

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

*"To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship"*

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 13, 2018**

**IDPR Headquarters**

**5657 Warm Springs Ave.**

**Boise, ID 83716**

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**Minutes – Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**Call to Order – Chairman Black**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. MT, February 13, 2018. Chairman Black requested a roll call.

Board Member Doug Eastwood – Present  
Board Member Gordy Hansen – Present  
Chairman Pete Black – Present  
Board Member Randy Doman – Present  
Board Member Mike Boren - Present

Also present during all or portions of the meeting were the following individuals:

David Langhorst – Director  
Betty Mills – Management Assistant to the Director  
Keith Hobbs – Operations Administrator  
Anna Canning – Management Services Administrator  
Garth Taylor – South Region Manager  
David White – North Region Manager  
Steve Martin – Fiscal Officer  
Tammy Kolsky – Reservation Program Manager  
Jim Thomas – Development Bureau Chief  
Jennifer Okerlund – Public Information Officer  
Dave Claycomb – Recreation Bureau Chief  
Wallace Keck – Park Manager  
Debbie Hoopes – Human Resource Officer  
Jamie Little – Experience/Education Coordinator  
Kathy Muir – Grants Management Supervisor  
Steve Strack – Deputy Attorney General  
Sandra Mitchell – ISSA/IRC  
Rick Just – Friends of Idaho Parks  
Dennis McLane – Friends of Idaho Parks  
Katrine Franks – Governor's Office

**Consent Agenda**

- **Group Use Permit**  
Eagle Plein Air Art Festival Group Use Permit
- **Approval of Minutes**  
November 1-2, 2017

Mr. Doman stated that he had addressed a concern during the November 2017 Board meeting regarding the Boards request two years ago to look at co-locating with the National Park Service (NPS) and he felt IDPR staff did not follow through to check into this at that time. Mr. Doman feels that IDPR has lost a lot of valuable time waiting until now for this discussion. If IDPR would have looked at this two years ago when the building was being designed, we would have been a head of the game. He asked to have this included in the February 2018 minutes. Director Langhorst stated that there are two things happening

here, one is a question on whether the minutes reflect the conversation that occurred at the November meeting, the second is a question or challenge on whether IDPR staff has delayed the Billingsley Creek project for two years. The Director stated the second part can be discussed during his Director's Reports when he brings up the Billingsley topic. The Director stated that he is unsure if putting this in the minutes, reflects both sides of that story. The Director stated that we could add Mr. Doman's thoughts and concerns in today's minutes but if the argument is going to be flushed out, we can have that discussion today and include details of it in today's minutes. Mr. Boren suggested we include Mr. Doman's comments in the minutes and also have an additional conversation during today's meeting. Mr. Boren asked if the Board could conduct a discussion on how they would like to have the minutes drafted going forward. Director Langhorst offered a suggestion to the Board to amend the agenda and add a discussion of the process of the minutes during the Old and New Business. The Board agreed.

**Mr. Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of the November minutes regarding the lack of detail on the Billingsley Creek discussion. Mr. Eastwood seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Director's Report**

The Director stated that today's agenda is mostly informational. This is a very busy time for the Grant Department and this is the first year IDPR is using the online grant application process, which seems to be going well. The Director provided a PowerPoint presentation discussing the following topics:

- o Billingsley Creek Visitor's Center Timeline
- o HB 508 – New Vehicle Definitions added to I.C.
- o HB 509 – OHV Stickers
- o HB 510 – Over Snow Vehicles and Over Snow Travelers – Sandra Mitchell addressed the Board to provide additional information on this bill and stated that this bill has been kicked around for 5 years and the Idaho Snowmobile Association finally decided to bring it forward. The word snowmobiles was removed and it was changed to Over Snow Travelers (OST). The fee discussed in this bill would be an annual fee.
- o IDPR Budget Hearing, JFAC, Feb. 8, 2018
- o CEC Guidance Memo – Ensures legislative intent is followed, plans align with law, rule and executive branch policies requirements. The CEC proposal will be presented to the Board during the May meeting for their consideration.
- o Kokanee Cove – Ponderosa State Park. Director Langhorst and Board Member Hansen met with McCall City Planners, Chamber Members and business owners to obtain their opinions on the possibility of IDPR building a lodge at the Kokanee Cove site. Mr. Hansen stated that they received positive feedback on this proposed project during their meetings in McCall. Board and staff discussion followed regarding next steps and direction for staff to move forward with this project. Mr. Hobbs stated that the next steps for IDPR staff will be to discuss this project with purchasing to ensure they are following the appropriate scope of possibilities in moving forward with drafting the RFI.

