

# West Virginia State Parks Foundation

## Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

March 29, 2018

*The meeting was convened at Stonewall Resort State Park, Roanoke, WV at 10:00 AM. President Jim Michael welcomed park and foundation representatives and made introductions.*

**Secretary Report:** Samantha Norris announced that the minutes were distributed to all members prior to today's meeting. Mark Abbott **motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted**, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Bob Hoke presented the 2017 financial report in written form. Mr. Hoke explained that we are in good financially standing with \$7000 available in the non-designated funds. Bob also presented the Complex Form 990 for the groups review and feedback. Ken Caplinger motioned that the financial report be accepted, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Officer Selection:** Lin Dunham from Cacapon and Jim Michael asked that if anyone is interested in working with the foundation in the future to please see the committee by lunchtime. The slate of candidates will be announced at the end of today's meeting.

**State Parks Report:** Mr. Sam England made the following comments about the state of the park system:

- **Volunteerism** – Thanked the room for the hours of service and volunteerism to help grow the park system over the past year. Recognized Mark Abbott for his award as Volunteer of the Year in 2017.
- **Staffing** - Funding request submitted for a central office person (Grants, Foundations and Volunteers Administrator) to help provide resources in grant writing and coordinating volunteers.
- **Financial Management** – \$56 million in bonds toward maintenance and repair needs (ADA accessibility, swimming facilities, electrical improvements, conference equipment, furniture,

FF&E, shelter repairs, campground equipment, technology, water and waste water projects, recreational programming, etc.) plus \$25 Million Cacapon investment that will go into effect the next 3 years. Sam also extended gratitude to the management of each park in their help to control expenses and creatively maximize revenue opportunities.

- **The Round it Up Program:** Brad Reed reported that over the past year, 23 parks have participated in this project with \$12,405 generated through this program at participating parks. A harder push for this program this season and Brad invited ideas and suggestions from the group on how to improve it further.
- **Point Forward** – Brad also brought information to the group on a service called Point Forward as a possible fundraising resource. This company brings corporate sponsors and non-profits together.

### Foundation Reports:

- **Blennerhasset Island** – Mark Abbott reported renovations made to the park including sewer system upgrades, and special events that took place such as a lecture series, quilt show, patriot blankets to veterans, children's camp, and historical dinners.
- **Cacapon State Park** – Lin Dunham extended his appreciation for the financial investments planned to the park. He reported that they are seeing great use of 5k cross country course and announced updates to overlooks, nature center, gazebo, trails and more.
- **Camp Creek** – Pam Buckhannon reported updates on events including timber sports competition, ramp fest, path finder's group, as well as many upgrades to the park. She added that having a coordinated fish stocking announcement has been a nice bump in activity at local parks.
- **Cedar Lakes** – State FFA and FHA camp with an on emphasis on crafts and educational events. Stan

# West Virginia State Parks Foundation

## Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

March 29, 2018

announced updates to the conference center and dining hall and looking into a farm to table operative for the dining hall.

- **Coopers Rock** – David reported a rebuilding effort to the historic CCC built entry way, creating a disc golf course, trail restoration, restoring the park superintendent house after a fire and announced a variety of outdoor events. Also reported upgrades to campground and restrooms.
- **Forks of Coal** – gave a history of the organization and reported progress in developing a wildlife center, public hikes, and educational events.
- **Cass** – Bob Hoke, reported a variety of restoration projects being discussed.
- **Holy River** – Donna Boggs reported that they are planning an 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of the park on Memorial Day weekend. Also hosting a 5K race, quilt show, docent program, Irish road bowling, and Halloween party. Also reported construction projects at the park.
- **Kanawha State Forest** – Bill reported the construction of a new headquarter building to open in the fall, new restroom buildings, new disc golf course, pond restoration coordinated by the DEP and a former coal operator in the area, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student “forest fun day” and participating in the Charleston FestivALL.
- **North Bend State Park** – Stephen reported the funding of projects including pool furniture, tree planting, biking trails, boat slides at the lake,
- **North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation** – Mark Abbott reported recreational trails grants will allow work to be completed along the trail along with comfort stations.
- **Pipestem** - Rebuilding phase and actively restoring and building gazebos, decks, trails, restrooms, playgrounds, 3D Archery Course, etc.
- **Pricketts Fort** – Greg reported great attendance in 2017 to the park with over 20,000 visitors over 170 visitor days, emphasized African American education, Barnwood Builders TV show, and building projects

- **Stonewall State Park Foundation** – Samantha Norris reported on PTBA trail work, National Trails Day event, Nature Odyssey Camp, and explained two fundraising sources including a cell phone tower rental and a joint fundraising event with WVU’s Rifle Team.
- **Tygart** – Reported Easter egg hunt, yard sales, Appalachian Fall Fest, Halloween events, Breakfast with Santa, and announced dinner theaters and naturalist programs coming in 2018.
- **Watoga** – Bob Hoke presented on Watoga’s behalf on pool renovations, trail events, mini-golf course renovation, etc.

**Nomination Committee** – Lin reported that he has not received any nominations for officers and challenged attendees to consider serving in the future. With no new nominations, Linn motioned that the current group of officers will continue for the 2018-2019 year until the next meeting in 2019. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Election of officers** – the following slate of candidates was presented:

Secretary - Samantha Norris  
Treasurer - Bob Hoke  
Vice Chairman - Mark Abbott  
President – Jim Michael

**Other Business** – Ken Caplinger recommended the use of Amazon Smile. Camp Creek member encouraged networking with other non-profits and the use of Facebook’s “donate to foundation” options to prompt those to give through social media.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2 PM

### Attached:

- State park’s foundation reports as provided
- Financial report
- List of attendees and contact information

# West Virginia State Parks Foundation

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

March 29, 2018

Bob Hoke	MSR&LHA (Cass)	bob@erhoke.net
Bill Hall	Kanawha SF Foundation	sawrhall@suddenlink.net
Donald O'Brien	Holly River SP	Donald.L.O'Brien@wv.gov
Phil Setterlund	Holly River SP	philsetterlund@hotmail.com
Susan Hennings	Holly River SP	suhenn@me.com
Donna L. Boggs	Holly River SP	donnal.boggs@yahoo.com
Tom Prall	Holly River SP	wvabooks@aol.com
Brett McMillion	Pipestem Resort	Brett.W.McMillion@wv.gov
Jay McBride	Pipestem Foundation	304-660-6790
David Blackley	Coopers Rock Foundation	djblackl@gmail.com
Jan Dzierzak	Coopers Rock SF	jan.s.dzierzak@wv.gov
Dave Hopkinson	Coopers Rock Foundation	dph@vt.edu
Frank Ratcliffe	Camp Creek SP	frank.r.ratcliffe@wv.gov
Pam Buchanan	Camp Creek SP	pam.j.buchanan@wv.gov
Stephen Thomas	Camp Creek SP	sthomas132016@gmail.com
Justyn J. Marchisc	Camp Creek SP	mavismanore@gmail.com
Kevin Dials	Kanawha SF	kevin.a.dials@wv.gov
Tena Webb	Forks of Coal Foundation	tenawebb@gmail.com
Kim McCluskey	Forks of Coal Foundation	grumpybuckeye@frontier.com
Angie Bailey	Forks of Coal	bearsnbasketswv@yahoo.com
Diana Kile Green	Forks of Coal Foundation	dkgg@suddenlink.net
Debby Mullins	Forks of Coal Foundation	demullin@k12.wv.us
Andy Layfield	Tygart Lake SP Foundation	cjlayfield@aol.com
Lindsey Yost	Tygart Lake SP Foundation	lelyost@gmail.com
Jenny Bobela	Tygart Lake SP Foundation	jennybobela@yahoo.com
James M. Bobela	Tygart Lake SP Foundation	jmb609321@yahoo.com
Jacob Jackson	Tygart Lake SP Foundation	jacob.a.jackson@wv.gov
Jonathan Summers	North Bend SP Foundation	summers03@zoominternet.net
Stephen R. Jones	North Ben SP	stepen.r.jones@wv.gov
Benny F. McCune	Cass Scenic Railroad SP	benny.f.mccune@wv.gov
James Michael	Cacapon SP Foundation	304-258-5277
Samantha Norris	Stonewall SP Foundation	304-677-8914
Thomas D. Ambrose	Cacapon SP Foundation	304-258-4525
Lin Dunham	Cacapon SP Foundation	304-671-8657
Sam England	WV State Parks	samuel.a.england@wv.gov
Kathy Abbott	North Bend Rail Trail Found.	304-464-4327
Mark Abbott	Blennerhasset Foundation	304-464-4327
Miles Evenson	Blennerhasset Foundation	
Ken Caplinger	WV State Parks Foundation	kencaplinger@gmail.com
Milt Gutman	WV State Parks Foundation	mgutman@gutmanadvertising.com
Stan Cavendish	Cedar Lakes Foundation	hcavendish3835@suddenlink.net
Greg Bray	Pricketts Fort Memorial Found.	director@prickettsfort.org
Brad Reed	WV State Parks	brad.r.reed@wv.gov
Sean Pettrey	Carnifex Ferry Battlefield SP	sean.d.pettrey@wv.gov
Brennon O'Sullivan	Stonewall Resort SP	brennon.e.o'sullivan@wv.gov

## Reports Submitted by Foundations

### 2017 WVSPF Report: Blennerhassett Historical Foundation, Inc.

2017 was a very good year for the Blennerhassett Historical Island State Park.

The Foundation assisted the Park in replacing a failing sewage system which we believe was more than 30 years old. The Foundation paid the \$15,000 for the new system and then received back \$14,000 in grants and a sizeable donation from Chemours (DuPont). That donation was the result of the park staff assisting DuPont (who owns the island) with upgrades to their water wells and access roads on the island.

The year was especially successful with specialized programs including the annual Lecture Series in February, the annual Quilt Show in March; and, of course, another successful season including the annual October Candlelight Festival.

The Foundation assisted the park with near completion of the Formal Garden behind the mansion. This garden is modelled after period gardens that Margaret Blennerhassett might have had on the island.

One special event sponsored by the Quilt Show committee was called "blocks for vets". Quilt show participants donated well over 100 blocks of a patriotic theme. These blocks were then sewn into 15 "patriot" blankets and donated to needy veterans served by the Wood County Veterans' Clinic.

A new program was launched by the park staff this year which will most likely become an annual event. Referred to as the "Kids History Day Camp" about 15 middle school children spent a week learning history in the museum and practicing pioneer skills on the island. Their favorite activity was "digging dirt" for the archeology orientation. Although the "pit" was salted with a few artifacts, the children actually found some true specimens.

The best part of the whole event occurred when the children wrote back to us and thanked us for all the fun they had. One student who discovered he would be too old to come back this year wrote and asked, "Can I please come back for one more year even though I will be a year older."

Because a few students could not afford the camp, the Foundation paid 6 scholarships to help out.

Another successful program is "Dining with the Blennerhassetts." Using the historic 1802 Maple Shade or Putnam Houser house, participants learned all about the Blennerhassett's diet and then got a chance to dine by candlelight to authentic 1800-era cuisine. This program was completely sold out and there was a waiting list to sign up.

These two new programs could not have been held without the leadership of the park staff and the crew of volunteers who helped out. By the way, the Foundation contributed more than 13,500 volunteer hours to the Blennerhassett project in 2017.

### Cacapon State Park Foundation

Jim Michael, President  
Annual Report

Thursday, March 29, 2018

The Cacapon State Park Foundation program is continuing to complete many projects utilizing local resources with the projects developing interest and enthusiasm of local citizens and guests. The foundation completed another successful year of supporting public recreation facilities. The foundation has completed work on the final phase of the Nature Center expansion. An official

measured Cross Country Course for local schools, the community and visitors to the park has been completed. The Cacapon State Park Foundation hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and SK Run/Walk on June 3, 2017. It was a total success!

Past foundation projects that are being used by the park include:

- Cacapon Mountain Overlook
- Nature Center and expansion
- Gazebo
- CCC and Nature Center Picnic Shelters
- Walking Trails

Picnic area grills and game courts  
Old Inn renovations  
Playground equipment  
Strategic Tree Planting  
SK Cross Country Course

The foundation is very appreciative of the strong support provided by Morgan County volunteers, “Chain Gang” members, Cacapon State Park employees, Civic Organizations, Cacapon South

volunteers, West Virginia Parks and Recreation, Morgan County Businesses and Morgan County Commission.

Special recognition needs to be directed to the Cacapon South volunteers for their many contributing hours involved in fundraising and maintenance of our trails and Nature Center. Over 260 hours were contributed.

**Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation  
Report to WV State Park Foundation  
Thursday, March 29, 2018**

**In 2016:**

- 102 acres of land were gifted to WV Division of Natural Resources by Jack Workman. The land was donated in memory of his wife Claudia L. Workman. The land is located along Corridor G just a few miles from Charleston, WV. It is at the confluence of the Big and Little Coal Rivers.
- The DNR moved the district offices into existing buildings on the property. Three trails were cleared and blazed for hiking.
- Plans are underway to build the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center.
- Foundation was established in late 2016...bylaws were written, articles of incorporation written and filed with Secretary of State Office. Received 501C3 status.
- In 2016, Jack Workman passed, the foundation was directed by his last will and testament to work with DNR to fulfill terms of donation agreement.

