



Montana State Parks and Recreation Board

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Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes Directory

Date: October 7, 2021

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Montana State Capitol, Room 303

Zoom Virtual Attendance-This meeting was broadcasted on the FWP website at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/>

Time stamps are based on the following YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNX-sBN_Vfc

Parks and Recreation Board Members in Attendance:

Russ Kipp, Chair
Mary Moe, Vice-Chair
Scott Brown
Jody Loomis
Kathy McLane
Hank Worsech, Secretary/Director

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Approval of Expenses
4. Board Member Reports
5. Director Report
6. Somers Beach Dynamic Beach Project
7. Ackley Lake State Park Lease Agreement with DNRC
8. Public Comment ~ For Issues Not On This Agenda
9. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

1:49 Chair Kipp called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

2:57 *Motion: Member Brown moved, and Member Loomis seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the minutes of the May 27, 2021 Board meeting.*

3:58 *Action on Motion: Motion passed. 5-0*

3. Approval of Board Expenses

5:06 *Motion: Member Loomis moved, and Vice-Chair Moe seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the September 30, 2021 Board expenses.*

5:24 *Action on Motion: Motion passed. 5-0*



MONTANA FWP

4. **Board Member Reports**

- 5:51 Member Loomis
- 13:53 Member McLane
- 15:49 Member Brown
- 18:17 Vice-Chair Moe
- 20:58 Chair Kipp

5. **Director Report**

- 24:10 Director Worsech

6. **Somers Beach Dynamic Beach Project**

- 29:04 Hope Stockwell, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Administrator

Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) recently acquired Somers Beach State Park, located on the northwest shoreline of Flathead Lake. Decades of dam operation that maintains full pool water levels for extended periods of time has resulted in a steady loss of shoreline due to erosion, including portions of the new state park lakefront. The goal is to create a dynamic 3D gravel beach system that will 1) stop the loss of existing shoreline to wave erosion 2) provide a natural transition from the shoreline to fringing wetland that maintains the hydrologic connection with the lake. The hydraulic processes that shape the beach will also maintain and enhance the growth of wetland plants. The project will result in more useable shoreline for visitors during full pool, and conserve wetland habitat for waterfowl. This erosion control technique has been utilized elsewhere on Flathead Lake, including Finley Point State Park, and has proven to be very effective. A dynamic 3D beach utilizes washed rock and large woody debris to absorb wave action. In September, a cost estimate of \$565,000 was received based on the scope of the project and general increases in construction costs. The project scope of work identifies multiple tasks that must be completed including: hiring a consultant to oversee the project; acquisition, hauling and placement of material; building of gravel beaches along the nearly 6,000 feet of long marsh shoreline via a temporary access road; and creating the recreational beach.

40:40 Board and staff discussed the proposed project.

49:14 ***Motion: Member Brown moved, and Vice-Chair Moe seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the development of a dynamic 3D beach at Somers Beach State Park contingent upon a Record of Decision to implement the project following the environmental analysis.***

49:48 Public Comment.

50:32 ***Action on Motion: Motion Passed. 5-0***



7. **Ackley Lake State Park Lease Agreement with DNRC**
51:00 Hope Stockwell, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Administrator

FWP has leased the land around Ackley Lake from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) since the 1960s. In August of 2016, the FWP began exploring options to depart Ackley Lake as part of the first phase implementation strategy of the Classification and Prioritization of park resources. The public expressed considerable concern over the possible departure of State Parks from the Ackley Lake site and in late 2016, the lease FWP held with the DNRC was renewed through December of 2017. In February of 2017, the lease with FWP was extended for 5 years till 2021. The Ackley Lake Club (friends' group) proposed developing a boat exclusion area to provide a safe place for swimmers. The DNRC approved the concept and incorporated a 100' x 120' swim area into a revised lease with FWP that would expire at the end of 2024. The lease would continue at no cost to FWP in recognition of FWP's accommodations for public use of the Park. If approved, FWP would be responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the boat exclusion area, including clearly marking the area.

55:13 Board and staff discussed the proposed agreement.

1:02:19 **Motion: Vice-Chair Moe moved, and Member Brown seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the signature of the mutually-agreed upon lease for Ackley State Park between FWP and DNRC.**

1:02:46 Public Comment.

1:03:06 Board and staff discussed the proposed agreement.

1:03:14 **Action on Motion: Motion Passed. 5-0**

8. 1:04:28 **Public Comment ~ For Issues Not On This Agenda**

9. **Adjournment**

1:09:26 **Motion: Vice-Chair Moe moved, and Member Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. 5-0**

1:09:28 Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.


Russ Kipp, Chair


Hank Worsch, Director



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