



# Colorado State Parks

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009  
Location: Weld County Annex  
4209 CR 24.5  
Longmont, CO 80504  
Phone: 720-652-4201

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### Thursday, April 2 - AGENDA

<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	Bill Kane, Chairman
	(A) Agenda Amendments, if necessary	
	(A) Approval of February 2009 Board Meeting Minutes	
	(I) Board Member Updates	
<b>1:15 pm</b>	(I) Financial Overview Discussion	Steve Cassin, Gary Butterworth
<b>3:15 pm</b>	Recess	Bill Kane, Chairman
<b>3:30 pm</b>	(I) Tour of St. Vrain State Park	Dave Giger, Kathy Seiple

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Board Members:  
Bill Kane, Chairman  
Gary Butterworth  
Laurie Mathews

Lenna Watson, Secretary  
Jim Pribyl

### Division Staff:

Dean Winstanley, Director  
Gary Thorson, Assistant Director  
Kurt Mill, Rocky Mountain Region Manager  
  
Dave Giger, High Plains Region Manager  
  
Rick Storm, Chief of Law Enforcement

Steve Cassin, Chief Financial Officer  
Ken Brink, Acting Chief of Field Operations  
Heather Dugan, Acting Southeast Region  
Manager  
Kristi Quintana, High Plains Assistant Region  
Manager  
Deb Frazier, Communications Manager

### Guests:

Bill Levine, Budget Director, Department of  
Natural Resources  
Heather Warren, Attorney General's Office  
Eric Bergman, GOCO Director of Government Relations and Outreach

Doug Robotham, Assistant Director,  
Department of Natural Resources  
Lise Aangeenbrug, GOCO Director

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Bill Kane at 1:10 p.m.

### **Agenda Amendments**

None

## **Minutes Approval**

Correction: Lenna Watson was acting Chairman at the February meetings in the absence of Bill Kane

Motion was made to approve February Minutes.

Moved: Jim Pribyl  
Second: Laurie Mathews  
Result: Passed Unanimously

## **Board Member Reports**

Jim Pribyl reported on the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. that he and Dean Winstanley attended March 17 – 20, 2009. They met with many members of the Colorado congressional delegation and other legislators.

Laurie Mathews reported on her meetings with Dean Winstanley and Gary Thorson regarding trails and water issues. She is just back in from an overseas trip and looks forward to having further meetings on these two important issues.

## **Financial Overview**

Bill Levine reported on the State's latest budget shortfall projection. Unemployment is much higher than predicted and this is having a significant impact on State revenues. The most recent numbers caused additional suggested funding adjustments including:

- Suspension of the Senior Property Tax Exemption.
- The proposed Higher Education cut.
- DNR Base funding cut by \$400 million.
- \$500 million proposed transfer from Pinnacol Assurance funds to the State general fund. This is a state owned entity, but runs independently.

? – In the past, when we have faced these budget cuts, has there been an attempt by the legislature to pay back the money that is cut from budgets?

A – In the past, they have attempted to pay back some cash funds that were cut, but it's not likely to happen this time.

The state general fund appropriation can only grow 6% in any year based on TABOR. This growth is predicated on having enough revenues to cover the increase and this 6% goes to many legislatively mandated growth areas including education and salaries. When we talk about the \$2.6 million cut to State Parks, it is unlikely we will be able to get our money back in future years.

Bill Kane thanked Bill Levine for providing this information. Bill Kane feels that the projected cuts would reset the State Parks economy to a lower benchmark.

? – Was State Parks disproportionately cut or were the cuts pretty stable across the line?

A – Parks lost roughly 34% of their general fund. If we average that across state government, it looks like a disproportionate cut. Water Resources received what amounted to a 10% cut. The Colorado Water Conservation Fund receives no general funding, but lost quite a bit of their cash funding.

Steve Cassin presented a financial briefing to the board (see handout attached). Some highlights

- Severance tax \$1.2 million for operations and \$2.4 million for ANS. In the current framework, we could lose the entire ANS funding piece.
- Steve highlighted the various revenue sources for parks and his rough projections for how we will finish the year.

? – Do we have non-resident permits for both snowmobiles and OHVs?

A - Yes

Dean covered some of the options for helping to make up for this shortfall. Some thoughts include:

- Make up shortfall for one year from other sources.
- Reduce operating budgets by \$2.6 million.
- A combination of the prior two options.

Steve indicated that the use of Lottery funds for our operations continues to be a major topic of conversation. We have to consider the statutory constraints of doing this, including the proper apportionment of operating dollars to parks based on the amount of lottery dollars used to create the park.

? - Do we have a historical view of what happens to Lottery revenues during downturns in the economy?

A – Cassandra of Colorado Lottery noted that in other instances, it is almost an inverse effect because Lottery revenues usually increase. In this instance, it's hard to predict what will happen. Revenues dipped in November and December, but increased significantly in January.

It was re-emphasized that GOCO funds cannot be used to substitute for lost general fund operating dollars. Lise Aangeenbrug reported that they have asked for a re-evaluation /interpretation of the law for using GOCO funds because it has been 10 years since the last evaluation.

The discussion then turned to options for cutting operating costs. Dean explained that we started communicating with park and program managers two months ago to get their input for reducing expenses in their areas. This information was gathered, evaluated, prioritized and appears in the presentation.

? – Would it be productive to look at the profitability of each park?

A – A “Park Vital Statistics” chart was distributed which contains a draft version of the requested information.

? – What input is needed from the Board?

A – Winstanley indicated we would like to have a couple of options to mitigate the estimated \$2.6 million in cuts for FY09-10.

Comment: Any plan needs to be tied to a long-term vision and plan for the next 5 years. We also need to exceed the \$2.6 million in cuts for this FY, so we are buffered from additional cuts that may spring up.

Comment: We need to be extremely careful what we do with Lottery funds. We will be truthful about using those funds and close some parks if that is what is necessary. We need to be willing to grab the public's attention so they know we can't continually absorb more and more budget reductions with no impact to the services we offer.

? – What does Harris want to know?

A – How current decisions are being made in the context of a long-term plan.

Comment: Maybe we can present a plan that might suggest a savings plan with various percentages coming from a combination of through park closures, cost savings, a cut in hiring of temporaries, etc.

Comment: We also have to strongly consider local partnerships; i.e. can we operate parks in conjunction with a city or county government?

A conference call will most likely have to be scheduled before the next Parks Board meeting to pinpoint our plan.

Harris Sherman addressed the group via conference call. Bill Kane gave a synopsis of the discussion thus far. Harris elaborated that this is an extremely difficult financial situation, which he believes is unprecedented. The enormity of the cuts being faced by the DNR is staggering,

including losing up to 80% of our Tier 2 Severance Tax funding. We have to build a constituency group to advocate for us during these difficult times.

When considering cuts we need to make sure we have strong criteria and that it is applied fairly throughout State Parks. Harris will communicate with the Governor's office about our proposed plans for dealing with the budget cuts. We need to renew our efforts to bring legislators to our parks so they can become familiar with our operations and challenges. He will try to be at our next meeting and encourages Doug Robotham to be there as well.

Dean asked Harris to share his thoughts regarding the use of Lottery funds for operations. Harris detailed his concerns regarding the limits placed on using Lottery funds for operating parks. He has concerns about how we continue the upkeep of our capital assets if we are using Lottery funds for other purposes. We need to be mindful of the constraints on these funds. He also reminded us that this is, for all intents and purposes, a permanent cut to our budget. He looks forward to continued work with the board on these and other issues. He thanked the Division Staff for all the work they have done.

Bill Levine added that his on-going concern is that \$2.6 million proposed cut is a starting point not an ending point. That figure comes from a budget that would be balanced on the back of the Pinnacle transfer. If this is not successful, we have a whole new problem. Parks is viewed as a luxury and discretionary spending item by the legislature.

Harris asked how the Board feels about raising fees – particularly on vessel registrations. We are facing huge uncertainty on the ANS funding and it may be appropriate to shoulder the cost of this program with boating money. Dean indicated that any Board-controlled fee increases are problematic only because they take six months or more to implement and a bit longer for the effect to be felt.

