

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission



March 13, 2008

8:30 - 9:45 Work Session

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Business Meeting  
Region 2 Office, RNW

## 3/13/2008 Meeting Minutes

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

### **Commissioners Present:**

Jim Parr, Chair

Brad Chalfant

Sharon Rudi

Jim Brown

Sue Musser

### **Staff:**

Tim Wood, Director

Dave Wright, Assistant Director, Operations

Kyleen Stone, Assistant Director, Recreation Programs and Planning

Roger Roper, Assistant Director, Heritage Programs

Lisa VanLaanen, Assistant Director, Administration

Dave Koellermeier, State Fair Manager

Chris Havel, Communications Coordinator

Jim Myron, Legislative Coordinator

Wayne Rawlins, Grants Division Manager

Kathy Schutt, Planning Manager

Mark Davison, Master Planner

Richard Walkoski, Recreation Programs Manager

Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Manager

Amy Gillette, Natural Resources Manager

John Potter, Region 2 Manager

Dennis Wiley, Willamette Valley District Manager

Tanya Crane, Budget Manager

Steve Shipsey, Assistant Attorney General

Vanessa DeMoe, Commission Assistant

### **Visitors Present:**

Dave Eshbaugh, State Parks Trust

Dave Roberts, State Parks Trust

Mike Wetter, Metro Parks & Greenspaces

David Bragdon, Metro

George Kramer, Chair, Oregon Heritage Commission

Laura Parr, Guest

Neil Maine, North Coast Land Conservancy

Mark Watson, University of Oregon

Jim Scheppke, Director of Oregon State Library

Jeannette Holman, Department of State Lands

## **Meeting**

On Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. Chair Commissioner Parr called the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) meeting to order.

## **Commission Work Session (Information)**

The Commission met in work session to discuss the Centennial Plan and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's fee structure.

*This work session was open to the public. However, the Commission did not take public comment during the work session. An opportunity for comment was provided during the business meeting.*

## **Topic: OPRD Rate Review**

Authors: Richard Walkoski, Chris Havel, Tom Hughes

Director Tim Wood gave an introduction and background of the discussion for the 09-11 rate review. Implementation of a fee increase could begin with prime season in 2010.

Background: OPRD's revenues from user fees have held flat for many years now. Lottery revenues have begun to flatten and the percentage dedicated to OPRD from RV registration fees declined as a result of legislative action. As a result, OPRD needs to evaluate all revenue streams and establish policies for rate increases.

Philosophy: It has been OPRD's policy that users offset at least a portion of the cost of park operations through camping, day use and special permit fees.

The problem: OPRD rates and fees have not increased in 10 years while operating costs have consistently risen at the rate of inflation.

### Alternatives/Options:

1. No Action
2. 10% Camping Increase/Yurt, Reservation & Day Use Fee Increase
3. 20% Camping Increase/Yurt, Reservation & Day Use Fee Increase
4. Increase Fees to Cover Inflation
5. Selective Increases

### Recommendations:

Option 2 is the option recommended by staff. It addresses rate increases equitably across the system, looking at increases in all site types and programs. It is defensible based on moving our rates back toward a level that keeps pace with rising costs. The \$2 increase is small enough that it should have a minimal impact on camping and will not create a loss of revenue that reduces the net gain of the rate increase. The only possible modification to option 2 that staff would consider is removing the day use fee increase portion. The day use fee is a very controversial issue, and we have never resolved the equity issues surrounding the additional 13 parks we have identified as potential day use fee parks.

#### Comments and Discussion:

The Commission discussed and commented on the different alternatives; Commissioner Parr agreed with Option 2. He stated that cabin and yurt rates need to be looked at.

Chair Parr *for* Commissioner Graves, noted that option 3 was a possibility and sees a need for the increase in tent and cabin rates.

Richard Walkoski commented that at the start of the lottery little of operations were funded out of lottery. Commissioner Brown commented that fees should fund operations if possible.

The Commission discussed the possible decrease in attendance due to an increase in fees. Commissioner Musser provided feedback on the fee increase; she is concerned about the day use fee increase but does see the need for it. She stated the importance in how the agency announces the increases and supported the idea of an increase of cabin and yurt fees.

Commissioner Chalfant shared that Measure 66 funds are intended for the construction and maintenance of parks.

Commission Chair Parr posed the question, “what should the outcome of this discussion be, what should be accomplished today?” Director Wood replied that staff will take the feedback from this discussion and build two scenarios for a budget discussion in May. Further staff will evaluate what fees would need to be in order to meet the policy objective that user’s fees be sufficient to fund standard park operations.

#### **Topic: Beyond 2014 to the Centennial Horizon**

Authors: Kyleen Stone, Mark Davison

Emerging Vision for the Centennial Horizon Plan

Kyleen Stone and Mark Davison discussed the following three themes with the Commission regarding the Centennial Horizon Plan. The discussion of these themes guided staff on how to proceed with the plan. Variations on the three themes had been informally shared with commissioners at previous presentations, but had not been presented together as a potential broad policy statement. The discussion focused on affirming that the policy themes presented were adequate and appropriate to guide OPRD and ensure that the right questions were being asked. Commissioners offered several course corrections for staff to implement, particularly in relation to the three broad-based policies. Specifically, commissioners want to see a much stronger tie between OPRD’s policies and legislative mandate.

#### The mandate:

OPRD is expected to supply outdoor recreation opportunities and resources and directs OPRD to take the lead and advise all recreation providers on how best to provide needed lands, facilities, staff, activities and programs to support outdoor recreation

#### Policy discussion:

Three themes

1. Wise Resource Stewardship
2. Public Health and Responsibility
3. Long-term Sustainability

Comments and discussion:

Commissioner Chalfant commented that he hoped to see other organizations take a role in assisting OPRD in managing our natural resources.

Commissioner Musser agreed and commented that she believes the answer to be education and marketing. Commissioner Musser said that if we “make people aware of what we are doing and continue to provide good experiences they will experience the good stewardship and share it.” She concluded by stating, “Good marketing is education.”

Commissioner Brown commented that the titles of the themes send cold, bureaucratic messages that seem presumptuous. He added that he does not think the policies, as written, fall within the OPRD mandate.

Commissioner Chalfant said that from a different view, we will not have a strong constituency if we don't get the population out from behind the computers, video games, etc. If parks are to have a long term future, including funding and support from the public, we have to change trends. Resources need to be protected while providing access.

Commissioner Rudi suggested marketing the health benefits and the “safe place” that State Parks provide. It belongs to them.

AAG Steve Shipsey asked how the future, competing needs of visitors will be met.

Commissioners Brown and Chalfant commented that they were having difficulty seeing the difference between themes 1 and 3. Neither did they see clear connections between the three themes and the second mandate.

Commissioner comments led Kyleen Stone to distribute the more detailed list of 8 principles with strategies from the Centennial Horizon document. These principles will be shared with the public in a series of meetings throughout the spring. The objectives include:

1. Save Oregon's Special Places
2. Connect People to Meaningful Outdoor Experiences
3. Take the Long View – Make Parks Last Forever
4. Strengthen Oregonian's Connection with Their Land
5. Build the State Parks System with Purpose and Vision
6. Attract and Inspire Partners
7. Prioritize Based on the Vision
8. Oregon's Parks will be Tended by People who Love Their Jobs

Process from here out:

Public outreach meetings

Draft document completed in May

Public web site for the public to provide comments on process

Mark and Kyleen presented a story board on the: Mandate, Values, Policy and Principles

Commissioner Parr asked Mark Davison what will be the focus of the public meetings? Mark Davison replied that he will ask these main questions: tell us what you think, what you agree with, what you would like to see changed?

Commissioner Musser commented that she would like to encourage Mark Davison to be concise in the meetings. She also stated that she did not see anyone from the education department included in the meetings.

Commissioner Rudi suggested that the groups be surveyed regarding State Parks as a part of the public meeting process.

Commissioner Brown added that the focus of managing the park system is to help people meet their personal objectives. Commissioner Brown reiterated that he thinks the mandate and the principles are good but that the policy and values should be reworked or eliminated.

Commissioners were also presented with a prototype of the website that will be activated to gather written public input. Staff promised to incorporate commissioner comments into the website prior to publication.

## **Business Meeting**

### **1. Commission Business**

#### a) Approval of Agenda (Action)

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

### **2. Public Comment:**

Dave Eshbaugh, Oregon State Parks Trust

Mr. Eshbaugh announced that there is a new board Chair, Dan Skerritt

Mr. Eshbaugh extended an invitation for the Commission to join the Oregon State Parks Trust at any of their meetings. They are working with staff on new projects and will soon have a member representing Salem. Mr. Eshbaugh thanked the Commission for the opportunity to participate.

Neil Maine, NW Land Conservancy

Mr. Maine thanked the Commission for their participation in the Delaura Beach acquisition and thanked the OPRD staff.

Nan Evans, Nature Conservancy

Ms. Evans passed out a formal letter from the Nature Conservancy regarding the Natural Heritage Program and the legislative concepts that are involved.

The Commission discussed the change in the use of property, and the transfer of land regarding roll back taxes. As stated in the letter, Ms. Evans discussed the Endangered Species Act, Section 6. She explained how this allows the state to have a say in how the USFWS allocates the funds for conservation of endangered and threatened species in Oregon. Ms. Evans also stated that the competitive grant program provides funding for voluntary, non-regulatory protection of imperiled species.

3. **Approval of the January 17, 2008 Commission Meeting Minutes** (Action)

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

4. **Director's Update** (Information)

Defer comments, an update will be provided by email.

5. **Consent Calendar**

A. Approval of Delegated Authority Report (Action)

1) Contracts

Commissioner Brown questioned some of the contracts from the list, staff provided explanation. Commissioner Brown was satisfied with all explanations.

2) Natural Resources

B. ORTAC Board Member Appointments

C. Champoeg Interpretive Display Contract

**Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

6. **Veterans and War Memorial Grant Approvals** (Action)

Wayne Rawlins, Grants Division Manager, requested commission approval of the advisory committee's recommendations to fund the Veterans and War Memorial projects totaling \$250,000.

The Local Government Advisory Committee met on February 11, 2008 and recommended a list of grants for commission approval. Grant applications were solicited and OPRD received nine project applications. The Advisory Committee recommended eight of the projects for approval. The project at the entrance of Sutherlin is not being recommended as the committee felt the project was less a war memorial and more of a "Welcome to Sutherlin" proposal.

**Commissioner Musser moved to approve the funding of the Veterans and War Memorial projects. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

7. **ATV Program Grant Approvals** (Action)

Wayne Rawlins, Grant Division Manager, requested Commission approval of the grant recommendations from the ATV Account Allocation Committee.

Wayne Rawlins shared that the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Account Allocation Committee met January 18, 2008 in Milwaukie and reviewed the grant requests and presentations. Of the remaining \$2,381,142 available for projects for this biennium, the ATV Account Allocation Committee recommended that a portion of the grants, totaling \$1,301,646, be awarded. The recommendation for the remaining projects would be to fund them if additional spending limitation is obtained later in the year.

Wayne Rawlins stated the committee's recommendation that the agency hold the remaining \$1,079,496 for law enforcement projects that will be evaluated at the April committee meeting. The committee feels it is important to continue to support law

enforcement agencies and their work and would rather use the remaining funds for these purposes.

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve the approval of the grants recommended by the ATV Account Allocation Committee. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**8. Request to initiate rulemaking (Action)**

Division 10 Hunting/Metal Detecting

Richard Walkoski, Recreation Programs Manager, requested Commission approval to begin rulemaking under OAR chapter 736, division 10, to allow metal detecting at low risk locations, increase the "found property" threshold to \$100, and prohibit all hunting at the Willamette Greenway property designated as Wapato Access (Virginia Lake).

General Park Area rules are contained in OAR chapter 736, division 10. Following are details to be addressed in this round of rulemaking:

1. Currently, metal detecting is prohibited on OPRD properties unless the user has obtained a permit from the park manager. Metal detecting enthusiasts have asked OPRD if there is any way to make it less cumbersome to practice their hobby on OPRD properties. We have determined that some low risk areas can be opened up for recreational metal detecting without a permit.
2. We have discovered a discrepancy in the "found property" rule, OAR 736-010-0040, regarding the dollar threshold. Our rule currently requires people turn in any property they find with a value of \$20 or more. However, ORS 98.005, "Rights and duties of finder of money or goods", is the basis for our rule and specifies that people turn in found items that are more than \$100 in value.
3. We have received comments from neighboring landowners about safety concerns caused by hunting on a portion of the Willamette Greenway property known as Wapato Access (Virginia Lake). Currently, hunting is permitted with shotguns or bows and arrows on a portion of the property. Visitation has increased in recent years and people who use the park for walking and hiking have come in contact with hunters. This has caused safety concerns. We have been asked to prohibit all hunting on the property. We will communicate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that they support the prohibition.

Comments and discussion:

Commissioner Chalfant asked if this is really a safety issue or if this has derived from development of the area and a population of users that do not agree with the current use?

John Potter, Region 2 Manager, commented that a site visit has been completed with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff and it was agreed that there is a significant safety issue. Commissioner Chalfant replied that he is fully supportive if it is truly a safety issue but is not agreeable to situations where traditional and legitimate user groups are forced to change recreation activities at the whim of other advocates.

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve to begin rulemaking under OAR chapter 736, division 10, to allow metal detecting at low risk locations, increase the "found property" threshold to \$100, and prohibit all hunting at the Willamette Greenway property designated as Wapato Access (Virginia Lake). Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**9. Approval of 2009 Legislative Concepts**

a) Natural Heritage Area Program (Action)

Amy Gillette, Natural Resources Manager, requested the Commission's approval to be a co-requestor of the legislation (to transfer the Department of State Lands (DSL) state natural areas program (as established in ORS 273.563 to 273.591) and federal endangered species grant authority for terrestrial invertebrate animals, as allowed under section 6 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), in cooperation with DSL.

Amy Gillette was accompanied by, Jeannette Holman, Department of State Lands (DSL)

Amy Gillette presented key points on the program and how it fits within our agency.

State Natural Areas Program:

- The Natural Heritage Program mission fits with OPRD's mission
- Several of the sites are on State Parks property

Section 6 Grant Authority:

- Allows the state to have a voice in how the USFWS allocates Endangered Species Act funds
- Provides a benefit to invertebrate species at-risk in Oregon by giving access to federal resources from the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund for research and conservation of invertebrates

Natural Heritage Advisory Council:

- 5 Year Natural Heritage Plan

Jeannette Holman, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration,  
Department of State Lands

Jeannette Holman briefly explained the proposed legislative concept that the Department of State Lands (DSL) is submitting for the 2009 Legislative Session that will move the Oregon Natural Heritage Program from DSL to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Highlights of the Proposal include:

- The Natural Heritage Advisory Council is discontinued
- The name of the program is changed to the "Natural Areas Program"
- The database part of the program remains with the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University
- The grant program administered by DSL under this program under Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act would also move to OPRD
- Move is supported by Natural Heritage Advisory Council and State Land Board



## Background:

- Two-year discussion about the best place for program to reside – considered Department of Ag (they manage the state endangered species program for plants) and State Department of Fish & Wildlife (they manage state species program for animals except invertebrates) but after discussion, OPRD was identified as the most logical based on the mission of the agency
- Better alignment with OPRD as an agency that can protect or conserve important natural areas than DSL with its fiduciary obligation to produce revenues for the Common School Fund
- Majority of sites on register are OPRD properties

## Current Operation:

- DSL has interagency agreement with INR to provide staff support to the program
- DSL handles the acquisition and conservation grants under Section 6
- INR provides staff support for the research grants under Section 6
- Funding consists of Federal Funds and approximately \$25,000 General Fund for support (transferred to INR under interagency agreement)

## Comments and Discussion:

Commissioner Chalfant stated that he welcomed the addition of the Natural Heritage program to State Parks. He strongly supports the transfer from DSL.

Director Wood shared that he believes that it fits well with the department and is an appropriate role for OPRD. He also stated that several other states parks and recreation agencies share this role.

Commissioner Brown asked why it would not fit better within ODFW. Jeanette Holman replied that ODFW declined and other agencies do not have the expertise needed for the program.

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve acceptance of co-requestor of the legislation to transfer the DSL state natural areas program and federal endangered species grant authority for terrestrial invertebrate animals to OPRD in cooperation with DSL. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

### b) Legislative concepts approval (Action)

James Myron, Legislative Coordinator, requested Commission's approval to authorize the agency to submit the 2009 legislative concepts to the Department of Administrative Services for drafting in preparation for pre-session filing by the governor.

Legislative concepts for the 2009 session of the Oregon Legislature must be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by April 4, 2008. The concepts that the governor approves for drafting will be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Office by early June. Initial drafts of bills will be delivered to agencies by early November. The governor will pre-session file all of his bills in late December.

OPRD staff developed the following legislative concepts that we would like the governor to consider filing on our behalf:

LC #63400/002 Criminal Records Check

LC #63400/001 Historic Property Special Assessment Program

**Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the submittal of the 2009 legislative concepts to the Department of Administrative Services. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

## **BREAK**

### **10. Minto Brown property discussion (Information)**

City of Salem

Linda Norris, Interim City Manager

Jill Corcoran, Urban Development

Linda Norris, Acting City Manager for the City of Salem made a presentation of the city's downtown park plan. The city's plan incorporates Minto Brown Island, Union Street Bridge, and potentially a bridge that will connect the downtown waterfront to Minto Brown Island.

Linda Norris noted that the potential bridge connecting the waterfront to Minto Brown park has been a goal for 25 years. All together it will create 30 miles of continuous loop trails. The project budget is 2.5 million, 40,000 for the first phase.

Linda Norris referred to documents in a packet that was handed out to the Commission. She discussed the cities focus on the "Top 24 Community Ideas."

Comments and discussion:

Commissioner Brown commented that he was excited about the project and thanked the city for coming. He felt that it was important that the Commission hear from the City of Salem.

Commissioner Chalfant shared that he is strongly in support of the project, but does have some concern as he sees this as an urban park. He hopes that the city will take an active part in the management.

Jill Corcoran responded to Commissioner Chalfant's concerns that the city is working on a MOU to write out the management plans; it will spell out a lease or management agreement for the city to take over management of the park.

### **11. Real Estate (Action)**

a) Policy Proposal

Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Management Manager, requested Commission approval of the revised Acquisition Policy.

Strategies & Policies

Commissioner Brown commented that he liked the policy; he recommended it be a process. He stated the importance of having the Executive Sessions at the Commission

Meetings to have the opportunity to review upcoming acquisitions before they are on the agenda.

**Commissioner Musser moved to approve the revised Acquisition Policy. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

b) Saddle Mountain Parcel Purchase

Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Management Manager, requested approval of the Saddle Mountain purchase at \$225,000, with a contribution of \$18,000 from the North Coast Land Conservancy.

Neil Maine, North Coast Land Conservancy

Mr. Maine presented comment on the appraisal process of the Saddle Mountain property with Weyerhaeuser. He explained that they are asking the Commission to support a proposal that State Parks split the cost of reforestation of the site.

Cliff explained that over the past year, OPRD has been working with the North Coast Land Conservancy to acquire two parcels of land totaling 136.9 acres at Saddle Mountain State Natural Area from Weyerhaeuser Corporation. An appraisal, including a timber cruise and independent review of the appraisal estimate, valued at \$186,000.

[The following text was taken from agenda brief 11b for informational purposes]

A 9398-acre area at Saddle Mountain was identified by the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University as a priority specimen site in the Commission's Acquisition Priority Report due to the quality and diversity of rare plants, animals and older forest stands. The report draws special attention to the north and east ownerships of Weyerhaeuser as Natural Resource additions to Saddle Mountain. OPRD currently owns 2910.67 acres at Saddle Mountain.

The property was appraised as zoned for commercial timber production. Because of the type, production, and topography of the subject, the land was valued at \$56,000. Timber was valued at \$130,000. The timber valuation considered logging cost, developing road access, and the cost of replanting after logging as deduction against the value. The cost of replanting after harvest was estimated at \$42,100.

During negotiations, Weyerhaeuser Corporation has maintained that the deduction for planting cost is a cost against the future crop and is not a cost they write off against the harvest. They have been unwilling to accept the \$42,100 reforestation cost as a reduction to the value of the timber, creating a gap between the appraisal and what they are willing to accept as a purchase price.

In order to move this project to a successful conclusion, the North Coast Land Conservancy has offered to raise \$18,000 in private funds to help off set the requirements of Weyerhaeuser. Weyerhaeuser has also agreed to a purchase price of \$225,000. At a purchase price of \$225,000 and with a contribution to the purchase by North Coast Land Conservancy, the department would be required to provide \$207,000 for the purchase of this property.

This purchase would be a Natural Area addition with no anticipated development costs.

**Commissioner Musser moved to approve the Saddle Mountain purchase. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**12. Heritage Programs (Information)**

a) Heritage Program Update

Roger Roper, Assistant Director – Heritage Programs, Dep. SHPO

National Register of Historic Places. Recent nominations of note:

- Oregon State Hospital Historic District
- Oregon State University Historic District
- Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead (Douglas County Parks)

Heritage Conference, May 4-6, Eugene

- **30 educational sessions** on a wide range of heritage topics, including archaeology, historic preservation, museum issues, interpretation, heritage tourism, volunteer development, fundraising, heritage and sustainability, and so forth.
- **4 tours:** University of Oregon campus, covered bridges in Lane County (conducted by ODOT), Thompson's Mills, and Springfield historic districts.
- **3 workshops:** museum exhibit development, historic cemetery maintenance, and historic site interpretation (for OPRD field staff only).
- **Heritage Excellence Awards:** annual program and banquet with First Lady Mary Oberst.
- **Keynote speaker:** nationally acclaimed author James Loewen ("Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong" among others)
- **University Student Presentations:** The three Heritage Fellows (selected and awarded "scholarships" in 2007) will present the results of their specialized research on Oregon history topics.

