

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2020 Quarterly Meeting via Zoom

IDPR Headquarters

Boise, ID

Minutes – August 12, 2020

Board vote to amend the agenda

Ms. Roach moved to approve the Proposed Amended Agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fatkin. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Call to Order – Chairman Black

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

Chairman Black requested a roll call.

Board Member Pete Black – Present
Board Member Lou Fatkin – Present
Board Member Brian Beckley – Present
Board Member Randy Doman - Present
Board Member Doug Eastwood - Present
Board Member Cally Roach – Present

Also present or on the call, 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
David White – North Region Manager
Garth Taylor – South/East Region Manager
Steve Martin – Fiscal Officer
Kathy Muir – Grants Management Supervisor
Adam Zaragoza – Development Bureau Chief
Craig Quintana – Public Information Officer
Debbie Hoopes – Human Resource Manager
Tammy Kolsky – Reservation/Registration Program Manager
Dave Claycomb – Recreation Bureau Chief
Eileen Downing – Administrative Assistant
Adam Straubinger – Grants Program Specialist
Steve Strack – Deputy Attorney General
Nate Fisher – Governor’s Office
Amber Christofferson – Department of Financial Management
Matthew Reiber – Department of Financial Management
Rob Sepich – Legislative Services Office
LeAnn Stephens – Department of Human Resources
Sandra Mitchell - Executive Director, Idaho Recreation Council
David Claiborne – President, Idaho State ATV Association
Paul Ziaya – Bayview Resident
Nick Murphy – Bayview Resident
Marian DeLuca – Bayview Resident
Will Stafford – Chairman, Bayview Chamber of Commerce
Bob Price

Sheryl Puckett
Gary MacDonald
Mary Ann H.
Sue Kilpatrick

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that all visitors on the call today, please email Ms. Mills and provide their contact information.

Farragut Gate Closure Discussion

Mr. White shared information on Farragut State Park consolidated centralized entrance, opportunities and experiences in the park and park attendance, with the Board. Mr. White also compiled a detailed timeline of proposals, communication and decisions made pertaining to entrances in and out of Farragut State Park. The Board heard comments from members of the Bayview community on their concerns regarding the closure of the East, Locust Grove Entrance into the park. Board and staff discussion followed regarding staff reasoning for closing the gate, effects on the park and staff for having the gate remain opened and effects on the community of Bayview due to the closure of the gate. Mr. Eastwood recommended that the gate into the Bayview community, through the park be reopened as early as next week. He also requested for IDPR staff to draft a plan, for the Board to review, on how the gate will be staffed going forward and how to improve this process, to address future situations like this before they escalate. Mr. White stated he is currently working on a plan and will provide options to the Board when completed.

Ms. Roach moved to put Mr. Eastwood's recommendation into a motion, to reopen the gate as early as next week with staff drafting a plan, on how plan to staff the gate and provide access to the adjoining community. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fatkin. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Board and staff discussion followed, requesting a timeframe be set for developing the plan. Mr. White stated he would like to have the plan ready by next week so it can be implemented for the remaining season. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

The Director reported on the following topics:

- **Payette Lake Land Exchange** – Trident Holdings, a private firm has proposed to swap timber holdings in North Idaho to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) for IDL lands surrounding Payette Lake. We have been in very general, cursory discussions with Trident, the Governor's Office and IDL on how such a proposal could work. We are following the lead of the Governor's Office and will keep the Board informed as the discussions continue.
- **Thousand Springs** – Negotiations continue with the City of Hagerman and we are nearing an agreement about water and sewer services to provide water to the city. The agreement will be ready for Board deliberation and approval in time for the November Board meeting.
- **Pandemic Surcharges for Non-Residents** – The State of Oregon has recently added a 30% surcharge for non-Oregon residents who camp in Oregon State Parks. (Oregon State Parks faces a \$22 Million shortfall due to closing parks in the early stages of the pandemic.)
- **Passport Legislation and potential surcharge for Bear Lake** – The Passport Legislation has received approval from DFM for drafting and going to the next stage. Local input has been received stating they are being crowded out of their state park by Utah residents. Park Manager Kirk Rich reported that the park staff turned away more than 1,000 cars on Saturday and half of them simply went to the private beach next door and paid \$20 for the day. The Passport increase is minimal in comparison, I suggest the Board consider the surcharge option, per these examples:

A: MVEF \$7, Surcharge \$8 = total \$15

Passport holders: MVEF free, Surcharge \$10 = total \$10

B: MVEF \$7, Surcharge \$13 = total \$20

Passport holders: MVEF free, Surcharge \$15 = total \$15

Either way, Passport holders pay \$5 less per day.

- **Hazard Pay for Seasonals** – DFM has formally approved this. Funds will be used from salary savings so there is no additional costs to the agency. This is a small reward to seasonal employees for their service during the pandemic and help parks retain staff during a historically tough time of the season.
- **COVID-19 Update in Parks** – Ms. Hoopes stated that IDPR has had four confirmed cases of COVID in one of our parks, 26 staff members are either scheduled for tests or are self-isolating.
- **The Director stood for questions.**

Wriggle Property Donation, McCroskey State Park – David White

Mr. White provided a brief description of the property. It is located approximately 12 miles from Highway 95, is one of the pieces of property that separates other pieces of McCroskey and is approximately 30 acres in size.

Mr. Eastwood moved to accept the property donation as presented by Mr. White. Motion was seconded by Ms. Roach. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Board and staff discussion followed regarding the potential of timber sales from trees on the property. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Plummer Utility Easement, Heyburn State Park – David White

Mr. White provided an overview of the proposed Grant of Utility Easement between IDPR and the City of Plummer. Mr. White worked with legal counsel to develop the proposed easement.

Mr. Fatkin moved for the Board to approve staff recommendations of the Easement subject to minor changes to accommodate final negotiation of terms with the City. Motion was seconded by Ms. Roach. The Chairman asked for further discussion, board and staff discussion followed pertaining to the need to include language in the agreement, not allowing large electrical boxes in the park. Mr. Strack will add this language, prior to providing it to the City of Plummer for signature. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Advisory Committee Appointments – Kathy Muir

Ms. Muir provided a brief description of the process that occurs each year for the Grant Committee Appointments. Ms. Muir also provided a brief summary of each applicant and staff's recommendation for each advisory committee position that is expiring this year. Ms. Muir stood for questions.

Mr. Eastwood moved for the Board to approve the applicants recommended by Ms. Muir, to fill the 13 expiring Advisory Committee positions. Mr. Beckley seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, Board and staff discussion followed regarding the staff suggested applicant for the Recreational Trail Program, Disabled Interest Applicant. Mr. Doman would like to see a disabled applicant on this committee.

Mr. Eastwood amended his previous motion to approve staff recommendations for all Advisory Committee positions apart from the Recreational Trail Program, Disabled Interest Applicant, and approve Morgan Stage for that committee. Motion was seconded by Mr. Beckley. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Rules – Ms. Canning

Ms. Canning reported, the rules regarding the administration of the LWCF were written in 1993 and 1994 and have not been updated since. Ms. Canning reviewed what was still appropriate and resubmitted a new version yesterday for the Board to consider. Ms. Canning realizes the Board has not had enough time to review the new version and proposed moving this agenda item to the November 2020 meeting. The Board agreed to review the second version of the rules, have Ms. Canning incorporate the Board's suggestions and add this to the November 2020 Board meeting agenda.

Rules Regarding State and Federal Grant – Ms. Canning

Ms. Canning stated the first version of rules the Board was provided has been revised. Ms. Canning recently worked with Ms. Muir on revisions to the first draft and is now requesting the Board review the updated rule proposal, provide their feedback to her to incorporate, and consider moving this to the November 2020 Board meeting for approval. Ms. Canning also stated that in February 2020, both

Bonner County and Kootenai County formally requested we consider removing the 30% cap tied to the Waterways Improvement Fund grant program found in IDAPA 26.01.20.200.03. Ms. Canning stood for questions.

Mr. Eastwood commented that he had questions regarding the second paragraph in Ms. Canning's staff recommendation, pertaining to Bonner and Kootenai counties requesting the 30% cap being removed. Mr. Eastwood does not recall them requesting that and requested this be corrected in Ms. Canning's staff recommendation to the Board. Mr. Eastwood asked what the status was on the questions asked by Kootenai and Bonner counties during their recent meeting with IDPR staff. Ms. Canning stated she had not captured any questions from either county during their meeting. Mr. Eastwood stated there were specific questions asked by Kootenai and Bonner counties during the meeting, and he would like to bring both counties back in the loop so they can submit their questions again and receive a response. Ms. Canning will make sure responses to their questions are provided. The Board agreed to review the second version of the rules, have Ms. Canning incorporate the Board's suggestions and add this to the November 2020 Board meeting.

Rules Tied to Passport Fees

Ms. Canning reported that at the May Board meeting, the Board made a recommendation for staff to initiate an amendment to ID Code to raise the price of the Idaho State Parks Passport from \$10-\$20 and to raise the fee of the Annual Motor Vehicle Entrance Fee (MVEF) from \$40-\$60 in order to maintain the value of obtaining an Idaho State Parks Passport as compared to buying an annual motor vehicle pass. The proposed rule amendment positions IDPR to establish appropriate fees when we are successful in raising the Passport fee. Ms. Canning commented that she consulted with Division of Financial Management and their recommendation for proceeding with these amendments is to provide an opportunity for a public meeting and comment period. Following the public meeting and comment period, a teleconference will need to be held and Board approval given via a vote. Ms. Roach stated that during the May Board meeting, the Board approved changing the MVEF from \$60-\$80 not \$40-\$60. Ms. Mills was asked to confirm this from the May Board minutes which she read to the Board and confirmed Ms. Roach was correct.

Ms. Roach moved to accept the fees with the one exception that the Motor Vehicle Entrance Fee be changed from \$60-\$80. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fatkin. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Reports

Board members were given time to ask questions of IDPR staff, on submitted program reports.

Development – Mr. Zaragoza reported that at McCroskey State Park, the contractor will be wrapping up a new campground by the end of the month. Thousand Springs Visitor Center bids open tomorrow. \$1,000,000 in infrastructure will be done at Ponderosa.

South Region (Bear Lake) – Mr. Taylor reported that Bear Lake continues to have an overwhelming number of visitors. We are at a stand still currently, regarding the negotiations with Pacific Corp. on the parcel of land we visited during our park tour in August 2019. Senator Harris and Representative Gibbs are both involved in discussions around this topic.

Communications – Mr. Quintana reported on the Recreate Responsibly media blasts and stated funds were used from the COVID Relief Grant for this project. Mr. Fatkin acknowledged Mr. Quintana for the fantastic job he is doing with the Social Media postings.

Public Comment

David Claiborne introduced himself to the Board. He is the President of the Idaho State ATV Association. Mr. Claiborne stated they work closely with staff within IDPR. Mr. Claiborne stated he hopes in the near future, to have the opportunity to be more engaged with the Board. Mr. Claiborne stated they were sorry to hear of Mr. Langhorst's retirement but wish him well. They have worked closely with Mr. Langhorst since he was first appointed as IDPR Director and have been very pleased with their relationship. Mr. Claiborne expressed their appreciation for Mr. Langhorst's willingness to always be there for them to talk to and hear their concerns and direct staff to help them with their concerns. Mr. Claiborne thanked the Board for the opportunity to join the meeting today and is hopeful to get to know the Board members better in the future.

Sandra Mitchell with the Idaho Recreation Council (IRC) stated they have not been as involved with IDPR in the past year or so but will be more involved going forward and thanked the organization for all they do.

Ms. Mitchell stated they are going to miss Mr. Langhorst. She stated he has been an able leader and a good friend to the IRC. They have worked closely with Mr. Langhorst and wish him all the best. Ms. Mitchell stated that she hopes the IDPR Board members will look to the IRC as a resource and hope to work closely with them to benefit all the recreationists in Idaho.

Executive Session

Ms. Roach moved to go into Executive Session under authority of Idaho Code 74-206 (a), to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of the individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. Motion was seconded by Mr. Beckley. A roll call vote to go into Executive Session was taken by Ms. Mills.

**Board Member Black – Approve
Board Member Fatkin – Approve
Board Member Beckley – Approve
Board Member Roach – Approve
Board Member Doman – Approve
Board Member Eastwood – Approve**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Doman moved to appoint Susan Buxton as Interim Director of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation beginning September 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Mr. Beckley. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fisher will contact Ms. Buxton.

Ms. Roach moved to appoint a Sub-Committee to work to improve the Director's job description. The Committee would consist of Mr. Eastwood as chair, Mr. Beckley and Ms. Roach. Mr. Eastwood seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion. Mr. Doman requested a teleconference be arranged to provide the other Board members with updates on how this process is going. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fatkin thanked Director Langhorst for his dedication and service to IDPR and wished him all the best in his retirement. Director Langhorst stated he has remained dedicated to the organization and put everything he had into this job over the past 6 years.

Mr. Eastwood moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fatkin. Meeting was adjourned at 2:16 P.M.



Pete Black, Chairman
Idaho Park and Recreation Board