

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

Bryan Martyn  
Executive Director



Board Members

Alan Everett, Sedona, *Chair*  
Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail  
Mark Brnovich, Phoenix  
R. J. Cardin, Phoenix  
Kay Daggett, Sierra Vista  
Larry Landry, Phoenix  
Vanessa Hickman,  
State Land Commissioner

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

May 21, 2014

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The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM, Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in the Arizona State Parks offices located at 1300 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

#### **Board Members Present**

Alan Everett, Chairman; R.J. Cardin, Vice-Chairman; Walter D. Armer Jr.; Mark Brnovich; Kay Daggett (via telephone); Vanessa Hickman

#### **Board Members Absent**

Larry Landry

#### **Staff Members Present**

Bryan Martyn, Executive Director; Kent Ennis, Deputy Director; Jay Ream, Deputy Director, Parks and Development; Dawn Collins, Resources and Public Programs; Jim Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer; Lisa Padilla, Grants Coordinator; Katie Valeros, Recreational Trails Planner; Pat Dutrack, Grants Coordinator; Robert Baldwin, Trails & RTP

#### **Attorney General's Office**

Laurie Hachtel, Assistant Attorney General; Edwin Slade, Assistant Attorney General

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call**

#### **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **C. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF – Board Statement - "As Board members we are gathered today to be the stewards and voice of Arizona State Parks and its Mission Statement to manage and conserve Arizona's natural, cultural and recreational resources for the benefit of the people, both in our parks and through our partners."**

The Board and Staff introduced themselves.

#### **D. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Those wishing to address the Board must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Presentation time may be limited to**



three minutes at the discretion of the Chair; the Chair may limit a presentation to one person per organization. The Board may direct staff to study or reschedule any matter for a future meeting.

Director Martyn and Deputy Director Ream gave an update to the Board on the wildfire located near Slide Rock State Park in Oak Creek Canyon. The evacuation of Slide Rock State Park was completed in under 30 minutes. As of 8:00 AM May 21 the fire had consumed approximately 1,500 acres. The fire started approximately one-quarter to one-half mile north of the Park and the web site has been updated to reflect the Park closure. There are currently three rangers at the park as well as Ellen Bilbrey, our Public Information Officer, overseeing fire operations. The Park is the base camp for fire crews and personnel.

**E. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS** – The Executive Director will provide a report on current issues and events affecting Arizona State Parks. A list of items to be discussed under this agenda item will be posted on the State Parks website (AZStateParks.com) 24 hours in advance of the Parks Board meeting.

Director Martyn gave a presentation of current events relating to the agency. *(The presentation can be found at [azstateparks.com/board](http://azstateparks.com/board), Presentation 05/21/14.)*

## **F. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Approve Minutes of April 16, 2014 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting**

Ms. Hickman moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2014 meeting. The motion carried.

### **2. Consider Funding January 2014 Statewide OHV Program Motorized Grants**

Ms. Collins presented the Statewide Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program motorized grant projects proposal totaling \$724,902 from the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund and the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Staff will determine the portion of funding being allocated for each project submitted to fully expend the available funds with the following stipulations:

- The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest should be encouraged to substitute metal pipe rail fence in place of the proposed wood fencing on the Springerville Ranger District to increase durability and resist vandalism.
- When Statewide OHV Program funds are used to hire staff to monitor OHV activities and perform OHV maintenance, the project sponsor must provide assurance that non-OHV related activities will not be included in the daily routine and the project sponsor must provide, as part of the quarterly report, an accounting of the number of contacts made and citations issued.



- Projects must meet SHPO/Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- Project sponsors who are approved for funding will be notified and the required cultural clearance documents must be provided within 30 days of that notification. Project sponsors who will be receiving federal RTP funding will also be notified that environmental documentation that meets NEPA requirements must be provided within 90 days.
- A project may be canceled if, for any reason, a project agreement cannot be executed within 180 days of funding approval.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve funding for three statewide OHV Program motorized grant projects totaling \$724,902 from the state Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund and the federal Recreational Trails Program. The motion carried.

### **3. Consider Funding January 2014 Non-Motorized RTP Grants**

Ms. Collins presented the 2014 Non-Motorized federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant funding proposal in the amount of \$434,360 for the top 10 scoring grant applications submitted. The following stipulations apply:

- The projects selected for funding must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) per Federal Highway Administration review and SHPO/Section 106 requirements.
- Staff requests authority to fund any of the remaining three projects in order of their score, should additional funding becoming available.
- Project sponsors approved for funding will provide required cultural clearance documents within 30 days.
- Project agreements will be executed within six months of State Parks Board funding approval.
- If a project fails to meet the NEPA requirements within the approved timeframes, a lower scoring project that has met the requirements will be funded.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve funding in the amount of \$434,360 from the federal Recreational Trails Program for the top ten highest scoring projects. He further moved to approve funding from the federal RTP for the next three lower scoring projects, should additional funding become available. The motion carried.

### **4. Consider Increasing the Grant Award for the Coconino Trail Riders OHV Project Number 551304**

Ms. Collins presented the proposal to increase the grant award for the Coconino Trail Riders (CTR) OHV Project #551304 by \$13,239. The CTR efforts at Kelly Canyon during the 2013 trail construction season were highly successful and to expand on their success they have requested additional funding for the purchase of needed ice



chests, folding tables, tools, shirts, bandanas and nutrition. Staff recommends increasing their grant amount by \$13,239 to cover the cost of these items.

Mr. Armer moved to increase the grant award from the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund for the Coconino Trail Riders - Kelly Canyon Trails Project by \$13,239. The motion carried.

#### **5. Consider Submission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Request for the Funding of Project Number 04-00742**

Ms. Collins presented the submission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for the funding of Project #04-00742 for the construction of two restrooms and two restroom/shower buildings at Lake Havasu State Park. The LWCF program provides matching grants for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites to states. Upon approval of this request by the Parks Board the grant application will be submitted to the National Parks Service (NPS) as soon as all required information has been received. Grants staff will administer the awarded grant.

Mr. Brnovich moved to approve the submission of the LWCF grant application to fund Project #04-000742 for two restrooms and two restroom/shower buildings at Lake Havasu State Park. The motion carried.

#### **6. Consider Approval of the 2014 State Historic Preservation Plan Update**

Mr. Garrison presented the State Historic Preservation Plan Update as reviewed and approved by the National Parks Service (NPS). In order to qualify for continued funding from the federal Historic Preservation Fund the NPS requires states to adopt a "State Historic Preservation Plan" and to update the approved plan every five years. The Board first adopted a plan in 1996 and the current plan was approved by the NPS in March. The State Historic Preservation Office now asks the Board to approve the adoption of the plan and allow any additional public comment on the plan. Once Board approval is received the plan will then be forwarded to the National Park Service, distributed to our partners and placed on the SHPO page of the agency web site.

Mr. Garrison responded to Board questions about whether substantial changes were required in the plan. He stated that the last plan was in 2009, at the start of the economic recession and as a result some changes were made. He further stated that public comments are currently being received as the draft plan is on their web site. Additionally, two historical designations have been added since 2009 and there is a list of 100 further sites listed on their web site that could potentially be considered for historical designation.



Mr. Armer moved to approval the 2014 State Historic Preservation Plan Update as reviewed and approved by the National Park Service. The motion carried.

### **7. Consider Approval of the State Historic Preservation Work Program Task List**

State Historic Preservation annual Work Program Task List for 2014-2015. SHPO uses this guide in making expenditure decisions from the FY 2015 Agency budget and is also forwarded to the National Park Service.

Mr. Garrison presented the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) Annual Work Program Task List for approval by the Board. SHPO uses this task list as a guide for making expenditures from the Fiscal Year 2015 agency budget and is a requirement of the National Park Service to receive Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants. The review is intended to allow any specific public input or comment on the scope or intent of the list. The proposed task list will be used beginning July 1, 2014 and will be submitted to the National Park Service with the HPF Grant request in the fall.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve the SHPO annual Work Program Task List for 2014-2015 and that the list be forwarded to the National Park Service. The motion carried.

### **8. Consider Recommending Implementation of the San Rafael State Natural Area Management Framework**

Ms. Collins introduced Rebecca Davidson of the Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee (NAPAC). Ms. Davidson presented a slide show of the San Rafael State Natural Area Management Framework. *(The presentation can be found at [azstateparks.com/board](http://azstateparks.com/board), Special Presentation.)*

At the request of Arizona State Parks leaders and managers NAPAC developed the San Rafael State Natural Area Management Framework over a period of 16 months. During the process NAPAC worked with ASP staff and executive team to ensure the group was moving along the right path. The Framework has been designed to be a flexible decision-making tool that is based on scientific approaches in consideration of the important natural and cultural resources found on the property. It is important to remember that this is not a comprehensive land-use management plan, but a vision statement in combination with a tool to be used in decision-making in the field.

Ms. Davidson answered questions from Board members and further discussed partnership opportunities, the responses from stakeholders and possible grazing opportunities available on the land.

Director Martyn thanked the members of NAPAC for volunteering their expertise in putting together this much needed, science based, decision-making tool and hoped the Board would adopt the Framework for immediate use.



Ms. Daggett moved to approve the implementation and use of the San Rafael State Natural Area Management Framework beginning immediately and to authorize staff, in collaboration with NAPAC, to revise the document as needed. The motion carried.

## **G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Revenue Forecast by Major Fund and Park Visitation Update**

Mr. Kent Ennis reported that Arizona State Parks continues to enjoy a very strong year. Visitation is up nine percent year-to-date and is on track to achieving record attendance at the Parks we manage. Revenues are doing even better at five percent above forecast. We are seeing strong growth across the system. OHV year-to-date is up four percent and remains above forecast. SLIF (State Lake Improvement Fund) continues to exceed expectations and is above forecast by five percent.

Arizona State Parks is about to enter into an agreement with Game and Fish Department to renew and resume a third watercraft survey. This is of great use for planning purposes and the contract is due to be set later this summer. Historically over the last 30 plus years this study has been performed every three years.

2. Legislative Update will include but is not limited to the following bills for discussion and may take action: HB 2038, HB 2149, HB 2178, HB 2403, SB 1326 and SB 1328.

Mr. Ream referenced the presentation packet (*found online*), as all the bills tracked by ASP is listed with their disposition. He stated that the only bill to update the Board on since the April meeting is the Yarnell Hill Memorial bill with the emergency clause. Governor Brewer has since signed HB 2624. This one actually took a bit longer as it repeals the first Yarnell bill in the Environmental BRB to put this one in place with the emergency clause.

Mr. Everett asked which other bills have been passed and signed. Mr. Ream stated that the budget bill was signed giving us \$12.821 million to operate the parks; the Yarnell Memorial part of the Environmental BRB was signed; Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund use for parks operation was passed and signed. State Parks does not get any other appropriations other than those two. Parks get SLIF (State Lakes Improvement Fund), but that's a non-appropriated fund. SB 1487, the Revenue bill, was passed and signed by the governor, although Parks did not get much out of it. HB 2339 was the weapons in public places and events and that was vetoed. This bill was going to be a problem for Parks as there are no metal detectors and such and it is very easy to gain entry to a State Park. Another problem with this was the events happening at various parks where fake guns are used as props. Governor Brewer did sign SB 1326, which is the bill that will put a check-off box on income tax forms for people to donate to State Parks. Bills relating to disabled veterans and veterans discount passes didn't end up going very far. One died early on and another ended



up as a striker for another bill. Mr. Ream does expect these bills to come around again in future.

### 3. Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Committee Status Update

Mr. Ream presented information on the Yarnell Memorial State Park bill that passed appropriating \$500,000 for the purchase of State Trust land. He let the Board know that the bills are included in their packets for their review (*please see packet online*). He states that the bill lists who will be members of the committee, what category they would be under and that the appointments have not yet been made by the senate president or the speaker of the house. Deputy Director Ennis has spoken with the state comptroller and the ADOA director to discuss the fund and will be given written instructions on how the funds are to be handled. There will more than likely be two separate funds as the General Fund monies can only be used for the purchase of the land and then the other will be the donations fund. There is still a question as to whether the cost for access to the site is covered by the fund and the other issue is expenses incurred by the committee. Right now the only place these types of costs can come from is the donations fund that has a zero balance. Mr. Ream does not expect fundraising for the memorial fund to be too difficult.

### 4. State Parks Operations Status Update

Mr. Ream stated there was not much he needed to update the Board on other than Lyman Lake State Park did reopen on May 2. Guests are enjoying camping and day use. ASP is currently negotiating with friends groups and area chambers of commerce to get a year round park operation going. Picacho Peak is closing May 23 for the summer months. In the past there ends up being a lot of people needing rescued and it makes it very difficult to perform rescue operations when there is normally only one ranger on staff during those months. It will reopen again in September. Current staff will be taking their vacation time and participating in training and also working at Patagonia Lake and maybe even at Lyman Lake. Oracle is open year-round on Saturdays and Sundays. The hope is that with weekend openings and volunteers helping out the word will spread that the park is open for use. During the school year they continue to stay open by request for various field trips for extensive ranger-lead and volunteer-lead environmental education programs that are very popular in the Tucson area.

## H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. The next Arizona State Parks Board Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.**

Director Martyn invited past Board members to also attend the upcoming meeting at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.



2. Board members may wish to discuss issues of interest to Arizona State Parks and request staff to place specific items on future Board meeting agendas.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Everett adjourned the meeting at 11:32.

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Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the acting ADA Coordinator, Nicole Armstrong-Best, (602) 542-7152; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.