

# West Virginia State Parks Foundation, Inc.

## Minutes of a Special Board Meeting

June 23, 2010

A Special meeting of the West Virginia State Parks Foundation's Board was convened at the Stonewall Jackson Lake State Resort Park at 11:00 AM on June 23, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and act on the recommendations of the Terrell Ellis Report. Written notice of the meeting was sent to all current and former Foundation members on June 2, 2010.

President James Michael opened the meeting by discussing the national economic situation and reviewing the challenges faced by the Foundation during its existence.

Parks Chief Ken Caplinger said that he felt that the Ellis Report's recommendations should be considered at two levels. One level is structural and includes the suggested bylaws changes. He said that he likes the Report's proposals for a tiered level of memberships and adding Board members with a statewide focus instead of only representing a single park's foundation. The other level is strategic and those proposed changes would alter the focus and function of the Foundation.

Ken also said the Parks office can now provide more assistance in doing some of the Foundation's administrative work. He said he has a person in mind who may be able to spend some time on Foundation activities. There was general agreement that having administrative help would be a significant benefit.

Ken then suggested a change to the bylaws to add two voting Board members. These would be appointed by the Chief of the DNR and would be approved by the Governor. They would provide needed expertise and/or a more statewide view than the current Board structure allows. Following a generally favorable discussion there was a **motion to amend the bylaws to add two voting members to the Board who would be appointed by the Chief of the Division of Natural Resources with the advice and consent the Governor.** The motion was made by Prickett's Fort and seconded by Holly River. The motion passed unanimously. [Note: the proposed text of the bylaws amendment is at the end of these minutes].

There was then a motion to express the Board's support for the DNR's offer to provide administrative support to the Foundation. However, following a discussion the conclusion was that the motion was unnecessary and it was withdrawn.

Berkeley Springs's representative said that their Foundation is very concerned that the changes proposed in the Ellis Report will result in a higher membership fee or assessment. During a rather long discussion several attendees said there is no intent to raise the dues and that there would be no support for such a move. Finally, to make that policy official, Little Beaver made a **motion that the Board has no intention of altering the current dues structure or assessing any fees on member foundations or individuals.** The motion was seconded by North Bend and passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of how to get local foundations who have dropped out to rejoin. One point that was raised is that the park superintendents need to provide encouragement and support to local foundations that exist, and if their park doesn't have one they should try to get local folks to form one. The DNR and this Foundation can provide support to new local foundations. It was suggested that Ken send these minutes to all park superintendents even if their park already has a foundation.

Ken said that the Division of Culture and History is doing an exhibit on the history of the state park system in the Great Hall in Charleston and it will be on display through August 15. It has old photos, old uniforms, CCC memorabilia, and other artifacts. It should get some good publicity and press coverage for the park system.

The idea of allowing multiple levels of membership, as suggested in the Ellis Report, was discussed. The general consensus was that the Foundation was created to be an umbrella group for local foundations and there was never any intent to solicit members from the general public. It was noted that doing that would significantly increase the Foundations expenses and administrative burden without any obvious benefits. It was decided not to act on this recommendation at this time.

Mark Abbott mentioned that Soil Conservation Districts can sometimes provide funds for certain types of projects and they are worth looking into.

There was a discussion about the reactivation of the DNR's matching grant program. Ken Caplinger said it is again active and can provide up to \$7,500 grants if the local foundation can provide matching funds.

There was agreement that a special Board meeting would be held at **Holly River State Park at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.** The primary

purpose of the meeting will be to approve the bylaws amendment to allow two additional Board members.

Bob Hoke said he would mail out the following items:

1. These minutes.
2. The proposed bylaws amendment.
3. Information on the DNR grant program (to be provided by Ken Caplinger).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Robert B. Hoke, Secretary

**Meeting Attendees:**

Melissa May	Prickett’s Fort
Bob Hoke	MSR&LHA (Cass)
James Michael	Cacapon
Lin Dunham	Cacapon
Peggy Miller	Berkeley Springs
Dan Hopkins	Little Beaver
Stanley Anderson	Holly River
Leo Hanison	Holly River
Mark Abbott	North Bend Trails to Trails
Mary Abbott	North Bend Trails to Trails
Ken Caplinger	WVDNR Parks Office

Dianne Anderson, one of the founders of the WVSPF and its Secretary for many years, died on July 15. She had been fighting cancer for the last few years.

Dianne was instrumental in forming the Foundation and she ably served as its Secretary until her health forced her to resign in 2008. Her positive influence and insight will be missed.

**Proposed Amendment to the WVSPF Bylaws:**

(the proposed amendment is in **bold** below)

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Members

a. The Board of Directors shall consist of one designated representative or proxy from each established West Virginia State Park foundation. Determination of which West Virginia State Park foundations are considered established will be made by the Chief, West Virginia State Parks and recreation on an annual basis. Once a foundation is determined to be established, the foundation is responsible for designating the person who will serve on the Board of Directors. A Director’s term of office shall be one year and there are no restrictions on consecutive terms. Any established foundation that wishes to have their representative on the Foundation’s Board must pay the Foundation’s annual membership dues. The dues will initially be \$20.00 per annum, but may be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**b. In addition to the Directors representing local foundations, the Board of Directors will also have two voting representatives appointed by the Chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources with the advice and consent of the Governor of West Virginia. These Directors will serve annual terms and there are no restrictions on consecutive terms.**

c. One ex-officio, non-voting member from the Parks Division shall be appointed annually by the Chief, West Virginia Parks and Recreation or his designee.

(Note: the text above is only a small part of the bylaws. The full text of the bylaws is available from the Secretary or on the Web at [www.wvspf.org/bylaws.pdf](http://www.wvspf.org/bylaws.pdf)).