

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
“To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship”
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2024
IDFG Panhandle Regional Office
2885 W. Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Monday, May 13, 2024

8:00 A.M. (PST); 9:00 A.M. (MST)

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

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

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
Troy Elmore, Operations Division Administrator
Adam Zaragoza, Management Services Administrator
Melanie Schuster, Bureau Chief/Sr. Project Manager
Kathy Muir, Grant Manager
Joanna Hiller, Management Assistant
Craig Quintana, Public Information Officer
Jennifer Quinno-Miller, Human Resources Officer
Joy Vega, Deputy Attorney General
David White, North Regional Manager
Seth Hobbs, Registration & Reservation Program Manager
Steve Martin, Financial Officer
Chris Zajchowski, Assistant Professor/Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Ecology U of I
Ryan Buffington, East Regional Manager
Theresa Perry, South Regional Manager
Alyssa Leavitt, Administrative Assistant 1
Seth Hobbs, R&R Program Manager
Steve Martin, Financial Officer
Chris Zajchowski, Assistant Professor/Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Ecology U of I
Ryan Buffington, East Regional Manager
Theresa Perry, South Regional Manager
Alyssa Leavitt, Administrative Assistant 1
Seth Hobbs, R&R Program Manager
Keith Jones, Natural Resource Program Manager
Hayden Marotz, Deputy Attorney General
Tiffany Brunson, IDPR
Cally Roach
Ray Pipella
Valerie Kjaek

Gail Sipe
Ron Sipe
Greg Keller
Tashe Davey
Raymond Davey
Eric Arnold
Kevin Kambitsch
Mike Ackerman
Kellie Ackerman
Brian Jackson – Boat Owner
Emily Fredenlung
Bill Thompson
Jim Fredenburs – Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder
Aaron Flansburg - Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder
Greg Keller - Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder
Bean Davey
Jim & Shirley Jess – Boat Garage / Cabin Chatcolet
Jeff Kimble – Boat/Cabin Lease Holder
Mike Ackerman
Diane Lym
Sally Lope/Armil Rogue, Pullman, WA
Kelly Budgg - #5 Boat Garage Rocky Point
Cindy Budgg- Boat House
Craim Surmonson
Holly Garrett
Judie Sharrett
Steve Fisar
Steve Eckberg
Steve Simlar
Patty Dikes – Rocky Point
Sandy Beaklon
Joe Sanders – Boat House Lease Holder
Teyra Hart
Sally Lock
Betsy Wilson
Scott Wilson
Jeff Kinkle
Charlene Kriske
Nancy Johansen
Peder Johnson
Sandy Heaslett
Allen Lacey
Jason
Michael Blaylock
Marty Reid
LDH -Zoom
Mick Strongin-Zoom
Lynn Semler

Welcome and Introductions / Chairman Beckley and Director Buxton

Chairman Beckley and Director Buxton welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained to everyone about the sign in sheet to speak regarding the Heyburn Marina.

Additions and Changes to the Agenda

RMSPEC was moved up on the agenda so that David White could speak and leave to prepare for it.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- February 21, 2024
- March 8, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- April 15, 2024

Mr. Roach motioned that the Board approve the February 21, 2024, March 8, 2024, April 8, 2024, and April 15, 2024, minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Director Buxton explained to everyone that IDPR has Board Meetings around the state to give the board members a chance to see the different facilities that IDPR has. Director Buxton explained the timing for the Legislators and how they reviewed the agencies and the approval process. The Director talked about what it was like during the pandemic and how IDPR lost employees and funding. Director Buxton reported on the FY2025 Budget and Legislative matters. The IDPR maintenance budget was approved prior to the February 21, 2024, Board meeting. Buxton stated that S1383 was the trailer appropriations bill for IDPR, which included \$20M ARPA funds for ORFAC and IDPR capital projects. The Senate and House passed the trailer bill, and our fee rules were partially approved and partially rejected. Director Buxton said that IDPR will work to address concerns regarding funding and non-resident fees. Director Buxton said that the remote work legislation did not go forward, but DHR has implemented a new telecommuting policy that we are addressing. Director Buxton talked about the Administrative Rules and Statutory Interpretation which some administrative rules processes and statutory interpretation bills passed, which IDPR believes will not affect our operations and will provide guidance. She said that Hellsgate SP/Dworshak SP/Lucky Peak SP and USACE will have experienced significant delays working with the Army Corps of Engineers on projects in these parks the delays have caused increased construction, supply chain, and inflationary cost increases, jeopardizing completion.

