

Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA) Stewardship Committee

Meeting Minutes December 9, 2015

In Attendance: Andrea Brand (AB), SFRA Director, Ber Knight (BK), Molly Taylor (MT), Dale Parriott (DP) SFRA Stewardship Committee, and Rock Smith (RS), Bureau of Land Management.

Call to Order

Previous Meeting Minutes

MT: Motion to approve minutes from SFRA Stewardship Committee meeting September 17, 2015.

BK: Second

All in favor and minutes approved.

Budget summary for 2015 AB- SFRA revenue is up 13% from 2014 (not including December). Every month except August, SFRA remits show an increase. This is an increase of 23% in 2 years. This is without the fee increase. (Fee increase will take place in January). Arches and Canyonlands have also seen a significant increase. RS-BLM revenue has increased 14%.

Tentative Budget for 2016 AB- will be voted on next Tuesday at the regular scheduled County Council meeting. The only change since you all saw this last meeting is in salaries and benefits for employees. There has been an increase in wages from 90 cents an hour to \$2.00 an hour and 1.5 % COLA adjustment. This has brought up costs but what has been happening over the last few years is some staff have been working less hours at Sand Flats and more hours at other jobs to get by. With this increase two people can come back and work 1080 hours again. When I went before URAC board for fee increase I said some monies would be used for another seasonal position but actually these two employees working full hours will equal another position working and I am retaining two excellent employees. Line item 2 employees increased hours is similar to one new position. This makes positions closer in wages to park service and BLM seasonal positions.

\$62,500 in capital improvements, \$12,000 is for improvements to the Slickrock parking lot. BLM will match with another \$12,000. \$50,000 is for capital improvements to move onto property on first north in a new modular building. Go before council next week for permission to move onto the property. Toilet contract has increased due to addition of new toilet in B loop, adding rental of portable toilets for booth and overflow camping and LPS trailhead to the contract. Increased use has also added costs to toilet cleaning and trash dumping. Printing may be less than \$10,000. Recently found out that Utah Correctional Industries, who has been making SFRA signs for years can print SFRA brochures. AB reviews balance sheets- \$236,000 in fund balance. RS- We call it our working capital. Moab BLM does the same thing.

SFRA office and yard move: AB-contractor, Brian Ballard, removed outbuildings. AB showed pictures of outbuildings and improvements. None of buildings were up to code. One building was carted away and two others demoed. Wood and tin was recycled. Fence and locked gate has been installed by SFRA staff. Grand County Council voted for SFRA to occupy property for one year. AB will go before Council next week to see if SFRA can move onto the property permanently. AB goes over costs for demolition of outbuildings, costs for asbestos inspection and projected costs for power and capping a well discovered on property. Asbestos is present in house but not friable and regular contractor can demolish house and take debris to county landfill.

Office will be completely moved next week to old senior center. Yard has been moved over except for a few tools and workbench and vehicles. We are waiting on shed. We are in two places. RS- Hopefully not for long.

Fee change will go into effect January 1st. All county departments decided to do this on this date. This had to be decided collectively. I have new sign for the booth and updated fee envelopes will be in soon. RS- I will send you the BLM press release.

Fins and Things One Way AB-Signs are up. They are big and tall but we need this right now. Maybe in a few years we can lower them. No problems so far. There were some negative comments on Facebook before it was implemented. RS- We

didn't get these comments in the EA process. AB-I think many were concerned with night closure but once they found out it was only a small section comments stopped.

SFRA new Flower ID Book- AB- we had prison print up 5 books so far at \$25 apiece. CNHA has a lot of plant books on the shelf so not interested at this time. We think we are going to put it on a website so this resource is available. 380 pages, has grass section too. Employee Sonja Nicolaisen put this together. She has a background in botany and as an NPS naturalist. AB explains Grand County Individual Development program and SFRA employee participation to group.

Traffic Counters on Hell's Revenge Trail- AB SFRA will set up digital cameras with the counters already in place. RS- Bill Stevens has cameras with their counters. In one location BLM needs to know what percentage of vehicles are oil trucks vs. recreational users. BK- How many counters and where are they located. AB- Two counters, one near entrance and one near exit. MT- Great because you can compare the different user groups.

BLM Update- RS- Big Burrito Bike Trail will be decided soon. BLM put a toilet at Mill Creek. Utah Price office might be giving you a call because they are thinking about doing a partnership like the BLM and Grand County/Sand Flats. BLM group campsites went online on Reservation.gov this morning and people can make a reservation up to a year in advance. MT- What if no one is in the group site, can you use it? RS-Yes but you would need to pay the group rate. RS- This could be a good idea for Sand Flats individual sites. AB- Yes it would. RS-My big news is I am retiring at the end of the month. Jennifer Jones will be filling in for at least 4 months and maybe will apply for the position. **Discussion of plans for new campgrounds at Sand Flats-** RS-Money has been set aside under deferred maintenance 5 year plan for improvements to campgrounds C and D for 2019 and 2020. This work could occur earlier because sometimes an office will get funding for projects and they are not ready. It is good to have a project that is "shovel ready." Stay in touch with Dan Stenta (BLM engineer); he will be continuity for this. SFRA will contribute \$50,000 and may need to contribute labor.

Visitation statistics AB-When we went over revenue forgot to mention SFRA estimated visitation was 115,000 in 2014 and 131,000 this year. MT- How is this calculated? AB- Formula is based on data gathered some 10 years ago- estimate 2.1 persons in day use vehicle and 2.3 persons in camping vehicle. RS- Ask Bill Stevens about figuring out how to sample by using the surveillance camera at the booth.

Adjourn