



Oregon Parks Association

BOARD & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 20, 2009 – Douglas County Parks, Roseburg

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Chris Wayland at 11:07 a.m. at Douglas County's River Forks Park in Roseburg.

Board Members Present: President – Chris Wayland; Past President – Todd Winter (Lane Co); President Elect – Doreen Ferguson (Josephine Co); Directors – Mike McLees (Clackamas Co), Jim Dowd (Douglas Co); & Secretary/Treasurer – Paula Preston Mills (Clackamas Co)

Board Members Absent: Maureen Crawford (Crook Co)

Members Present: Jeff Powers (Benton Co), Larry Robison (Coos Co), Thomas Gray (Clackamas Co), Rob Stevens (Douglas Co), Brian Carroll & Steve Lambert (Linn Co), Wayne Rawlins (OPRD) and Jeff Smith (OSMB)

Guests Present: Dennis Acton – Douglas County Parks Advisory Board

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chris Wayland initiated roundtable introductions.

Brian Carroll introduced his colleague from Linn County, Steve Lambert, and announced that Steve has accepted the position as Parks Program Manager of Jackson County Parks.

Jim Dowd introduced Dennis Action, Douglas County Parks Advisory Board member and advised that he has been promoted and his new title is Parks & Building Facilities director and is now in charge of all building facilities at Douglas County in addition to his park duties.

A warm welcome was also given to Jeff Powers, Benton County Parks, for his return to OPA after spending several years at Redmond.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from the January 2009 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Todd Winter motioned to approve the January minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jim Dowd and was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Paula Preston Mills distributed copies of the bi-monthly Treasurer's report to the members present for their review.

- 1) The checking beginning balance as of January 1, 2009 was \$12,796.36 with revenues of \$1195.79 in dues and interest. Expenses totaled \$737.00 including a \$733.00 deposit to the Geiser Grand Hotel and checking fees of \$4.00 for January – February. The ending balance as of February 28, 2009 was \$13,255.16.
- 2) The time deposit rolled over on December 4, 2008 and the next maturity date is July 2, 2009 so there has been no activity for this period.

Motion: Todd Winter motioned to approve the January-February 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented. Larry Robison seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Paula Preston Mills reported the sub-committee for the credit card protocols and procedure for cash controls/receipts is moving forward, but has suffered some delays due to work schedules.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative: Mike McLees and Todd Winter reported on the following:

- 1) The committee has been preparing the legislative platform for OPA. They looked at the Oregon Parks & Recreation Association's (ORPA) platform that has basic principles such as maintaining local control regarding parks and recreation service delivery, policy development supporting parks, supporting State Parks, and opposing unfunded mandates.
(www.orpa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=12)

OPA's draft platform has six principles that include [paraphrased]:

- Monitor unfunded mandates on the federal and state level.
- Monitor efforts to eliminate the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Monitor legislation that can negatively impact local government's ability to assess and collect SDC's.
- Work in partnership with OPRD to secure approval for their budget and advocate for maintaining and/or increasing funding to the grants programs.
- Provide support to OSMB to secure approval of their budget and advocate for maintaining and/or increasing MAP funding.
- Initiate efforts towards successful reauthorization of Ballot Measure 66 (2014) for the funding of parks and natural resources, to include an amendment to allocate a percentage of funds to local core providers.

Brian Carroll commented on the Ballot Measure 66 item and the need for language that recognizes local providers without hurting ORPD. He suggested the word amendment be changed to language such as, "This is to include a provision to allocate a percentage of funds to local providers." He said that OPA's goal of supporting the reauthorization of this measure is to recognize that local providers can be funded as well.

Further discussion on the platform and its structure followed. In regards to Measure 66 it was agreed that the primary intent is to provide support to ORPD.

Motion: Paula Preston Mills motioned to approve the 2009 OPA Legislative Platform as presented with the language change from amendment to provision as suggested. The motion was seconded by Doreen Ferguson and carried unanimously.

Todd Winter advised he has the Oregon State results of the general election on how counties had voted on Measure 66.

- 2) Copies of the following House and Senate bills that relate to parks and natural resources were distributed by Todd Winter followed by a brief summary of each bill. (www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/)
 - HB5050 – Limits expenditures of lottery funds by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
 - HB2220 – Establishes Invasive Species Control Account
 - HB5029 – Limits biennial expenditures by OSMB [budget]
 - HB5033 – Limits biennial expenditures by OPRD [budget]
 - HB5049 – Directs OWEB to allocate money...Limits biennial expenditures [budget]
 - HB2628 – Authorizes money available for access and habitat programs
 - SB0861 – Requires State Parks director to enter into contracts with local governments and provide payments

Todd had additional comments on HB2984 regarding OSMB/OSP inspection check points for invasive species. He said that HB2984 does not allow for a fine, that it had been pulled temporarily, but HB2583 was introduced and has a provision for the law as it prohibits a person from launching a boat under certain circumstances and includes a fine. These are companion bills to HB2220.

There was further discussion on this topic and how to handle removal of invasive species at the park level and/or in the parks.

Mike McLees asked where in HB5033 the maintenance backlog is covered. Wayne Rawlins clarified this by referring to Section 1 #5 Facility repair and maintenance; Section 2 #6 Facility repair; and Section 3 #4 Facility repair and maintenance. He cited the Facilities and Investment Program also as a part of this. Wayne added that a letter of support for HB5033 from OPA to Senator Vicky Walker and Representative Bob Jenson regarding OPRD's budget would be appreciated. He also suggested a letter for OSMB as well. Chris Wayland volunteered to draft a letter for review by Mike and Todd Winter supporting both the OPRD and OSMB budgets.

- 3) Todd also spoke about the bottle bill HB2184, SDC's HB2865, recorded doc's HB2436, and HB2982 lottery bonds for transportation projects for non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians. Brian Carroll talked about a two bills from Labor regarding unionizing of seasonal employees and changing the definition/designation of a supervisor – to mean only people who have the ability to hire and fire. He said decisions like this could be detrimental to county parks operations.
- 4) Larry Robison asked whether the vehicle registration and title fees increased and if it included RV's. Most had heard that the increase was going to be across the board.
- 5) There was a brief discussion of SB681 regarding the use of Measure 66 funds to dredge the Willamette River.
- 6) Paula Preston Mills distributed copies of the current Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) No Child Left Inside (NOCLI) information on their current legislative efforts to gain funding for their program. Mike McLees advised that HB2544 that establishes the Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force allows \$50,000 for startup money and a feasibility study for future funding was introduced in the legislature.
- 7) A brief discussion was held on SB926 requiring State Parks to construct velodromes in northern and southern Oregon.

Membership: Paula Preston Mills advised that transcribing the OPA Constitution is the last item to be completed for the packets. This will allow for all items to be available in one format and for use online.

Paula also gave an update on the membership dues received to date, including those received from Wasco and Tillamook counties. She also advised she had received an application with a check from the City of Happy Valley (Clackamas Co). Since this seemed unusual she contacted the Parks/Public Works Director, Chris Randall, for clarification and was assured that the city does want to be a member of OPA.

Marketing: Paula Preston Mills said Sandy Hinneberg (Clackamas Co) reported that she and Loralyn Spiro (Lane Co) are making progress on the online brochure. They have been facing additional setbacks related to last year's shut down (worm) and firewall issues. Paula distributed a second draft that Sandy had developed that incorporates suggestions received at the Annual Meeting in September such as major state highways. She noted Sandy had been unable to find a viable state-wide county map, including highways, and had created the one for the brochure from scratch in her illustrating program.

Todd Winter gave an update on the "worm" issue from 2008 that resulted in the OPA website being shut down frequently over a period of several months. He said several firewalls were put in place with

passwords that have resulted in other access issues relating to site editing and additional required training for Loralyn. Also, other “bugs” were detected that had to be dealt with, but now this project is moving along and should be going live soon.

After review of the draft the following comments and/or suggestions were made:

- 1) Jim Dowd noted a correction needed to be made to the OSMB information.
- 2) Todd Winter said the Lane County website address needed to be changed from the listed e-commerce site for reservations payments to the general parks site www.lanecounty.org/parks.
- 3) A discussion of the designating colors, member vs. non-member counties, was initiated by Jim Dowd and Todd Winter. Todd suggested that OPA verify whether the current non-member counties have developed parks systems (ex: Harney and Malhuer) and if so determine if not being a member of OPA is by choice or inability due to economic issues. He said those affected by funding/no developed system should not be singled out and an alternative can be used that puts a positive spin on their designation. Mike McLees said if the non-member counties do not have a developed park system, but have State Parks located in them – OPRD being a member – then they should be designated/listed as having member parks. There was a consensus that this would be followed up on and alternatives sought.
- 4) Paula Preston Mills noted that Sherman County is a member and the color should be changed to green.

Brian Carroll commented that he had visited another Linn County site attached to an Iowa state-wide county website. He said it is a well structured site with detailed information and presents itself highly as a marketing tool. You can visit the website at www.mycountyparks.com.

