



Montana State Parks and Recreation Board

Minutes

Montana State Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
Travelers' Rest State Park
June 22, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Present: Angie Grove, Chair; Jeff Welch, Vice-Chairman; Scott Brown; Mary Sheehy Moe and Betty Stone.

Staff Present: Director Williams, Loren Flynn, Coleen Furthmyre, Doug Haberman, Betsy Kirkeby, Beth Shumate Ken Soderberg, Hank Worsch and Zach Zipfel.

Guests: June 22, 2018 – See Parks file folder for sign-in sheet.

Topics:

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2018 Board Meeting**
3. **Approval of Board Expenses**
4. **Board Member Reports**
5. **Director's Report**
6. **Administrator Report**
7. **Resolution in Support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act – Endorsement**
8. **State of the State Parks Division**
9. **Legislative Audit Committee Performance Audit**
10. **Outdoor Recreation Program Updates**
11. **Flathead Access Recreation Group**
12. **Capital Program Update**
13. **Montana State Park Foundation Update**
14. **Milltown Celebration**
15. **Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda**
16. **Adjournment**

1. **Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Grove called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.; thanked Travelers' Rest State Park Manager Loren Flynn and staff for letting the Board have their work session and meeting at the Park and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of Minutes from the October 24, 2017 Board Meeting**

Action: Member Sheehy Moe moved, and Member Brown seconded to approve the February 20, 2018 minutes. Motion passed. 5-0

3. **Approval of Board Expenses**

Action: Member Sheehy Moe moved, and Member Brown seconded to approve the Parks & Recreation Board expenses. Motion passed. 5-0

4. Board Member Reports

Member Stone reported she attended Makoshika State Park Buzzard Days; festivities were great; met Jim, Swanson, Chairman of Friends of Makoshika group; Park Manager Chris Dantic is doing a fabulous job with the park;

Member Moe visited Fort Owen State Park; good experience; interesting challenges. Visited Tower Rock State Park; good trails and great view; unfortunately located next to the county dump.

Member Brown visited Makoshika State Park in March; did some hiking; beautiful park. Visited Tongue River Reservoir State Park a couple weeks ago for FWP's Region 6 and 7 staff meeting; toured Tongue River Reservoir and Rosebud State Park; good signage; a lot of enthusiasm and ownership from Region 6 and 7 staff.

Vice-Chair Welch stopped by Anaconda Stack State Park; visited Sluice Boxes State Park; floating the Smith River (State Park) next week.

Chair Grove visited Lone Pine and Wayfarers State Park while attending the Parks in Focus Commission meeting; both parks have amazing staff. Working with FWP's Legislative liaison, Hank Worsch for legislative outreach and challenges the Board is facing. Was asked to attend the Environment Quality Council meeting in May to give a Board status update; questions asking what the roll of the foundation is; explained the Board is working on the business side of the state parks system i.e.: Parks in Focus (PIF) effort, concessionaire management. Met with the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Advisory Council meeting; looking at legislative agenda; going to include trails, not just state parks in the conversation. Attended the FWP All-Staff two-day meeting in April; fun event. Been in communication with the Parks Foundation; trying to iron some things out.

Vice-Chair Welch stated he will have to step out of the meeting at 11:30 for a short time.

5. Director's Report

Director Williams thanked Member Brown for attending and participating in the FWP Region 6/7 staff meeting that was held at Tongue River State Park. The Department held an All-Staff meeting in April; first time it has ever been done; feels it was a positive experience and good outreach to bring the Department closer. The FWP Montana Outdoor magazine is now including Parks articles; in the current edition it shows the Department's new branding effort.

6. Administrator Report

Beth Shumate, Parks Administrator, stated instead of giving a basic administrator report it makes more sense to provide a more in-depth understanding of parks. The Parks Division aligns its mission ("*Our Mission is to preserve and protect our state's heritage and the natural beauty of our public lands for the benefit of our families, communities, local economies and out-of-state visitors. Our objectives are to provide excellent land stewardship, public safety and service through recreation, innovation and education. Our goals are to provide an extraordinary experience for our visitors and to keep our state park system strong now and for generations to come.*") with the Departments vision and guide ("*Montana is a place where people have abundant opportunities to connect with the world-renowned fish, wildlife, and state parks resources that define our state, and where a responsive and relevant FWP has the resiliency and public support it needs to lead the way in making sure these resources remain an essential part of Montana's culture, economy, and high quality of life.*") Need to figure the balance between conservation and recreation; visitors need to feel safe; need more enforcement (safety and security) in parks; need to work and have a relationship with key partners: Friends Groups, Montana State Parks Foundation, Parks in Focus etc. Starting to look at the 2020 Strategic Plan; plan addresses Facility Condition Inventory (FCI), critical needs at heritage parks and classifying parks to guide

