan's technical canyoneering and medical skills played a key role in this successful rescue. He was out for nearly 17 straight hours on this rescue...

On July 12th, **Steve Bullock**, Assistant Park Manager at Deer Creek State Park, received a call that a female camper was unresponsive in a camp site. Steve arrived to find the female patient, lying on her back in the dirt and unresponsive. He was unable to locate a pulse or detect any breathing so performed chest compressions until victim was loaded on the stretcher and put into ambulance. The ambulance crew left for the Utah Valley Hospital. It was later found at the hospital that the victim had choked on a 3 inch un-chewed bratwurst sausage! Even though the woman later passed away, Steve's heroic efforts gave her the care she needed until the ambulance arrived to transport her to the hospital.

On August 22nd, a boat was reported to be stranded in a severe storm on Bear Lake. **Wayne Earley**, Assistant Park Manager and **Aaron Nielson**, Park Ranger, at Bear Lake State Park responded to find vessel operator Michael and his wife trying to catch a buoy marker and tie a rope to it to keep their boat from crashing into shore. Michael ended up jumping into the water to try and secure the boat to the buoy but could not keep his head above the large waves and ended up going under for about 30 seconds. When he resurfaced and grabbed back on to the buoy, Wayne and Aaron maneuvered their rescue boat close enough to pull Michael from the water. We credit Wayne and Aaron for saving Michael's life as it would have been unlikely for him to get back in his boat.

This is just a small sampling to give you a taste of what our employees do day in and day out at our parks and areas of responsibility. We get many complements from Sheriffs, County Commissioners, and other local officials regarding how much they appreciate our staff and their contributions to the local communities they work in. We have some great folks working for the division and we greatly appreciate their hard work and dedication.

Director Hayes said he is working on a proposal that will involve the Board adopting a rule that will create a recognition program that would reward staff for their life-saving events. This is almost an every week event. He said we have "the most dedicated people in the world." He said a few years ago many things were looked at in order for the Division to continue. He asked park managers to adopt the MORE philosophy - *More people having more fun in more parks more often*. They would like to invigorate the staff for the upcoming year and focus on the protection and maintenance of facilities. He would also like to enhance the visitor experience with improved customer service.

Mr. Hayes said the tour that they will be taking the Board on tomorrow is very exciting. There are a lot of possibilities in that area.

Mr. Hayes said they have asked every region and program manager to develop goals each month that include the protection and enhancement of our facilities, the service provided to customers, and business development. These goals will be tracked and accounted for by Deputy Director Rasmussen. Mr. Hayes would like to be able to have these on the computer and allow the board members to have access so they can look at the parks in their areas.

Mr. Hayes was asked if there is a place in state government for a rewards/recognition program. He said there is. We have just completed a new recognition program that is called the ABC Program. This stands for Above and Beyond the Call. The next level of awards is an incentive award that can be given to employees for outstanding performance. These are usually around \$500. We have started a new incentive program for park managers that have improved their profit and loss statements. There are also annual awards given for employee of the year, manager of the year, and leadership awards. The Department of Natural Resources also has an annual awards program.

We have a couple of issues that include drones and we are a little bit concerned so we will look into it further. There is a rule that allows the park manager to manage this type of activity on an emergency basis.

The legislative session begins in January, so we are gearing up for that now. We don't anticipate anything earth shattering. We do count on the golf course issue coming up again next session. We anticipate This Is the Place asking for additional operating money. We have submitted a \$1 million dollar request to complete Phase II of Jordanelle State Park. This would increase our capacity.

We just initiated a formal partnership with the Department of Agriculture to sell Utah's own merchandise in our gift shops. We may look into incorporating this into our concession contracts.

We have been trying to get all of our people and our partners to include "State Park" when they are talking about any of the state parks. He asked the board members to help us with this effort. We are still experiencing increased visitation due to the closure of the national parks.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hansen said they got distracted at the beginning of the meeting and skipped the approval of the minutes. She asked the board to review and approve the minutes presented.

