



Colorado State Parks Board Minutes

Thursday, June 15, 2006
James M. Robb Colorado River State Park
Board Work Session: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Friday, June 16, 2006
Rifle Gap State Park ~ Visitors Center
5775 Highway 325, Rifle, CO
Board Meeting: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

THURSDAY, June 15th

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

BOARD WORK SESSION

- Colorado State Parks Leadership Team Update
 - Personnel Update
 - Field Operations Update
 - ~ James M. Robb Colorado River State Park
 - ~ Cherry Creek
 - ~ Chatfield State Park
 - ~ Water
 - ~ Real Estate
 - Statewide Programs Update
 - Budget Report
 - Homeland Security Exercise
 - Trails Report
 - Board Reports
 - Upcoming Events
- Lyle Laverty
 - Larry Kramer
 - Larry Kramer
 - Brad Taylor
 - Bob Toll
 - Brad Buckner
 - Paul Flack
 - Greg Monroe
 - Gary Thorson
 - Elling Myklebust
 - Mike Dowd
 - Richard Storm
 - Randy Engle

Friday, June 16th

10:30 AM

- PARKS BOARD MEETING**
- (A) – Agenda Amendments, if necessary
 - (A) – Approval of April, 2006 Parks Board Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

10:45 AM

- (I) – Silt Water Conservancy District – Easement - Kurt Mill
- (I) - Chris Dropinski, Greenplay LLC – Front Range Trails - Richard Storm

CONSENT AGENDA:

- (A) – John Martin State Park – Water Acquisition
- (A) – Boyd Lake State Park – Water Acquisition
- (A) – Cherry Creek State Park – Water Acquisition
- (A) – St. Vrain State Park – CDOT Easement
- (A) - Staunton State Park – Land Acquisition

- Larry Kramer

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
Tom Glass
Antonette DeLauro
Wade Haerle
Kevin Holst

Division Staff:

Lyle Laverty, Director
Larry Kramer, Deputy Director
Gary Thorson, Deputy Director
Richard Storm, Chief of Law Enforcement
Elling Myklebust, Chief Financial Officer
Kurt Mill, Rocky Mountain Region Manager
Bob Wiig, Rocky Mountain Region Assistant Manager
Dave Giger, High Plains Region Manager
Michael French, SE Region Manager
Aaron Fero, Rifle State Park Manager
Linda Foster, Assistant to the Director's Office

Guests:

Chris Dropinski, Greenplay LLC – Front Range Trails

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA AMENDMENTS - None

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of April, 2006 Parks Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved: Antonette DeLauro

Seconded: Kevin Holst

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Silt Water Conservancy District - Easement

- Kurt Mill

PURPOSE: To inform the Board of a request for irrigation water line easement at Rifle Falls State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Prior to the acquisition of Rifle Falls State Park, the Silt Water Conservancy District had an open irrigation ditch that crossed just east of Rifle Falls State Park. The ditch eventually goes into an old siphon just south of the park. Over time, the siphon has become too difficult and costly to maintain and the District is requesting to relocate the ditch and siphon onto the park property.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: The irrigation ditch is used to fill both Harvey Gap and Rifle Gap reservoirs, which are critical to maintaining the State Parks located around the these reservoir sites. As part of the initial investigation into the feasibility of moving the irrigation ditch, State Parks has been working with the District on possible locations across Rifle Falls State Park. This would include issuing a Special Activity Permit to the District to do some sample test pits to gain more knowledge about the soil conditions in the proposed locations. If a new location for the siphon can be determined, and it meets with State Park's approval, the District would like to move forward with a formal easement for the underground siphon.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: To move forward with the Special Activity permit at this time and come back to the Board in the future should the need for a new easement become required.

SUGGESTED MOTION: None at this time.

Chris Dropinski, Greenplay LLC – Front Range Trails

- Richard Storm

- Chris Dropinski of Greenplay LLC discussed her role with the Front Range Trails Project.

CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

John Martin State Park – Water Acquisition

PURPOSE: To request Board approval to acquire up to 1600 acre-feet of water for storage in John Martin Reservoir.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Colorado State Parks has a need to offset 1600 acre feet of water loss due to evaporation at John Martin Reservoir. Acquiring this amount of water will allow Parks to operate its water based recreational facilities (boat ramps, fishing access and potential swim beach) at optimal levels at John Martin Reservoir. Currently, State Parks has no water rights to offset the annual evaporative losses that occur at the reservoir. This water acquisition would provide the water needed to maintain a more reliable water base for recreational activities in all but the driest years.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Colorado State Parks would participate with three other entities (Division of Wildlife, the Lower Arkansas Water Management Association, and the Lower Arkansas River Conservancy District) to purchase 1600 acre feet of water. State Parks contribution is estimated to be \$750,000. As part of this deal, Lower Arkansas Conservancy District, Division of Wildlife, and State Parks would receive up to 1600 acre-feet of water from the Kesse Ditch to store in the permanent pool at John Martin every 9 out of 12 years. For the remaining 3 years, the Lower Arkansas Management Association would use the Kesse Ditch water rights to offset the association's well pumping obligations to the Arkansas River.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommendation is for the Board to authorize the Director to finalize the agreement for the purchase of the Kesse Ditch to improve water based recreation at John Martin.

