



Meeting Minutes Colorado State Parks Board

Friday, August 26, 2005
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Lake Pueblo State Park
Auditorium
640 Pueblo Reservoir Road
Pueblo, CO
Phone: (719) 561-9320

FRIDAY, August 26th

9:30 AM

BOARD WORK SESSION

Welcome to Pueblo State Park -

- Colorado State Parks Leadership Team Update
- Personnel Update
- Land/Water/Trails Update

Southeast Region Report *

High Plains Region Report *

Rocky Mountains Region Report *

- Budget/Legislative Update
- 2006 Park Board Meeting Dates
- Board Reports
- Upcoming Events
- Roundtable
- Pueblo State Park Tour

Brad Henley
Lyle Laverty
Larry Kramer
Larry Kramer
-Michael French
-David Giger
-Kurt Mill
Lyle Laverty
Larry Kramer

Brad Henley

1:00 PM

PARKS BOARD MEETING

(A) – Agenda Amendments, if necessary

(A) – Approval of June, 2005 Parks Board Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1:15 PM

(I) – CFRT GIS Presentation

(I) – Statewide Trails Mapping Project

(I) – 2006 Grant Application

(I) – Colorado River State Park - Renaming

(A) – Castlewood Canyon - Natural Area Designation

(A) – State Trails Committee Selection – Snowmobile

(A) – Colorado River State Park Right-of-way Easements

(A) – Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area – Hayden Ranch

(A) – Lake Pueblo State Park – Transit Mix Acquisition

(A) – Snowmobile Preogram Capital Grants

Larry Kramer/Lori Malcolm
Larry Kramer/Lori Malcolm
Larry Kramer/Lori Malcolm
Kurt Mill
Larry Kramer/Rob Billerbeck
Larry Kramer
Kurt Mill
Michael French
Michael French
Larry Kramer

3:30 PM

ADJOURN

(A) = Action Items (I) = Information Items

** APPROVAL OF "ITEMS REFERRED FOR DIRECTOR'S ACTION" BY THE PARKS BOARD IS BASED ON WRITTEN MATERIAL. NO DISCUSSION WILL OCCUR UNLESS THERE ARE QUESTIONS FROM THE PARKS BOARD OR FROM THE PUBLIC.

** PUBLIC COMMENT ON **BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS IS WELCOME**. PLEASE SIGN UP ON SPEAKER SIGN-UP SHEET UPON ENTERING THE PARKS BOARD MEETING ROOM.

NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COLORADO BOARD OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ARE OPERATED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. IF YOU NEED A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL LINDA FOSTER AT (303) 866-2884. TO ASSURE THAT WE CAN MEET YOUR NEEDS, PLEASE NOTIFY US OF YOUR REQUEST AT LEAST SEVEN BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EVENT.

ATTENDANCE

Parks Board Members:

Dr. Tom Ready, Chair
Antonette DeLauro
Wade Haerle
Tom Glass

Division Staff:

Lyle Laverty, Director
Tim Pollard, Deputy Executive Director - DNR
Larry Kramer, Assistant Director
Gary Thorson, Assistant Director
Kurt Mill, Rocky Mountain Region Manager
Bob Wiig, Rocky Mountain Region Assistant Manager
Dave Giger, High Plains Region Manager
Kristi Quintana, High Plains Region Assistant Manager
Mike French, SE Region Manager
Heather Dugan, SE Region Assistant Manager
Linda Foster, Assistant to the Director's Office

Guests:

State Representative Bernie Buescher
Mesa County Commissioner Tilly Bishop
Joe Skinner, Attorney-at-law
Don Eberle
John Swartout, Executive Director – GOCO
Wally Picone - GOCO

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA AMENDMENTS - None

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of June, 2005 Parks Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved: Wade Haerle
Seconded: Antonette DeLauro
Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Joe Skinner provided the Board with an information packet on behalf of the “Robb Memorial Group” requesting The Colorado River State Park be renamed The James M. Robb, Colorado River State Park. Representative Bernie Buescher and Mesa County Commissioner Tilly Bishop also spoke in support of the request.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CFRT GIS PRESENTATION

- Larry Kramer

PURPOSE: To present the status, progress, and benefits of the CFRT GIS data collection and update effort by Curt Harvey, GIS contractor for Colorado State Parks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The GIS mapping project involves compiling information gathered from CFRT stakeholders in order to develop CFRT GIS data layers associated with the Front Range Trail Project.
- Three GIS layers are being developed and include:
 1. CFRT Alignment,
 2. CFRT Trailheads
 3. CFRT Signs along the trail
- The effort involves synthesizing existing GIS data, creating new GIS data, and exhaustive personal communication with stakeholders for data updates, attribute completion, and alignment verification
- The presentation also intends to demonstrate the utility and functionality of maintaining, and updating GIS data for the CFRT by providing examples of queries, geographic analysis and reports, all available with the use of CFRT GIS data and existing GIS data layers.

STATEWIDE TRAILS MAPPING PROJECT

- Larry Kramer

PURPOSE: To create a digital statewide recreational trail, mapping and information system that is sustainable, and accessible to the public and offer multiple layers from the statewide level to the local community and individual trail-specific level.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The public can access the mapping system without incurring user fees. The mapping system will be ADA comprehensive, and will be accessible statewide for motorized and non-motorized vehicles. The mapping system will be updated annually and will have the capability to expand as the trails expand.
- The project is currently identifying the optimal mapping system (99% complete). The system design and templates are approximately 40% complete, development of the reporting system is approximately 35% complete, identification of pilot projects and partners is 70% complete, and initial implementation is 40% complete.
- Initial trail definitions have been developed. Web and art experts have been consulted.
- This project will serve as an information resource for our mapping system as well as an important resource for the State Trails Committee in planning and funding future projects

PURPOSE: To review and approve the 2006 small, mid, large, planning, special, and trail equipment grant application.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The eligible applicants include the following local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible. Each applicant must have adequate control and tenure of the property to be improved with grant funds. A general guideline for control and tenure of the property would be at least 25 years with 20 years remaining at the time of the application submittal.

Grant Categories

- **Non-Profit Organizations**
- Small Grant maximum amount needed \$15,000.00 with the grantee match of 25%
- Large Grant minimum amount needed \$15,001.00 maximum amount \$200,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.
- **Federal Agencies**
- Small Grant maximum amount needed \$15,000.00 with the grantee match of 25%
- Large Grant minimum amount needed \$15,001.00 maximum amount \$200,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.
- **State, County, and Local Government**
- Small Grant maximum amount needed \$15,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.
- Mid-Size Grant minimum amount needed \$15,001.00 maximum amount \$100,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.
- Large Grant minimum amount needed \$100,001.00 maximum amount \$200,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.
- **Planning**
- Maximum amount funded \$20,000.00 with a 25% match from the grantee.
- **Special Projects**
- Maximum amount funded \$20,000.00 with a 25% match from the grantee.
- **Equipment**
- Maximum amount funded \$100,000.00 with an equal match from the grantee.

Timeline

August 1, 2005 the application will be available on-line at www.parks.co.us/programs/trailsprogram/grants/2006trailgrantapplication
November 1, 2005 at 5:00 PM is the deadline for the applications.
May-July 2006 is when the grants will get awarded.

Application Review and Selection Process

The applicants are randomly divided among reviewers, they do not rate grants that they support, submitted, or located in their area of the state. Grant applicants will be scored on their own merits as they are received. The grant applicants will not be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Reviewers will make specific comments regarding strengths and weaknesses of the project. Each reviewer will provide scores for each application based on the merits of the project. The State Trail Subcommittee reviews the scores and finalizes the recommended project funding listed based on the rankings by score.

COLORADO RIVER STATE PARK-RENAMING

- Kurt Mill

PURPOSE: To inform the Board about a group requesting that the name of The Colorado River State Park be changed to The James M. Robb – Colorado River State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On May 18th, State Parks was asked to meet with a small group of folks calling itself the Robb Memorial Group. This group had gotten together with a goal of naming some feature within the Colorado River State Park after Jim Robb. Jim Robb had been a State Parks Board member representing the Western Part of the State from 1986 until 1996. He had also served as Co-Chair of the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission. Jim had a great deal to do with getting a State Park located along the Colorado River in Grand Junction.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: During the past three months, the Robb Memorial group has had several meetings regarding what feature within the Colorado River State Park would be appropriate to name after Jim Robb. The unanimous consensus among the group and confirmed by Jim's family is to name the entire park after Jim Robb. The group has been getting letters of support from the various Cities and the County to show support of this honor to be bestowed upon Jim Robb for all of his past hard work in getting the Colorado River State Park established.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recognizes the great amount of time and effort that Jim Robb put into his affiliation with Colorado State Parks in general and more specifically the Colorado River State Park. We feel that naming something associated with the Colorado River State Park is very appropriate.

ACTION ITEMS

CASTLEWOOD CANYON – NATURAL AREA DESIGNATION

- Larry Kramer

PURPOSE: To expand the extents of the Castlewood Canyon Colorado Natural Area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Natural Areas Program is mandated to identify and protect the finest examples of Colorado's original and unique landscapes for the benefit of present and future generations. The following site is being considered for expansion:

- *Castlewood Canyon*, Douglas County, addition of 179 acres, DPOR owned property.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Castlewood Canyon State Park purchased property in the northwest corner of the park in 2002, called the Metzler property. This area is up on top of the ridge there and is in excellent condition, with very few noxious weeds and a high diversity of native species and intact ecological communities. The area is remote and currently is only used by visitors who boulder in the drainage in that corner of the park.

The current Colorado Natural Area boundary includes the rest of the park, so this motion is to recommend that board approve the plan to include this area in the Natural Area along with the rest of the park. This would not modify any of the management agreement for the rest of the park.

The Natural Areas Council reviewed and approved the expansion of the natural areas and the Articles of Designation (AODs), for this site. The Douglas Commissioners were informed of the pending expansion and supported the idea, so long as adjacent landowners were informed. Based on that request letters were sent to the adjacent landowners and no comments or correspondence was received back from those landowners.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Approve expansion of this Colorado Natural Area to include the 179 acre Metzler parcel.

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move that the Board accept the expanded limits of the natural area boundary and the revised Articles of Designation for the referenced site.

Moved: Wade Haerle
Seconded: Tom Glass
Vote: Unanimous

STATE TRAILS COMMITTEE SELECTION - SNOWMOBILE

- Larry Kramer

PURPOSE: Select the State Trails Committee Member to represent the Snowmobile Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Colorado Snowmobile Association would like to submit Phil Chamberland to replace Charlie Cox who is moving out of state.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Statue 33-11-105 (1) CRS addresses the tenure of State Trails Committee Members. A Committee Member resigned to move out of state. Philip Chamberland was recommended by the Colorado Snowmobile Association.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff and the State Trails Committee recommend approval of Phil Chamberland for the Snowmobile vacancy on the State Trails Committee.

SUGGESTED MOTION: “I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the following person for the vacancy on the State Trails Committee: Member-at-Large, Phil Chamberland”

Moved: Wade Haerle
Seconded: Antonette DeLauro
Vote: Unanimous

COLORADO RIVER STATE PARK RIGHT-OF-WAWY EASEMENTS - Kurt Mill

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for granting two road right-of-way (ROW) easements and a small fee title parcel to Mesa County at Colorado River State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Mesa County is improving 29 Rd. and constructing a bridge across the Colorado River. The county requires 3 parcels for roadway improvements to facilitate this project: 1) a strip containing 8,191 sq. ft., 222’ in length and varying from 34’-41’ in width (easement); 2) a 436 sq. ft. parcel, approximately 10’x25’(fee title); and 3) a 246 sq. ft. parcel, approximately 17’x25’(easement).

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Compensation to Parks for these parcels will be of an in-kind nature, e.g., planting of trees, other project improvements to allow us to tie our trail into the bridge walkway and replacement of any trail already constructed which will be damaged by the roadway project. We have had a good working relationship with Mesa County over the years and their cooperation has been important in the development of the Colorado River State Park and trail. We do not intend to charge any fee to the county for these parcels.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and grant the parcels to Mesa County for the 29 Rd. bridge and roadway improvement project, across property at Colorado River SP. The Director has found the granting of these parcels to not conflict with parks and recreation purposes.

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to negotiate and grant the parcels to Mesa County for the 29 Rd. bridge and roadway improvement project, across property at Colorado River SP, under the terms and conditions described in this Action Item.

Moved: Doug Cole
Seconded: Wade Haerle
Vote: Unanimous

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA – HAYDEN RANCH - Michael French

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for allowing free public access (no fee) for a limited time period on the Hayden Ranch River Parcels to be acquired by State Parks as part of Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The River Parcels consist of 369 acres, with over 5 miles of river frontage, along the Arkansas River (between Hwy. 24 and the river) approximately 7 miles south of Leadville. This property will be acquired by State Parks using U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) funds from a settlement between the State against the federal government for natural resource damages suffered at the Superfund site near Leadville. BuRec funds are expected to cover the entire purchase price (\$300,000) of the property, from the City of Aurora to State Parks. The Parks Board approved this acquisition in October, 2002, with the State Legislature Capital Development Committee giving their positive recommendation in March, 2005.

This acquisition has languished for several years due to slow progress on the settlement negotiations, and City of Aurora negotiations to sell the remainder of the Hayden Ranch to the BLM. The Aurora/BLM closing is scheduled to occur Aug. 10 (along with the transfer of the historical homestead site to the nonprofit Colorado Preservation, Inc.). The BuRec has finally submitted a draft settlement offer to the State trustees (the trustees being: Ron Cattany for DNR, Executive Director Doug Benevento for Dept. Public Health & Environment and State Attorney General John Suthers). The trustees are favorably considering accepting BuRec's offer, which would include funds to purchase the Hayden Ranch River Parcels.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: This acquisition has received much positive support from many individuals, state legislators, local government and organizations (especially including the Lake County Open Space Initiative group – LACOSI). However, two new members elected to the Lake County Board of Commissioners (LCBOC) in 2004, have caused the LCBOC to reevaluate their support of State Parks acquiring the River Parcels. The LCBOC has concerns that our fee structure (daily or annual pass) would impose a burden on, and diminish public use (primarily, fishing) of the River Parcels. The LCBOC has sent a letter to the trustees requesting that there be free public (fishing) access on this land (see attached letter).

The trustees, City of Aurora and State Parks' staff all believe that the Commissioners' support for this project is crucial. State Parks currently has a good relationship with the LCBOC, partially evidenced by our partnership with Lake County to provide AHRA personnel for (limited) support and patrol activities on the county-owned Hayden Meadows Recreation Site adjoining the River Parcels on the north (see map). AHRA staff also monitors our Arkansas River Ranch property, located across the river from the Hayden Ranch. The county's Hayden Meadow site is a no-fee area, and we currently have chosen not to charge a fee for our Arkansas River Ranch property, which is open to the public but undeveloped and lightly used.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Parks' staff (and in particular, AHRA) believe the addition of the River Parcels to the AHRA will not significantly burden the park's budget or manpower to provide a minimum level of management to this area. Funds for facilities development on the River Parcels (and Arkansas River Ranch) are not anticipated for a number of years. When we do develop this area (which has excellent potential for a future campground), we would want to reinstitute a fee. Staff recommends the Board pass a resolution declaring that public fishing access on the Hayden

Ranch River Parcels shall be free, and no State Parks Pass shall be required (a moratorium on fees) until the property is developed and facilities have been constructed.

SUGGESTED MOTION: I offer a resolution by the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation declaring that public fishing access on the Hayden Ranch River Parcels – Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area shall be free, and no State Parks Pass shall be required until the property is developed and facilities have been constructed. This moratorium on public fishing access fees shall be effective until such time as State Parks’ staff recommends to the Parks Board to reinstate a Parks’ Pass fee on the property, pursuant to development and facilities construction.

Moved: Tom Glass
Seconded: Wade Haerle
Vote: Unanimous

LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK – TRANSIT MIX ACQUISITION

- Michael French

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for purchasing the Transit Mix batch plant property at Lake Pueblo State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This parcel is the former batch plant processing site for the sand & gravel mining operation on the 257 acre Valco property purchased by State Parks in May 2004. Valco had leased the mining area to Transit Mix (Continental Materials Corp.), and Transit Mix had purchased the batch plant site in fee title. Transit Mix is a wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Materials Corp.

A 4,070 sq. ft. building is on the subject property; about 3/4 of the building space being used for offices and 1/4 for warehouse/garage/storage. The parcel is surrounded by our Valco property on three sides, with a small parcel containing the historical Goodnight Barn (owned by the City of Pueblo) adjoining. This parcel is an important inholding in our Valco property and by acquiring this property we will prevent the possibility that it would be sold to a private party for commercial or industrial use.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: The negotiated purchase price is \$330,000; our appraisal estimated a value of \$300,000. Transit Mix is confident that the property is worth significantly more than \$300,000, and they intend to claim a deduction their federal income taxes based on a higher value. It is very unusual for State Parks to pay above appraised value to purchase a property, however due to the importance of acquiring this parcel a price of 10% above appraised value is not unreasonable.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Transit Mix batch plant property at Lake Pueblo SP. The Director has found this acquisition of land to be necessary, suitable or proper for parks and outdoor recreation purposes.

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Transit Mix batch plant property at Lake Pueblo SP, as described in this Action Item.

Moved: Antonette DeLauro
Seconded: Tom Glass
Vote: Unanimous

SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM CAPITAL GRANTS

- Larry Kramer

PURPOSE: To approve the Snowmobile Program capital grants for the 2005-2006 season.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Thirteen Colorado snowmobile clubs applied for snowmobile capital grants this year. Seven applications are being recommended for approval by the State Parks Board. See attached document for projects recommended for approval.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: This is the Eighth year that the Snowmobile Program has provided capital grants for the purpose of assuring quality winter trails for all winter trail users. This year the capital grants program is composed of \$191,212 in Recreational Trails Program funding (federal). State Parks has worked closely with the Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA) for the past 24 years in determining funding priorities for the program. The executive board of CSA, regional trail coordinators and the Snowmobile Program Administrator make up the committee that scores and ranks capital grant applications. Since the beginning of this program the primary emphasis has been on funding projects that support the winter trails grooming program. Funded projects have included assistance in replacing old grooming equipment, funding for grooming equipment storage and maintenance sheds and tow vehicles to haul this large equipment to trail heads. It is important to note that the equipment and labor are provided by CSA clubs that groom trails used by all winter sport enthusiasts including cross country skiers, snow shoers, and dog sledders.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Approve (listed) snowmobile capital grants as recommended by the Snowmobile Sub- Committee and the Colorado State Trails Committee.

SUGGESTED MOTION: "I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the 2005-2006 snowmobile capital grants as recommended by the State Trails Committee."

Moved: Wade Haerle
Seconded: Tom Glass
Vote: Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. Ready, Chair

Wade Haerle, Acting Secretary