Discoveries on the Coast:

- Shipwrecks at Coos Bay, near the Siuslaw River, Bandon (mouth of Cut Creek)
- Cannon at Arch Cape, south of Cannon Beach

State Fair

- Coordinating the preparation of a Historic Structures Report and Preservation Plan for the historic Poultry Building

b) Heritage Commission Report

Roger Roper, Assistant Director – Heritage Programs, Dep. SHPO

George Kramer, Chair, Oregon Heritage Commission

Mark Watson, Oregon State University

Jim Scheppeke, Director of Oregon State Library

Roger Roper explained that this report focused on a request that has come to the Heritage Commission for both support and funding. The request is for a project to scan historic Oregon newspapers for online public access. The newspapers would be keyword searchable, making them extremely valuable to historians and anyone researching any aspect of Oregon's past. The request is for funding to launch the program and to adopt the project as a Sesquicentennial project for the department.

Mr. Kramer, chair of the Oregon Heritage Commission, explained the background and purpose of the newspaper digitization project. He said the University of Oregon Library, which would take the lead on this project, is the location of microfilm of nearly all of Oregon's newspapers dating back to before statehood. However, researchers have had to travel to Eugene to use the microfilm. If this project is undertaken, anyone could access historic Oregon newspapers on the Internet from their own home, school or business without charge.

Comment and discussion:

Commissioner Chalfant asked about the timeline of the project. Mr. Kramer responded that this would be a beginning of a very large project. They would start with the initial 24-month phase that would digitize 200,000 pages of Oregon newspapers and make them available to all Oregonians and to researchers throughout the world. The rate at which the project is completed would depend upon fundraising.

Commissioner Chalfant asked what the source of funding is.

Roger Roper replied that there is a request to the Heritage Commission to come up with some funds to help with the project. The stakeholders plan to fund the program from multiple sources, including private, state, and federal funds. The funds it requests from the Heritage Commission and OPRD would purchase a server and storage capacity and their installation; web design and programming services for the interface; microfilm duplication and digitization services, and preservation of deteriorating legacy microfilm.

Commissioner Brown asked what the grant amount requested would be.

The overall cost of this first phase is \$500,000, and the request to OPRD is just over \$360,000. The balance could come from a grant from the State Library or from other sources. Jim Scheppke stated that the State Library has been briefed on the project and is very supportive of it, and would look forward to being partners with the Heritage Commission if the project goes ahead.

No action was taken.

### 13. **Special Session Report** (Information)

James Myron, Legislative Coordinator

[The following text was taken from agenda brief 13 for informational purposes]

During the 2007 session of the Oregon Legislature, it was agreed that the Legislature would convene for a one-month session in February of 2008 in order to test how annual sessions of the Legislature might work out. At the halfway point in the session, it appears that most things are progressing fairly smoothly. Out of just over 100 bills that were introduced, 70 passed. In addition, several important adjustments to the 2007/09 state budget will occur, including funding for the "Big Look" land use task force and the implementation of Measure 49, which replaced Measure 37.

At the time of this writing, the following bills appear to be moving toward passage. They all will have some effect on operations of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

HB 3612 State Agency Energy Use

SB 1069, Water Supply Planning and Studies

SB 1078 Tribal Monument at State Capitol State Park

SCR 27 Celebrating the Sesquicentennial

Commissioner Chalfant asked if the Oregon 150 celebration would be truncated since the legislature did not provide funding. Director Wood stated no; that a series of initiatives had been developed by Oregon 150 that would be funded by grants, donations and sponsorships. The only initiative proposed for legislative funding was a local grants program.

**14. Revenue Forecast (Information)**

Lisa Van Laanen, Assistant Director Administration

[The following text was taken from agenda brief 14 for informational purposes]

The Office of Economic Analysis recently released the March 2008 Revenue Forecast. The forecast for lottery earnings in 2007-2009 is \$1,330.4 million, a decrease of \$17.5 million from the December forecast. A \$21.5 million decline in earnings related to video lottery was offset by an additional \$3.9 million in administrative savings included in the third quarter earnings for the biennium. Total resources, including balance carry-forward and interest earnings were \$1,408.6 million. Excluding dedicated and other legislatively adopted allocations, the projected ending balance in the Economic Development Fund amounts to \$25.8 million.

The effect of the lowered forecast for video lottery sales is reflected in the long-run earnings forecast. For the 2009-11 biennium, earnings from lottery games will total \$1,376.7 million while total resources will amount to \$1,381.2 million. Earnings will reach \$1,542.8 million in the 2011-13 biennium, with available resources increasing to \$1,548.8 million.

The forecasted impact results in a \$1.3 million decrease on OPRD's share of the Lottery Parks and Natural Resource Fund. An illustration of the projected impact over the upcoming bienniums was provided.

**Lottery Forecast History (2007-09 Biennium): OPRD's Share of PNRF**

Forecast Date	2007-09		2009-11		2011-13	
	Forecast	Change from Prior Forecast	Forecast	Change from Prior Forecast	Forecast	Change from Prior Forecast
Close of Session (COS)	\$98,711,223					
September 2007	\$100,128,151	\$1,416,928	\$106,417,681		\$117,826,948	
December 2007	\$101,093,208	\$965,057	\$105,016,009	(\$1,401,672)	\$116,331,990	(\$1,494,958)
March 2008	\$99,778,518	(\$1,314,690)	\$103,250,407	(\$1,765,602)	\$115,707,447	(\$624,543)
<b>Total Cumulative Change</b>		\$1,067,295		(\$3,167,274)		(\$2,119,501)

15. **Budget Update** (Information)

a) 07-09 Update

Lisa Van Laanen, Assistant Director Administration

[The following text was taken from agenda brief 15a for informational purposes]

The Department's accounting records for the 2005-07 biennium have officially been closed as of December 31, 2007. As the Commission has been previously advised, the ending balances for the 2005-07 biennium are different from those assumed in building the 2007-09 biennium budget. Dedicated balances are higher and the operating fund is lower. In addition, the March 2008 Lottery Fund forecast shows a decrease in Lottery Funds available in this biennium.

Department management had taken actions to save the funds necessary and planned to use available Lottery Funds to cover the remaining Other Funds deficit. These actions would have covered the adjustment for negotiated salary and benefit increases for represented staff and increases granted to management staff that we continue to anticipate that the Department of Administrative Services will request for all agencies. Salary and benefit increases will exceed that which was originally reserved in the budget.

With this decrease in Lottery Funds, additional actions have been identified. The initial action involved reductions to Services and Supplies and vacancy savings. The new actions involve program reductions. A summary of all actions is shown below:

Vacancy Savings	\$1.262 million
Service and Supply reductions	.328
Program Reductions:	
Land Acquisition	\$1.0
Grants	.526
Facilities Investment	2.020
Total	\$5.136 million

The Department anticipates appearing before the first Emergency Board following the close of the Legislative Supplemental Session to request a rebalance of the funding in the Department's budget. This action would shift funding sources from Other Funds to Lottery Funds. In addition, it is anticipated that the Department would request the following other changes in limitations:

Reduce:

Local Government Grant Program  
Acquisitions

Increase:

ATV program  
Trust and Sink Fund limitation  
Federal Land and Water limitation  
Field Reallocation limitation

b) 09- 11 Update

Lisa Van Laanen, Assistant Director Administration

[The following text was taken from agenda item 15b for informational purposes]

The budget instructions from the Department of Administrative Services have yet to be released; however, staff have been developing the basics of the budget for the new

biennium. The 2009-11 biennium budget kick off meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2008.

Director's priorities for developing new packages to be included in the budget are:

- Information Technology (connectivity issues, reservation system)
- Facilities Investment Program (backlog reductions)
- Park a year program
- Position requests (Ocean Shores, Bicycle Coordinator, various adjustments)

The following reserves are being developed:

- A reserve for negotiated salary and benefit increases (6% of salary and benefits)
- An operating cash balance (\$3.5M Other Funds)
- An amount for the field reallocation

Comment and discussion:

Lisa Van Laanen stated that staff are currently working on a paper and analysis to discuss with the Commission regarding the fee increase. Any increase would be made part of the 2009-11 biennium budget and require a policy package.

The agency's 2009-11 budget will be presented for approval at the May 2008 meeting.

Director Wood gave a brief overview of the documents. He pointed out that even though the lottery revenue rate of increase was flattening compared to previous years, an additional \$3.5 million is expected to be available in the next biennium. He also remarked that the department was proposing to increase its cash reserve from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million, anticipating an increase in service charges from the Department of Administrative Services, reserving approximately \$5.1 million for anticipated salary and benefit increases in the next biennium, and he noted that unlike in recent biennia, the legislative adopted budget provided only a \$211,000 ending balance. In order to balance the budget and accommodate other agency priorities such as the reallocation of field positions, park a year, park development, and information systems improvements, reductions to some programs from the 2007-09 level would be necessary.

Commissioner Chalfant commented favorably that additional Natural Resource positions are being proposed. He was discouraged to see other areas decrease, such as acquisitions. Director Wood replied that the reduction tends to return the balance with other programs.

