



Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes Directory

Date: October 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 A.M.

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

Time stamps are based on the YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/iaK2ThwzVOM>.

Parks and Recreation Board Members in Attendance:

Angie Grove - Chair
Mary Moe - Vice-Chair
Scott Brown
Erica Lighthiser
Betty Stone
Martha Williams, Secretary/Director

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Approval of Board Minutes
 3. Board Member Reports
 4. Director Report
 5. Administrator Report
 6. Somers Beach Acquisition
 7. Capital Program Projects
 8. Missouri Headwaters State Park Planning Update
 9. Montana State Parks Foundation Update
 10. Public Comment for Issues Not on This Agenda
 11. Adjournment
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1. **8:54** Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Grove called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 2. **11:57** Approval of Board Minutes
14:00 *Motion: Vice-Chair Moe moved, and Member Stone seconded to approve the September 17, 2020 meeting minutes.*
14:33 *Action on Motion: Motion Passed. 5-0*
 3. **14:45** Board Member Reports
 4. **26:23** Director Report
 5. **31:13** Administrator Report
 6. **47:39** Somers Beach Acquisition (Action Item)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes acquiring approximately 106-acres of land east of the town of Somers, MT on the north shore of Flathead Lake to create a new state park for the use and enjoyment of the people of Montana and its visitors. The current owners of the property have allowed public access on the site for decades and FWP wants to ensure that access in perpetuity.

Public access sites on Flathead Lake are used heavily throughout the year and are consistently at or over capacity. This project is a rare chance to provide more public access to Flathead Lake, which currently has less than 20 public access points along its 185 miles of shoreline, all of which are heavily used by residents and tourists. Keeping this site open to the public would help ease congestion at other sites. Features of this property is a wide, flat sandy beach that emerges at low pool level that are unique to this area and not available at other state parks on Flathead Lake or elsewhere in the state.

Seeing this need for more recreational access, multiple entities have been working together to add this property to the Montana State Park System and public access. The price of the acquisition will not exceed \$2.985 million, based on a recent appraisal. Funding would be provided by a pending Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant and required matches from Parks Earned Revenue or General License Fund monies.

While future development of the park would be covered under a future environmental assessment (EA) and would not be fully determined until after extensive scoping and public comment, the site would be suitable for a variety of recreational offerings and amenities, such as trails, hand-launch boat access, picnic tables, restrooms, etc. It has not yet been decided whether the site would be open for camping or day-use only. The exact nature and location of amenities and hours of operation would be decided following further assessment of the site, available budget, and public input.

Other benefits of this project include protecting the site from commercial and residential development, which would help maintain the water quality of Flathead Lake. This benefits aquatic life, riparian habitat and the wildlife that depend on it.

FWP released a draft EA for a 30-day public review on August 12, 2020, with public comment closing September 11, 2020. FWP received 135 comments on the proposed project; multiple people listed the same or similar comments.

57:01 Chair Grove asked for public comment.

1:14:59 Board and Department conversed on the proposal.

2:20:40 *Motion: Chair Grove moved, and Member Brown seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board conditionally approve FWP's acquisition of approximately 106-acres of land east of the town of Somers, on the north shore of Flathead Lake for inclusion in the state park system based upon the conditions outlined in the coversheet regarding Department satisfaction of the Purchase Agreement terms.*

2:32:33 *Action on Motion: Motion carried. 5-0*

7. **2:41:52** **Capital Program Projects (Action Item)**

Per revisions made in the 2019 Legislative Session, the Parks and Recreation Board must approve any proposed capital project expenditures over \$50,000.

Lone Pine State Park: Upgrade the exiting water treatment and distribution system. Installed in the mid-1980's, the system is in need to upgrade. This includes replacement of the outdated confined entry vault, chlorination system, and related components. The related infrastructures are located on adjacent private property and the water system also serves five residences. The estimate for the required consultant/construction effort is \$200,000.

Logan State Park: This project would involve the replacement of the sewage lift station. The existing lift station components (vault, pumps, electrical system, floats, and related components) have reached the end of their useful life. The lift station is located within the park on the south side of Highway 2, with the effluent then pumped under the highway to the drain field, located on the north side of Highway 2. The estimate for the required consultant/construction effort is \$125,000.

It is not anticipated public involvement will be necessary for either the Lone Pine State Park water system upgrade or the sewage lift station replacement at Logan State Park. Both are maintenance efforts to upgrade/replace existing infrastructure serving the respective park sites.

2:47:17 *Motion: Member Stone moved, and Vice-Chair Moe seconded that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the expenditure of capital funds for the two proposed infrastructure investments at Lone Pine and Logan State Parks, at the estimated amount of \$325,000.*

2:47:46 Chair Grove asked for public comment.

2:48:04 *Action on Motion: Motion carried. 5-0*

2:48:25 Parks Capital Projects currently in-work statewide (Informational):

Region 1 - Kalispell

Big Arm State Park –

Dock replacement

Budget: ~\$50,000

Status: Complete

Lake Mary Ronan State Park

Ramp extension

Budget: ~\$25,000

Status: Construction late October/early November 2020

Logan State Park

Ramp extension

Budget: \$55,000

Status: Complete

Lone Pine State Park

Pedestrian bridge replacement

Budget: ~\$103,000 (includes \$70,300 RTP grant)

Status: To bid Winter 2021; bidding/construction to follow

Thompson Chain-of-Lakes

Timber management project

Budget: ~\$50,000 (includes a DNRC Forestry grant)

Status: To bid Fall 2020; implementation Winter 2021

Big Arm and Logan State Parks

Comfort Station Upgrades

Budget: ~\$23,500

Status: Complete

Region 2 - Missoula

Fort Owen State Park

Roof replacement on barracks

Budget: ~\$54,000

Status: Bids opened Fall 2020; construction to follow as weather permits

Milltown State Park

Bandmann Flats Trailhead project

Budget: ~\$310,000; includes LWCF and RTP grants, Missoula Co. grant, and parks funding

Status: In design; to bid Winter 2021

Salmon/Placid/Travelers' Rest/Milltown State Parks

Hazard Tree Projects

Budget: ~\$25,000

Status: Complete

Region 3 – Bozeman

Anaconda Stack State Park

Electrical infrastructure upgrade (NorthWestern Energy)

Budget: ~\$65,000

Status: Construction in-work; completion in early November.

Bannack State Park

Roof replacements on Decker and Turner Houses

Budget: ~\$60,000

Status: Complete

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

Comfort station wastewater system replacement

Budget: ~\$80,000

Status: Project design in-work/DEQ steps; construction phase in Legislative package proposal.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

Concession building remodel/code upgrades

Budget: ~\$280,000

Status: Construction in-process; complete for Spring 2021 opening

Region 4 – Great Falls

Elkhorn State Park

Reroofing of buildings

Budget: ~\$60,000

Status: To bid Winter 2021; construction in Summer 2021

Giant Spring State Park

Parking area upgrade; rehab

Budget: ~\$275,000

Status: Project bid; construction to occur Spring 2021

Smith River State Park

Streambank stabilization project; below downstream launch ramp

Budget: ~\$200,000

Status: Project in consultant design now; bid for Fall 2021 construction

Smith River State Park/Camp Baker

Road/cattleguard maintenance

Budget: ~\$10,000

Status: To be complete approximately November 1, 2020

Smith River State Park/Camp Baker

Picnic table replacements
Budget: ~\$10,000
Status: Complete

Region 5 – Billings

Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Stabilize Chief's House; foundation repairs
Budget: ~\$125,000
Status: Delay due to COVID-19 restrictions; to bid Winter 2021

Chief Plenty Coups State Parks

Replace wastewater treatment system for Visitor's Center
Budget: ~\$150,000
Status: Project in consultant design; to bid late Winter 2021

Cooney State Park

Shoreline stabilization; Cottonwood Cove campground
Budget: ~\$135,000
Status: Bid opening October 22, 2020

Lake Elmo State Park

Retaining wall at beach areas
Budget: ~\$7,000
Status: Complete

Region 6/7 – Miles City

Makoshika State Park

Water line extension project
Budget: \$1.3 million
Status: Construction proceeding on-site; Spring 2021 completion

Rosebud Battlefield State Park

Parking area improvements; maintenance repairs to Kobold House
Budget: ~\$55,000
Status: To bid Winter 2021

2:50:10 Board and Department discussed the Parks Capital Projects.

8. 2:55:22 Missouri Headwaters State Park Planning Update (Informational Item)
3:24:53 Continuation of Presentation

During the 2019 Legislative session, Senate Bill (SB) 70 was passed removing Missouri Headwaters State Park (MHWSP) from the Montana Primitive Parks list. This allows FWP the ability to consider how this site might be enhanced to meet visitor and community expectations while also generating revenue. FWP has initiated a responsive and collaborative park planning process to better address community interest in broadening visitor services and experiences. The planning process will involve interested stakeholders, friends' groups and the public.

Public outreach and input has begun with the formation of a working group with representatives from inside and outside FWP. Working group members include representatives with backgrounds in cultural and historical resources, fisheries, wildlife, tribal park management, volunteerism, tourism, local trail systems, environmental concerns, and the Park & Recreation Board.

A formation of a focus group is being formed from inside and outside FWP. This group will be asked to read, comment, suggest changes, readability, and more.

There will be at least three public meetings. The first public meeting will allow interested parties to learn of the project, it's purpose, and to reassure them that FWP is being transparent and bringing them into the process from the beginning. The second and third public meetings will focus on plan progress and when nearing the finish, FWP will solicitate for public comment on the draft final plan.

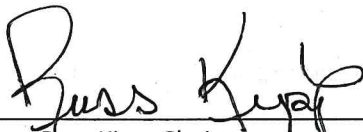
9. 3:01:58 Montana State Parks Foundation Update (Informational Item)

The Montana State Parks Foundation is the official nonprofit fundraising partner of Montana State Parks. Montana's unique outdoor recreation culture and spectacular natural assets deserve a park system that is world-class. The Foundation is dedicated to helping Montana's state park system become one of the best in the nation through private fundraising and capacity building in areas where regular funding streams are simply not enough. The Foundation is working to develop an improved process for project proposals in an effort to prioritize project needs and to better coordinate with State Parks staff.

10. 3:50:58 Public Comment ~ For Issues Not on This Agenda

11. 3:55:29 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.



Russ Kipp, Chair



Hank Worsch, Director