



**OREGON PARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
March 18, 2005  
LANE COUNT PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS  
EUGENE, OREGON**

**Meeting Called To Order By President Randy Hutton (Jackson County):**

**Board Members Present:** Christine Johnson (Lane County); Jim Chambers (Lincoln County); Larry Robison (Coos County); Karen Wolff (Morrow County) **Members Present:** Mike McLees (Clackamas County); Marilyn Lippincott (ORPD); C. Wayne Rawlins (ORPD); Brian Carroll (Linn County); and, Paula Preston-Mills (Clackamas County); Todd Winter (Lane County); Kevin Caldwell (Jackson County); Janelle Geddes (Metro).

**1. Announcements/Introductions:** Hutton called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. There were no announcements so we moved on to introductions.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Hutton asked if everyone had received an electronic copy of the minutes from the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, and if there were no objections he would entertain a motion.

**Motion:** Chambers moved that the minutes from the February 1, 2005 meeting be approved as submitted. Robison seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

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

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

**4. Committee Reports**

**Legislative** -- Carroll said that things were pretty quiet. The second round budget hearings for the State have been pushed back to May. The first round was in February and Carroll attended those hearings and thought they went well. Hasn't heard whether ODF plans to come after RV money again. Both Carroll and Hutton felt that after their meeting with Mr. Wood, that if ODF came looking for money, they would look at a different source. Carroll also went to the State Parks Commission meeting and

got the impression that the Land and Water Program could potentially be going away and may be looking at increasing the Lottery funds to make it up. But the basic message that Carroll came away from the Commission meeting with was that State Parks was to spend the money and get the backlog of maintenance taken care now because they won't be able to come back in ten years and ask for more.

Carroll talked with the OSMB and their current budget is okay. However, the Fuel Tax Survey, which determines how much money they get from ODOT, takes place this year. And with the report from the Corps that Foster and Dexter Reservoirs were the only reservoirs they are guaranteeing to fill this summer, and that the big reservoirs like Detroit were already hurting -- this may mean a lot of boat owners will be parking their boats for the summer, which in turn means a reduction in gas taxes collected. The Corps projections regarding water levels in the Pacific Northwest are leaning toward severe drought conditions this summer.

McLees wanted to bring an item before this Board that was presented at his last Parks Advisory Board meeting that may affect other agencies. A private party gave a presentation on his desire to create a "Low Wake Zone" on the Willamette River about two miles up from Lake Oswego, because of dock damage and erosion from wakes that exceed 12". He has gone to several other agencies asking for letters of support to approach the OSMB to request this change. The Marine Board is not really interested in making this change right now but might be forced to address it at a later time. There are still the issues of enforcement, proving actual damage, etc.

Carroll stated that the AOC now has an Environmental Coordinator on staff that is mostly working with the Roads Dept. but will be monitoring legislation regarding environmental rules and regulations as well as rule making. Carroll mentioned to him some potential issues that could affect parks and the new Coordinator will try to keep him informed as these issues come up, so we have time to respond if necessary.

Lippincott said that there is legislation out there that will change the statutes to allow Indian Tribes to apply for grant money. Rawlins added that it is unlikely that many tribes will apply for this money as the State demands that whatever facilities the grant money is for has to be open to the public.

Carroll added that the Bush Administration has proposed basically eliminating Land and Water Conservation funds, but boosting Ice T or T-21 (?Carroll was unsure of the correct title) funds and potentially loosening up the language for what these funds can be used for.

Winter talked about closing two Lane County parks due to the dam repair on Fern Ridge Reservoir and the potential loss of about \$230,000 in revenues this fiscal year alone. He also described the new Foreclosed Properties Program that allows for foreclosed properties in Lane County being deemed park property and then allowing for the sale of said property with precedes coming back to parks. McLees said they had a similar

program in Clackamas County, but their Sustained Yield Program is a better revenue source for them, yielding them about \$1 million a year in timber revenue.

**Membership Committee** -- Crawford: Crawford was unable to attend the meeting so there was nothing to report.

**Marketing & Networking** – Johnson: Johnson reported that of the 29 counties she sent requests to for text and photos, she had only received six responses back so far. She brought the pages she had received and passed them around the table to give everyone an idea of what we were looking for. The pages don't have to be perfect the first time – they can be updated at any time in the future. Johnson requested text for the legislative issues web pages from Carroll and he said that he was working on it. Johnson asked Preston-Mills if she could get some pictures together from our last OPA Conference as there will be a section on the website for past and future conferences. Johnson said that she wanted the OPA website to go on line as complete as possible, so if everyone could help out by getting this information to her it would be much appreciated.