**Bill Kane recessed the meeting at 4:05 PM for the tour of St. Vrain State Park.**



# Colorado State Parks

## Board Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, April 3, 2009  
Location: Weld County Annex  
4209 CR 24.5  
Longmont, CO 80504  
Phone: 720-652-4201

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### Friday, April 3 - Agenda

8:15 am		<b>Call to Order</b>	Bill Kane, Chairman
8:15 am	(A)	Agenda Amendments, if necessary	
8:15 am		<b>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b>	
8:25 am	(I)	Strategic Planning	Scott Babcock
8:45 am	(I)	Real Estate Overview	Greg Monroe
9:45 am	(I)	GOCO MOA	Steve Cassin, Michael Regan
10:00 am		Board Governance	
	(A)	Roles/Responsibilities-Memorandum of Agreement	Gary Thorson
	(I)	Development of Governance Manual	Gary Butterworth
10:25 am		<b>Break</b>	
10:40 am		Parks Management Update	
	(A)	North Sterling Marina Fee Waiver	Dave Giger
	(A)	North Sterling Special Use Agreement	Dave Giger
	(A)	Steamboat Lake Marina Fee Waiver	Kurt Mill
11:30 am		2009 Trails Program Grants	Gary Thorson
	(A)	Recreational Trails Grants	Lori Malcolm
	(A)	OHV Trails Grants	Tom Metsa
12:05 pm	(I)	Legal Report	Tim Monahan
12:30 pm		<b>Working Lunch</b>	
12:40 pm		Region and Program Updates	Various
	(I)	High Plains Region, Rocky Mountain Region	
	(I)	Southeast Region and Statewide Programs	
1:20 pm		<b>Adjournment</b>	Bill Kane, Chairman

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IN ATTENANCE:

**Board Members:**

Bill Kane, Chairman  
Gary Butterworth

Lenna Watson, Secretary  
Jim Pribyl

Laurie Mathews

**Division Staff:**

Dean Winstanley, Director  
Gary Thorson, Assistant Director  
Kurt Mill, Rocky Mountain Region Manager  
  
Dave Giger, High Plains Region Manager  
  
Rick Storm, Chief of Law Enforcement  
John Geerdes, Acting Southeast Assistant Region Manager  
Tom Metsa, Manager OHV Program  
Roy McBride, Senior Ranger St. Vrain State Park  
Kathy Seiple, Park Manager St. Vrain

Steve Cassin, Chief Financial Officer  
Ken Brink, Acting Chief of Field Operations  
Heather Dugan, Acting Southeast Region Manager  
Kristi Quintana, High Plains Assistant Region Manager  
Deb Frazier, Communications Manager  
Scott Babcock, Strategic Planning  
  
Bahman Hatami, Water Program Manager  
Linda Richards, Administrative Assistant III, St. Vrain State Park

**Guests:**

Heather Warren, Attorney General's Office      Doug Robotham, Assistant Director DNR

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting reconvened by Chairman, Bill Kane at 8:20 a.m.

**Agenda Amendments**

Budget discussion will replace Real Estate Overview and part of the Strategic Planning presentation.

Bill Kane acknowledged Dave Giger and Rick Storm for their long careers with parks. Both are retiring in the near future. Dean Winstanley added that their years of experience and institutional memory will be missed.

Rick Storm indicated he will be doing some traveling, fishing, visiting some State Parks and will probably remain involved on some level. Dave Giger indicated his plans are undetermined, but he looks forward to retirement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis Larratt, who helped found the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition and lives close to Chatfield State Park. Dennis gave a short presentation explaining that COHVCO was founded to bring together the various stakeholders in advancing the cause of motorized recreation. He provided a hand-out.

Parks: How does the state's OHV registration fee compare to contiguous states?

Larratt: Will forward that information to State Parks leadership.

Larratt: Asked for information about fee structure and number of vehicles registered. Parks will provide.

Larratt also presented information about concerns over some proposed housing developments and the potential threats to Chatfield State Park. Handout attached.

Larratt: Are both of these development plans consistent with the Douglas County Master Plan for growth?

Parks: The development groups have come before the county and been sent back to revise their plans because they did not meet the county growth plan.

Jim Pribyl said that he toured the area a few weeks ago and saw that there was a significant encroachment.

Laurie Mathews noted that Larratt comes before us at a very somber time considering the financial cuts that we are facing. State Parks appreciates the work that the OHV community has done and looks forward to their continued support in the future.

### **Financial Overview/Budget**

Discussion continued regarding the projected \$2.6 million dollar budget shortfall for State Parks. There is an article in today's Denver Post about the proposed Pinnacol \$500 million transfer.

Bill Kane gave a recap:

- Our objective today is to identify the broad strategies and their sideboards, which will be communicated on to Division staff.
- Specific details will be formulated in the next few weeks.
- We need to have a Plan B in case the cuts are larger than projected.

Yesterday we reviewed the 8-tiered strategy put together by Division Staff. Additional discussion and ideas from the Board:

- A statement should be issued from the Board, saying they support parks in the plans for addressing the budget cuts.
- Park closures – should be geographically equal so one region of the state doesn't absorb all the suggested cuts/closures.
- Furloughs.
- Operating and administrative costs are part of the mix for immediate effect. Could include fee increases or new fees along with advancing the cost saving ideas already identified by parks and programs.
- The agency should be challenged to identify a long-term vision of what a sustainable system looks like. Is it 40 parks? 30? 20? The correct answer is there are 42 parks open to the public and two more under development.

? – Has there been any thought or inquiry into whether our current funding levels put us in a position for enterprise status? The criteria used to be that if an agency was funded less than 10% by general fund, they could be considered for this status.

A – Yes.

? – What does this status mean?

A – The revenues generated do not count toward the state's Tabor cap.

? – Does gaining this status truly benefit the Division or is it just an accounting designation?

A – There are different opinions on what it means. We already have authority to set our own fees, but if the state was nearing its growth cap they would pressure us not to increase our fees.

- If we have high intensity problem areas, we should consider those for cuts, whether it would be a swim beach, dog park, etc. Also, do we have areas that require immediate investment due to health or other concerns?
- Can we look at the pricing for our Aspen Leaf pass holders? We need to review and consider our entire fee structure.
- We need a detailed understanding of what drives our operating costs.
- The Board should support the identified tiers/strategies including:
  - Cost savings - \$700K
  - Reduction in temporary workforce - \$400K
  - Merger of park administrations - \$220K
  - Restructuring of parks - \$1.3 million
  - Revenue enhancement – reexamine our fee structure
- We need to realize that savings in the suggested areas will likely fall short of projections. You can't save your way to sustainability.
- We also need to remember that making cuts – such as reductions in park services or closures – will also have an impact on revenue.

Input was requested from Division Staff who were present

- We have to remember that even temporary closures require staff on site to maintain resources and make sure we don't have trespassing and other problems.
- The Board is absolutely correct that revenues can begin to spiral downward with a reduction in services.
- Division staff was the starting point for collecting the ideas and strategies for cost savings and spending reductions. Information was collected from all park and program managers, gleaned by the leadership team and compiled in a 5" binder.

? – Is there an executive summary of the 5" binder?

A – Yes and it will be sent to the Board

- Our concerns should focus on the core functions of what we offer and place less emphasis on the extra amenities.
- It appears that the ideas that are circulating seem to emphasize not displacing employees if at all possible and that is a favorable position to take.

Motion: The Board encourages the staff, in light of budget forecasts, to seek a series of strategies to achieve cost savings and maintain the high level of service to the public. Efficiencies would fall into six categories (see above) including temporary park closures that are geographically fair, equitable and cost effective. This is driven by our desire to provide a high quality service to the public, but also accommodate the budget reductions.

Moved: Bill Kane  
Seconded: Lenna Watson  
Result: Motion Passed

We need to move and communicate on this quickly - within the next two weeks.

Motion that staff and Division begin to create a long-term restructuring plan, including a review of revenues and expenses, to address not only the current financial situation but the future financial sustainability of Colorado State Parks.

Moved: Gary Butterworth  
Seconded: Laurie Matthews  
Result: Motion Passed

### **Agenda notes**

It doesn't seem that the timing of updating our Strategic Plan is in line with our current financial priorities. It is probably most appropriate to delay the plan update to coincide with our other long-term sustainability plans/study.

### **GOCO Memo of Understanding**

Steve Cassin gave a synopsis of the terms of the Memo of Understanding.

Motion that the Board authorizes the Division Director to finalize and sign the 2009 interim MOA with Great Outdoors Colorado.

Moved: Gary Butterworth  
Seconded: Jim Pribyl  
Result: Motion Passed

### **Board Governance**

Gary Thorson discussed the updated Rules/Responsibilities Memorandum of Agreement between the Board, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Parks and Recreation. Dean has signed the agreement for Parks as has DNR.

Motion that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve and sign the Interagency Agreement that includes Attachment A - Governance and Accountability – Roles and Responsibilities and fully implement the provisions, terms and conditions of this agreement

between the Colorado State Parks Board, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Natural Resources.”

Moved: Jim Pribyl  
Seconded: Gary Butterworth  
Result: Motion Passed

Gary Butterworth and an EI Pomar Fellow reviewed the Governance document along with existing administrative directives, policies, etc. and are compiling them into a Governance Manual. They hope to have a draft for the May meeting.

### **Parks Management Update**

#### North Sterling Marina Fee Waiver

Dave Giger thanked Heather Warren for all her assistance and advice with all the legal issues. He gave background on our situation with the existing concessionaire, their bankruptcy filing, a letter of credit which secured the contract, etc. The concessionaire still owes us money. The current request is to waive our claim against the letter of credit in lieu of a \$1,100 payment and taking ownership of the concessionaire's assets which were not removed from the park.

Motion that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the request to waive the \$1,094.11 in unpaid concession fees, and accept the Bank of Colorado's proposal that we forego collection of these fees if the Bank waives their collateral interest in all of the abandoned marina assets

Moved: Gary Butterworth  
Seconded: Lenna Watson  
Result: Motion Passed

#### North Sterling Special Use Agreement

The Division is close to deciding on whether to go without a marina this year, based on the circumstances outlined above. This proposal attracted the attention of groups who were interested in running the slips as a private enterprise. This proposal is complicated by our current financial situation.

I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorizes the Director to negotiate a contract for 2009 resulting in the availability of rental boat slips at North Sterling Reservoir as long as the facilities are upgraded to a reasonable standard, open to the public, and liability insurance is provided. The Board further authorizes park staff to initiate a third RFP for a marina concession at North Sterling Reservoir, and that staff bring the results of that RFP to the Parks Board at a future meeting.

Moved: Lenna Watson  
Seconded: Laurie Mathews  
Result: Motion Passed

#### Steamboat Lake Marina Fee Waiver

Kurt Mill gave background on the marina operation at Steamboat Lake. The concessionaire's revenues dropped between 2007 and 2008. The park is also being impacted by the beetle kill/tree removal that is currently underway.

? – How difficult is it to attract and retain concessionaires?

A – One side of the answer is from the operator's perspective and whether they can sell their interest in the marina business. The other side is our perspective about the viability of the business to be run by parks.

? – How long has he been there?

A – Four years.

Motion that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the staff recommendation to allow the second installment of the annual fee of the July 15<sup>th</sup> payment of \$8,000 be delayed until October 1<sup>st</sup>, without any delinquency charges assessed, and a decision to reduce or waive this fee take place at the Parks Board meeting in September 2009.

Moved: Laurie Mathews  
Seconded: Lenna Watson  
Result: Motion Passed

**Other:**

Dean introduced Bahman Hatami, Parks new Water Program Manager. He has been with the state 18 years, mostly with Colorado Water Conservation Board. He is looking forward to working with the Board in his new capacity.

Roy McBride and Linda Richards from St. Vrain were introduced. Roy has been at the park since 2006. Linda is just about to celebrate her one year anniversary with the park and State. Roy was acknowledged for his leadership running the park between park managers.

**2009 Recreation Trails Program Grants**

Gary Thorson discussed the trail grants action items. He introduced Gary Buffington, Vice Chairman of the Trails Committee, who is assisting with the presentation today.

Gary Buffington represents Congressional District 4 and has been on the Trails Committee for 12-18 months. He worked for State Parks for 27 years. He is currently the Director of Larimer County Parks.

Gary Thorson updated the Board that Lori Malcolm recently transferred to the Colorado State Patrol to run their new grants program. She was with Parks for approximately six years.

Gary Buffington gave a summary of the 2009 grants. There were 47 total applications with 24 recommended for approval.

? – Were some good submittals not recommended due to lack of funding?

A – That is probably true.

? – What strength was the State Trails Committee during the review process?

A – Almost full strength. Only District 7 has a vacancy at this time. There are some terms expiring in the near future.

? – We have taken criticism for having a cumbersome and slow process for trails grants. GOCO expressed concern over this and suggested that perhaps they should take over management of these programs.

A – Gary Thorson indicated we have greatly strengthened our relationship with GOCO. We worked closely with GOCO representatives to review and somewhat revamp our process. Gary Buffington added that the committee listened intently to GOCO's suggestions and concerns. Other constituent groups for trails were involved in the process through a survey that we sent out.

C – Regarding the grant summaries it seems that the comments were often similar for both the grants that were funded and those not recommended for funding. Other than the score, it is important to gear the comments for either funding or explaining the rationale for not recommending that the grant be funded.

? – Do we find groups that are not funded take the comments and try again?

A – Yes they do. We also provide some grant writing workshops and try to lend assistance when requested and appropriate.

? – How does the funding of \$1.7 million compare to the amount available for funding in the past.

A – The RTP and LWCF funds available have been reduced somewhat. GOCO funding has held steady.

Comment: Dean Winstanley added that there is a renewed effort in Washington, D.C. to strengthen LWCF and RTP funding.

Motion that the State Parks Board approves the 2009 Recreation Trails Grants awards and that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Director.

Moved: Laurie Mathews  
Seconded: Lenna Watson  
Result: Motion Passed

### **2009 OHV Trails Program Grants**

Tom Metsa and Deb Thorson presented the OHV grants for consideration. There were 39 applications totaling \$3.8 million that were received by the Dec. 1, 2008 deadline. The grants were reviewed and scored by a sub-committee. These recommendations went to the trails committee and the Board is now reviewing for approval 36 projects for \$3.162 million.

Gene King, a sub-committee member, was acknowledged as attending. Deb Thorson explained that there are 10 sub-committee members from a wide-variety of backgrounds and several types of trails users - motorized and non-motorized. The committee is extremely diligent and puts in over 24 hours of meeting time and their personal review time of the grants. Grantees are presented with follow-up questions from the committee to clarify information provided in their grant request. Public letters of support and concern are also taken into account.

? – It appears that a majority of the funding is oriented to mountain communities. Do you see many requests from the eastern plains now or is there a greater opportunity there?

A – This is one of the biggest areas for growth. There are very few clubs in those geographic areas that request grants.

? – You stated most of the requests are from the BLM in Grand Junction – is this usually the case?

A – Even federal agencies like the BLM have so many budget demands from their programs that they often have no money left for maintenance and development of new areas. This grants process is important to the BLM.

? – We heard earlier about the great increase in OHV registrations. To what can you attribute this growth?

A – Population growth, recreation trends and demographics are all part of the answer.

? – How many of the grants applications weren't funded?

A – Only three applications were not funded. The group had a great increase in available funds due to the \$10 increase in registration fees last year. With decreases in the costs of fuel, equipment and personnel, there were more dollars available to meet the grant requests.

? – The Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) received about \$500K of the grants money – can you explain?

A – They are providing education, signage and leadership for legislation. What they do benefits all trails users and not COHVCO directly.

? – It is apparent that a great deal of due diligence is required up-front with grant writers. Is that done on the back-end to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant?

A – Groups keep meticulous records of their expenses. Those records are audited by Parks and undergo on the ground inspections during the project. We also have reports after project completion from many groups.

? – Is there residual cash in the fund or is the fund depleted annually?

A – Some projects run three years or more, so their funds are on our books longer. Some grantees return money if projects come in under budget. Also, our revenues are concentrated around April when the new registration year begins and in the fall for hunting season. They attempt to award their full spending authority each year.

Motion that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation approve the 2009/2010 OHV Trail Grant awards as listed and that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Director.

Moved: Gary Butterworth  
Seconded: Laurie Mathews  
Result: Motion Passed

### **Legal Report**

A summary was sent to the Board in an e-mail from Tim Monaghan.

- Barr Lake – application for designation has been filed to help limit drilling. Negotiations are on-going and have been productive.
  - Dave Giger clarified that there are three developers who have mineral rights with the park boundaries.
  - We have reached an agreement with two of the three. We continue to work with the third party.

? – Is our position strengthened by the new oil and gas rules?

A – We are unsure at this time, but feel we are better protected by the rules. The new rules may not apply to these existing permit holders. More information will be forthcoming.

- North Sterling was covered by our action items.
- Steamboat Lake was also covered by an action item.
- Bonny Lake discussions of the situation are ongoing.
- Rifle Gap is in discussions with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on a few issues at the park.
- GOCO MOA was discussed earlier
- Board Governance was covered this morning.

### **Region and Program Updates**

#### High Plains Region – Dave Giger

Parks are gearing up for their spring openings and summer seasons. Employee evaluations are being completed for year end and new plans are being written. The region seems to be benefiting from the economy which is keeping more people close to home.

- Barr Lake is planning a birthday celebration on April 8.
- Boyd has suffered their share of economic impacts. The park office has been closed during the week due to four vacancies in their full-time staff. Handicapped fishing pier funded by a memorial fund has been opened and received good press for the opening.
- Castlewood is dealing with maintenance issues on several of their climbing routes. The existing bolts need to be inspected and replaced to protect our liability situation.
- Chatfield is busy with their Corps cost share projects, but is currently waiting for federal funds to come in to obtain matching funds. There are discussions about possibly receiving our full contract funding from stimulus money. Reallocation is still a major topic of discussion. Dog exercise areas are still being discussed at Chatfield and Cherry Creek. Coyotes are an issue being discussed by many parks.
- Cherry Creek is having on-going discussions regarding the dog exercise areas. Coyotes are an issue being discussed by many parks.

- Eldorado Canyon is looking into how they can maximize their solar system and zero-waste options.
- Golden Gate is another park looking at forest health issues.
- Jackson Lake has had great success with their OHV track.
- Lory is also working on forest health projects
- Roxborough is working on improving their visitor center health issues.
- State Forest has seen a huge increase in visitation recently.
- Staunton is continuing their Master Planning and had a recent public meeting attending by 170-180 people. There are still CDOT issues as we are waiting for their improvements to Highway 285.
- St. Vrain is happy to have been stocked four times thus far this season, which has increased visitation.

#### Rocky Mountain Region – Kurt Mill

- Steamboat Lake tree clearing issues were discussed somewhat earlier, but he wanted to add that closure of the popular Bridge Island facilities may have an impact.
- Ridgeway boat slips are going in this week. Mooring balls are out and it is expected these self-service amenities will be well used.

? – What is the cost and life of these amenities?

A – Cost is \$300-400K and we make \$20-30K per year. Life of mooring balls is approximately 10 years. Slips require continual maintenance, but can last 15-20 years.

- The region is working with the attorney general's office to examine water issues.
- The Animas-La Plata project is moving forward. Kurt participated in a panel discussion representing our interests. He heard very good feedback about the parks we manage in this area and we are considered a recreation management expert by many of the people who participated in these discussions.
- Rifle Gap was regulated by the drinking water section of the Department of Health. We are now being looked at under the solid waste section due to the oil and gas activity in the area. The primary issue is what happens if we go out of business – who is responsible for the clean-up.
- The ANS issue has been under discussion at Mancos. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) wanted to impose stricter guidelines for Mancos, but this would have a domino effect for all BOR properties we manage.
- Stagecoach Marina operation had an RFP with no respondents. This may be another financial issue in the next year.

#### Southeast Region – Heather Dugan

- AHRA is doing a major construction projection at Hecla Junction to repair damage from two flooding incidents. They are applying for some outside grant money to help with the \$1 million plus project. They are also looking at the implications of a proposed deal with the Nestle Corporation to run water deliveries out of the Salida area. This could be good if road improvements are made in the area.

? – Update on Christo project?

A – There is a full environmental impact study underway. There are many groups involved, including BLM, CDOT and Chaffee County. The proposal and study results will come to the Parks Board.

C – Dean mentioned that the Board will be in Salida for their June meeting. We are hoping to have a short presentation on the project and maybe a quick site visit.

C – Doug Robotham clarified that we have cooperating agency status in completing the NEPA. This gives us an opportunity to make sure all of our environmental concerns are met.

? – Are there revenue opportunities or cost impacts?

A – It will definitely impact our staff because much of the site is along our park property. Christo may even provide some funding or build a facility that could be ours in the future.

C – Doug Robotham clarified that the area will definitely benefit the area financially, but there's no way to know how much, if any, of those benefits will go to AHRA.

- Bonny has 10,000 plus acre-feet of water currently. We hope this will spur some visitation.
- Cheyenne Mountain's phase three funding was approved and the construction punch list items are being completed. All other campgrounds are open.
- Eleven Mile and Spinney are working on their summer hiring including ANS staff. We had some grant money to help offset the ANS costs.
- John Martin is getting four employees from the Army Corps to help with ANS.
- Lathrop is also preparing for ANS season. They have zebra mussels and Eurasian Water milfoil.
- Mueller is starting fuel mitigation projects. Gregg Nootbaar is retiring effective April 30. He has been the only person to manage the park since it opened.
- Pueblo received \$800K from the BOR for vault restroom upgrades to meet ADA standards. The headquarters building roof is being replaced to help stem significant leakage problems. The water slide operator has defaulted and removed enough of the equipment to render the slide inoperable. After consulting with the AG's office, parks determined that we should just remove what remains and mitigate the area.
- Trinidad waste water renovation project is almost complete. They are working on other improvements including a new Camper Service Building with their cost share money from the Army Corps.

#### Statewide Programs – Gary Thorson

- Stewardship program staff has been busy with ANS issues including a handbook for inspections.
- CNAP just completed their tri-annual report which will be distributed to the Board in May. The Natural Areas Council recently met with Dean, Gary Thorson and Lenna. In May, it is likely that there will be another Natural Area designation.
- The Marketing program is happy to be entering their second year of Welcome Kits for our park visitors. These are provided and funded through many partnerships.
- The Trails program update was presented earlier
- Real Estate Program Manager is anxious to meet with the Board and inform them about the real estate program.
- Corona is completing the Marketing Assessment study – three more months of work is expected.
- Planning is talking to other state park systems about their maintenance programs and plans. The Park Management Plan template is undergoing final review by the Leadership Team.
- Program Managers are reviewing funds available to us through the federal stimulus package.
- Volunteer Program staff is working on the second annual "National Get Outdoors Day" celebration in City Park on June 13, 2009.

? – Search and Rescue legislation passed – do we know the impacts?

A – Amendments were added to the bill that will lessen the impact of open accessibility that we were initially worried about. If it passes, we will discuss implications at our next meeting.

? – Can we get a quick audit update?

A – We are moving full-speed ahead on the reorganization of how we handle the capital budget. We have an exemption for hiring the Capital Program Manager that was called for in the Audit. We are having the independent auditors checking on compliance with the new financial policies.

The budget cuts have somewhat taken a front seat to a specific focus on the audit, but work is on-going behind the scenes.

C – The placement of the Governance document will help us complete compliance of several audit recommendations.

Bill Kane brought forward the fact that his new job is inhibiting his ability to attend GOCO meetings. He is asking that Jim Pribyl take over as the Board representative to the GOCO Board.

Motion that Jim Pribyl take over as the Board GOCO representative for the balance of Bill Kane's term. Gary Butterworth will act as a backup representative.

Motion:	Lenna Watson
Second:	Gary Butterworth
Result:	Motion Passed

Motion to adjourn

Motion:	Lenna Watson
Second:	Laurie Mathews
Result:	Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm by Chairman Bill Kane.