

**ARIZONA STATE PARKS
NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(NAPAC)**

Minutes of the meeting held:

Thursday, May 24, 2007

at:

Verde River Greenway
Cottonwood, Arizona

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hare called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. The following people were present, and the Committee achieved a quorum.

Committee Members Present: Trevor Hare, Chair
Sheridan Stone, Vice-Chair *via telephone*
Linda Kennedy *via telephone*
John Hays *via telephone*
Phyllis Hughes (arrived 12:20pm)
Don W. Young
Max Castillo, *ex officio*

Committee Members Absent: Ken Kingsley

Other Individuals Present: Joy Hernbrode, Assistant Attorney General
representing Arizona State Parks (ASP)
Ray Warriner, ASP
Joanne Roberts, ASP
Ruth Shulman, ASP
Thomas Meixner, Hydrology Field Camp Professor

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

This item dispensed with.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of NAPAC Minutes for the April 26, 2007 meeting.

Dr. Young moved to accept the minutes as presented. Chair Hare seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote.

2. Huggett Property updates regarding the Moore/Heubner parcels.

Mr. Warriner said that he had a Draft Purchase Agreement pending, and will provide the Committee with copies by May 25, 2007. ASP will pay the back taxes and closing costs.

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The two owners of the three in-holding parcels had concerns about privacy and access once ASP owns the property. In order to accommodate them, ASP will allow a buffer of approximately 100 feet around the in-holding parcels. The buffer will run along the boundary. No fence will be erected because the entire parcel is already fenced. The boundary with the in-holdings will be marked with carsonite markers. The current gate will be kept in place to keep the public off. Occasional use of the gate on the northern end of the property will be allowed in order to give the in-holding owners access, provided notice is given to the Oracle State Parks manager, to a maximum of 30 days annually.

Mr. Stone asked whether the northern gate was situated on an existing roadbed. Mr. Warriner noted that it was, although it was rough. Dr. Young asked about the exact amount of the back taxes, which Mr. Warriner noted did not exceed \$9,000. There is a full appraisal underway, which will be completed within a few weeks. The cost of the appraisal is \$5,500.

Chair Hare was pleased to see that an agreement with the in-holding parcel owners and ASP could be reached quickly.

3. Update and discussion Lone Mountain Ranch.

Ms. Roberts noted that she has drafted a memo to Executive Staff requesting guidance on how much time Staff should spend on the review and acquisition of Lone Mountain Ranch. The price of the property is \$12.5 million. Although the location of the property is somewhat desirable, the time Staff would need to spend on site visits to the 2,000 acres is considerable. Chair Hare said that the feeling in the ranching community near the property is that Lone Mountain Ranch is overpriced by nearly double, which is why it remains for sale. Chair Hare also said he had spoken briefly with Michael Patrick of the Trust for Public Land about the property, and will follow up with him in the next few weeks.

Ms. Hughes asked what was significant about the property. Chair Hare said that the property is developable and slopes down on the east side of the San Rafael Valley.

4. Update and discussion on the Capitan Chiquito site visit.

The site visit that was tentatively planned for May 21 did not occur. Ms. Roberts noted that initial site visits should be undertaken by a mix of disciplines within the group. It is not critical that she attend each initial site visit as long as a biologist is present. She suggested that the site visit occur on the date currently set for the Selection subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Hughes noted that she had thought the date was set, and wanted to bring in the scheduled topic on setting site visit dates.

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Ms. Roberts noted that she is only necessary on follow-up site visits to represent the agency. On initial visits, there need only be the proper mix of expertise to do the original assessment. Mr. Warriner said that he will handle the logistics of each visit, including liaison with the property owner(s), providing maps and directions and any other logistical necessities. Ms. Shulman will prepare and post a subcommittee agenda for each site visit, and the site evaluation forms will serve as the subcommittee minutes to comply with the Open Meeting Law. The law also requires that these minutes be available to the interested public within three days of the visit. Ms. Hernbrode noted that a change in statute now requires that subcommittee must produce minutes with the same requirements as full committee minutes. These minutes include the names of members attending, a brief description of any topics discussed, a detailed account of any formal action taken, and the names of anyone presenting material to the subcommittee. All of this information can be recorded on the site evaluation form each subcommittee member should prepare, and which Ms. Roberts will use to prepare the formal site visit document. Ms. Hughes suggested that members fill out the evaluation form onsite the day of the meeting in order to meet the time line. Ms. Roberts noted that she will send copies of the form to subcommittee members via eMail.

Chair Hare asked whether the site visit could be held on June 28 in the morning and the NAMG subcommittee meeting later that day in Mammoth or Oracle State Park. Ms. Roberts noted that back-to-back meetings were not met with approval when this topic was last discussed. Ms. Roberts suggested that the site visit be substituted for the Selection subcommittee meeting scheduled on June 27. Site visits are of equal priority with any other tasks the subcommittee has taken on. Mr. Warriner noted that this property has been under discussion for approximately three months and the site visit is extremely important.

Ms. Hernbrode noted that the ASP Board was exploring prioritizing acquisitions at their last meeting, and she suggested that these discussions be incorporated into the Selection subcommittee discussions. She expects that the ASP Board will have further discussions on the topic of acquisitions at their July planning meeting. Ms. Roberts noted that the GIS team made a presentation to the ASP Board at their most recent meeting; the presentation included several layers of information, and may be worthwhile for the Selection subcommittee to see. Ms. Hernbrode noted that the GIS team could make the same presentation to NAPAC as a whole. Further discussion on the presentation followed. She also noted that the ASP Board may not make any decisions about acquisitions at the July planning meeting; they will most likely want more input from the GIS team. Ms. Roberts noted that input from the Resource Management area was only recently added to the presentation, and is still under review by the Resource Management team.

Chair Hare said that the Selection subcommittee could make the site visit to Capitan Chiquito on the morning of June 27 in lieu of the scheduled discussion meeting. Further discussion of the attendance to the site visit followed. Logistics and further information to be provided to Ms. Shulman at least one week prior to June 27 for

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posting and dispersal to the subcommittee members. The June 28 NAMG subcommittee meeting remains scheduled for 9:00am at Kartchner Caverns State Parks.

5. Update and discussion on Oracle SP deed/Defenders of Wildlife.

Chair Hare noted that neither he nor Dr. Young has any new information on this topic. Chair Hare also noted that any decisions or clarification in the deed language must be made by Staff. Ms. Hernbrode said that any final changes or approvals must be handled by Executive Staff at a minimum and is possibly subject to ASP Board approval. Initial contacts with any deed holder should be carried out with caveats in place that discussions are exploratory in nature. This topic will remain on the agenda.

6. Update on planned Kartchner Caverns scoping document.

Ms. Roberts noted that she had spoken to Dr. Casavant about the Committee's request that a project area be defined as a conservation zone, as a follow up to the discussions with ASP Assistant Director Jay Ream at the previous NAPAC meeting. Dr. Casavant will be unable to produce this document for perhaps a couple months. The other piece of the scoping document was to provide AD Ream with a brief write up of what the conservation zone would include. Chair Hare produced a letter to AD Ream, and a copy of that letter is available on request. The letter was not provided to the ASP Board at their last meeting however.

Dr. Young and Dr. Casavant will collaborate on the geologic and hydrologic aspects of the scoping document, and a biological assessment will be necessary. Mr. Stone said that he had visited McGrew Springs but had not seen the entire "block". He could possibly do a site visit and Chair Hare will also participate as soon as a date can be set with Dr. Casavant. Chair Hare also suggested that the discussion of Natural Areas within existing parks and possibly designating entire existing parks as Natural Areas be on the ASP Board agenda at their July planning meeting.

Ms. Roberts noted that regarding the biological information on the surface level at KCSP, some reports exist currently on reptiles, amphibians and bats; there may be other elements to be taken into consideration. Chair Hare said that he feels information on both local species and biologic communities/ecosystems for that area is available from the US Forest Service. Dr. Young also noted that the cave fauna is currently under study, and some updates are available, including microscopic.

Ms. Hernbrode noted that the next ASP Board meeting will be July 18 and 19 in Red Rock State Park, near Sedona. Chair Hare said that he planned on attending. Ms. Roberts will communicate with Dr. Casavant about setting up a biologic site visit.

Mr. Stone asked for clarification about the scoping document. Chair Hare said that it would be a document designed to characterize the whole area of KCSP in

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relationship to Natural Areas designation. The document will help determine whether the Natural Area designation applies to the KCSP area, or extends to surrounding properties. The ASP Board must be involved in any discussions on how the designation mechanism would work in this situation, particularly with regards to the underground systems. The document produced by Dr. Casavant should provide the necessary scientific advice to aid the ASP Board in their determinations. However, the statewide implications still remain. Chair Hare suggested that he, Ms. Roberts and Dr. Casavant should meet to help prepare a document for the ASP Board about the statewide implications.

Mr. Warriner suggested that it might be more productive to speak with Executive Staff before they bring the topic to the ASP Board, and will also help build the support of Executive Staff. The Executive Staff meetings are generally held on Monday mornings at the ASP office.

7. Discuss Ken Kingsley's membership in light of new information.

At the previous meeting NAPAC reviewed Dr. Kingsley's membership, and because he is out of state and basically incommunicado, they recommended he be asked to resign. Ms. Shulman noted that she had received new information from Dr. Kingsley about his availability to participate in meetings by cellphone. So the question arose as to whether the Committee wanted to continue with their resignation request.

Ms. Hughes asked how long Dr. Kingsley would be out of state. Ms. Shulman noted according to Dr. Kingsley he would be gone for six months, with a possibility for more time out. Ms. Roberts noted that participation by telephone only limits Dr. Kingsley's ability to contribute. Dr. Young said that a lack of participation in site visits is an important consideration. Ms. Hernbrode noted that telephone participation is sometimes problematic with the equipment currently available. Ms. Hughes asked if there were legal issues involved with Dr. Kingsley being out of state. Ms. Hernbrode said that she had no legal issues *per se*, however the practical problems are large, including the problem of bad publicity. Ms. Hughes noted that the county residence issue then raises its head.

Chair Hare asked whether the remaining candidates had been polled as of yet. Ms. Shulman said that at the last meeting, NAPAC decided which candidates should be invited to reapply, but no letters have gone out as yet pending receipt of the Dr. Kingsley's resignation so that the vacancy actually opens.

Chair Hare then noted that participation by phone for one member places an undue burden on the other members to "take up the slack". He suggests that the resignation letter be sent, and the Committee members agreed. Dr. Kennedy suggested adding language to encompass the county residence issue as well.

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Mr. Hays noted that perhaps ASP should invest in new conference phone equipment. Chair Hare offered the system owned by Sky Island Alliance as an example. Ms. Shulman will investigate.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule regular site visit dates for the Selection Subcommittee.

At the last meeting Ms. Hughes suggested that setting a regular schedule of site visit dates would be helpful. Dr. Young said that flexibility would be key for site visits in his opinion. Ms. Hughes said that the regular schedule would alleviate some of the difficulties that have arisen with setting site visits to date.

Ms. Roberts said that historically, coordinating site visits has not been difficult. Further discussion on calendaring difficulties followed. Ms. Hughes then offered to withdraw her suggestion. Dr. Young asked if there were problems with NAPAC members visiting the sites individually as convenient. Ms. Hernbrode said that as far as the Opening Meeting Law update, when members are sent to a specific location for Committee business that constitutes a subcommittee meeting whether or not a quorum exists. However, individual visits are possible as long as there are absolutely no discussions between members outside of an official meeting. Practically speaking, most properties are owned by individuals who may not appreciate several separate evaluation visits. Mr. Hays said that several separate visits by individuals represent safety issues in some areas. Ms. Hernbrode said that consistency of exactly what was evaluated becomes a concern in individual visits.

Chair Hare said that the topic can be revisited as necessary.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Natural Areas Management Guidelines (NAMG) committee: Update and report on progress.

The subcommittee is scheduled to meet on June 28 at 9:00am at KCSP.

Ms. Roberts noted that there is a new version of the draft guidelines available to send to the subcommittee members that will include information from other state natural areas coordinators and information from the subcommittee from earlier meetings. She will provide that version to the subcommittee prior to the June 28 meeting.

Chair Hare suggests that NAPAC take a bigger role in gathering information and asked Ms. Roberts if there was any specific preparation for the meeting that they could do. Ms. Roberts said that the guidelines format still needs finalizing. She said that Mr. Stone had brought the Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines to the prior subcommittee meeting, and the form for biological monitoring. She would like to see a format decided upon and then having some “meat and potatoes” added to each topic.

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Chair Hare asked Mr. Stone if the DoD's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan could be forwarded to the members. Mr. Stone said that he would send a smaller version the plan with the framework of the plan to NAPAC members. Chair Hare said that he would also send Pima County's version of a management plan framework as well.

Ms. Roberts said that she would also provide NAPAC with the guiding documents from the ASP Board and other internal planning documents for ASP.

Chair Hare noted that the ASP Operations staff has gotten a presentation on the management guidelines. Ms. Roberts noted that she had gotten some limited input from the Parks managers and the ASP Operations chief. As revisions are made, Ms. Roberts provides the drafts to various Operations staff and asks for more input.

2. Update from Selection subcommittee including discussion.

Chair Hare noted the previous discussion on the GIS presentation, as well as the ASP Board considerations on prioritizing acquisition. Ms. Roberts said that the GIS team is asking for more input for their work in progress. She asked whether NAPAC would like to see the presentation and provide some information on how the information would be useful for the Committee. Ms. Roberts will provide the data layers they are working. The current scope is State Land and open space planning. Chair Hare noted that hydrological information is problematic in GIS studies, and he would appreciate Dr. Young's input.

Ms. Hughes said that the subcommittee flowchart will be updated with the ASP Board information before sending it on to the whole Committee.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Thomas Meixner, heading up the annual Hydrology Field Camp, provided a brief overview of what the camp accomplishes and how it meshes with NAPAC's work. He noted that he is an associate professor with the University of Arizona. Arizona State Parks provides a venue for the annual camp. The Parks are a great hydrological laboratory, and the project this year at Dead Horse Ranch State Park is to determine the "water budget" for the park, including consumptive use. This information is crucial in helping to maintain the water rights for the Park. Another task is to assess the flood risk, especially in the lagoons. Last year's hydrologic report from the field camp is currently available if the members are interested. Dr. Don Young, NAPAC member, also participated in this year's field camp.

G. BOARD COMMENTS, REQUESTS, AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

For future agendas: Phelps-Dodge is looking to divest Peck's Lake, a possible acquisition that will add to Verde River Greenway (VRG); Mr. Warriner asked that a site visit schedule for various VRG properties be set at the next meeting; Oracle SP deed discussion; revisit setting site visit meetings regularly following the site visit to Capitan Chiquito; GIS team presentation to all of NAPAC; scoping document update.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Capitan Chiquito site visit, June 27 – time and meet-up location to be announced.
NAMG subcommittee meeting, June 28 – 9:00am, KCSP
NAPAC meeting, July 26, 12:00pm, site to be announced.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hare declared the meeting adjourned at 1:43pm.

Prepared by Ruth Shulman on May 30, 2007, and reviewed by Joanne M. Roberts,
Arizona State Parks NAPAC Coordinator.

APPROVED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JULY 26, 2007.

Affirmed by:

/s/Trevor Hare
Trevor Hare, Chair

Date: July 26, 2007