Doreen Ferguson said she had contacted Ralph Bowman, from Bowman Productions in Grants Pass, for information on developing an OPA video of member parks for a marketing tool; to invite people to explore locally and remind them of the beautiful places in their own community. She said this company recently made a 9-minute video for Josephine County that is currently viewed on local television with copies given out in county newcomer packets. Doreen added that Bowman could work with individual counties who wanted to participate and have individual videos made, then take clips from each for an OPA video, or compile clips together from county sources. She brought a copy of the Josephine County video view.

Nominations: Nominations for the vacant Director’s position will not be taken until summer for the Annual Meeting elections.

Annual Meeting & Training: Paula Preston Mills reported that Maureen Crawford had sent for and received information on Baker City and Baker County attractions to review for the Annual Meeting and associated activities.

Mike McLees suggested looking into a session topic on management principles. The committee is still accepting other suggestions for session topics and speakers. Please forward your ideas to Maureen or Paula.

Paula Preston Mills advised that Joel Weintraub had been contracted as a keynote speaker and that he opted to make his own travel reservations. The cost is estimated at \$1600.00 plus travel with payment options of a 50% now/50% plus travel in September, or \$1500 (\$100 discount) now plus travel in September. A brief discussion of the contract, which needs to include a cancellation clause and the payment options followed.

Motion: Todd Winter motioned that OPA pay Joel Weintraub a 50% deposit with an additional provision for cancellation added to the contract.

The motion was seconded by Mike McLees and carried unanimously.

A reminder will be sent out by Paula to the membership that Geiser Grand Hotel reservations must be made and first night paid by April 30th to hold your room for the OPA Annual Meeting. The government rate does not apply to all rooms so book early. All the hotel rooms are under the OPA block until April 30, 2009. After that date rooms not taken will be released and OPA will not have the exclusive use of the hotel.

A facility preview trip has been scheduled for Thursday, April 30th at Baker City for committee members who are able to make it. This will be a time to meet and make decisions/finalize the event details and sessions.

Gary Ward Scholarship: Chris Wayland advised a detailed report will be available at the May meeting on this scholarship. Paula Preston Mills advised that as of July 1 the fund will roll over, for the second time, and there will be a total of three \$400 scholarships available. These funds are designated for training, Annual Meeting registrations and other related items.

OLD BUSINESS

MAP Formula Change: Todd Winter reported the membership previously had agreed to formalize a letter to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) requesting a reevaluation of their Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) and an allocations review in regards to the funding formula and reimbursements, specifically for parks that have day use fees. A draft has been completed and Todd read parts of the document specific to reductions of MAP funds for day use fees charged over \$3.00.

It reads in part as follows: *Now more than ever revenue sharing programs, such as the Maintenance Assistance Program through OSMB, provide critical funds that sustain maintenance improvements to motorized boating facilities that we provide to the public. Agencies that have been forced to find alternative funding sources to maintain these facilities, specifically user parking fees, have experienced withdraw of funding from other sources due to the implementation of these fees. When these funds or replacement dollars have not increased funding, reduction of other revenues only further diminish our ability to maintain current service levels at these facilities.*

Suggestions were made to include language relating to the cost of living, c.p.i., and/or inflation; and to clarify this is a request for an adjustment to rates set in the early 1990's to this program.

Todd reminded that the letter is a tool for opening the door for a conversation with OSMB on this issue.

Motion: Paula Preston Mills motioned for the letter to be reviewed by the Board
The motion was seconded by Jim Dowd and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB): Jeff Smith reported on the following:

- 1) The budget presentation has been made to the Legislature and was designed to maintain current service levels. It has gone to work session with the Natural Resources Sub-Committee.
- 2) Boat renewals are still low and this trend is being monitored. Ultimately this can result in a decrease of grant funds being available.
- 3) Round 1 fund availability is expected to be about \$3 million with a potential of another \$1.5 million from Sport Fish Restoration. Staff has sent out approximately 37 conceptual designs and cost estimates totaling about \$7 million in construction dollars. Round 1 appears to be a 2/1 ratio vs. dollars requested. Fuel taxes can affect funding also. April 3rd is the deadline for Round 1.

- 4) The next Board meeting is April 9th and will review and/or pre-approve selected Round 1 projects that are ready to go and not requiring permits for in-water work.
- 5) Non-OSMB sponsored boating related concepts in the Legislature include:
 - HB2079 – Required use of personal floatation devices (PFD's) on section of water rated at Class III or higher. It passed at the House and has gone on to the Senate. A list of Class III rivers was previously sent out to the membership.
 - SB475 (late bill) – Introduced to eliminate mandatory boating safety programs. This was referred to the Education Committee.
 - HB3447 – Establishes a non-motorized boat permit system. Was sponsored / introduced by the Committee on Rules and then referred to Transportation.
 - HB2583 – Prohibits boat launching into the waters of the State if a boat, trailer or any other device has visible aquatic species detrimental to wildlife. This bill was introduced to allow for probable cause contacts and was referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities.
 - HB2984 – Authorizes Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to require person transporting watercraft to stop at checkpoints and to inspect boats for aquatic invasive species. It was introduced and referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources. It is also non-funded.

