



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
800-334-6946

MISSOURI STATE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2009
THE ELMS HOTEL, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS MISSOURI

Attendees: Max Nall, Beth Buckrucker, Chris Engler, Wayne Morton, Bryan Berlin, Doug Eiken, Wynonna McClammer, Dan Paige, Ellen Davenport, Dan Files, Kevin Bolling, Kris Purcell, Daniel Brigman, Charles Hesse, Jim Rehard, Steve Sitton, Steve Wilson

Call to Order	Chairman Nall called the meeting to order. A roll call was conducted. Ed Martin, Penny Williams, Larry Russell and Jerry Hollingsworth were absent. Visitors introduced themselves.	A quorum was established.
Approval of January meeting minutes	Elizabeth Buckrucker made the motion to approve the January 15 meeting minutes. Wayne Morton seconded the motion.	Motion carried.
Remarks – Chairman Nall	Chairman Nall commented on yesterday’s tour, complimenting staff on a job well done. The interpreters were very informative and helpful. They spoke about the curatorial facility at Watkins Mill and how well it is kept. Specialists are needed to run curatorial facilities. Director Eiken mentioned that Watkins Mill has a wonderful volunteer system.	FYI
Division Report – Director Eiken	The budget is coming in at 7.5% less than last year. We are talking about an 8 to 10 million dollar shortfall. We are looking at different options as to how to cope with this shortage of funds. We estimate that the shortfall will last 2 years and need to make decisions accordingly. We would defer projects for two years, or take 20% across the board for 2 years. This would mean shortening the work week, cutting back on work hours and seasonal employees. Another option is to close facilities, consolidate and maintain as much as possible. But this could be detrimental to the surrounding areas. They are dependent upon us for their business’s livelihood. The Legislature does not favor using any stimulus money for state parks. Dan Paige said that we cut facility and program budgets 15% to get us through to July 1. We are looking how to save operationally dollars. We are asking facilities to	FYI

	<p>submit to us different scenarios of shortening visitor center hours. We are asking them how much money would be saved if we did this. They are to report back to us by Monday. We are looking at all kinds of strategies to save money. Our annual budget meeting is next week, making plans on how to deal with funding shortage next year. We are trying not to cut staff. Director Eiken said that we need to look at where we want to be two years from now. We have to be able to protect our resources and need staff there to do so. If we did need to close down a facility, we would still need to keep it up. We don't want to spend a lot of money when we reopen it because it wasn't maintained. We also need to make sure that tourism parks are still operating.</p> <p>Wayne Morton commented that there are things that still need to be done or else in the future it would be expensive to fix.</p> <p>Wynonna McClammer is gathering information for the group camps. She said that there is also a delicate balance with the concessionaires when we analyze and make plans for facilities, we don't want to have a detrimental impact on their businesses. Chris Engler said that we need to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. There could be proposed ideas concerning increase of revenues that have not been thought of. Director Eiken said that we have a fee comparability bench mark and we may need to look at this and at entrance fees. If we are too high people will go somewhere else. It also costs money to collect the money. Cuivre River State Park has 7 separate entrances. Wayne suggested tags for horseback riders to buy when they ride in a state park. Beth suggested an annual tag. Doug said we are looking at all of these types of things. We also need to look at administrative fees. Wayne said that he sees an excess of mowing in state parks. Doug said input is important to the administration and we will discuss these things with them. Beth asked about surveying people who receive newsletters and see what their preferences are. Doug said that whatever we do has to be communicated to the public and that this is a good idea. Beth asked about what other states are doing. Doug said they don't favor closing parks. We have to work things out instead of mothballing state parks. Legislature doesn't understand the magnitude of the shortfall that we have. They think</p>	
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	<p>we are Department of Conservation and we can handle the shortfall. Beth asked if would help for the board to make a resolution. Chris said they are not supportive of funding programs that would be started with stimulus money but then would not be able to support. Beth said we should look at maintenance projects. Doug said that the hope is that 2 years from now the sales tax will be in positive growth and we can sustain these projects. We could get help from legislature for Capital Improvements. Representative Kelly passed a resolution for Higher Education to incorporate 10% for state Parks funding. We prepared a list of projects for MPA and they sent it to different legislators. Maintenance issues could be addressed in this bond. The list was discussed; MPA’s goal is to get funding for 10% of the list. Chis Engler asked if there would be assistance with these projects. Doug said yes, when a match is needed there is some assistance. This list is just what the need is.</p> <p>MPA Report – Director Eiken No one from Missouri Parks Association was in attendance. A copy of HJR 32 was passed out to the Board. Doug said that MPA is asking for senate leadership to include state parks in the bond. DNR is appealing the decision on MPA’s CAFO lawsuit.</p> <p>MPA is also involved with the relicensing of the Taum Sauk reservoir. They want to see that Church Mountain is protected in the future. They are encouraging the Attorney General’s Office and the Department to stop the Shannon County’s illegal road building at Current River State Park. MPA also wants to be involved in the hiring of the new Division Director.</p> <p>State Park Foundation – Director Eiken No one from the Foundation was present. The Foundation is working on the Katy Ride, which they and State Parks partner. They are also finalizing plans for the bike lane to be built on the Jefferson City bridge. It is planned to be opened in 2010. They are also forming a fundraising committee for Island Mound and another for a program at Babler State Park geared toward inner-city youth.</p>	
Old Business	Gas prices are down, camping is up but we don’t know if it is going to continue. Dan Paige said reservation numbers are up. The reservation system takes in money for camping and sends to us weekly. We had our first	FYI

\$100,000 week. But with the rainy weekends we have had, we will see a decrease. Charles Hesse said whenever the economy is poor camping numbers go up. There is a 48 hour cancellation option in the reservation system that includes a fee.

Taum Sauk Settlement Update – Dan Paige
Johnson’s Shut-Ins opening – We met Monday with MacTec and Ameren. We will open the swimming area on Memorial Weekend. Hopefully there will be a lot of picnicking along the river. MacTec has until June 15 to complete. A diver will come in to look for debris in the shut-ins. Water flow needs to get to 20cfs before he can go in. This will take about 1 to 2 days. Orientation Center is being worked on and is coming together with a lot of coordination. Up to 100 people are working on site every day. Mac Tec employees are working seven 12’s to get done by June 15. We are looking at quality assurance issues. Ameren holds the contract with MacTec. The name of the center will be the Black River Center. We are trying to create an area information center for the community where information will be available for surrounding businesses. There will also be a community room that can be reserved for meetings and will be available for public use to rent. We are trying to bridge the gap between us and the local community. An analysis of businesses within 30 miles of JSI was done. There are 10 campgrounds within that area. We will have their brochures available. Doug invited the Board to the opening. We have a lot of work to do once the park is completed before it is open. Doug said a book needs to be written about JSI from the time it happened to the rebuilding of the park. Once it all comes together it is going to be a terrific park.

Current River State Park – We have 2 people hired, but have 4 expansion positions. We have hired a maintenance person and a facility manager. We are waiting to fill the other two. Plans are all completed. We now need to deal with the water/wastewater systems. We have to determine if we should do this internally or contract out.

Doug passed out copy of the letter from the Attorney General’s Office to the Shannon County Commission addressing the illegal road issue at Current River State Park, removing our entrance gate and also another illegal

	<p>road issue at Roger Pryor Backcountry. We are seeing how this plays out, the AGO is now handling this. Division of Environmental Quality is issuing enforcement actions against Shannon County concerning a creek going into Roger Pryor.</p> <p>Rock Island – we have a preliminary survey of the property. We know who owns the adjacent property to the trail. This area is hilly, there are wet lands. Our design incorporates all of these complexities. We are 30% done on the design. We are going to start clearing trees, pathway cleared, test soil samples. Target is to have first phase done in 18 months. We are pushing for permits to get this first section built. This money is earmarked in the settlement; concern is we need to show progress on this. We have to have the money expended in three years. Beth Buckrucker asked what would happen if the railroad was to reopen. Doug said that it would not interfere with the trail.</p> <p>Curatorial facility meeting – Director Eiken met with Senator Nodler in January concerning a project to restore the Capitol Building as this would affect the curations stored in the basement. The executive branch needs to be aware of the magnitude of the curatorial needs. There was also the issue of the Governor’s office furniture that has been in storage.</p> <p>In March there was a meeting with Gary Kremer, director of the State Historical Society, John Dougan, State Archives, Jeff Schaeperkoetter, Office of Administration, Max Nall and DNR staff. Gary Kremer has proposed that the legislature give approval to use stimulus money to the Historical Society to build a curation facility. If we were to store our curation items there, it would be located in Columbia and 2 more stories would be added onto that building. Secretary of State’s office offered that we could store our most critical artifacts in their building temporarily. Chairman Nall said that his impression was that if we stored our artifacts in the same building as the Historical Society’s that they would be in control. Historical Society is different from us as they curate paper where we curate textiles, so the needs are different. Storage in the Secretary of State archives would be better than where they are now but does not give us exactly what is needed.</p>	
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	<p>Beth Buckrucker read a letter that she and Chairman Nall drafted. This letter reminds legislators of the needs needs/requirements for a new curation facility. Beth also reviewed the history of the resolution and previous letters sent out to the legislators.</p> <p>Beth Buckrucker made the motion to approve this letter and be sent specifically to Senator Nodler and Representative Icet and then to the rest of the General Assembly. Wayne Morton seconded the motion.</p> <p>Director Eiken commented that the best thing to do at this point to contact your Senators and Representatives. They will listen to their constituents.</p> <p>Land Acquisitions – We meet twice a year to discuss land acquisitions, specifically land adjacent to our state parks and sites. All sites have a conceptual development plan and have areas designated for future acquisition. We analyze each property and determine the value of it. Some of these properties may never become available.</p> <p>Legislative Update HB250 - Horse & Mule Bill This bill has been dealt with for the last 2 years. We are trying to come up with workable language. The intent of this bill was to ensure that trails that exist for horses were never closed. But the way its written is that it includes access to designated and undesignated trails if horses were allowed in the park in the first place. So we asked to change the language. We don't like the idea of the legislature managing resource management. We could manage it so that horse trails in state parks would never be less than what it is now. The first sentence of the bill reads to have lawful authority to ride public lands. People will interpret that they can have access to any trail in the state park. Doug would like to convey a letter from the Board in an upcoming hearing. Previously we were not allowed to oppose this bill but that is changed. We can now oppose the existing language. Doug asked the Board if they would like to take a position on this. Beth Buckrucker said that she opposes the language in the bill and that it would not be in the best interest of state parks.</p> <p>The State Park Advisory Board introduced a resolution to oppose HB250 as it is written and recommends that the</p>	<p>Motion carried.</p>
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	<p>Department of Natural Resources shares those concerns and offers alternative language should the bill move forward.</p> <p>Beth Buckrucker made the motion to approve this resolution. Wayne Morton seconded the motion. SPAB opposes HB250 as written and would recommend that the dept shares those concern and offer alternative language should the bill move forward.</p> <p>Director Eiken said that we will speak to the Senate about how proactive the Department is with equestrians and building trails. We are building an equestrian trail at the Johnson’s Shut-Ins.</p> <p>HB205 – Boards and Commission bill was introduced again this year. It has had a hearing and did not pass out of committee.</p> <p>HB192 – Independence tax holiday bill. It was perfected and passed out of the house. This bill tax exempts goods purchased from July 1 to July 31. Cities and counties would have to opt in to participate. This could cost us as much as \$4 million. Representative Sutherland introduced this bill.</p> <p>Director Eiken said that when general revenue was taken away the parks and soils sales tax purpose changed from enhancing the operation of the parks to supporting the parks. This was not the original intent of the tax.</p>	<p>Motion carried.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>Bryan Berlin asked about a newspaper editorial on proposed idea on Truman Home becoming a National Park Service site. Doug said that city management is frustrated because improvement to the site hasn’t moved as fast as what they would like. We feel like we are making progress. The development of the site will help tourism in their town. The city asked Congressman Skelton to conduct a study. He is interested in the site. Doug said that at some point during the study the Advisory Board may want to take a position. You need to take an objective look at sites that NPS has taken over and compare to state sites and then make your decision as to whether or not you want to support this. All of the pieces make the whole of the state park system. If we are going to give away pieces don’t give away the best. Next thing you know we will be selling our state parks. We have to be careful about getting caught up in money</p>	<p>FYI</p>

	<p>issue when dealing with parks.</p> <p>Katy Ride – Doug invited the Board at attend the Katy ride or meet the riders one evening for dinner. This will start on Father’s day. A brochure will be sent to the Advisory Board.</p> <p>Johnson’s Shut-Ins – Doug invited the Board to the opening of the park.</p>	FYI
Future Meetings	<p>July 16 & 17 – Missouri Mines and St. Joe October – Date to be determines – Johnson’s Shut-Ins</p>	FYI
Director’s Comments	<p>This is Director Eiken’s last meeting with the Advisory Board before he retires from the Division of State Parks. Director Eiken</p> <p>The thing that has made state parks is the staff at these parks and sites. This has been a pleasure for me. He is leaving on June 1 but leaving the park system to good staff in their capable hands. New ideas with a different perspective are always good. He is confident that his replacement will be a good one. He has been very pleased with this current Board. He is very appreciative of the Board’s interest and dedication. A major issue is educating the legislators about the state park system. When Doug went to the park committee to hear the horse bill, there were only two people that use the parks. They listen to their colleagues and their point of view. Someone needs to make a commitment to educate them. They are gone before we know it because of the term limits. Constituents and grassroots people need to connect with them to educate them. The Department has a lobbyist but he does not encompass this Division.</p> <p>Beth Buckrucker said that it has been a pleasure working with Doug and his staff. She commended Doug and staff and with their commitment to the state parks. Chairman Nall said that it has been a pleasure working with Doug and appreciates Doug educating him on the park system.</p>	FYI
	Meeting Adjourned	