our work in allocating staffing, investment and park amenities; the plan is about opportunity and the potential that the State Parks system can be. There are several infrastructure needs: maintenance-\$22 million in deferred maintenance, system weed budget is inadequate, roads and trails are deteriorating, septic systems are being used beyond their serviceable life; how do we meet visitor expectations with a massive maintenance backlog? Front country visitation has increase 50% in the last three years; the recreation industry continues to provide innovative toys and gear to recreate with. Last year's visitation numbers were down; attributing the decrease to the bad fire season Montana had. Seeing increase for "glamping" and more unique styles of camping options. Reservation system continues to grow; 100% of the reservable campsites were occupied over Memorial Day weekend. Legislative Audit produced six recommendations which the Department concurred with (will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting). Park operational funds are limited with not much emergency funding; need to increase revenue from new and existing sources; capital program has no funding going forward; PIF is trying to come up with different funding options and a potentially proposed legislative package; Dustin Temple, FWP Chief of Administration, will give the Board a full budget report at the October meeting; trying to develop a capital and major maintenance plan. Working on progressing the Strategic Plan; building on classification, naming policy, asset management system, developing funding strategies, developing a capital and major maintenance plan. Department is looking at integration/sharing resources and implementing the FWP Vision & Guide principles; PIF is working with FWP leadership to find commonalities between divisions. For the first time ever, outdoor recreation's contributions are being counted as a unique part of the United States gross domestic product (GDP); the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released a preliminary look at GDP outputs from outdoor recreation; the analysis shows that growth in the outdoor industry continues to outpace growth of the economy as a whole and accounts for over 2% of the entire GDP; eight offices of Outdoor Recreation (Montana is one of the eight) have worked together on a multi-state delegation; commitments include: economic development, conservation and stewardship, education and workforce training and public health and wellness. PIF situation report will be coming out by the end of June; next meeting will held September 28 at Makoshika State Park; working on diversified and sustainable funding, strategic partnerships and engaged constituency; based on staff surveys and conversations both internally and externally, PIF has developed strategic insights based on overall themes; there was a consensus based on various reports of the challenges that parks faces; focus areas are accelerate FWP transformation, strengthen internal capability, develop robust partnerships and constituency and create funding roadmap. The Adventure Challenge is up and running; encourages the public to explore state parks across Montana; collaboration with the Montana State Parks Foundation; challenge concludes September 2.

Member Sheehy Moe, Shumate and Ken Soderberg (Parks Chief of Operations), discussed statewide inventory and how FCI works.

Chair Grove thanked Member Brown and The Base Camp for the Adventure Challenge support.

Member Stone asked if there is a standard reporting maintenance form for each Regional Supervisor to fill out.

Shumate explained her, and Ken Soderberg are relatively new to their positions and are trying to get up to speed on how the process is being done.

Chair Grove thanked the Shumate and staff for the visitation report and data; get questions all the time about visitation information.

Shumate stated Ken and Chine Strobel, Reservation Program Manager, are the ones to be thanked for putting the visitation report together.

7. Resolution in Support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act – Endorsement

Beth Shumate, Parks Administrator, explained Recovering America's Wildlife Act legislation (H.R. 4647) was recently introduced into the House of Representatives. The bill is based on recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Panel for Conserving America's Wildlife. As proposed, the bill would dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. These funds would provide state fish and wildlife agencies with the resources needed to fully implement State Wildlife Action Plans, which are designed to conserve over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need. Under the current proposal, Montana's portion of the funding would amount to \$29.7 million annually, with a required non-federal match of 25%. Funds could be used for fish and wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education programs, and wildlife associated recreation projects. Working with landowners, partner agencies and non-government organizations would be critical to identify high priority, cooperative projects and to explore sources of non-federal match. Passage of the HR 4647 would not impact Montana's current allocation of Pittman-Robertson or Dingell Johnson funds. Upon Board endorsement, FWP would continue development of Department priorities for this potential funding and potential sources of non-federal match. FWP will work with partners to ensure support for this legislation is considered by Montana's Congressional delegation. FWP recommends the Board endorse this proposal to demonstrate clear support of new federal funding for fish and wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education programs, and wildlife associated recreation projects. This endorsement would be a clear demonstration support for the recreation program. The resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, Montana is home to more than 700 species of wildlife and fish, and

WHEREAS, out of the 700 species of wildlife and fish in Montana only 102 are harvestable game or sport fish, and

WHEREAS, out of the 700 species of wildlife and fish, 120 species are considered species of conservation concern; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts that established a fund to support conservation and science-based management of harvestable game and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for many of these species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles that are not hunted or fished; and

WHEREAS, across the nation, the number of species petitioned for federal endangered species listing has increased by more than 1,000% over the last five years, and

WHEREAS, in Montana there are currently five species listed under federal endangered species protection, seven more listed as federally threatened, and one more species is currently under consideration for listing; and

WHEREAS, Montana has a statutory responsibility to sustain and conserve all species of fish and wildlife native to Montana, and

WHEREAS, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks created a Wildlife Action Plan (2005, revised in 2015) focused on the conservation of all species including those species not listed as game or sport fish; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation in Montana and throughout the Nation to implement Wildlife Action Plans and conserve species not listed as game or sport fish, and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand wildlife associated outdoor opportunities to enjoy Montana's wildlife; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand opportunities to learn about Montana's wildlife and the outdoors, and WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the bipartisan 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)' in December 2017 calling for annual dedication of \$1.3 billion in existing revenue

from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to state fish and wildlife agencies to conserve species of conservation need as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel, and

WHEREAS, this solution will not require taxpayers or businesses to pay more, but instead allows all Americans to become investors in fish and wildlife conservation, future wildlife-related recreation opportunities, and the education of future generations on the importance of conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on June 22, 2018, the Montana Parks and Recreation Board endorsed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel and the 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act' recommending Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife, wildlife-related education programs and wildlife-related recreation programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana Parks and Recreation Board respectfully requests that the Montana Congressional Delegation support federal legislation (H.R. 4647) and/or future legislation that would implement this recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana Parks and Recreation Board supports state policy and legislation that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan and encourages the Montana state legislature to allocate the necessary 25% non-federal match if new dedicated federal funding is secured."

Member Sheehy Moe did a friendly amendment to change the word "endorsed" to "endorses" in the resolution, the third paragraph from the bottom.

Motion: Member Sheehy More moved and Member Brown seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board endorse the resolution in support of the Recovering American's Wildlife Act, with the friendly amendment.

Member Brown asked where the 25% matched funds come from.

Shumate explained the only limitation is money cannot come from Department of Interior funds; could use existing funds within the agency, grant programs money or private funds.

Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Nongame Wildlife Management Bureau Chief, explained Department of Interior or Department of Agriculture funds cannot be used; any other non-federal dollars can be used; cannot use any general license funds until Pitman-Robertson funds are matched; allow creativity to include donated lands, non-game check-off, legislative general fund allocation as well as some federal Department of Transportation dollars.

Chair Grove asked if there is a plan on how the dollars would be allocated within the Department; would some go to Parks where there are wildlife considerations; is that why this resolution is in front of the Board today?

Shumate stated the Department does not have an extensive allocation system developed yet; divisions are starting to generate proposals; looking at developing education centers like MT WILD in state parks.

Hanauska-Brown explained the Department has embarked to coming up with very large-scale ideas; parks is looking at building education centers.

Chair Grove asked if the Fish and Wildlife Commission has taken action on the resolution as well?

Shumate explained the Commission to action on the resolution at their February 15 meeting; 27 states have endorsed it as well.

Chair Grove asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion Passed. 5-0

8. State of the State Parks Division

See Administrator's report above for agenda item presentation.

During the lunch break, the Board recognized Jackson Contractor Group for their volunteer work and dedication to making Flag Plaza at Travelers' Rest State Park a reality.

9. Legislative Audit Committee Performance Audit

Chair Grove explained performance audits are conducted at the request of the Legislative Audit Committee which is a bicameral and bipartisan standing committee of the Montana Legislature and are designed to assess state government operations. Based on ongoing legislative interest in the management of state parks, the Legislative Audit Committee prioritized a performance audit be done on Montana State Parks.

John Harrington, Legislative Audit Division, presented a PowerPoint (see copy of PowerPoint in the June 22, 2018 Board file), explained the audit objectives and findings, and the six audit recommendations (see below); thanked Parks staff, particularly Tom Reilly, for their time and knowledge.

1. Department and Board clarify the role, duties, and powers of the Board, seeking legislation if necessary to better define the Board's authority.
2. Develop and implement a plan to organizationally and culturally reintegrate the Parks Division into the broader agency.
3. Increase centralized management oversight and improve financial management to ensure appropriated and available funds are expended as intended.
4. Develop a system-wide plan for regularly ranking and reviewing resource allocations for capital projects, and for maintenance and operations of state parks.
5. A. Implement a system to use management information to better manage the maintenance and resource prioritization at state parks, and
B. Develop a plan for gathering and using management information as part of an overall strategy for managing parks' maintenance and capital improvement needs.
6. Strengthen the board's lands policy:
 - A. Include resource availability and the division's ability to staff and maintain state parks as criteria for when a park may be transferred; and
 - B. Eliminate the conflict in the current policy between land transfer criteria and the assertion that the State Parks and Recreation Board will not close any parks.

The Department and the Parks and Recreation Board concurred with all six recommendations committing to making the identified improvements in state park and recreation opportunities and aim to provide clear delineation of the authority of the Department versus the Parks and Recreation Board.

Member Moe Sheehy asked if the auditors looked at eliminating the Board completely.

Harrington stated yes, there was quite a bit discussion on eliminating the Board and having the Fish and Wildlife Commission take back control; from the Governor's perspective, it was not in the best interest for Parks to eliminate the Board.

Member Brown asked if the maintenance software is still relevant and looking at implementing?

Shumate stated the Department is looking at new avenues that will best fit the Department's needs; there is an FWP asset management work group working on this.

Sara Scott, FWP Heritage Resource Program Manager, asked how much did the current software cost?

Shumate replied the software cost was \$97,000.

Member Brown stated it is interesting all the information that was received from other states; should try to touch base with other states and share ideas, including software.

Director Williams stated she has been in contact with Colorado's Parks and Wildlife Director Bob Broscheid, discussing some of the cultural issues and problems he has had to work through.

Member Sheehy stated as she understands it, the Board nor the Fish and Wildlife Commission have any budget oversight of the agency, is that correct?

Harrington explained the Board reviews and approves the Department budget for property, land and waters prior to its transmittal to the Governor's office of budget and program planning.

Member Sheehy stated if the Parks Division past monetary issues was not caught by the agency, why wasn't it been caught by the Board; wondering if there should be a budget committee or leader Board that oversees the budget.

Director Williams stated the budget is ultimately approved by the Governor; the Department does have a Financial Review Advisory Team (FRAC) that looks at all the budgets very carefully.

Member Sheehy and Harrington discussed the audit visitation statistics.

Member Stone stated on page 22, it reads "The legislature ultimately moved more than \$4 million to projects not related to state parks, including a county road project in Garfield County..."; this is the main access road to Hell Creek State Park, so it is related to state parks.

Chair Grove, Vice-Chair Welch, Member Stone and Harrington discussed past funding issues.

Chair Grove, Vice-Chair Welch, Member Sheehy Moe, Director Williams and Zach Zipfel, FWP Attorney, discussed the Boards authority on setting fees and legal authority.

The Board thanked Harrington and other audit staff for all their time and effort on the audit; very beneficial, valuable information.

Chair Grove stated she would like to form a policy committee to review all the policies and see what needs to be updated.

Harrington explained the Department concurred with all the recommendations; the Departments and Board original implementation timeline was December 2019; the recommendation from the Audit Committee meeting was to move up some of the timelines (does not have which recommendations readily available); the agency adjusted their timelines accordingly.

Chair Grove stated the three areas the Board needs to focus on are: Transfer Acquisition Policy, Classification Policy and if the Board wants to oversee a more budget type synthesis.

Board Members discussed and asked the Department to provide information at the October meeting on fees and how the fees align with other state agencies; at the October meeting, should possibly try to discuss a fee support policy or changes in the fee structure.

Member Sheehy Moe stated the Board should look into making their duties parallel with the Fish and Wildlife Commission, which would probably require legislative action; may be easier for the Department to deal with.

Chair Grove stated it could be discussed at the October meeting.

10. Outdoor Recreation Program Updates

Beth Shumate, Parks Administrator, explained Montana State Parks manages five recreation grant programs which totals \$3.7 million annually, and benefits local communities, residents, and visitors to our state. Grant funding is provided to agencies clubs, communities, and organizations via the following Recreation Programs:

- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - Federally Funded**
Currently in the allocation process; typically have a grant cycle allocation of \$1.5 million; grant can be used for any trail project (safety, ethics program, education, general trail maintenance etc.); have a State Trails Advisory Council (STAC); reviews all the applications and projects; typically award 40-50 projects annually. The new Parks Trail and Recreation Coordinator is Michelle McNamee; was hired Mid-May.
- **Snowmobile Program – State Funded**
Provides approximately \$400,000 on an annual basis to 26 snowmobile clubs across the state for grooming efforts, trail maintenance etc.; depending on price, usually fund 2-3 new groomers every biennium; the annual appropriation meeting will be held June 29-30 in Helena, will prioritize the applications and the next replacement groom purchases.
- **Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program - State Funded**
There were 11 grant applications in this cycle; 9 were funded at approximately \$120,000; smallest grant program; can be used for different trails maintenance, education, safety, ethics. etc.
- **Accessible Playground Program – State Funded**
This was a one-time grant opportunity from the 2017 Legislative Session (HB 294/Representative Jean Price); program was meant for an opportunity for communities and schools to allow them to have some funding for matching contributions; 14 applications were submitted; 11 were funded; \$100,00 was distributed.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program – Federally Funded**
In the process of looking at a new round of community/school grants; considerable funding increase this year and anticipate additional funds in the future; communities are having trouble with coming

up with the 50% match; in-kind matches can be used for the 50% match; since 1965, the Department has awarded 750+ projects statewide; LWCF paperwork needs to be kept into perpetuity.

One of the outdoor recreation program manager positions has been vacant for quite some time; it is a priority to get this position filled.

Member Sheehy Moe asked why does most of the OHV grant money go to the National Forest Service; how does the liability issue work with the snowmobile groomer project and the volunteer group?

Shumate replied the year the Department did not receive many applications from local OHV clubs this year; typically, OHV trails are on Federal lands, not state lands. If the snowmobile club as paid employees, they need to provide the Department a workers' compensation policy; clubs also have agreements with the Forest Service, since most of the trails are on Forest Service property.

Chair Grove requested the Department put together a map that shows we provide programs and funding across the state for outdoor recreation; will be useful when conversations start with legislators.

Chair Grove encouraged all Board members to explore new trail projects.

Member Brown stated Billings TrailNet, Last Chance Nordic Ski Club and the Beartooth Recreational Trails Association are great grass-root organizations; it is a great thing we are helping organizations like these; these programs benefit businesses as well as the users.

11. Flathead Access Recreation Group

Beth Shumate, Parks Administrator, explained demand for recreation opportunities on Flathead Lake continues to grow; public recreation demand for lake access exceeds capacity during the summer period. In 2017, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) recreation sites alone saw over 490,000 visits, and congestion is growing problem for State Park units as well as Fishing Access Sites (FAS). Private development around Flathead Lake is increasingly limiting opportunities for public and Tribal access to the Lake. Additional access on the lake shore is needed to meet current and future demand for developed recreation opportunities such as boating, camping, and day use. Existing facilities at the Big Arm unit of Flathead Lake State Park and Elmo FAS may become inaccessible to the public in the next two years. These heavily used and popular recreation sites are leased by FWP from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) as recreation sites. In compliance with DNRC's mandate to maximize revenue for the state school trust, DNRC lease costs are increasing along with land values, and FWP's ability to lease these properties for public access and recreation may become cost prohibitive, if a financial solution cannot be found for lease renewal in 2020. FWP, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), DNRC, Flathead County, and the communities of Lakeside and Polson, own and manage developed and undeveloped public recreation sites along the shores of the Lake. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) provides seasonal walk-in access to the undeveloped north shore Waterfowl Protection Area comprised of about seven miles of shoreline, Regional Parks Division staff are exploring the formation of a partnership of tribal, local, state and federal government agencies, as well as non-governmental entities, to secure and improve the network of public and Tribal recreation sites to meet the demand for access to Flathead Lake, and support local community.

Director Williams explained the constitution requires DNRC's school trust lands to benefit the common schools and other endowed institutions; DNRC is required to periodically reevaluate their lands at fair-market value, which usually increases the rates and as such increases the cost on the lease.

Shumate stated we need to start looking at our public sites and outdoor recreation from a regional planning perspective; this group could be a key partner to try and secure funding opportunities for us to meet the increase in costs; Big Arm is one of the few self-sustaining units in the Parks system

12. Capital Program Update

Paul Valle, FWP Design and Construction Supervisor, explained the 2017 Legislative Session appropriated capital funding for three priority projects this biennium totaling \$5.7 million. The projects are:

- **Bannack State Park:** Fire alarm system (\$1.65 Million); project awarded to Communication Resources, LLC – Missoula (\$874,895); construction to start immediately after Bannack Days.
- **Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park:** Electrical, lighting and handrail project (\$2.2 Million); project awarded to Pavlick Electric Co, Inc. – Missoula (\$1.23 Million); construction to start immediately after cave closes on October 1, 2018.
- **Makoshika State Park:** Entrance road (\$1.85 Million); bid opening is scheduled for July 18, 2018; tentative construction to start August 20, 2018, if there is a successful bid opening.

Other ongoing significant park projects:

Finley Point State Park campground project (\$1.25 million); substantially completed May 24, 2018 in time for Memorial Day weekend.

Hell Creek State Park water tank and drain field replacement project (\$860,000); awarded to Corland Construction of Sidney Mt; tentatively scheduled to start work on August 2018.

Milltown State Park project (\$2.45 million); project is substantially completed, except for the trail sections under the interstate due to the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge replacement project.

Chair Grove, Member Sheehy Moe and Valle discussed different aspects of the Lewis and Clark Caverns and Makoshika State Parks construction projects.

Coby Gierke, Montana State Parks Foundation (MSPF), and Valle discussed the Makoshika State Parks construction project.

Valle stated if the Board has any questions about any projects, feel free to call Tom Reilly or himself.

Member Brown asked about the costs of the Makoshika State Park project.

Valle stated there are several aspects for the project; \$874,895 is just the construction component; there is also a consultant and archeology component as well. If there is money left over it must be given back and re-appropriated, cannot be used for any other project.

13. Montana State Park Foundation Update

Colby Gierke, MSPF, explained the Foundation have completed two of the projects that the Department asked MSPF for; funded trailhead kiosks and informational signs at Lone Pine State Park; invested over \$12,000 into Milltown State Park, this is the most significant investment in a single Park that the Foundation has funded. Ongoing project at Sluice Boxes Park State Park; waiting on the Department to negotiate an easement with the family that owns property adjacent to the overlook trailhead; Montana Conservation Corps has offered free labor to complete the trail improvement. The Adventure Challenge kicked off June 2 at Lone Pine State Park; significant increase to the Foundations website and social media; direct

sponsors have reached out to promote the challenge in their areas. These projects are important to the Foundation; it is how the Foundation tells the public and the agency that the Foundation is capable of physically improving the Parks system. Donation boxes have been deployed at Lone Pine, Wayfarers, Giant Springs, First Peoples Buffalo Jump, Missouri Headwaters, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Pictograph, Chief Plenty Coup and Makoshika State Parks. A new digital project request form is available for FWP to use when asking the Foundation to consider a project for funding; has been shared with Parks leadership for review. Running into issues with project readiness and on the ground management before projects can be started and volunteer's resources can be utilized. The Foundation has plans to develop new revenue sources. The Foundation's retreat is this Sunday (June 23); will be talking about were the Foundation will be going in the next year and the next five years; the Foundation sees a bright future for State Parks; planning on continuing to help the Division in a much higher scale.

Member Sheehy Moe asked if the Foundation has a Board.

Gierke stated yes, he has a dedicated Board that is actively growing who meet every two months and have an annual retreat in the fall.

Vice-Chair Welch stated he is on the Foundation Board; the Foundation is newer than the Parks and Recreation Board; there has been a ton of progress in the last year; Colby has been with the Foundation less than a year; might need to consider whether to stay on the Parks and Recreation Board or the Parks Foundation Board.

Chair Grove stated as the Foundation grows and becomes more sophisticated, the Board needs to keep an arm length away; at the EQC meeting there were questions of why we need a private non-profit Foundation; the Foundation is a key component to Parks; the Board needs to be a full partner with the Foundation.

Gierke stated the Foundation has held fundraising events in Miles City, Bozeman, Missoula, Great Falls, Big Fork and Kalispell; events are planned in Helena, Kalispell and Billings in the coming months; the best event was in Missoula for Milltown State Park, sold benches and trees as memorial donation, \$5,800 was raised; the second-best event was in Miles City, \$2,000 was raised.

Chair Grove asked Gierke to reach out to Board members for fundraising ideas and who to contact in their area; would like to come up with some sort of Foundation notification for the Board members of what is happening. Asked the Board to think of ways the Board can help and support the Foundation. The Foundation is primarily focusing on Parks, but hopefully in time, will be able to look at the whole picture which would include recreation.

Vice-Chair Welch stated the Foundation is looking for more board members statewide; need support of time and money.

14. Milltown Celebration

Loren Flynn, Travelers' Rest State Park Manager, stated the grand opening celebration of the Confluence Area of Milltown State Park is slated for tomorrow, Saturday June 23, 2018. A full line-up of events are planned and include a dedication ceremony, interpretive talks, educational booths and kid's activities, food, beverages and live music.

15. Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda

Bob Walker, Montana Trails Coalition (MTC) Chairman, spoke about the economic benefits of recreation; \$7.1 is spent on outdoor recreation in Montana annually; outdoor recreation is big business; MTC members consist of several partners; the whole idea of the Coalition is to bring the trails community together and

start solving issues; Coalition have been speaking with legislatures and working on some funding alternatives for about eight months; different options for funding are: increase optional light motor vehicle registration fee from \$6.00 to \$10.00 (last increased in 2011) with \$2.00 going to Parks and \$2.00 going to recreational trails; increase lodging facility bed tax by ½% (current tax is 7%); Department, Board, PIF and the Coalition need to work together and communicate to make things work for the session. The Montana Trails Recreation Parks Association have drafted a bill to increase the gas tax for the snowmobile and OHV programs. Parks Department should be called the Parks and Recreation Department.

Frank LaLibeuty, MTC and State Trails Advisory, State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association (MTVRA), the job of MTC is to make people aware of the issues and try to get priorities established; there is a significant increase of people using the trails; Montana needs to be proactive; trails are part of Montana's infrastructure and are behind; trails are not being maintained; volunteers take care of most trails; STAC gives roughly half of their Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant money to trails; need to contact legislator's and put pressure on them for more funding for State Parks, US Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to keep and maintain the trails. In 2016, Wyoming formed a legislative mandated task force to look at recreation and trails; they had recommendations for funding, what different state organizations and agencies needed to do to promote recreational and trails; this is something Montana needs to do. MTC encourages the Board to work with them and other state agencies to keep up with the demand of recreation in Montana.

Bruce Bugbee, American Public Land Exchange (APLE), research project for additional parking at Travelers' Rest is well on its way; the property is quite fitting; the research analyst has identified 37 different potential partnerships.

Chair Grove reminded the Board to turn in their reimbursements sheets as soon as possible; the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at Pictograph State Park on October 18, with a possible work session the day before, please let her know if this day does not work; the Board is statutorily required to have 4 meeting a year if necessary.

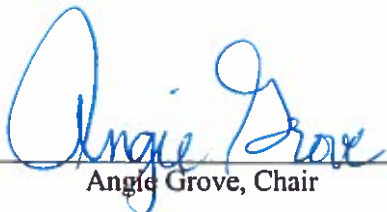
Member Stone asked if it would be more beneficial to hold the meeting the first part of the month since the legislative session is only a few months away.

Chair Grove stated PIF is anticipating meeting at the end of September; would like a couple weeks to digest from that meeting.

16. Adjournment

Motion: Member Sheehy Moe moved and Member Brown motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed. 5-0

Chair Grove adjourned the meeting at 3:23 PM.



Angie Grove, Chair



Martha Williams