**Mr. Hansen moved to direct staff to have prepared for our next Board meeting in May, details of an RFI so that we can continue this process of development discovery for Kokanee Cove and that by our next Board meeting we can have an industry day to be determined. Motion was seconded by Mr. Doman. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Board and staff discussion followed whether this would require hiring a consultant between now and the next Board meeting. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Farragut Group Camp Fees – Tammy Kolsky**

Mrs. Kolsky reported to the Board that the Scott Group Area was approved for construction in the FY 2016 budget. This project was recognized as an opportunity to add capacity at Farragut State Park to accommodate the high demand for group camping, large special events and day use events. Group camping areas are in very high demand at Farragut State Park and this facility serves to better meet that demand. IDPR staff recommends establishing fees for the new Scott Group Area at the following rates: \$120/per night for Idaho Residents and \$132/per night for Non-Residents.



**Mr. Boren made a motion to establish the fees as recommended by IDPR staff. Motion was seconded by Mr. Doman. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**BREAK 10:20 A.M.**

**RECONVENED 10:33 A.M.**

**Economic Impact Study Update – Keith Hobbs**

Mr. Hobbs reported that in 2016, IDPR entered into a Professional Services Agreement with the Economics Department of Boise State University, to develop a study detailing the Economic Impact of Idaho State Parks. Mr. Hobbs stated that the Board has received a copy of the final Economic Impact Study and today, he will be providing a brief overview of how this information was obtained. Other states Economic Impact Studies were also reviewed which included their numbers in comparison to IDPR's. Mr. Hobbs commented that Ms. Okerlund has begun pushing this information out to the public and is working on putting together packets which will include canned presentations that everyone will be able to use when they are speaking to the public regarding this study. Board and staff discussion followed regarding their opinions of the survey and responses they have received from the public.

**RV Advisory Committee District 1 Appointment – Kathy Muir**

Ms. Muir reported to the Board that the current District 1 representative (Allen Isaacson) has moved out of state and since this is a small committee, and staff has received a qualified applicant, staff recommends the Board appoint Kent Setty to the District 1 RV Advisory Committee.

**Mr. Boren moved that we follow staff recommendation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Maps/Trails Update – David Claycomb**

Mr. Claycomb stated that several months ago, the Director tasked him in providing a map and information on the Motorized and Non-Motorized trail loss. Mr. Claycomb reported that since 1978, approximately 41% of the motorized trails on USFS lands in Idaho have been lost through travel-planning closures. Today, staff will present the data on a forest-by forest basis, in a spatial format for the Board to review. Staff will also discuss some of the measures IDPR has been involved with to slow the rate of trail loss. Mr. Claycomb provided a link for the Board where today's presentation data could be found. Board and staff discussion followed regarding the necessity for IDPR staff to attend meetings with the Forest Service so they hear our message on the need to save trails. Ms. Okerlund has assembled an informational packet on this topic as well as speaking points.

**LUNCH BREAK**

**RECONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.**

**Deferred Maintenance Update – Jim Thomas**

Mr. Thomas reported that IDPR administers over 40 individual units within 30 state parks in Idaho, encompassing approximately 43,000 acres of land and water. The Development Bureau, which has a staff of 6 employees, is responsible for acquisition, planning, development and major maintenance of state parks and facilities. Mr. Thomas walked the Board through a PowerPoint presentation of the steps that ultimately lead to a project being funded and completed. The presentation covered the Capital Inventory of Needs (CIN) Process:

- Selection Process
- Facility Conditions Assessment
- Understanding the Maintenance List
- Definition of Terms
- Basic Project Selection Process
- Timeline for FY2020 Development Projects
- Criteria for Establishing Priorities
- Walking through the Process
- Park Level Needs Lists

- o Park Level Priority Lists
- o Region Level Priority Lists
- o State Level Funding
- o State Level Priority List
- o IDPR Budget Request
- o Legislatively Funded Projects
- o FY2018 Maintenance Project Prioritization
- o Caddis Campground Timeline

Mr. Thomas stood for questions. Board and staff discussion followed pertaining to deferred maintenance issues and how to address them. Mr. Martin reported that this is the first time in many years that the Governor's office has approved General Funds for IDPR's backlog maintenance.

### **South Region 2017 Recap – Garth Taylor**

Mr. Taylor presented a general summary of the high and a few low points associated with South Region Parks in 2017. Mr. Taylor provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting South Region Parks:

- o South Region Revenues and Expenditures
- o **Bear Lake State Park** – 9 days of turning people away due to lack of parking space, two new kiosks, usage is up 12%, all 48 campsites now have electricity.
- o **Harriman State Park** – New winter triathlon, fire safe yurt improvements and fuels reduction projects completed, new park poster, historic bridge closed, new shelter at Ranchview.
- o **Henrys Lake** – New seasonal housing completed, education and experience programs, restroom remodel in Adams & Blue Dun, RFP for boat rentals and store, ice fishing.
- o **Ashton Tetonia Trail** – Additional highway directional signage added in Tetonia. Improvements made to the parking areas at Felt and Lamont.
- o **Mesa Falls** - Resale efforts at this location will be a priority for 2018, new summer operational plan was negotiated with USFS, this will be our last winter at the Big Falls Inn.
- o **Massacre Rocks** – Annual Christmas tree bonfire, 41 sites upgraded in campground, annual bring on the heat disc golf tournament, teachers workshop.
- o **Land of the Yankee Fork** – Another successful Ride the Bayhorse, Baker House stabilization, great Solar Eclipse.
- o **Lake Walcott** – State of Idaho Championship disc golf tournament, rebuilt irrigation pumps, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest LARPing event (Live Action Role Play), Chaos Wars.
- o **Castle Rocks State Park** – Geological trail interpretive program, California Trail Reenactment, Dutch oven cooking program, grooming trails for winter fun, local 4<sup>th</sup> graders visit the park in May.
- o **Bruneau Dunes State Park** – Sand board rentals, lighting upgrade of 20k, jet assisted take off tanks removed by Explosive Ordinance Disposal.
- o **Three Island** - RV Grant; paving of the overflow parking area in Trailside Loop, new overflow has 16 parking slots, DPW Project; upgrades to the shop including new windows, garage doors, insulated new roof. Events included the Annual Three Island Crossing Days Celebration.
- o **Thousand Springs** – Billingsley Creek; development project, Ritter Island Rentals.
- o **Eagle Island** – One of many cross-country events, flooding April to June with 10 days of closure in June, Artesian well now flowing at 73 GPM, skylight project.
- o **Lucky Peak** – April rooster tail flooding, songwriters in the park concert series, motorcycle rally Sandy Point, many special events at Lucky Peak including the Eclipse.
- o **Lake Cascade** – Eclipse, fishing events, Valley County's Centennial Celebration, boat rental statistics.
- o **Ponderosa** – Free fishing day at North Beach, family program – Owl Night, Junior Ranger program, Early Roots Nature School.

Mr. Taylor stood for questions.

### **North Region 2017 Recap – David White**

Mr. White provided a general summary of the high and maybe a few low points associated with North Idaho's state parks. Mr. White also reported that the parks are booked all year long up North. RV's are getting larger, tents are getting bigger, user groups are always changing as are modes of transportation. People are excited to come to the parks. Mr. White also provided a PowerPoint of a few highlighted things occurring in each of the North Region parks:

- **Priest Lake** – Water and sewer lines froze, flooding after snow melt, boat docks were broken and torn apart, docks had to be reset. Shoreline – instituted a setback on the beach. Priest is trying to get a change in rules for the big boats with big wakes, to only be allowed in the middle of the lake. Fat tire bikes, active in the snowmobile programs
- **Round Lake** – Flooding, shower house flashing was replaced, retaining wall redone, grant awarded to put in and replace all interpretive signs, a lot of interpretive classes, boat and paddle board rentals, ice fishing.
- **Farragut** – there are only three places to get to the shoreline in this park, parking on the road is an issue with overflow parking, swim beach is seeing a lot of erosion, boat use parking lot is being used for people wanting to access the water for swimming, Tree to Tree will be opened this year, 2018. Scott Group area is coming along, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boy Scout Jamboree, add to the Brigg Museum, group use area booked all the time, bike and disc golf events.
- **Coeur d’Alene Parkway** – Boat ramps flooded, shoreline erosion, many public events being held, fundraisers, large number of bald eagle siting’s in the winter.
- **Old Mission** – Flooding due to large amount of snow, no access to lower parking lot, removal and replacement of the roof on the mission, parking is an issue working on a resolution, many special events, eclipse visitors.
- **Trail of the Coeur d’Alene’s** – Flooding, railroad is responsible for all repairs on the trail, the cost is 5 million to fix the damages from the flooding, unauthorized use by motor vehicles, IDPR is responsible for part of this, fishing platforms being built off the trail, groom trails for cross-country skiing if there is sufficient snow, many bike organized rides.
- **Heyburn** – HWY 6 damaged due to so much precipitation, upgraded electrical, local horse group developed 15-20 miles of multiuse trails.
- **McCroskey** – there are many OHV recreationalists that visit this park.
- **Hells Gate** – flooding, sediment, dug out boating area, grant awarded to dredge out marina area this year, concession agreement signed this year for concessionaire to operate the store, fundraiser archery shoots were held.
- **Dworshak** – flooding, road needed repair, lift station repaired, biggest issue is the water level, it is only normal for about 2 weeks out of each season, responsible for the marina, antique car shows.
- **Winchester** – replaced skin on one yurt, CXT installed, replacing electrical, fishing tournaments.
- **North Region Crew** – replaced walkway at Hells Gate, replaced roof on cabin at Heyburn, replaced façade outside of Old Mission, replaced sewer line at Priest Lake, provided money to put in camp host sites, built new stage for Round Lake to hang their projection screen, cut out surf board to promote wake board rentals at Eagle Island.