IDPR has notified the Army Corps that their actions may prevent many projects from being possible due to the ARPA funding timeline. Buxton said that IDPR has enlisted the assistance of their congressional elected officials and the Governor's office. As for the day-to-day Administrative Matters, employee turnover and vacancy rates are 12.2% and 3.8% respectively, which are lower than previous years. IDPR has difficulty attracting rangers and other positions due to housing costs outpacing pay increases. IDPR is working towards increased salary and housing within the budget, working with IDFG and IDL for joint housing opportunities. Buxton said that DHR approved another position to help with the seasonal hiring process and the new volunteer coordinator, Trish Hendrickson, has stepped in to fill our volunteer ranks. Addressing various contract issues daily.

Director Buxton met with various government agencies, legislators, tribal organizations, and stakeholders. Buxton gave a presentation at the Rural Success Summit, a podcast for Clemson

University, Boise Metro Chamber, and Capitol for a Day in Idaho City. Director Buxton attended several meetings including America 250, Idaho State Historical Society, LC State Foundation, U of I College of Natural Resources Advisory Board, and the U of I Rangeland Center retreat.

Heyburn Marina & Deferred Maintenance Project Update

Director Buxton explained the meetings that have taken place prior to today's meeting. Buxton explained that there are hazardous and unsafe conditions regarding the two marinas and the docks. She explained that when the funding was made available IDPR went out to bid and when it was put together enough IDPR started talking to the lease holders. She understands that those lease holders felt everything happened fast, but IDPR provided information as IDPR receives it. Buxton said that IDPR has met with lease holders and listened to their concerns. Buxton introduced Adam Zaragoza and Joy Vega who are both working on the Heyburn Marina project. Buxton said that the docks must be replaced.

Joy Vega explained the 1993 Act of Congress authorizing the sale of land to the State of Idaho, that land eventually became Heyburn State Park. Vega explained the language of the 1911 patent from United States of America on state lands and it put very clear restrictions on states use of the land. Vega stated that it says the Lands by that said state are to be held, used and maintained solely as a public park and will revert to the United States of America if they are not used according to the 1911 patent.

Ms. Vega explained that every owner in Heyburn State Park of a recreational residence; a boat garage or float home only has a temporary non-permanent opportunity to place their personal property on land owned and managed by the State of Idaho.

Mr. Zaragoza provided parts and pieces of the planned maintenance at Heyburn State Park. The funding came available on July 1, 2023, the next step a contract was signed in late October 2023 for the design build for the marina replacements, the first internal concept review was in early February 2024, the second concept review was in mid-March 2024, the final concept review internally was April 9, 2024 which is the point of the process that is ready for public review, at this point, this is the process when we come to you for public comment/hearings which is where we are at.

Zaragoza showed specs for both Chatcolet and Rocky Point Conceptual Designs. Chatcolet has 71 current moorage opportunities and as drafted has 162 with estimated cost of 25 million dollars. Rocky Point has 85 current moorage opportunities upgraded to 116 with estimated cost of 10 million dollars. Both projects include improvements to parking, managing the area and burn off from entering the lake.

Chairman Beckley gave those who signed up to speak two minutes each:

- Brian Jackson, Boat Owner - expressed his concerns with the timeline of 2023
- Jim Fredenburg, Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder - thanked the Board and expressed concerns with the cost, access and would like more information.
- Aaron Flansburg, Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder - thanked the Board and expressed concerns with the boat garages.
- Greg Keller, Boat House/Cabin Lease Holder - disagrees with the communications to

the lease holders, environmental concerns.

