



# Oregon Parks Association

**OREGON PARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2007  
OREGON STATE FIARGROUNDS  
SALEM, OREGON**

**Meeting Called To Order By President Brian Carroll (Linn County):**

**Board Members Present:** Christine Johnson (Lane County); Todd Winter (Lane County); Chris Wayland (Washington County); Larry Robison (Coos County); Randy Hutton (Jackson County); Lorrie Harvey (Baker County) **Members Present:** Steve Meshke (Clatsop County); Erika Owen (Columbia County); Doreen Ferguson (Josephine County); Paula Preston-Mills (Clackamas County); Kyleen Stone (OPRD); Wayne Rawlins (OPRD); Marilyn Lippincott (OPRD); Mike McLees (Clackamas County); Wayne Shuyler (OSMB); Jeff Smith (OSMB)

**1. Announcements/Introductions:** Carroll called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. There were no announcements. Carroll asked everyone to introduce him or herself.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Carroll asked for approval of the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and if there were no objections he would entertain a motion.

**Motion:** Wayland moved that the minutes from the November 17, 2006 meeting be approved as submitted. Winter seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Johnson distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report, which was then read into the record.

**Motion:** Robison moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented, Wayland seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**4. Committee Reports**

**Legislative** – Winter: Winter stated that the Legislative Committee met last week in Eugene and discussed the letter drafted to Tim Wood at OPRD, and also discussed setting a date and time to meet with Mr. Wood to talk to him about it. They also reviewed the language of Measure 66. The meeting with Mr. Wood did occur this morning at 11:00 a.m. for about one hour and the recommendations set forth in the letter were discussed as well as the positions of both OPRD and the Counties in Oregon.

The Legislative Committee and Mr. Wood wanted to leave the meeting with a feeling of collaboration, and working together to provide service delivery recreationally for the citizens and visitors of Oregon. Carroll added that we informed Mr. Wood that we are currently working on a few legislative concepts that we'll be submitting today, which is the deadline for making submissions. One of the concepts is to modify the allocation of the RV registration funds from a 70/30 split to a 60/40 split. The other concept is to allow Counties to receive a percentage of the lottery funds for operations and maintenance. Of the 50% that goes to OPRD, take 10% of the 15% set aside for natural resources and allocate those funds to counties to be used for park operations and improvements. The allocations to counties would be similar to the recreational vehicle fees which consider population and acreage of developed properties. For example if we used the most recent budget, that would work out to approximately \$8.5 million. Mr. Wood's position on the lottery funds is that constitutionally those funds can not be distributed to the Counties for operations and maintenance other than what's already being distributed via the MAP programs. Carroll said that we let him know that we think there's room to disagree on that – funds could potentially be sent to the Counties, at least that is OPA's position, and that we want to at least have that concept explored.

Carroll said that when he met with Mr. Wood in December, one idea Mr. Wood had was suspending the County Opportunity Grant Program and rolling those funds into the RV license fees to be distributed directly to the Counties. That way the money could be spent however each County has those funds set up, including those Counties with no RV facilities. Carroll said it was the consensus of the Legislative Committee to not lose the County Opportunity Grant Program.

**Motion:** Harvey moved that the Board recommend that the County Opportunity Grant Program be left as it is. Hutton seconded the motion, and after further discussion the vote was unanimous in favor.

McLees suggested that we get a list of the Legislative Committee assignments and start putting together an information packet so that we have consistent information to forward to our legislatures around the state, which makes sure our position is correctly stated. Carroll said that the Legislative Committee assignments are out and he will email them out to everyone.

Carroll had one more item to discuss that wasn't on the agenda – ORPA is working legislatively on SDC's and is putting together a "best practices" plan for the use of SDC's. One of the reasons for putting this together is to educate the communities out there that have SDC's about the most appropriate ways, by law, to use those funds. ORPA is looking to put this brochure together and is asking if OPA would be interested in contributing financially to this project in the amount of \$500. After much discussion and a lot of unanswered questions, putting forth a motion and then having the motion withdrawn, it was decided that we need more information about the project before we put any money towards it.

**Membership Committee** – Winter: Johnson said that membership renewal letters were mailed out in early January and she should start receiving those back soon.

**Marketing & Networking** – Johnson: Johnson didn't have anything new to report on the website but did want to bring up the subject of the campground guide update that has been on hold for the past year or so. The most recent version of the guide is on a disk that was formatted using PageMaker, which is a Macintosh program. The problem is that it can't be opened on a PC – unless you have the new InDesign program, which converts PageMaker to a version that can be opened and manipulated on a PC. Unfortunately the InDesign program costs between \$500 and \$700, but it will give us the advantage of more control of the editing process rather than paying an outside source to do the editing for us. Prestin-Mills said she felt that it would be more of a headache than it's worth trying to edit a five year old version of PageMaker with the new InDesign program, and that it would be better to just re-do the guide in a newer version of the program. Carroll said that the biggest problem he sees will be getting the updates from the various counties. However, if the InDesign program does all it is supposed to do, he doesn't have a problem with authorizing the funds to purchase it. Johnson will also do some more research on the program as well as looking at some other options.

**Motion:** Winter moved that the Marketing and Networking Committee research and gather information on the InDesign software to be forwarded to President Brian Carroll, and pending the outcome, grant authority to the President to authorize the expenditure up to \$700. Wayland seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**Nominations Committee** – Crawford: Crawford was not present, so there was no report.

**Conference Committee** – Preston-Mills: Preston-Mills would like to shoot for an April field trip to the Hood River Inn. The conference dates are September 17, 18, & 19, 2007. Preston-Mills has not heard back from Dean Guess in response to her email. Preston-Mills would also like to try and have an initial Conference Planning Committee meeting in March. Johnson said that Hutton had an idea for a session – something along the lines of working/building “green” in our parks, and someone suggested Josh Proudfoot as a possible presenter. Anyone that has other session ideas or suggestions can contact Paula or any of the other Conference Committee members.

## **5. Old Business:**

**County Parks Needs Assessment – Todd Winter:** Winter stated that the Needs Assessment is underway and Marie Kennedy, the U of O student that is working on it is putting together the survey questions. The Needs Assessment will be a state-wide inventory of county park systems in Oregon, and will be looking at back-log of maintenance, failing infrastructures, staff and capacity reductions and a look at the customers we serve, etc. Winter will be writing all the counties asking them to take the time to complete the survey and explain the importance of the questions and why. The finished product, once approved by this Board, can be used in a number ways – help

communicate to local legislators, Boards, and Commissions the situation the county park systems are in statewide, also as an avenue to circulate a letter of support to all Boards of County Commissioners in the State of Oregon. This information could also be helpful when putting together a master plan or when applying for a grant. He hopes to have the Needs Assessment completed by the end of June. Kyleen Stone suggested that Terry Bergerson might be able to provide some useful statistics. Carroll suggested looking into Survey Monkey as a useful tool for collecting information.

**Impacts from Loss of County O & C Payments – Briand Carroll:** Carroll distributed a copy of the information put together by AOC outlining the impact to the counties with the loss of Public Law 106 (Secure Rural Schools). Carroll briefly went over the information in the handouts and a general discussion followed – mostly unintelligible.

## **6. New Business:**

**Discussion of OSMB Maintenance Assistance Program – Brian Carroll:** Carroll said that Hutton expressed interest in discussing the Maintenance Assistance Program and some of the challenges he is facing, particularly regarding raising his day use fee and how that will affect his MAP allocation. Hutton was wondering if OSMB could take a look at the distribution formula sometime in the future. Shuyler said it was last looked at in 2001. He also reminded everyone that MAP is designed just to help out with some of your maintenance costs, not pay for all of the costs. Shuyler does understand the current hardships but the Board's policy is pretty clear – for every \$1 increase in day use fees, means a 25% decrease in your allocation. Shuyler said that if Hutton could provide some good solid facts that show higher costs for maintenance and that he is spending more for it; he might be able to use it to make an argument to the Board to possibly change the formula. However, this would also open this issue up to law enforcement and they would want an increase as well – and they have priority. More discussion followed – which was mostly unintelligible.

**Marketing Effort with Travel Oregon – Brian Carroll:** Carroll said that he has a message in to Kevin Wright with Travel Oregon to call him, but so far has not heard back from him. He will continue to pursue this issue and report back.

**OSMB – Wayne Shuyler and Jeff Smith:** Smith started out by saying they had a good agenda lined up for the workshop tomorrow and hoped everyone would be able to attend.

- Round 3 grant process coming up with somewhere between \$250,000 and \$500,000 available. The deadline to apply is February 16, 2007 and will not be funding any in-water related projects.
- Vacant Positions: Smith said that they have posted two vacant positions twice and have not had any qualified applicants apply, so will be putting it out there for a third try.
- Shuyler added that their budget is up on February 7 and 8, and looks to be in pretty good shape. Rest of discussion was unintelligible.

### **OPRD – Kyleen Stone, Marilyn Lippincott and Wayne Rawlins:**

- Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program: Lippincott said that they currently have \$50,000 available until the end of the biennium for non-profit Veteran's organizations to construct war memorials on public property. Applications due on March 2, 2007.
- County Opportunity Grant Program: Lippincott said that 10 applications were approved by the Parks Commission on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and the agreements will be going out this week. Everyone got funded except for Marion County's planning project and Douglas County pulled their application.
- RV Program: Lippincott said she had a draft of the RV estimates for FY 08 and just received the RV registrations as of December 31<sup>st</sup> and the updated population figures, so if anyone wants to look at the draft, you can see her. Figures indicate they had an increase in the number of RV registrations – up by 1,100.
- Land and Water Regional Grant Workshop – Seattle, WA: Lippincott attended this workshop last week. Michael Wilson, out of the NPS office in Washington DC, said that right now NPS is working out of a continuing resolution – they don't currently have a budget and don't know when they will get one. So they are looking at \$0.00 for FY 07 and 08, however they are optimistic that the program won't be going away and they will be getting their funding. Lippincott did want to remind everyone that if Counties will be closing parks due to budget cuts, and the park they close is a Land and Water sites, it will be a conversion.
- Recreational Trails Grant Program: Rawlins said they have received about 35 applications for this program.
- ATV Program Legislative Concepts: Rawlins said they have four bills which include mandatory registration, mandatory helmet, the 2-Up law (illegal to have two passengers on a vehicle built for one), and titling. Rawlins said there is a fifth bill out there that isn't State Parks regarding setting the minimum age of ATV riders at 12.
- OPRD Budget: Kyleen Stone stated that the budget is basically done – all the dollars they have are spoken for in the budget. Stone went down the list and briefly discussed some of the highlights, unfortunately the echo in the room made the tape unintelligible for most of it, but I'm sure Kyleen would make this information available to anyone who requests it. Carroll asked what they were projecting for the lottery dollars this biennium. Stone said that it was 44% of \$234,000,000. (This works out to \$102,960,000.)
- Sports, Health and Fitness Venue: Stone has also been working on a new venue for the State Fair – called the Sports, Health and Fitness venue. They are really trying to use the fair to promote outdoor recreation and will have an area dedicated to action and adventure level outdoor recreation enthusiasts. They will have a lot of action type of things to do such as skiing, wall climbing, etc. She is working with ORPA on this and welcomes OPA's participation as well. With about 500,000 coming through the fair it's a great opportunity to promote outdoor recreation.

### **7. Good of the Order:**

**The Heritage Tree:** Steve Meshke described his experience dealing with media from across the country regarding their Heritage Tree – the largest tree in Oregon – which was severely damaged in a wind storm that occurred last December. He received all kinds of ideas on how to save the tree as well as requests for the wood. In a 72 hour period, they had 750 visitors to the tree.

**8. Next Meeting:**

March 23, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Creekside Restaurant, 146 Chief Miwaleta Lane, Canyonville, OR 97417.

**9. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine A. Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer