



Oregon Parks Association

BOARD & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 15, 2009 – Crook Co. Parks, Prineville

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Chris Wayland at 11:10 a.m. at Crook County's Juniper Art Guild building in Prineville.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Members Present: Karen Spencer (Baker Co), Thomas Gray (Clackamas Co), Duane Garner (Crook Co), Judy Ferrell (Lane Co), Brian Carroll (Linn Co), Marilyn Lippincott (OPRD)

Guests Present: Joe Floyd of Joe Floyd & Sons

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chris Wayland initiated roundtable introductions. There were no announcements.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from the March 2009 meeting were reviewed. Doreen Ferguson had a question regarding the MAP funds and the break in assessed parking fees where assistance funds would be decreased. Jim Dowd, Chris Wayland, and Todd Winter advised that parking fees of \$2 (up to \$2.99) is the limit; fees above that amount are decreased by 25% for the \$3.00 range and 50% for the \$4.00 range. At \$5.00 no MAP funds are given. However, Todd added that if parking fees are waived for licensed boats to launch then full MAP funding is received. Mike McLees concurred with this statement.

Motion: Todd Winter motioned to approve the March minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mike McLees and carried unanimously.

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

- 1) It was noted the beginning date (January 1) on the copies distributed was incorrect. It should read March 1.
- 2) The checking beginning balance as of March 1, 2009 was \$13,255.15 with revenues of \$1000.63 in dues and interest. Expenses totaled \$4.00 for checking fees in March-April. The ending balance as of April 30, 2009 was \$14,251.78.
- 3) 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. The current balance is \$11,572.22.
- 4) There has been no further sub-committee progress on the credit card protocols and procedure for cash controls/receipts.
- 5) The required IRS E-Postcard [Form 990N] for reporting revenues under \$25,000 was submitted and accepted on May 6th. This form/method is used to report OPA's financial status for CY 2008.

Motion: Todd Winter motioned to approve the March-April 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented with the correction to the beginning date. The motion was seconded by Doreen Ferguson and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative: Mike McLees handed out legislative packets, with backup, to those present on the current issues that OPA members may be affected by. He said some of the bills go through extensive committee and hearing, such as HB 2184 [Bottle Bill] Mike and Todd Winter also summarized the following:

- 1) A bill allowing honorably discharged service persons to carry concealed weapons without a permit. This can be a concern to parks management.
- 2) A bill that proposes to fund Willamette River upkeep via Ballot Measure 66 dollars (lottery).
- 3) A Willamette Valley Recreation Providers Inter-Agency Meeting (Todd) where the discussion revolved around the invasive species removal issues & voluntary mitigation.

Doreen Ferguson commented on the invasive species issue and asked Jim Dowd about his mobile stations and how they are working. Jim advised that he didn't know how they are working as no infestations have been found yet. Doreen said that Sam Chan from OSU is an excellent resource on invasive species and when his schedule allows is more than willing to come and lecture.

Membership: Doreen Ferguson advised that OPA has 33 members including the newest additions of Wasco Co. and the City of Happy Valley. Of these members 20 have outstanding dues for 2009. She will be writing a "gentle" reminder letter regarding the dues and how OPA support is of value. She will also acknowledge the current economic times being faced by most agencies and asking for input or contact if special circumstances are needed.

Marilyn Lippincott asked if new members get pro-rated dues if joining OPA mid year. Paula Preston Mills said dues are based on the calendar year and this has not been done in the past. It would be difficult from a recordkeeping/maintenance standpoint, but could be done if all agreed.

Marketing: Todd Winter reported that our webmaster, Chris Ashburn from Design Works, is ready to do an update, but is still waiting for information from Marion County. He also said that Loralyn Spiro has had an inability to access the site to do updates since the worm nearly a year ago [July 2008] due to the firewalls at Lane County. This issue is being resolved.

Per Mike McLees and Paula Preston Mills: Sandy Hinneberg from Clackamas County would benefit from access to the website to continue with the online brochure project and/or to provide backup to Loralyn. Chris Wayland approved of the additional access, pending Sandy's approval.

Paula Preston Mills requested approval to purchase new folders for the membership/marketing packets with the new logo on them. She also advised the packet contents have all been updated and are available electronically so also could be placed on the website when time allows.

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 advised the Committee went to Baker City for a preview trip May 13-14. Karen Spencer from Baker County Parks hosted a tour to several local facilities such as Geiser Pollman Park, Chamber of Commerce, Carnegie Art Center, and Quail Ridge Golf Course. The tour was followed up with a meeting at the Geiser Grand and the event coordinator to finalize details for OPA's stay.

All sessions will be held at the hotel with the Monday evening event at Geiser Pollman Park and the awards banquet being held at the Carnegie Art Center on Tuesday (catered by the Geiser Grand). Karen Spencer reported that she has confirmed the Monday night barbeque at the city park catered by Warnock's, a well respected ranching family in the area. She also said that Baker County

Commissioner Fred Warner will give the welcome and Colton Carriage will provide transportation from the hotel via a horse drawn wagon.

The Committee is still short one session and Karen is looking into one exploring volunteer partnerships.

Paula said the Committee should have the costs of the Annual Meeting narrowed down by the next meeting and also have a flyer and registration available as well. The theme for this year is "Saddle Up, Cinch Down...Riding to Recovery".

Gary Ward Scholarship: Chris Wayland said he is in the process of reviewing and updating the application, including a revision for the d2009. There is currently \$800 available with an additional \$400 being added July 1. He will work with Karen Spencer and Maureen Crawford to complete this task so the grant opportunity will be available for the Annual Meeting & Training.

Mike McLees asked Marilyn Lippincott if she could check to see if OPRD was going to have park ranger training this year. Marilyn agreed to follow up on his request.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Match Funding: Jim Dowd commented that the economic times have left his county, and probably others, short for 50/50 match money on grants. He's concerned about maintaining facilities and being unable to qualify for grants without having matching funds. In regards to OPRD grants Jim asked if this issue was being evaluated. Marilyn Lippincott they recently changed the match requirements for the Local Government Grant, but the County Opportunity Grant program match has not been looked at.

Todd Winter said that OSMB is open to negotiating grant matches and is allowing "soft match" in some cases.

Mike McLees commented that OPA needs to look at other ideas and/or mechanisms for funding matches.

Marilyn Lippincott stated that if OPA wants to consider changing the match requirements the Administrative Rules would have to be opened and go to rule making, which leaves it open for public review.

Brian Carroll asked if Tim Wood, the Director of OPRD, had the ability to reduce or suspend the match requirement in tough economic times. Marilyn Lippincott said that in the Land & Water Grant program there is a clause at the end of the Administrative Rules where the Director can change the rule in an emergency; however she was no aware of any clauses relating to the other grants. She said would research this issue.

Doreen Ferguson said that under ORS 275 parks can financially benefit from tax foreclosed properties designated to them. She said Josephine County uses this money for their match on capital improvement projects/expenditures and highly recommends any agencies not receiving this money to seek local support for a program.

River Guide Fees: Jim Dowd asked if anyone charged commercial operator/guide fees to launch. Doreen Ferguson said Josephine County charges professional guides \$25 for an annual pass, which they are looking to increase. She said they send out annual postcards to over 200 local guides and issue non-compliance notices when necessary. Todd Winter commented that Lane County is in the process of doing a feasibility study for permits; and Mike McLees said there is a bill in the legislature to charge guides an additional amount, above the base amount, to fish in certain zones in the state.

NEW BUSINESS

Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB): Chris Wayland read an email report sent by Jeff Smith who was unable to attend the meeting. The report summary is as follows:

- 1) The Marine Board budget passed the House 56/2 and the Senate 28/2 and has been signed by Speaker and President and awaits the Governor's signature.
- 2) Round 1 funding – nearly \$12 million in grants requests were received. Available funding is about \$5.6 million - \$3.8 million from the State, \$1.5 million from SFR and \$300,000 from other federal funds. There were a number of good projects submitted and in order to accommodate as many as possible some of them were either modified in scope or broken out into phases for future construction. The Board conditionally approved working projects at the April meeting with the expectation that these projects would be ready for construction by July 1. In addition to the 14 pre-approved projects, staff has recommended an additional 25 projects to the Board for approval.
- 3) Non-OSMB sponsored boating related Legislature updates 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 Senate and is awaiting signature from the Governor. 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 and there has been no further action on this since February 13.
 - HB3447 – Establishes a non-motorized boat permit system. Was sponsored / introduced by the Committee on Rules and then referred to Transportation where there has been no further action.
 - 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. This bill has passed the House and had a reading, public hearing, and work session in the Senate and is expected to pass.
 - 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. There has been no further action since referral on March 10.
 - HB2220 – Authorizes Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to require person transporting recreational or commercial watercraft to stop at check stations for inspection of watercraft for presence of aquatic invasive species. This has been heavily amended following public hearing and a work session as follows:
 - a) Removes the requirement to stop at check points essentially making it a voluntary action
 - b) Removes the criminal act of avoiding check points.
 - c) Imposes civil penalties for knowingly transporting aquatic invasive species on or in watercraft, but with several exceptions.This bill was recommended to pass with amendments and on April 27; was referred to Ways & Means and assigned to sub-committee and Natural Resources on May 4.

HB3323 – Oregon Limited Entry Fishing Guide Program has no further action since referral to Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Communities on March 16.

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD): Chris Wayland read a letter from Tim Wood expressing appreciation and thanking OPA for the letter of support to the Legislature regarding OPRD's biennial budget. Brian Carroll also represented OPA at the Legislature and testified in support of OPRD.

Marilyn Lippincott reported on the following:

- 1) The Recreational Trails Program – 21 applications are being approved by the Commission on May 21. All applications are at Federal Highway for review with expected approval by July 1.
- 2) RV certifications are due by July 1.
- 3) National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) emailed that the President's budget on land and water is looking at an increase from \$30 million to \$40 million a year, although nothing has been done on that budget yet. Oregon may possibly receive about \$500,000.
- 4) County Opportunity Grant Program – Revenues from RV fees are down slightly from previous years. The next grant cycle is in September.
- 5) National Association of Resource Recreation Planners (NARRP) – Recognized Oregon's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as one of the top four in the nation thanks to Terry Bergerson from OPRD

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1) Brian Carroll commented on the bill in the legislature regarding unions and the definition of a supervisor as being one with hiring and firing authority. Linn County has testified against that bill as their interpretation is the only hiring and firing authority comes from elected officials. The bill is moving forward, however it appears to be focusing on law enforcement and may be modified as it currently targets all public employees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. followed by a tour of the Joe Floyd & Sons facilities where they make custom concrete fixtures (ex: building walls) for use in parks and other public areas.

The next OPA meeting is scheduled for July 17 in Astoria.

Minutes Recorded & Transcribed by Paula Preston Mills