- Beau Davey - concerns with money leases have spent over the past years.
- Jim and Shirley Jess - concerned with parking and marina changes.
- Kelly Budge - concerned with those boat garages that didn't comply with the lease agreements and leaving the boat garages that did in the new arena.
- Jeff Kimble - asked if anyone is going to help him out and flexibility.
- Charlene Kriske - concerned with not having a spot allocated for those who still have the need for this.
- Nancy Johansen and Peter (her son) - were concerned about dismantling her boat house.
- Ron Sipe - concerned with everything that has been said and the communications thus far and how he is going to move his boat house.
- Eric Arnold - purchased in September, and it is in bad shape and wants to know what's going on.
- Steve Fiscus - concerned how things will be done and the parking lot and the road in.
- Nathane Dikes -(online), concerned about the docks and the gas at Rocky Point.
- Cody Benson - concerned about the parking lot at Rocky Point.
- Michael Blaylock - concerned about the money the parks are receiving from ARPA.
- Mike Ackerman - concerned about the communication from IDPR, the back road out of Chat, lower parking lot grade, is there going to be a boat washing station?
- Diane Winn - requesting more time and transparency.
- Betsy Wilson - asked about the tribe attending the meeting and how it would have been helpful.
- Sally Loeb - asked about the communication with local staff.
- Scott Wilson - speaking on Aarons Flansburg's behalf, the plans increasing private access and boat docks made to accommodate boat garage moorage without a security gate and greatly expand public access.
- Steve Simlar - concern with this process moving fast and not looking at the impact it will have as well as the environmental impact.
- Patty Dike - concerned with the loss of the tradition and charm.

Chairman Beckley and the Board thanked the public for providing comments.

Rocky Mountain State Park Executive Conference (RMSPEC) Presentation

David White gave a brief explanation to the Board what the agenda was for RMSPEC and where the tours were going to be and the expectations of the staff that was on the committee.

Lease Agreement w/DEQ/TCDA Campground

Adam Zaragoza presented to the Board the Property Lease Agreement in Shoshone County, Idaho and recommended to the Board that they authorize the Director to sign the property lease with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to construct and maintain a bike campground.

Mr. Roach motioned that the Board approve the February 21, 2024, March 8, 2024, April 8, 2024, and April 15, 2024, minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Draft FY26 Budget

Steve Martin reported that the FY2026 budget request for IDPR is \$30,803,300, the budget includes program enhancements, such as the addition of 5.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTP) positions for Park Operations and a 2% equity increase for all FTPs in the department. The budget also includes ongoing operating expenditures for parks and one-time capital outlay for equipment. The total request cost for one-time capital outlay replacement items is \$2,563,000. The FY 2026 budget draft proposal is a 34.6% decrease from the FY 2025 appropriation primarily due to the elimination of one-time ARPA funding in the Capital Development program. Martin said that the overall FY2026 budget draft proposal is 34.6% decrease from FY2025 appropriation, this was primarily due to the elimination of the one-time ARPA funding in IDPR's Capital Development program. Ongoing personnel and operating represent a \$2 million (7.1%) increase over FY 2025 and may start to exceed our ongoing revenue without additional fee increases or revenue sources.

Strategic Plan

Adam Zaragoza reported on the Strategic Plan Update for FY2025 to FY2028 that must be submitted no later than July 5, 2024. The recommendations from the staff are approving the strategic plan with any amendments by the Board prior to the July 5, 2024, deadline. Zaragoza touched on a few of the tasks. Task 1, task 2, task 3, task 6, task 7, and task 10.

Mr. Roady motioned that the Board authorizes the IDPR Director to sign the Strategic Plan for FY2025 to FY2028. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none, the motion carried unanimously.

Wine in the Woods Group Use Permit

Troy Elmore reported on the Wine in the Woods Group Use Permit, a fund-raising event for the Friends of Harriman State Park that will be held on September 7, 2024, at Harriman State Park. They are requesting for the event to be held at the Boys House on the Railroad Ranch as well as outside space for the guests to gather, sample wines and food, music and art displays. Elmore said due to the alcohol being sold there must be a board's approval.

Mr. Roach motioned for the board to authorize the chairman to approve the event with the conditions noted on the permit as presented. Mr. Roady seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

Grant Approvals

Kathy Muir reported the FY2025 Grant Project Rankings and presented them to the Board. Muir stated that the number of applications is extremely low, but the dollar amounts that people are asking for are up. Muir explained the process that are in the booklet that each board member has with a staff recommendation for each program.

FY2025 Recreation Vehicle (RV) Grants, the staff recommends the board to approve the priority-ranking list, which will be used to fund projects in the ranked order.

Mr. Roach motioned for the board to approve FY2025 Recreation Vehicle (RV) Grants in the priority-ranking list in ranked order. Mr. Roady seconded the motion. The Chairmans asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) Grants, the Staff recommends that the Board approve the priority-ranking list, which will be used to fund projects in the ranked order for any project scoring above 65.

Mr. Cooke motioned for the board to approve the priority-ranking list in ranked order scoring above 65. Mr. Roach seconded the motion. The Chairmans asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Cutthroat Plate Fund Grants, the staff recommends that the Board not approve the project of the list.