Commissioner Musser commented that for 2014 we owe the public to have the backlog of maintenance taken care of as we have committed to in our investment strategy and was promised to voters in the Measure 66 campaign

Commissioner Chalfant stated that he would like to see what alternatives there are to reducing the acquisition budget from the 2007-09 level. Commissioner Brown indicated that he believed it should be our intent to retain the acquisition budget at least at the 2007-09 level to continue to acquire properties to meet future needs.

The Commission discussed lottery funds paying for park operations. Commissioners suggested that the department should consider funding park operations primarily through user fees and not be dependant upon lottery supplementing the basic operations of the park system. Adopting this as a principle would provide the basis and justification for the fee structure. While figures were not available during the discussion, it was



acknowledged that the lottery supplement for park operations, as a percentage, has been increasing since General Fund was removed from the department budget in 1999-2001.

Commission Chair Parr asked if there were options being pursued regarding the state fair bond debt. Director Wood pointed out that there have been several meetings with Department of Administrative Services to better understand the situation regarding the bonds acquired under previous direction for improvements at the state fair grounds. While it did not appear that paying off the debt was an option due to the way the bonds are structured, an option may be to request that the biennial debt service (approx \$4.2 million) be funded from general fund or non-dedicated lottery. Director Wood stated that he had raised this issue with legislators and the Governor's Office during his visits and indicated that there may be some interest in pursuing this further.

Director Wood stated that he will take the Commission's comments and return to the May meeting of the Commission with a budget proposal for the 2009-11 biennium.

#### 16. **State Fair 2008** (Information)

Dave Koellermeier, State Fair Manager

The theme for the 2008 Fair is "Only in Oregon." The dates are Friday, August 22 through Monday, September 1, Labor Day.

#### **Talent**

- August 23 – Vanessa Hudgens
- August 24 – Doodlebops
- August 24 – Gary Allan
- August 25 – Werid Al Yankovic
- August 26 – Creedence Clearwater Revisited
- August 27 – Garrison Keillor
- August 28 – Chris Cagle
- August 28 – Tracy Lawrence
- August 29 – Willie Nelson
- August 30 – Poison

#### Fair Planning and Execution changes for 2008:

- Garden Venue
- Talent Buys
- Horse Stadium Programming
- Science and Technology Venue
- Sports, Health and Recreation Venue
- Food Beverage Venue (beef BBQ competition)
- Carnival Venue
- 4-H FFA Venues
- High Tech Agriculture Venue (robotics)
- Natural Resource Area
- Parking Venue
- Jackman-Long Venue
- Fine Arts and Photography Venue
- Ticketing Processes(focus on pre-sale)

The Commission asked if there will be an opportunity to provide fairgoers with an opportunity to see what is happening in higher education.  
Dave Koellermeier responded that they have met with schools regarding this opportunity.

## 17. **Commission Planning Calendar** (Information)

### **May 7 - 8, 2008 - Tillamook**

#### **Tillamook County Fairgrounds**

Building 3, 4-H dormitory

Address: 4603 E 3rd ST, Tillamook, OR, 97141

Phone: (503)842-2272 Fax: (503)842-3314

#### **Clifftop Inn**- Overnight accommodations for May 7, 2008

1816 Maxwell Mountain Rd., Oceanside, Oregon

(503)842-6030

#### **Tour - May 7, 2008**

Cape Kiwanda

Whalen Island

Cape Lookout

Cape Meares

Tillamook - Oceanside

Sharon Rudi and Brad Chalfant will not be attending in May.

### **Metro Parks and Greenspaces presentation**

David Bragdon, President of Metro, gave a presentation on “Connecting Green, creating one of the world’s great systems of parks, trails and natural areas.”

Key points of “Connecting Green”:

- Restoration – restore 10,000 acres of natural area land
- Conservation Education – enhance the experience and the resource through knowledge, participation and stewardship
- Trails – complete the Regional Trails System of over 900 miles of bicycle and pedestrian trails
- Acquisition – secure land for parks and natural areas
- Regional System – define, develop, promote and maintain the regional parks system
- Connecting Green Alliance – build an alliance of nonprofit, government and private organizations to: network, communicate, advocate and mobilize on behalf of Connecting Green.

Commissioner Chalfant asked what impedes more collaborative partnerships. Metro responded that obstacles to intergovernmental partnership tend to be the inability to show that working together actually gets you further. “Turf” can also be an obstacle.

Adjourned 2:30pm