MR. TOM GUINNEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON AUGUST 20, 2013. MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. DOUG THOMPSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 29, 2013. MR. BOB MURRI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. RYAN STARKS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 2, 2014. MR. DOUG THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Utah State Parks Financial Update

Financial Manager Scott Strong was asked to report on the financial update of State Parks. He said Fiscal Year 2014 was a very successful year for Park Operations. He said we increased our operations account balance by \$3 million. He said about 75% of our parks are profitable or on the fringe of being profitable. Excluding golf and heritage parks, 97% of the parks are profitable or close to profitability (within a few thousand dollars). Overall, park operations were profitable in fiscal year 2014. Mr. Strong said Fiscal Year 2014 was a banner year for revenue. It was our highest revenue year ever - \$16.6 million. As far as expense growth, conversely fiscal year 2014 was a banner year for expenses. It was our highest expense year ever - \$16.4 million. He said although revenue increased to record levels, expense grew at a faster rate. In fiscal year 2014 we were profitable, but the margin was not as large due to the increased expenses. In the past, the financial focus had been placed on two things--staying within budget and generating revenue. Aside from staying within budget, expenses hadn't received much attention. Mr. Strong thinks this is a function of being a government agency. Most government agencies are funded with tax payer money, so they don't worry about costs. State Parks are essentially self-funded. In order to maximize our profit margin we've added the goal of cost containment. Cost containment could be achieved easily by cutting budgets, but cutting budgets isn't an effective management or motivation tool. Rather than cutting budgets and emphasizing the need to increase revenue, we've developed an incentive program to bring more emphasis to profitability.

Mr. Strong talked about the incentive awards for cost containment. This is outlined as follows:
Incentive award:

- Increase profitability from one year to the next
 - Profitability puts all the parks on a level playing field – they have control over the outcomes
 - Park managers are not competing against each other – isolated to the individual park – get insight from other managers
 - Park managers will be given a hump sum – they will be able to distribute the money how they feel is most equitable – Fred's participation award story
 - Funding for the incentive award will very based on how much additional profit was generated during the year – the incentive program has to pay for itself
 - Rewards those that increase revenue and control costs – increase profitability

Second part of cost containment is our continuous focus on developing opportunities that increase profitability:

- Risk vs reward – Deer Creek zip line and Utah Lake wakeboard park – no capital investment – eliminated risk
 - Rather than risk a lot to gain a little, we want to focus on opportunities that result in higher profit margins.

Building block request:

Phase two at Jordanelle – mostly asphalt and infrastructure improvements

- BOR matching funds – million dollar building block request

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Approval

Director Hayes reported there were three project applications received this year requesting \$469,010.00 in funding. Division staff reviewed each application in depth, and followed the criteria set by the National Park Service in determining the eligibility of the applicants and their projects. The following is a brief description of the proposed projects for 2014.

APPLICANT: Paradise Town

PROJECT NAME: Paradise Park Sports Complex Improvements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construct a restroom, pavilion and associated infrastructure within Paradise Town's existing park and sports complex.

SPONSOR MATCH: \$80,000.00

LWCF REQUEST: \$80,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$160,000.00

APPLICANT: Eagle Mountain City
 PROJECT NAME: Mid-Valley Regional Park Improvements
 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Paving an existing gravel parking lot and add a new lighting system to an existing baseball/softball quad complex.
 SPONSOR MATCH: \$289,010.00
 LWCF REQUEST: \$289,010.00
 TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$578,020.00

APPLICANT: City of St. George
 PROJECT NAME: Millcreek Park Improvements
 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Develop a new neighborhood park in the Millcreek area of St. George. The new park will include: parking, pavilion, restroom, playground, walking paths, and associated infrastructure/landscaping.
 SPONSOR MATCH: \$688,000.00
 LWCF REQUEST: \$100,000.00
 TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$788,000.00

It is recommended the Board approve the nomination of Paradise Town's, Eagle Mountain City's, and the City of St. George's projects to the National Park Service's Stateside LWCF program.

MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. MR. COREY CRAM SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Approval

Chris Haller, Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program Coordinator, explained the FY 15 grant process was completed with recommendations provided by the Utah Off-highway Vehicle Advisory Council on May 12, 2014. The advisory council submits these recommendations to the Utah State Parks Board for review and approval.

