



**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Sue Black**  
Executive Director

**State Parks Board**  
R.J. Cardin, Chairman  
Kay Daggett, Vice-Chairman  
Walter D. Armer Jr., Vail  
Mark Brnovich, Phoenix  
Alan Everett, Sedona  
Larry Landry, Phoenix

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

February 18, 2015

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The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM, Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 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. (via telephone); David Trimble, State Land Commissioner (Acting)

#### **Board Members Absent**

Mark Brnovich; Larry Landry

#### **Staff Members Present**

Sue Black, Executive Director; Kent Ennis, Deputy Director; Jay Ream, Deputy Director, Parks and Development; Tera Scherer, Executive Staff Assistant; Ms. Dawn Collins, Chief of Resources and Public Programs; Ms. Cassandra Castellons, Park Ranger Specialist; Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator

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

Edwin Slade, Assistant Attorney General

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF**

### **B. NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Cardin introduced Sue Black, the new Executive Director of Arizona State Parks.

### **C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Bryan Martyn, former Executive Director of Arizona State Parks briefly spoke to the board, thanking them for having the confidence in him to be put in the position of executive director and welcomed Sue Black to the agency.

## **D. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approve Minutes of January 21, 2015 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting.

Mr. Everett moved to approved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015 Arizona State Parks Board Meeting. The motion carried.

2. **Consider Approval of the Arizona Trails Plan**

Cassandra Castellanos, Park Ranger Specialist, presented the 2015 Trails Plan. The Trails Plan is mandated by statue to be updated every five years. Ms. Castallanos went over the definition of a trail according to this Trails Plan, as well as strategies used to gather information: telephone, targeted audiences, online self-administered survey and land manager survey. Ms. Castallanos went over specific results of the data collected by this survey.

*(Please see the 2015 Draft Trails Plan located at [azstateparks.com/board](http://azstateparks.com/board), 2015 Draft Trails Plan.)*

Mr. Everett moved to approve the 2015 Trails Plan. The motion carried. Mr. Trimble abstained from the vote.

3. **Consider Approval of “Arizona Premier Trails” Nomination Forms**

*(Please see the agenda packet to review the specific nomination criteria information.)*

Mickey Rogers, Arizona State Parks Grants Coordinator, gave the history of the State Trails System. Mr. Rogers stated that when the agency awarded Heritage Fund Trail grants projects received bonus points if they were part of the State Trails System, therefore the STS grew to over 800 trails, some of questionable significance. In 2012 ASCOT (Arizona State Committee on Trails) began identifying ways to best manage the system. In May 2014, the Parks Board put a freeze on the nomination process for the current STS and directed ASCOT to investigate the development of a new system that focuses on trails of special interest or significance to Arizona.

Since then ASCOT approved a name for the new system, “Arizona Premier Trails,” and identified six categories for trails that will be included in the new system: 1) National Trail System, 2) Historic, 3) Interpretive, 4) Recreation, 5) Scenic, and 6) Water Trail Systems. ASCOT then began working on nomination criteria and a points system to evaluate incoming nominations. These forms have been completed and ASCOT is asking for the Parks Board’s approval of this system.

Mr. Everett moved to approve the nomination criteria and point allocation of the Arizona Premier Trails system. Mr. Trimble abstained from the vote. Motion

carried.

#### **4. Consider Raising the Certified Local Government Maximum**

Mr. Jim Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer, presented to the board. In 1980 Congress established a framework for local preservation programs through an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act. This program recognizes political subdivisions of Arizona, such as cities and counties, which may apply to the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Officer) to become Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Once certified, these entities are eligible for specialized assistance and funds for developing their own local preservation programs. In the legislation creating the CLG program, it was stipulated that 10 percent of the annual federal appropriation would be passed through directly to CLGs.

In 1989 the grant amount was capped at \$10,000. This funding is actually less than 25 percent of the cost of projects. The process is to add CLGs to a list and they go through a three to four year cycle. Once a grant is awarded to a CLG they then go to the bottom of the list. If a grant falls through they then re-allocate the funding.

Mr. Garrison stated they are not asking to change the process; just raise the maximum amount allowed. Funding is around \$800,000 to \$900,000 per year so a total of \$80,000 to \$90,000 is available annually for grants.

Mr. Everett moved that the Certified Local Government pass through grant cap be raised from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and that the same grant priorities and monitoring procedures be used and maintained. The motion passed unanimously..

#### **E. INFORMATION ITEM**

1. CHM Government Services Update and Potential Discussion with Board Members.

Margaret Bailey of CHM Government Services presented information on the progress of an RFP (request for proposal) intended to elicit bids from firms to operate all of ASP's existing seven concessions and allow for significant expansion of services in those and potentially other parks. During this time, CHM has been helping with Sandpoint lease and land conversion. Ms. Bailey updated the board on the development of the new RFP documents through processes involving the attorney generals office as well as the State Procurement Office.

Fool Hollow, Slide Rock and Lake Havasu contracts end December 31. New contracts are dependent on how we choose to piece it out—all at once or each park individually. Ms. Black's concern is with the timeline. She feels December

31 is too soon to have new contracts in place with the complications we will likely incur. She believes we need to begin discussions of the terms of contracts sooner than the same year the contracts are ending.

Additionally, she worked with ASP staff on the development of an RFI (request for information) that went out for Contact Point. There were three firms that showed up at site visit in January but zero responses to the RFI. She recommends we contact those private companies that came out for site visit and find out why they chose not to proceed. Ms. Black wants to put together a timeline of best scenario versus likely timeline for the concession operations contracts.

Ms. Daggett asked what types of timelines other states incurred when putting together new contracts. Ms. Black responded that she was one of the leaders in the country with private partnerships. Being organized, prepared and not waiting until the last minute and to have a real plan already in place is what we need going forward. There are options available; whether we bundle them, or maybe do a parallel path with local communities so some other entity can come in. She said there is a lot of minutia of things she could manage as far as the agency. She says the Sandpoint is paramount as it's a revenue stream for the agency. She informed the board members that they will be very involved in the process as we move forward.

## **H. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Consultant Update to include the Transition of Sandpoint and status of Concession Requests for Proposal (RFP) throughout Arizona State Parks

Ms. Bailey stated the key issue with Sandpoint was that we wanted to have a plan to manage through the transition process. Working through a separate strategy in regards to the compensation to the leaseholders for improvements made. The team is made up of field representatives as well as legal, operational and individuals in the real estate section. The site officially closed on January 31, 2015. Sandpoint representatives can stay on hand until the end of July to manage site cleanup. The agency has until February 2016 to pay them their compensation.

Mr. Ream stated there are four other contracts that were formed that have been turned over to the State Land Department as they have some different options that are not available to our agency. He stated the transition from operations standpoint is that things are going very well, although there has been no contact with the leaseholders for about five months. A gate was put up to manage access during certain hours for workers; no public access is allowed. Utilities have been transferred over to State Parks.

Mr. Cardin asked what the revenue was from Sandpoint's operations. Kent

responded \$25-30,000 per month. Mr. Ream stated they had 175 sites available and believes that if we opened 15 sites up we'd recover that amount annually.

## 2. Revenue Forecast by Major Fund and Park Visitation Update

Mr. Ennis stated that attendance is up almost 13 percent. Year-to-date we are still digging out from the Slide Rock fire. At 98 percent year over year and continue to catch up quickly. With regards to park revenues we caught up and surpassed where we were this time last year. Revenue is up eight percent in January and ahead eight percent over the forecast again. OHVAG fund is one percent ahead of last year; two percent behind forecast. There has been talk of sweep to that fund, although OSPB stated they were not sure yet. With regard to SLIF we are 20 percent ahead, a tad below forecast.

## 3. State Parks Operations Status Update

Mr. Ream said operations status has not changed much since the January meeting. Some parks operating through Partnership Support; the Hopi have been great partners and the partnership has been renewed at Homolovi. San Rafael has no grazing permit currently but is working on a long-term grazing lease on property with NAPAC.

## I. 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, March 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM**. Location to be determined. Mr. Everett thought a possible location might be Picacho Peak State Park as it's perfect timing to view the wildflowers.
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.

Mr. Cardin asked staff about the status of new board member appointments. Ms. Black stated that several names have

## J. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1154.