



**BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
BAXTER STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS, MILLINOCKET, ME
MAY 23, 2014
10:00 A.M.**

ATTENDEES:

BSPA MEMBERS: Doug Denico, Director MFS; Chandler Woodcock, Commissioner IF&W; Janet Mills, AG.

BSP STAFF: Jensen Bissell, Jean Hoekwater, Ben Woodard, Rick Morrill, Christine Theriault.

BSP ADVISORY MEMBERS: Rick Bray, Brian Noyes

GUESTS: Aaron Megquire, Stephen Stanley, Ed Nichol森, Paul Sannicandro, Charlotte Woodcock

Denico called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. He welcomed all to the meeting and asked for introductions through the room.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Denico presented the draft 12/16/14 meeting minutes. **Mills moved the minutes be approved, Woodcock seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

BSP Investment Committee Chair Brian Noyes provided an update on the management of the Park endowment including the committee's recent work on asset allocation with a particular focus on the special opportunities section of the portfolio. Noyes described the current progress on private equity investment and the need to plan for a regular addition of allocated funds to private equity in the coming years to increase the current allocation from just under 2% of the portfolio to the target of 8%.

Noyes then introduced Michael Daley of Bank of New York Mellon. Daley provided an executive summary of the BSP Funds current to the meeting date used a powerpoint presentation to discuss the performance and current asset allocation of the Park's endowment funds. Discussion ensued regarding the Park's endowment performance over time and expected performance for the coming year. Denico thanked Daley and Noyes for their reports. Bissell commented on the importance of the Investment Committee to the financial health of the Park and commended Noyes for his leadership of the committee.

FY15 BSP BUDGET

Denico asked Bissell to present the action item of the FY2015 Park budget. Bissell described the budget process and characterized it as ordered and smooth. Bissell commended Business Manager Christine Theriault on her effective leadership as the administrative team worked through the process to complete the 2015 budget. Bissell then asked Theriault to present an overview of the budget to the Authority.

Theriault began with the Executive Summary for the budget and discussed the major factors guiding the 2015 budget construction. Theriault then moved to the Revenue Summary and provided an overview of the major revenue estimates for 2015, the reasoning behind the estimates, the significance of "unearned" income including contributions from the Baxter Wilderness Trust, and the growing effort of the Park to address infrastructure maintenance as indicated by the increasing percentage of the Park budget devoted to Capital.

A short discussion ensued about specific expenditures of the Park's operational budget, the estimates for Personal Services (provided by the Bureau of Budget out of Augusta). **Denico then asked for a motion to approve the budget.**

Woodcock motions that the BSP FY15 Budget be accepted as presented. Mills seconded. The vote was unanimous.

DONATION REPORT

Theriault then presented the 6 month report on donations to the Park. Donations are both unsolicited and undirected. Denico thanked Theriault for the report and both Denico and Bissell recognized the generous support provided to the Park by many individuals.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Bissell presented the following recommendations for appointment/reappointment to the four Baxter State Park Advisory Committees:

Baxter State Park Advisory Committee: Committee members Spencer Meyer and Laurie Rich have resigned. Appoint **Erica Kaufmann** and **Anne Huntington** to the committee. Appoint committee member **Tom Goetz** as Vice Chair (to succeed current Chair **Rick Bray**).

Scientific Forest Management Committee: Re-appoint **Barrie Brusila**, **Robert Seymour** and **Aaron Weiskittel** to a continuing 3 year term on the committee.

Baxter State Park Investment Committee: Appoint **Erin Kinsella** to the committee.

Baxter Park Research Committee: Committee member Woodrow Thompson has resigned. Appoint **Shawn Haskell** to the committee.

Mills motioned to accept all appointments as presented. Woodcock seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Bissell thanked the Authority for their support of the volunteer committees and commended committee members for their valuable and effective contributions to the mission elements of Baxter State Park.

RULE 2.2 CHILDEN ABOVE TREELINE

The portion of BSP Rule 2.2 which states: *“No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above treeline.”*

Proposal:

Revise this portion of Rule 2.2 to read: *“Children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above treeline only with a Conditional Use Permit issued by the Director.”*

Bissell provided an overview of a proposed change in the Baxter State Park Rule 2.2. regarding the current prohibition of children under the age of 6 years from hiking above treeline on Park trails.

Bissell recounted discussion this change with the Baxter State Park Advisory Committee (generally in favor of removing the current rule), Baxter Park year-round staff (strongly in favor of retaining the current rule) and the Administrative staff (generally in favor of removing the rule. Bissell noted the proposal does not remove the rule, but ties it to a permit process. This modification was suggested by a staff member. The permit requirement would ensure that the hiking parties were clearly advised of the risks and would also provide the Park with a clear record of actual hiking use above treeline with young children.

Some discussion ensued with Authority members and meeting attendees. Denico suggested that the change include a “sunset” provision – ensuring that the decision be revisited after a specified time before installation as a permanent change. Mills suggested a provisional change.

Bissell reminded the group that the item was at this time informational only and based on the Authority's wishes would, or would not, be included for action at a later time.

SFMA FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Denico moved to this item on the agenda and asked Morrill for an update. Morrill ran through some slides describing the process, including the assistance of Lloyd Irland as a contracted consultant in the effort, of analyzing the financial performance of the SFMA and current efforts to gather information from other landowners so useful comparisons could be made. Denico expressed some doubt regarding the potential for useful comparisons, particularly with private landowners. Bissell and Morrill outlined a belief that some type of financial analysis should be a part of "exemplary management" of the SFMA, although based on the management priorities of the SFMA, financial profit was not necessarily a requirement.

Morrill expected that a draft of the completed project might be available by the fall of 2014.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Bissell, with assistance from administrative staff, provided a brief update on a number of topics including current trail and road conditions, operational plans for 2014, the upcoming Summit Project, and personnel changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Denico asked for comments from the attendees. Denico thanked everyone for coming and reminded the group that the fall Authority meeting was scheduled for October 10 at Kidney Pond Campground in Baxter State Park.

There being no further business, Denico adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Doug Denico
Director MFS

Chandler Woodcock
Commissioner IF&W

Janet T. Mills
Attorney General