We would request that the Board consider approving the FY 15 OHV fiscal assistance grants as follows:

FY14 STATE OHV GRANTS

#	PROJECT	STATE FUNDS
1	HEBER KAMAS RD EDUCATION OF OHV ROUTES	\$20,000.00
4	JEDEDIAH SMITH INTERPRETIVE PROJECT	\$6,000.00
6	PRICE DISTRICT OHV COORDINATOR	\$30,000.00
9	TOOELE TRAILS REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$10,230.00
12	POWELL RD MOTORIZED PUBLIC CONTACT	\$10,000.00
17	CHIEF TINTIC TRAILS	\$12,974.00
18	FPOT EXTENSION, ABAJO SINGLETRACK REROUTE & TRAIL PATROL	\$10,000.00
	TOTAL	\$99,204.00

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT. MR. BOB MURRI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council Appointment

Mr. Haller explained that the USFS Representative is vacant on the OHV Advisory Council, after a re-assignment of Josh Jurgensen. It is recommended that the Board appoint Mr. Nic Glidden, to serve as the USFS Representative on the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council.

MR. RYAN STARKS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE MR. NIC GLIDDEN AS THE USFS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL. MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recreational Trails Advisory Council Appointment

Mr. Haller explained that the USFS Representative is vacant on URTAC, after a re-assignment of Josh Jurgensen. It is recommended that the Board appoint Ms. Cheryl Butler, to serve as the USFS Representative on the Utah Recreational Trails Advisory Council.

Ms. Butler comes qualified to fill this position, as she started her career with the Forest Service in 1996, as a seasonal, by being on a Youth Crew on the Spanish Fork Ranger District of the Uinta National Forest. An immediate passion and love for trails work and leading others began. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Outdoor Recreation Management with a Minor in Biology, in 2009, from Utah Valley University. In 2009 she was hired permanently by the Forest Service as the Volunteer Coordinator on the Pleasant Grove Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Her current assignment is the Trails, Wilderness and Recreation Special Uses Manager, upon the Pleasant Grove Ranger District. One of the most rewarding aspects of Cheryl's current job is the continued relationship and collaboration with trail users of all kinds, volunteers and partners. Her family all shares a love of the outdoors and enjoys camping, fishing, hunting, hiking and photography.

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE MS. CHERYL BUTLER AS THE USFS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. BOB MURRI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Boating Rule Changes

Mr. Ty Hunter, Boating Program Coordinator, explained that the current rule was last amended in 2007, placing the yearly registration fee at \$25. The Division has paid \$2 per registration transaction of the \$25 to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

On July 1, 2014 the Division of Motor Vehicles raised their registration transaction by \$2 and has shown intentions to raise it another \$1 for fiscal year 2016 which will be a total of \$4 being paid per registration transaction. With these increases the Division will have a \$140,000 reduction in income this fiscal year and an additional \$70,000 next fiscal year with a total of \$210,000 in losses to the boating program fund. Therefore, it is recommended the Board modify Rule R651-207-1 as follows:

R651-207-1. Yearly Registration Fee.

The registration fee shall be \$28 [~~\$25~~] per year.

MR. TOM GUINNEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE BOATING RULE CHANGE. (RULE R651-207-1). MR. COREY CRAM SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This is a rule clean up to correct a reference to R651-213 Dealer Registration and Numbering which was modified the last board meeting.

R651-214 Temporary Registration makes a reference to R651-213-1 Dealer Registration and Numbering on where to obtain an application for temporary registration. The current rule misleads Dealers to the Division instead of the Division of Motor vehicles. Therefore, we recommend the Board modify Rule R651-214 as follows:

R651-214-1. Temporary Registration

(1) A vessel dealer may apply to the Division of Motor Vehicles for temporary registrations to be used on motorboats or sailboats sold by his business. ~~[The application to obtain temporary registration is the same as outlined in Subsection R651-213-1.]~~

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE BOATING RULE CHANGE (R651-214-1). MR. TOM GUINNEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. JAREN DAVIS MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE NEW REGISTRATION FEE INCREASE TO \$30. MR. DOUG THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The board discussed having future meetings on the first Thursday of February, May, August and November.

MR. RYAN STARKS 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. COREY CRAM SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. BOB MURRI MADE A MOTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.