Mr. Roady motioned for the board does not approve the FY2025 Cutthroat Plate Fund Grant. Mr. Roach seconded. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Off-Road Motor Vehicle (ORMV) Grants, the staff recommends that the Board approve the project on the list.

Mr. Cooke motioned for the board to approve the FY2025 Off Road Motor Vehicle Fund project on the list for any projects scoring over 60. Mr. Roach seconded. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Motorbike (MB) Grants, the staff recommends that the Board approve the FY25 Motorbike grants on priority-ranking list.

Mr. Roach motioned for the board to approve the FY2025 Motorbike grants on the priority ranking list. Mr. Roady seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grants, the staff recommends that the Board approve the FY25 Recreational Trails Program.

Mr. Roady motioned for the board to approve the FY2025 Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grants, on the priority ranking list. Mr. Roach seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

FY2025 Mountain Bike Plate (BK) Grants, the staff recommends that the Board approve the FY2025 Mountain Bike Plate 3 projects on the list.

Mr. Cooke motioned for the board to approve the FY2025 Mountain Bike Plate (BK) Grants, on the priority ranking list. Mr. Roady seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

Ponderosa State Park, North Beach Unit, Interim Park Rule Prohibiting Alcohol during 4th of July Holiday

Troy Elmore provided the board with information regarding the Ponderosa State Park, North Beach Unit Interim Park Rule that prohibits alcohol use during the 4th of July holiday. There was no action needed by the board.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Melanie Schuster provided the Board with information regarding Electric Vehicle Charging stations statewide. Schuster said that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides funding for the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in Idaho. Schuster reported that Idaho's goal is to have EV charging stations spaced along designated alternative fuel corridors at a maximum distance of 50 miles apart and within 1 mile of the designated roadway. Schuster stated that Level 1 charging is slow and not suitable for typical commutes, while the Level 2 charging is typical for home-based charging and Level 3 charging is typical for public charging stations. Schuster said that Idaho State Parks currently offers Level 2 charging through NEMA 14-50 plugs on campsites with 50-amp hookups, but consideration should

be given to charging a separate fee for EV charging due to the considerable amount of power EVs use. Schuster also stated that Level 3 charging does not currently exist in Idaho State Parks, and it is unlikely that companies would invest in park locations for fast charging due to profitability concerns.

ORFAC Projects Tabled from April 15, 2024, Special Board Meeting

Director Buxton went over the two tabled projects from April 8th and April 15th Board meetings:

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Campaign**

The IDPR staff is still coordinative with Department of Agriculture regarding options for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Campaign. The IDPR staff recommends that the board table this motion and get more information from the Department of Agriculture on what they want to do with their application.

Mr. Roach motioned for the board that they express their serious concern regarding the Quagga Mussels and look forward to additional information but at this time it will be tabled. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

- **Boulder Lake Recreation Area**

The IDPR staff recommended approval of the grant contingent upon Valley County producing a new land use permit with IDL as well as a market rent to keep the endowment whole and to ensure the lease/permit agreement meets the State's endowment requirements.

Mr. Cooke motioned that Valley County Boulder Lake Recreation Area in be denied for the current cycle Mr. Roach seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for further discussion, hearing none the motion carried unanimously.

Program Reports

Chairman Beckley asked if there any questions on the Program Reports provided. Hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

Old/New Business

There was no old or new business to report.

Public Comment

The Chairman asked for public comment. There was none.

Executive Session

Mr. Roach moved that the Board convene in executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (b) and (c), to move into Executive Session to evaluate a public office and to discuss the acquisition of real property not owned by a public agency; to discuss pending litigation, (f) to, respectively, evaluate a public officer, to discuss the acquisition of real property not owned by a public agency, and to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications or legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Motion was seconded by Mr. Roady. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion.

- Chairman Beckley - Yes
- Board Member Roach - Yes

- Board Member Roady – Yes
- Board Member Cooke - Yes
- Board Member Manning – Absent for roll call

Motion carried, and the Board commenced the Executive Session at 1:29 P.M.

Action Items from Executive Session

The Board resolved out of Executive Session at 2:55 P.M.

Mr. Roach motioned to grant Director Buxton authority to enforce trail of the Coeur d’Alene encroachments. Mr. Roady seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:56 P.M.



Chairman Brian Beckley
Idaho Park and Recreation Board



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