6) Round 2 is expected to commence in winter of 2010.

Wayne Rawlins asked whether grants would be available for boat cleaning stations. Jeff said this question has been asked, however he does not have an answer at this time. He said that there are several issues involved when dealing with weeds and invasive species, including liability issues.

Todd Winter commented on education and compliance. He said there is a need for ready information to be available to new boat owners and for facility providers to have on hand for those pulling out.

Todd also asked about the reclassification of salmon bearing streams and rivers, but there seems to be no information available on this at this time.

Mike McLees said the Legislature in HB 3323 is restricting guides, especially in Southern Oregon and on the Rogue River. It requires guides to pay \$500/year plus additional fees for each zone for limited entry to fish on the rivers of Oregon. It's uncertain where the guide fees will go.

Jim Dowd said Douglas County has been looking into charging commercial guides to use their facilities since they are operating a business. He asked if any other county agencies charged fees to professional river guides to use their boat launch/facilities. Todd Winter advised that Lane County is in the process of doing a feasibility study on charging guides in the McKenzie Corridor. Mike McLees said the Deschutes River has been limited entry for some time.

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD): Wayne Rawlins advised on the following:

- 1) The Recreational Trails Program conducted grant hearings and received \$2.4 million in grant requests with a total of 43 applications and \$1.8 million for distribution to 21 applicants.
- 2) Budget hearings have begun and discussions have started on HB5033. Public testimony will be Thursday, March 26th. Revenues for lottery dollars and RV funds are down and a fee increase has been requested for campgrounds.

- 3) SB578 – Creates a task force for ATV Safety in regards to Class I-III vehicles and educational requirements. The vehicle classes are:
 - Class I = Quads / other similar ATV's
 - Class II = 4-wheel drives, dune buggies / sand rails
 - Class III = Off road motorcycles
- 4) SB579 & 573 – Requires restraints in side by side ATV's and helmets.
- 5) Mandatory online ATV safety training went into effect on January for ages 16 and under. 22,000 people have taken and passed the training to date. Training age groups will ramp up over the next few years.
- 6) Veteran's War Memorial is hoping for \$250,000 in funds, but possibly only getting \$150,000.
- 7) Land & Water is still dealing with federal issues and OPRD is looking to receive about \$350,000.
- 8) Local Government Grant funding is decreasing from \$15.9 million down to about \$9.9 million for the next biennium with 70% given out in the first year. This is due to a decrease in lottery funds.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 1) As previously mentioned under Nominations there is a vacancy for Director, however Mike McLees pointed out that the website needs to be changed to reflect this vacancy. Paula Preston Mills said that information had already been given to Loralyn Spiro.
- 2) Mike McLees also mentioned that is time to acquire new OPA shirts with the new logo adopted two years ago. Chris Wayland suggested that vendors should be sought and a link be set up under the Members Only tab so orders could be taken. Paula Preston Mills advised that the Annual Meeting Committee has briefly discussed this too and she would look into vendors, get the costs and report back to the membership.
- 3) Clackamas County Parks & Forest entered into a partnership and joint project with ODFW and the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation by providing space for 20 x 80 foot acclimation tank on Clear Creek, near the Clackamas River, at Carver Park. Mike McLees said they recently brought the first batch of 70,000 Chinook smolt into the tank where they will stay for three weeks before being released to the river. He said the fish will then come back and stay in the area when mature. Mike said this is a very good opportunity to increase sport fishing in an area and number of fish in local rivers. It also allows for an educational component, especially with children, where ODFW will come and talk about salmonids or watershed councils can talk about clean waters.
- 4) Doreen Ferguson presented the Josephine County Parks cd/video made by Bowman Productions that is being used for their parks promotion. It was very well received due in part to its focused content, scenic locations, advanced videography, and of course the knowledgeable narrator (Doreen).
<http://fr.truveo.com/Josephine-County-Parks/id/1209586703> or
<http://revver.com/video/1128130/josephine-county-parks/>
- 5) Jim Dowd asked about whether a letter to the Rules Committee regarding percentage changes to the 50/50 grant matches was in progress for those counties in economic hardship. He would like to add this to the May agenda for discussion. Todd Winter advised that OSMB was taking this issue into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for May 15th in Prineville.

Minutes Recorded & Transcribed by Paula Preston Mills