**Nominations Committee** – Robison: Robison said that two names were submitted to the Board for a vote to fill the vacant Director #2 position – Steve Meshke and Todd Winter. The vote was four to three in Meshke's favor. However, when Robison notified him, Meshke had to decline the position due to his job. He is new to his position at Clatsop County and his current workload would not allow him the time needed to devote to a Board position.

**Motion:** Robison moved that the Board recommend Todd Winter for the vacant Director #2 position, Chambers seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**Conference Committee** – Hutton: Hutton asked what we had spent on Conference speakers in the past – Johnson said that in '03 we spent about \$2,500 and in '04 only about \$300 plus expenses. Johnson added that from what she could see from the Running Y information packet, meals were going to cost a lot more than we've paid in the past so may want to take that into consideration in our planning. Hutton said that Dr. Rick Kirschner, is available to speak at our conference if we want him – and is willing to negotiate his fee. Rawlins also suggested Russell Sadler as a possible speaker. Carroll reminded everyone that at the last meeting we talked about possibly having a training session on the grant application process for new Grant Commission members as well as people applying for grants. Hutton said that the attorney for Jackson County was willing to do a session on contracts, license agreements, special use agreements, etc. For anyone who doesn't already know, the next OPA Conference is scheduled for September 19, 20 and 21 at the Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls.

## **5. Old Business:**

**Director #2 Position** -- Vacant (Dean Guess Resigned). This item was taken care of in the Nominations Committee report above.

Gary Ward Scholarship Sub-Committee – Hutton would like to postpone this sub-committee meeting again until the next meeting in May.

**Motion:** Winter moved that the Gary Ward Scholarship Sub-Committee meeting be moved to the next OPA Board meeting held in Prineville in May. Robison seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Before we moved on to New Business, Johnson wanted to introduce Janelle Geddes, from Metro Regional Parks. It was her first time at an OPA Board meeting and everyone welcomed her and hoped to see her at future meetings.

## **6. New Business:**

OPRD – Marilyn Lippincott: Lippincott distributed everyone's County Opportunity Grant contracts. She also distributed the 2005/06 RV allocation estimates – these estimates will only change if ODF gets RV funds again which would mean about a \$1.2 million reduction in the available funds. If anyone needs to add campsites to their total count, they will need to wait until 2006.

Rawlins added that April 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut-off date for submitting Local Government Grant Program applications. He also said that they were going to sit down and take a good look at their grant programs and look for ways to make the process easier, better, quicker, etc.

Lippincott said that for anyone who knows Sean Loughran, former State Trails Coordinator, is leaving the OPRD to go work for the City of Vancouver.

Lippincott also added that with ORPA combining their 2006 conference with WRPA, and holding it April 24-27, 2006 in Vancouver instead of in the fall as usual, that maybe people would like to attend the NRPA Congress in the fall. The NRPA Congress will be held October 14-17, 2006, in Seattle, Washington. Lippincott is working with Jean Thompson on how to market Oregon State Parks for this Congress.

Real-Time Online Reservation Programs – Carroll has been researching companies who provide real-time online reservation programs. He has two companies that will be coming to his office to do a presentation at the end of April or first of May – anyone wishing to sit in on these presentations is more than welcome. The two companies are Self Service Systems (a fairly new company) and Friend Communications (a more established company with a proven track record). Carroll said that the advantage with Friend Communications, is that there is no program to purchase, they host the site and you pay a certain percentage per transaction, but you still have control over the site. Rawlins asked if there might be a price break if several Counties went in together on a program. Winter mentioned that Lane County Parks tapped \$70,000 from the Transient Room Tax fund to have the County's IS Dept. develop an on-line reservation program for Parks.

**7. Good of the Order:**

Preston-Mills asked whether or not we wanted to keep our Post Office Box in Clackamas as we are mostly getting junk mail. The fee is \$24 a year and she just renewed it for another year. Johnson pointed out that we have been advertising this P.O. Box as the mailing address for OPA and will also be putting it on our website, so we really need to keep it.

**Motion:** Johnson moved that we keep the P.O. Box in Clackamas as the mailing address for OPA. Robison seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Carroll asked whether or not OPA was ever affiliated with NACPRO – may be worth checking into.

Hutton announced that their secretary, Melissa Bench, lost her husband – he was tragically killed in an automobile accident on February 11, 2005. He was killed instantly when an intoxicated teen-age driver with a suspended license ran a red light – going between 90 and 100 mph – ran into him. The driver was killed, one passenger was hospitalized and may never walk again and a third passenger walked away from the accident. The accident is still under investigation. Melissa is back to work part-time and is doing okay. The Charles Bench Memorial Fund has been set up at the Rogue Federal Credit Union in Medford.

**9. Next Meeting:**

Crook County Parks – May 20, 2005

**10. Adjourn:** Winter moved that we adjourn, Robison seconded and the vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Christine A. Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer