

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

November 19, 2014

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM, Wednesday, November 19, 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; Kay Daggett; Walter D. Armer, Jr.; Vanessa Hickman

Board Members Absent

Mark Brnovich; Larry Landry

Staff Members Present

Bryan Martyn, Executive Director; Kent Ennis, Deputy Director; Jay Ream, Deputy Director, Parks and Development; Dawn Collins, Chief of Resources and Public Programs; Mick Rogers, Grants Coordinator; Jeff Prince, OHV Program Coordinator; Tera Scherer, Executive Assistant

Attorney General's Office

Paul Katz, Assistant Attorney General; Edwin Slade, Assistant Attorney General

A. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Sharma Torrens, Land and Water Program Manager with Arizona Land and Water Trust spoke to the Board. The organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that help protect natural areas. The Trust helps its public and private partners achieve their specific land protection goals by providing risk capital, effective negotiation, legal skills and leverage of limited funding. The organization serves as an independent agent and finds conservation buyers for willing landowners and makes them fully aware of conservation options by providing both the tools, information, and resources to assure that you have the information you need to make an informed decision.



A board of directors, 17 in total, governs the Trust. They've facilitated the conservation of 44,000 acres of land by working with federal and state agency partners. She came to the meeting to see if the Board might like to invite her back to give her presentation at future meetings.

Miss Daggett said she would love to hear her presentation and invited her back to attend an upcoming meeting.

B. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Director Martyn gave a presentation of current events relating to the agency. *(The presentation can be found at azstateparks.com/board, Presentation 11/19/14.)*

In addition to the pictures in the presentation, Director Martyn had the following updates for the Board:

- He had lunch with mayor-elect Sandy Moriarty (Sedona) last week. She has a strong connection to her community and he looks forward to continuing the partnership ASP has had with Sedona through the years. Chairman Everett asked about the water quality at Slide Rock and Mr. Martyn stated that the water quality continues to be monitored and low levels of e-coli still present, even after a summer of having no customers at the park, thus proving it's originating from wildlife.
- The executive staff attending the Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) Board of Directors meeting last month. Exciting news of the Wallace Gardens moving to BTA over the next three years.
- First Day Hikes on January 1st: The Wyoming State Parks Director made a wager with Director Martyn that his state will have more park attendance on that date than Arizona. ASP will be in Arizona Highways Magazine advertising the First Day Hikes program.
- Kartchner Caverns State Park hosted a 5k run and had 270+ paid runners at the event. An excellent turnout for the first time being held.
- International Dark Sky Designation awarded to Oracle State Park.

C. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes of September 17, 2014 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting and the Executive Session Minutes of September 17, 2014 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting



Ms. Daggett motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meetings. The motion carried.

2. Consider Approval of Staff to Enter Negotiations for Right-of-Way Across ASP Property

Mr. Ream presented this item as discussed in the Executive Session of the September 17, 2014 meeting. Mr. Ream stated they will continue to work with the Attorney General's office to complete the process of conveyance and disposal of property.

Mr. Armer moved to approve staff to enter negotiations with the owner to grant right-of-way access. The motion carried.

3. Consider Revisions to the Arizona State Parks Fee Schedule

Mr. Ream states they are hoping to change two fees on the current schedule with a sliding fees schedule. Currently there is a \$5 flat fee for campsite reservations regardless of how long you are reserving the site. Mr. Ream would like the Board to consider a larger reservation fee for the lodge at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park and other "bigger ticket" items such as weddings so customers are less likely to cancel their reservation. The sliding scale would range from \$100 to \$1,500 based on factors involved such as seasonality, length of stay, etcetera.

Mr. Cardin asked if Parks has a non-refundable policy and Mr. Ream responded that currently reservations can be canceled up to 48 hours in advance.

Mr. Armer moved to approve the proposed revisions to the fee schedule. The motion carried.

4. Consider Memorandum of Understanding for the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project

Mr. Ream stated this agreement is important as we begin our development along over there as we will be responsible for those species and their habitat conservation.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve entering into an MOU with the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project. The motion carried.

5. Consider Funding the July 2014 Statewide Off-Highway Vehicle Program Motorized Grants

Ms. Hickman recused herself from voting on this item. Mr. Jeff Prince, OHV



Coordinator, stated that the projects submitted represent the type of work that the OHV program is looking to fund. They include the development of trails, travel management and improvement of existing trails that need refurbishing. The recommended projects have been reviewed by the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) and the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) and reviewed the rating team recommendation and project applications and approved funding for the three highest scoring projects.

Mr. Cardin asked whether travel management planning is a federal requirement and was answered in the affirmative. The Board is concerned that more travel management offices of federal lands will be coming forward to apply for grants as our funding is more limited the federal side.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve the funding for the three projects presented. The motion carried under the advisement that future requests for federal lands projects will likely not be awarded.

6. Consider Appointing Members to the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee

Mr. Prince stated that OHVAG approved the re-appointment of Rebecca Antle, Michael Harrison and the appointment of David Quine at their November 5, 2014 meeting to begin serving January 1, 2015.

Mr. Armer moved to appoint the three individuals begin serving on the OHVAG on January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. The motion passed.

7. Consider Re-Appointing Members to Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee for 2015

Ms. Collins gave a brief overview of NAPAC, their recent accomplishments and the individuals that are seeking a re-appointment.

Ms. Daggett moved that Thomas Skinner and David Weedman serve a second term on NAPAC to begin serving on January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. The motion carried.

8. Consider Appointing Members to the Arizona State Committee on Trails for 2015

Mr. Ennis introduced Mick Rogers, ASP's new Grants Coordinator. Mr. Rogers comes to us from the state of Maine, where he gained extensive experience in Recreational Trails Planning.

Mr. Rogers states that The ASCOT Nominating Committee has recommended



that Jan Hancock, Richard Kesselman, Mathew Nelson, and Michael Harris be appointed to ASCOT to begin serving on January 1, 2015.

Mr. Cardin moved to approve the re-appointment of one individual and the appointment of three individuals. The motion was passed.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Revenue Forecast by Major Fund and Park Visitation Update

Mr. Ennis stated that ASP is still doing okay even after the closure of Slide Rock State Park. The first four months of the fiscal year shows revenues are down ten percent from last year but we're now holding flat and on track. Some parks, such as Catalina, Kartchner and Red Rock, are having remarkable years and have doubled their visitation numbers. OHV is two percent ahead of this time last year. The SLIF is still going through the change process to the new formula that took place.

Mr. Martyn advised the board that the OHV program began a robust marketing plan that will be coming out over the next few months.

Mr. Ennis state that there is a potential shortfall on the state's budget and ASP is looking at a possible \$1 million hit as well as SLIF and SPRF funding being swept.

2. State Parks Operations Status Update

Mr. Ream advised that the director has authorized Lyman Lake State Park to be open year-round with reduced services from December through the winter months. Apache County is providing a presence with organized patrols of the park. A crew from the Department of Corrections is coming in to empty trash and police the restrooms to help out. This may not be a huge bump for revenues, but we're looking forward to them remaining open and not having those closed signs on the roads again.

Chairman Everett asked for an update on operations at Lyman Lake through the winter months this coming spring.

Oracle State Park is starting school group special opening curriculum for field trips during the week that will be ran mostly by volunteers. Additionally, Oracle received the prestigious International Dark Skies designation.

ASP will be continuing the partnership with the City of Tombstone and the local chamber of commerce. There is two years left on the agreement and we are working with the attorney general's office to make some slight updates to the agreement.



ASP entered into a 75-day grazing permit in the pastures of the San Rafael State Natural Area. They are currently working on an RFP for long-term conservation grazing. The excess grass is providing fuel for dry climates and a presence on the property is important for this land. No shipping corrals will be built and the protection of riparian areas and endangered species habitats will be closely monitored. A Habitat Conservation Plan is needed prior to the RFP being issued as recommended by NAPAC.

3. FY 2014 Strategic Plan

Mr. Martyn advised the board that in his opinion the current draft document does not accurately capture the direction of the agency. He advised the board members to look at the document as a body to restructure the plan and wants to make sure the board has a bigger role in the way the agency is run. Director Martyn would like to re-construct the document and meet with each member individually to discuss some of the points and make sure the Board remains relevant to the operation of State Parks.

Ms. Daggett said it continues to become more apparent to her how much work really goes on in our agency and that it's really important that the Board become more engaged. She really appreciates that Bryan wants to go over the Strategic Plan, but she thinks it will take more than just an agenda item and will possibly require a working meeting to discuss.

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, JANUARY 21, 2015 at 10:00 AM**. Location to be determined.

Future Meeting Dates:

February 18, 2015
April 15, 2015
May 20, 2015
July 15, 2015
August 19, 2015
September 16, 2015
October 21, 2015
November 18, 2015

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** – The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:35.