Boyd Lake State Park – Water Acquisition

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for the purchase of a minimum of one share of Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company canal shares to enhance water levels at Boyd Lake State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Colorado State Parks is not currently a shareholder of Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company (GLIC). As a result, State Parks is not eligible to participate in GLIC shareholder meetings, participate in GLIC operational meetings, or have access to water leases through GLIC for water storage in Boyd Lake.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: By purchasing a share of GLIC shares, at an estimated cost of \$100,000, State Parks would become a shareholder and be eligible to participate in shareholder decision-making processes including: leasing of GLIC water shares for storage in Boyd Lake to enhance water-based recreational activities, development of operational plans – on an annual basis – improve recreational water levels for boating and swimming at the lake, and have GLIC access to acquire water through lease or purchase to improve recreational water levels at Boyd Lake

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and purchase up to three shares of GLIC company shares for the recreational improvement at Boyd Lake

Cherry Creek State Park – Water Acquisition

PURPOSE: To request Board approval to acquire up to 800 acre-feet of water for storage in Cherry Creek Reservoir.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Colorado State Parks has a need to offset 800 acre-feet of water loss due to evaporation at Cherry Creek Reservoir. By acquiring this amount of water through either purchase or lease, State Parks can maintain adequate water levels for the water based recreational activities at Cherry Creek State Park. Without such an acquisition, boat ramps, marina facilities and reservoir operations will be affected by lower water levels on an average-annual basis. In dry years, many of the facilities will need to terminate activities during the summer months due to low water levels, affecting revenue at the park.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: Colorado State Parks has the option of leasing (long-term, 10 or more years) and/or purchasing up to 800 acre-feet of water for Cherry Creek State Park. This amount of water would be used to offset the average-annual evaporative losses from the reservoir. State Parks is currently conducting a water market analysis to evaluate the water rights available for lease and/or purchase. The purchase of this water would be incorporated into a 3-5 year strategic acquisition plan, with a total price not to exceed \$5 million.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: The Division recommendation is for the Board to authorize the Director to negotiate and consummate the most optimal lease and/or purchase arrangements for water acquisition at Cherry Creek State Park.

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to negotiate and consummate the most appropriate water lease and/or approval for water acquisition at Cherry Creek Reservoir.

St. Vrain State Park – CDOT Easement

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for granting a permanent easement to the Colorado Dept. of Transportation (CDOT) at St. Vrain State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: CDOT is requesting a permanent easement to construct a water quality basin for runoff from Hwy. I-25 in the northeast corner of the park, near the bridge across the St. Vrain River. The water quality improvements will involve some earth moving to enhance a natural swale on the site which will serve to store peak storm runoff water temporarily before it runs into a channel and into the river. The purpose of the project is to protect the highway bridge abutments and allow settling of sediment from storm water runoff. The area of the easement will be approximately 0.61 acres.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: CDOT's easement and project is not located near any high use area of the park, and CDOT has agreed to work with the park manager on siting and constructing the basin to avoid sensitive natural areas. Revegetation and slope contouring will minimize visual and environmental impacts.

Parks staff is proposing no monetary consideration be charged to CDOT for granting this easement. The project will only impact a small area (to be accessed from the I-25 ROW) and disturbance to the park is expected to be minimal. Additionally, State Parks easement/ROW policy is currently under review and one of the recommendations will be that agencies of the State of Colorado (such as CDOT, but not applying to local government entities) not be charged

a fee or monetary consideration for easements or ROW's for public purpose projects. By not charging CDOT for this easement, we will remain consistent with the (eventual) new easement/ROW policy.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and grant a permanent easement to CDOT at St. Vrain SP. The Director has found the granting of this easement to not conflict with parks and recreation purposes.

Staunton State Park – Land Acquisition

PURPOSE: To request Board approval for purchasing the Chase property at Staunton State Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Chase property consists of 80 acres of land together with a 1,400 square foot 1970's house and a small older cabin. The property is located east of the current access road into the park (Upper Ranch Dr.), bordering the original Staunton property to the north and surrounded by our Davis Ranch property on the southern half.

This property has been a priority acquisition objective since we acquired the Elk Falls and Davis Ranch properties in 1998. At the time of those acquisitions, the matriarch of the Chase family was unwilling to consider selling the property. The property was listed for sale a couple months ago by a private real estate broker. We had the property appraised and after purchase negotiations through the broker, the Chase family has agreed to sell us the property for \$1,200,000 (the appraised market value).

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY: The Chase property is critical for Parks to acquire to enable the potential for constructing an alternative public access road (replacing Upper Ranch Dr.) off Elk Falls Rd., north through the Davis Ranch and into the Staunton parcel. The property is also nearly surrounded by our current holdings, leaving only the Dines property as an inholding. The house and possibly the cabin have potential to be upgraded and converted for rental use, as revenue generating units. Lottery and/or GOCO funds will fund the purchase of this property.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Chase property at Staunton SP. The Director has found this property acquisition to be necessary, suitable or proper for parks and outdoor recreation purposes.

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEMS

- Larry Kramer

Larry Kramer presented the Action Items for the Consent Agenda, reviewing each item and fielding questions with members of the Board.

1. John Martin State Park – Water Acquisition
2. Boyd Lake State Park – Water Acquisition
3. Cherry Creek State Park – Water Acquisition
4. St. Vrain State Park – CDOT Easement
5. Staunton State Park – Land Acquisition

MOTION: “I move the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the June Consent Agenda.”

Moved: Wade Haerle
Seconded: Tom Glass
Vote: Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. Ready, Chair

Antonette DeLauro, Secretary

**STATE OF COLORADO
Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation**

Date: June 15, 2006

Re: Approval of June Consent Agenda

Decision:

After consideration of all materials presented and comment given at its regular meeting June 15, 2006, the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation voted to approve the June Consent Agenda.

BOARD OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Dr. Tom Ready, Chairperson

Antonette DeLauro, Secretary