

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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

Special Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2024

IDPR Headquarters

5657 Warm Springs Avenue

Boise, ID 83716

Monday, April 15, 2024, at 11:00 AM MST

Call to Order - Chairman Roach called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

- Chairman Beckley – Zoom
- Board Member Cooke - Zoom
- Board Member Manning - Zoom
- Board Member Roach - Zoom
- Board Member Roady - Zoom

Also present or on Zoom during all or portions of the meeting either in person or on the phone were the following individuals:

Susan Buxton, Director
Adam Zaragoza, Management Services Administrator
Craig Quintana, Public Information Officer
Joanna Hiller, Management Assistant
Seth Hobbs, R&R Program Manager
Joy Vega, Deputy Attorney General
Kathy Muir, Grants/Contracts Management Supervisor
Steve Martin, Financial Officer
Heidi Burks, Real Estate Manager
Ryan Buffington, East Region Manager
Theresa Perry, South Region Manager
Alyssa Leavitt, Administrative Assistant
Skylar Jett, IBO
Lisa Herriot, DFM
Larry Laxton

Director Buxton let everyone know that there isn't a need for an executive session at this meeting. Board Member Roach will Chair the meeting today due to Chairman Beckley in and out of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions - Chairman Roach and Director Buxton

Chairman Roach and Director Buxton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Director's Update

Director Buxton let the Board know that IDPR has just been given the Esto Perpetua Award from the Idaho Historical Society. This award is the State's highest award of distinction that recognizes individuals and organizations for their accomplishments in Idaho History. Director Buxton explained that she emailed the letter out to all the Board members and explained that the dinner was on June 6 and shared that the other candidates that are on the list. This is

based on the work that we already do with Historical Society. The letter states that the award for the partnership with the Historical Society: Idaho Program, Women 100 Initiative, and the relationship with the State Historic Preservation Office. The Historical Society also recognized IDPR for the continued work with the Pacific Northwest Field School on the rehabilitation of Idaho's historic buildings across Idaho. The Director let the Board Members know that if they would like to attend it to let her know so she can get the arrangements made. Director Buxton let the Board know that Adam Zaragoza will go with her to attend a meeting with leadership members from the Heyburn SP Marina and she will be going to a meeting at LC State.

Chairman Roach congratulated IDPR the Esto Perpetua Award.

ORFAC

Chairman Roach asked Director Buxton to go over the ORFAC approval projects regarding the Governor's letter regarding the ORFAC projects. Director Buxton reminded the Board that this money has been appropriated into the recreation fund under statute that is previous to this Board to make a final decision whether the Board approves the final amount, less or something else. Director Buxton said that anything that wasn't approved at this time will go back into the same fund and isn't lost. Ms. Manning asked about the money that wasn't appropriated and if it would go back into the fund. Director Buxton explained that the ORFAC Board based their decisions on the information and amounts that they heard, and the money not used would stay in the fund (whatever is not approved by the Board). Director Buxton said there would be another meeting by ORFAC on May 10th. Ms. Manning asked if they would like them voted on individually or all together and Chairman Roach said individually, and Chairman Beckley agreed.

East Fork Rock Creek: IDL property that may be leased to IDPR, which would use ORFAC funding to improve primitive campsite locations and add facilities. This site was historically used for primitive camping, but IDL had to close it due to trash, debris, and erosion. Massacre Rocks State Park staff would manage the site as it is about 25 minutes from the park. IDPR would work with the existing IDL grazing permittees to continue grazing where feasible, provide exclosures from the camping area and the creek for multiple uses (e.g., grazing, camping, and fishing). To make the endowment whole. IDPR has proposed an "endowment fee" to the facilities that are developed on top of fees paid to IDPR. Finally, the Director of IDL is required to present the proposed concepts to the Land Board or other staff.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$1,000,000.

Ms. Manning moved to approve the East Fork Rock Creek for \$1,000,000 contingent upon IDL and IDPR entering into a legal agreement for recreation use on endowment land. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach - Yes
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Henry's Lake: IDPR proposed to construct camper cabins, as opposed to primitive campsites, to reduce the potential of wildlife (bears) encounters and potentially allow winter use of Henry's Lake or IDL ground near Henry's Lake State Park. ORFAC liked this location but reduced the funding level to recommend more projects. IDPR may be able to use other available funding as needed for this project. IDPR has proposed an "endowment fee" added to the camping fee go to IDL. Finally, the Director of IDL is required to present the proposed concepts to the Land Board or other staff.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$750,000

Director Buxton explained that the Land Board will be having a meeting on this.

Ms. Manning moved to approve the Henry's Lake for \$750,000 contingent upon IDL and IDPR entering into a legal agreement for recreation use on endowment land. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach - Absent
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Horsethief Reservoir: These campgrounds and docks are currently managed by IDFG and YMCA for a short summer season. Both parties wish to terminate that agreement. ORFAC funding would allow IDPR to make necessary upgrades to campsites and eventually take over management. This would be managed out of Lake Cascade SP and would need additional administrative facilities. Estimates by IDPR showed Horsethief operating in a deficit because of on-going personnel requirements, on-going operations, and maintenance. A variety of factors are still being evaluated including the startup costs to IDPR for equipment and personnel, camping fee structure, day use fees, and an agreement will be entered into with IDFG to address management. We have a similar arrangement at Winchester State Park.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$2,000,000

Mr. Roady moved to approve the Horsethief Reservoir for \$2,000,000 contingent upon IDFG and IDPR entering into a legal agreement for recreation use, improvement on endowment land. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Absent
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Idaho for All: Idaho for All is a non-profit that provides adaptive recreational equipment in the form of track chairs and similar devices for individuals with disabilities or limited mobility to enjoy outdoor recreation that was inaccessible before. While the initial request was much higher, this funding would cover the purchase of five adaptive wheelchairs, with additional funding for maintenance and operating expenses for a pilot project. ORFAC removed the request for employee salaries which was agreed to by Idaho for All. Numerous letters of support were provided. IDPR staff anticipate the need for storage and recharge space for the chairs and equipment. The chairs can be reserved via the IDPR reservation system. Idaho for All anticipates some volunteers could be trained to assist users. Maintenance of the chairs and training would be provided by Idaho for All.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$112,500

Mr. Cooke moved to approve the Idaho for All funding at \$112,500. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Absent
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: ISDA undertook a speedy, efficient, and collaborative job addressing the discovery of the quagga mussel last fall in the Snake River at Twin Falls. ISDA is requested ORFAC money for signage and messaging campaigns regarding aquatic species (AIS) prevention. ORFAC voted to hold funding for this project but tabled a vote on a recommendation pending legislative action. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation that provides more funding to the Invasive Species Fund. IDPR continues to work closely with ISDA on this matter as these invasive species have a very detrimental effect on recreation, so their prevention is of great importance.

Proposed ORFAC Capital Funding: \$200,000

Mr. Roady moved to table the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention for more information. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Absent
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Trail Restoration: The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation proposes restoration of a 20-mile trail loop in the Frank Church Wilderness/Salmon-Challis National Forest. The proposal is

relatively low cost with a match. Despite the project being on federal land, ORFAC found the proposal to be meritorious because it would unlock a loop near Sulphur Creek, Dagger Creek, Boundary Creek, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The Legislative appropriation is for capital so the request for overhead and personnel costs should be reduced from the award. With the need for more trails, this project would attract equestrians and hikers and is supported by outfitters in the area.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$40,994

Mr. Cooke moved to approve the Trail Restoration non-personnel cost at \$7,800. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roady Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Yes
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Cooperative Management Recreation Area: Eastern Idaho Grazing Association proposed the pilot project to establish a travel management plan between EIGA/IDL/IDFG. ORFAC funding would go toward a vault toilet, parking site, trail signage, surveillance, and remediation to mitigate misuse of private lands by recreation users. The Governor encouraged the education and signage to reduce user damage to public and private lands. This project is also encouraged by the Idaho Cattle Association.

Actual ORFAC Capital Funding: \$300,000

Ms. Manning moved to approve the Cooperative Management Recreation Area at \$300,000 to support management of underutilized resources and managerial access. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Yes
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

White Pine Heights: Proposal by the Payette Land Trust (PLT) to secure a right-of-way near Ponderosa State Park by obtaining an easement on IDL property, which would be held by IDPR in perpetuity to preserve public access and a loop trail into Ponderosa State Park. Current proposal focused on securing the Right of Way. The Governor notes this proposal comes before the Land Board and IDL staff.

Actual Capital Funding: \$300,000

Ms. Manning moved to approve the White Pine Heights to help secure the trail right of way near Ponderosa State Park on the condition that IDL can make the easement a right of way request a condition of the sale of White Pine Heights which would elevate the need to use surplus funds and direct the staff to work with IDL on securing this right of way for the proposed funding amount of \$300,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roach. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Yes
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Boulder Lake Road: Valley County Recreation Department proposed recreation area to establish a new trailhead and recreation area on IDL property near the Boulder Lake and Jughandle foothills area in valley county. They proposed a primitive campground, parking lot, trailhead, vault toilets, 2 ADA sites, fire rings, and picnic tables. The proposer notes this project is the start of a recreation area planned for the future as soon as additional financing is secured. Valley County Parks & Rec would charge minimal fees for parking and overnight camping, which the project would bring in roughly \$25,000 annually. None of that money would go back to the endowment. County thought they could update permit, but IDL staff say the land would have to go back out for a lease. IDPR has additional concerns about the accuracy of the construction costs.

Proposed ORFAC Capital Funding: \$250,000

Ms. Manning moved to table the Boulder Lake Road Recreation item for \$250,000 to IDPR's May board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roach. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Roach – Yes
- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Manning – Yes

Motion carried.

Board Comments

There were no comments.

Old/New Business

The Director explained the agenda for the RMSPEC Conference in May.

Public Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:25 PM.



Chairman Brian Beckley
Idaho Park and Recreation Board



Susan E. Buxton, Director
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation