



Doug Ducey
Governor



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
**THE ARIZONA OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATING
COMMISSION (AORCC)**
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 to members of the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) and the general public that the GROUP will hold a meeting open to the public on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. located at Arizona State Park 23751 N. 23rd Ave. Phoenix, Arizona 85085.** Attendance at this meeting is available via telephone by calling **1.877.820.7831** and entering the participant passcode **613038**.

The Commission may elect to hold an Executive Session for any agenda item at any time during the meeting to discuss or consult with its legal counsel for legal advice on matters listed on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3). Items on the agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically noted to be set for a certain time. Public comment will be taken.

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Members present, Tiffany Broberg, Joseph Baynes (phone), Wayne Lackner (phone), Kent Taylor (phone), Deborah Summers (phone), Sue Black

Staff Present: Dawn Collins, Mickey Rogers, Brianne Fisher, Skip Varney, Matt Eberhard

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 3, 2016 meeting.

Kent Taylor moved to approve, Joe Baynes seconded. Unanimous approval.

2. Review and recommend funding for the July 2016 Motorized Grant applications

Members will review the five project applications and determine which projects they wish to recommend for funding.

Skip Varney discussed the Arizona Peace Trail Master Plan project. It would provide funding to the Arizona Peace Trail, Inc. for a master plan for the Peace Trail which will be a 750-mile off-road trail in three counties involving 12 different clubs, BLM, Game and Fish and State Lands. **Kent:** OHVAG reduced the grant, what was the reason? **Skip:** The committee felt that the meeting costs were too high and reduced the grant asking the sponsor to find

alternative sites for these meetings. JC Sanders, Arizona Peace Trail: stated his group has already found several areas that are willing to donate rooms for the public meetings and will continue to find more areas for these meetings at little or no cost. **Joe:** Is impressed with the collaboration of so many groups and the potential economic impact once this trail is established. **JC Sanders:** We have support from many different groups. The plan will not only establish a trail, but will also identify resources along the trail. i.e. gas stations, restaurants, motels, service areas, etc. **Tiffany:** Is the grant recommendation \$238,000 or \$200,000? **Skip:** \$200,000 **Wayne:** Motion to recommend funding the Arizona Peace Trail Project for \$200,000. **Tiffany:** Second. Unanimous approval

Skip discussed the Coconino Trail Riders OHV project. The project would provide funding for volunteer events and trail crews to help maintain several trails at the Coconino National Forest's Kelly Canyon trail system. The original grant was for \$352,226 and OHVAG recommended funding at \$256,000. The committee took out a truck and flatbed trailer which was going to be used for transporting equipment which at the present time is not available. Keith Greenwalt, Land Use Director for Coconino Trail Riders, talked in more detail about the work that will be done at Kelly Canyon. He also mentioned that he has asked for funding for NEPA work to be done at the Highway 180 trail system in the Coconino National Forest. This project implementation will be started when Kelly Canyon is complete. **Tiffany:** This grant includes \$120,000 for NEPA for this area? **Skip:** Yes **Kent:** Could not understand map, the one with all of the blue lines, questioned why they are building more trails in this area when it already is very saturated. **Keith:** Stated that this map shows all of the identified roads, trails, and paths in this area. Many are to be discontinued and he showed another map of the trails that will be improved/built. **Kent:** Concern with building 34 miles of new trails when there are still too many trails in this area. **Keith:** Again stated that many will be decommissioned. **Skip:** Stated this map shows all trails/roads—motor/non-motor. **Tiffany:** Is the \$120,000 a known NEPA cost? **Keith:** This is worst case scenario using a contractor to do this work. **Wayne:** Is this an EA or an EIS? **Dawn:** If it is an EA it is much less than an EIS. **Wayne:** If it is an EIS, it could take years. **Kent:** No information in packet for trails in this Highway 180 area. **Keith:** The Highway 180 has existing trails and will be new trails. **Tiffany:** If the cost is not known, how will this be done? **Skip:** We encumber the funds for the entire project including this NEPA portion. **Tiffany:** Was concerned about obligating this funding. **Mickey:** The sponsor must go through the bidding process for the NEPA and would have to get approved by state parks prior to initiating this process. **Motion:** Tiffany recommended funding the Coconino Trail Riders project for \$256,500. **Wayne:** Second. **Kent** only member opposed to funding this project.

Skip let Ken MacFarland discuss La Paz County's Shea Road Trailhead Project. Ken discussed this project abuts BLM property and would be the second staging area to be built to provide access to the Arizona Peace Trail. It would include a parking area, ramadas, picnic tables and trash receptacles. **Tiffany:** Questioned why the committee is requesting a support letter from BLM. **Skip:** Committee wanted assurance that BLM is not going to be building a similar facility on their abutting property. We will need this prior to construction. **Ken:** We have not received this letter yet. **Joe:** Questioned the size of the Ramada **Ken:** 11' X 10'. **Joe:** Was surprised at the low cost of the Ramada. **Kent:** Motion to recommend funding the La Paz County Shea Road Staging Area for \$76,300. **Debbie:** Second Unanimous approval

Skip discussed Prescott National Forest's proposed trail project. It will build 8 miles of new trail and improve 18 miles of existing motorized trail. It is part of the Greater Prescott Trail System. Jason Williams, Prescott National Forest was on the phone and talked about the project. He explained that there were several public meetings to go over the trails in the area, what they wanted to keep, suggested to close and Prescott National Forest used that input to come up with this project. Instead of closing all of the illegal trails, this project will keep and improve the trails that make sense and close the others. This project would also include maintenance on the existing Blue Hills trails and provide \$80,000 for NEPA for many of these new trails. **Wayne:** Since these trails are already existing, can't you consider these CE? **Jason:** Since these trails were not part of the original system, they are considered new so would not qualify for a CE. **Joe:** Wanted to know if the NEPA cost was less, where would the funding go. **Skip:** The grant would be reduced by that amount and go back into the OHV recreation fund. **Kent:** Motion to recommend funding the Prescott National Forest's OHV Trail Project for \$315,871. **Wayne:** Second Unanimous approval

Skip discussed the Tonto Recreation Alliance's (TRAL) proposed OHV trail project. This project is for inventory and signing trails throughout the Tonto National Forest. Rich Smith, Executive Director of TRAL had further discussion of the project. They are a non-profit that works exclusively with the Tonto National Forest. They have assisted the Tonto National Forest with their travel management planning for the past 11 years. For the route system that is in place, they inspect the trails, record data, put signs up, and give information to Tonto on problem areas. The second phase is to assist with maintenance of existing trails using hand tools and volunteers. They have inspected to date, 1754 miles of trail, put up 832 new trail markers and inventoried another 700 existing signs along the trails. **Kent:** Recommended funding TRAL's OHV trail project in the amount of \$94,404.15 **Debbie:** Second Unanimous approval

Kent: Had a question for staff. Many of these projects score only 30% of the total available scoring, did staff look at this? **Mickey:** Yes, we have looked at this and there may be a project that is focused on maintenance of an existing trail which is the highest priority for all projects. The priorities are identified in the 2015 trails plan. **Kent:** We are not getting applications with aspects related to the trails plan? **Mickey:** In this round, OHVAG thought that all the projects should be funded. Had we received more applications, then the scoring would have been more of a factor.

3. Review and recommend funding for the Law Enforcement grant applications

Members will review the three project applications and determine which project they wish to recommend for funding.

Skip Varney discussed that this is the first time that these LE grants have been submitted. We received three applications, one for the BLM Hassayampa Field Office, one from the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office and one from La Paz County. All of the projects have been reviewed by OHVAG. Edwin Whittaker, LE officer from BLM, discussed the Hassayampa Field Office needs particularly in the Table Mesa and Boulders OHV area. With Phoenix having such a large population, there have been many illegal activities in the OHV areas. There have been many drug arrests at these areas and BLM has been trying to keep these people out. **Joe Baynes:** Question on body cameras. There have been issues with storage of the data on computers and the size of the files. **Ed:** BLM has been approved to save this data

on desk computers with a secure folder. There is no problem with this. **Tiffany:** Does BLM get a special rate with the company selling these cameras. **Ed:** Yes. **Joe:** Question for staff: The original grant request was for 5 cameras; the recommendation was for one. **Skip:** The committee felt that since there is only one LE officer at these areas at a time, we should only purchase on camera. **Joe:** Asked about the citations that were mentioned in the application. **Ed:** Stated that the violations that were shown on the grant were OHV violations only. He stated there are many more issues and citations/arrests made at these areas. These include drug violations, illegal shooting, etc. and said he would give that information to the committees at a later time. **Sue Black:** Asked questions on costs for citations and where does the money go. **Ed:** Depends on how the violator acts, if they cooperated, they generally just charge the court fee. If they do not, they can maximize the fine (\$26-\$275) and goes to the courtesy violation board. **Tiffany:** Other ways to deter these violators? **Ed:** Yes, there are cameras, the ambassadors help, the public is a very big help and at one area, there was a new plant built next to the trailhead which provided lighting to this area at night. **Wayne:** Question re: patrols and type of vehicles. **Ed:** BLM uses a variety of vehicles including trucks, OHV's, and motorcycle. **Joe:** Motion to recommend funding the BLM Hassayampa Law Enforcement Grant for \$28,500. **Debbie:** Second. Unanimous approval

BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office LE Grant: Skip discussed the funding for the Lower Sonoran Field office. It was reviewed by OHVAG and the only change was to reduce the recovery kits for the vehicles from 8 kits to 2. There were no questions. **Kent:** Motion to recommend funding the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office LE grant for \$28,400. **Debbie:** Second. Unanimous approval

La Paz County Law Enforcement Grant: Skip discussed the grant for La Paz County to assist with enforcement in the county. Kenneth MacFarland from La Paz County talked about the need. La Paz County has 20,000 full time residents but in the winter, there are over 100,000 winter visitors staying in the county. Many of these people recreate on the OHV trails in the county. There are over 800 miles of trail/roads used by these user groups. The county has a vehicle but no manpower. The funding will be used for salary and fuel for the vehicle to do these patrols. Since they have not done these in the recent past, there is no data on the violations of these users. **Tiffany:** Question if it is just for gas. **Ken:** No for fuel and staff time. **Joe:** Question if it is for overtime. **Ken:** No, straight time. **Joe:** Time frame? **Ken:** Focus mainly in the winter months as most summer use is on water. **Tiffany:** Is this an annual grant and will you reapply next year? **Ken:** It is for a two-year period, if the patrols show there is a need, it will give data to supervisors to provide funding for these positions. **Tiffany:** Where does the citation money go? **Ken:** Was not sure, to the county? **Skip:** Grant can only be for two years' maximum. **Kent:** Recommend funding the La Paz County LE grant for \$30,000. **Joe** second. Unanimous approval

C. REPORTS

1. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update (*Dawn Collins – 15 minutes*)

Dawn started the discussion talking about the sunset review for AORCC. This needs to be reviewed every 10 years. Staff and Tiffany responded to questions from the legislature. In this session, the recommendation will be for AORCC to extend another three years. Tiffany

answered questions in front of the committee and one thing that was stressed is that this is a volunteer committee with no cost to the taxpayers. Sue talked about the governor's request to review all committees and reduce the total number of committees statewide.

Dawn discussed our State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Arizona State University is conducting surveys and gathering data to identify outdoor recreation priorities. There has been a survey and several workgroups gathering information for this. A draft will be posted on Arizona State Parks' website for public comment and we encourage individuals to comment on this plan which will prioritize outdoor recreation needs in Arizona for the next five years. **Debbie:** She attended a session at NRPA on trends for outdoor recreation and playing sports in trending down while using technology for outdoor recreation is trending up. Dawn stated that this is a trend in Arizona also. **Debbie:** With future growth of some communities, there are families moving into some communities with children and there are some pockets where this activity will increase. Dawn stated that the number one resource is funding which can be used to maintain the existing facilities available. The demographics in Arizona have also changed in the past 5 years with age and international visitors. Also, social media is playing a larger part of outdoor recreation. Everyone will be made aware when the public comment period is posted.

2. Update on the new online grant system; WebGrants (*Mickey Rogers – 15 minutes*)

Mickey gave an update on the on-line system. Staff have digitized all current grants and all projects now report electronically. The grant section is now totally paperless. We have been working with WebGrants to develop a system for our grants. It will allow for efficiencies for not only state parks, but the grantee, ADOT and Federal Highway. The system will also allow advisory groups to look at all projects to find out the progress with these. We hope to have this up by the January 1 funding cycle.

3. Update on the Progress of the OHV Economic Study (*Skip Varney – 5 minutes*)

Skip talked about the OHV Economic Impact Study. The last survey was done in 2003 which showed an impact of 3 billion dollars. The study is being done by ASU with a survey to collect data from OHV users. There will also be people in the field at OHV trailheads throughout the year to collect data from users. **Joe:** How long will the survey be? **Skip:** One year and focus on all areas of the state. **Joe:** Has no doubt that these trails have a huge economic impact in Arizona. **Skip:** Arizona State Parks is working with different groups throughout Arizona to develop a statewide OHV map.

F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Those wishing to address the Board must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Presentation time may be limited to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair; the Chair may limit a presentation to one person per organization. The Board may direct staff to study or reschedule any matter for a future meeting.

No one requested to speak.

G. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 – conference call meeting

Tentative.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Tiffany—Motion to adjourn Seconded by entire group.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Commission is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, Resources and Public Programs, 23751 North 23rd Ave., Suite 190, Phoenix, AZ 85085. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Brianne Fisher at 602-542-6968.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the committee clerk (602) 542-6968 or advisorycommittee@azstateparks.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Sue Black, Executive Director
Arizona State Parks