Mr. White stood for questions. The Board asked if IDPR has considered contacting the media to do a production on our state parks. Staff stated we have done multiple productions over the years but could consider the possibility of doing this again.

#### **Communications Update – Jennifer Okerlund**

Ms. Okerlund provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board to demonstrate a few of the ways in which IDPR communicates both internally with staff and our external customers. Ms. Okerlund stood for questions and asked if the Board had any recommendations on how IDPR could be communicating better. Board and staff discussion followed regarding the process IDPR uses to redirect the public to other parks when the capacity at one is full. Currently there is an availability now portal where visitors can see what parks have availability. Also, our call center staff are trained to refer visitors to other parks when the parks they wish to visit are at full capacity.

#### **Old/New Business**

The Board held a discussion on how they would like the Board meeting minutes drafted going forward. It was requested that the minutes be drafted sooner for the Board to review, while the meeting was still fresh in their minds. The Board will then review the draft minutes, provide any suggested changes to Ms. Mills prior to the next Board meeting. Ms. Mills will incorporate them into the current draft and post them to the Board SharePoint site to be voted on during the next quarterly Board meeting.

Mr. Doman expressed a concern at the meeting in November 2017, regarding the timeliness of the topic of co-location with the NPS which the Board had discussed two years ago and that this was not acted

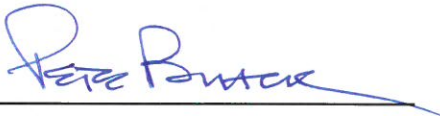


upon sooner. Mr. Doman feels staff could have had a better plan for the Visitor Center at Billingsley if it had. Mr. Boren commented that Director Langhorst stated this morning that without knowing IDPR's plan of what Billingsley Creek would look like, that it was not appropriate to talk to NPS. Mr. Boren stated that he completely disagrees with the Director's statement and feels that if something like this is brought up, that we should talk to the NPS about working with them on a project like that, the fact that we do not know exactly what we are going to do, it has no bearing on that and is even more reason to talk to the NPS if we do not have a definitive plan in place. Director Langhorst stated that IDPR has been talking with the NPS for years regarding Billingsley and his comment this morning pertained to IDPR not having a plan to build a Visitor Center or not. Director Langhorst also stated that when it was presented to the Board at a previous Board meeting and there was a vote on the plan by the Board, there was no decision at that meeting pertaining to the size or even if there would be a Visitor Center at this location. Director Langhorst stated that what he intended to say this morning was that IDPR was unable to engage in a conversation with NPS until it was determined if there would be a Visitor Center at Billingsley Creek. The idea of partnering with NPS at Billingsley Creek has been around since before Director Langhorst was employed at IDPR. Director Langhorst also stated that he regrets that Board member Doman is frustrated and that in his opinion, we have done what we could with the NPS and things are going well now and he too wishes this plan would have happened sooner. Board and staff discussion continued pertaining to the lack of funding for the non-motorized program and suggestions were provided on how IDPR can work with partners to assist in finding a solution.

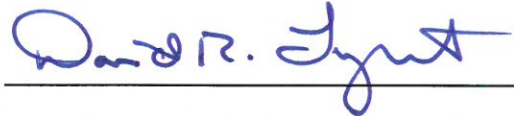
**Public Comment Period**

Mr. Rick Just, President of Friends of Idaho State Parks shared that their organization has begun a campaign against HB496, which would take the agency Director's hiring process for IDPR, ITD and Corrections, out of the hands of their Boards and place it in the Governor's hands.

**Mr. Doman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.**



Pete Black, Chairman  
Idaho Park and Recreation Board



David R. Langhorst, Director  
Ex-Officio Member of the Board