**In 2017:**

- The Foundation built a grass-roots network throughout the local community to develop support and assistance in raising funds for a permanent endowment to finish, maintain and operate the wildlife center.
- Held a “Discovery Days” (May 2017) to make the local community aware of the natural area. Introduce the community to what flora and fauna lives here.
- Held a fall event of nature hikes, including kayaking the river, bird walks and historical hikes.

- Pulled together fund raising plans to raise 1.5 million to fund displays within the center and a permanent endowment fund.
- Establish a website at [www.forksofcoalfoundation.org](http://www.forksofcoalfoundation.org) and a Facebook page.
- DNR completed the design and plans for the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center.
- Developed a “sponsor a bench” at the area. A total of 7 benches were installed by an Eagle Scout candidate. Five of the seven benches have been sponsored at a cost of \$500 per bench.

**In 2018:**

- Established a “Brick Sale” for the new Claudia L. Workman. The bricks will line the sidewalk into the building and will sell for \$120 per brick. All monies raised will go toward the endowment fund.
- Brick sale will begin at the May event.
- Grant applications have begun looking for grants to fund displays at the new wildlife center.
- Erect three kiosks at the location of the future wildlife center letting visitors know what the wildlife center will look like.

**Future:**

- Develop programs for the Claudia L. Wildlife Center and provide a qualified volunteer staff.
- Expand and upgrade the current trail system.

## **Kanawha State Forest Foundation Projects and Activities**

1. The Foundation has purchased a cast bronze plaque in recognition of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which will be mounted on a boulder and prominently displayed near the new HQ building.
2. Monthly work projects under the direction of a volunteer coordinator and Forest staff. Activities include campground preparation, sign and shelter painting, trail maintenance, and general clean-up.
3. Annual public events include Spring and fall Wildflower/Nature walks, a winter nature walk, and a summer concert featuring the Kanawha Valley Community Band in recognition of West Virginia Day.
4. Focus on outreach to children and teens
  - A. "FOREST FUN DAY" is an outdoor classroom activity scheduled for May 10th. The event is being offered to fifth graders in 4 different inner city schools. Cost is covered by a \$500 grant from the C.C. Dickinson Family Giving Circle. Collaboration with Project WET of DEP
  - B. Board members visiting local schools to promote this program and the educational/recreational opportunities of the Forest
5. Design, printing and distribution of a new KSFF information brochure
6. Printing and distribution of a newsletter to members 3X/year (The Forest Friend)
7. Maintenance of a Facebook page and KSFF website. Dues payment and donations allowed using Square credit card processing on web site.

Submitted by:

Bill Hall, Chairman  
KSFF Board

## **Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association 2017 Activities Report for the WVSPF Annual Meeting**

The Association's project to restore the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park's historic Climax steam locomotive was terminated when the Park's railroad operations were privatized in 2014. The Association continues to support historical interpretation and preservation projects in the Park.

The primary 2017 project was to host the Park's Logging Days activities for the first time. The public turnout was small, but folks seemed to enjoy the event and we hope for a wider audience in 2018.

Several restoration projects were planned, but didn't get completed in 2017. Hopefully 2018 will see less discussion and more work.

## **2017 WVSPF Report: North Bend Rails-To-Trails Foundation**

2017 saw the completion of a \$1.87 million Federal grant to repair trail sections in Doddridge and Harrison County. First approved in 2011, the grant rules changed so much over the six years that only half the work designed by engineers was finished.

This year, the Foundation will apply for a sequential grant to start re-engineering the remaining sections. Hopefully, this process will result in another grant award in 2020.

Two new comfort stations will be installed this year in Wood and Ritchie Counties. Again, recreational

trail grants were used to secure the nearly \$40,000 to acquire the restrooms. They will be installed by the park maintenance staff and the Foundation will handle any auxiliary costs such as cleaning and maintaining the structures.

Another \$100,000 recreational grant is in the works for this year to complete the trailhead at Wolf Summit – the eastern most portion of the trail in Harrison County.

Future work includes a grant submitted last fall to purchase approximately two miles of abandoned railway in Wood County. This piece of property is being sold by CSX for \$279,000 and will ultimately result in a new trailhead connecting the North Bend trail to Parkersburg's city bike trail. This undertaking is being pursued to establish the Industrial Heartland Trail – a continuous loop through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. It is sponsored by the national Rail Trail Conservancy. When completed, it will be approximately 1,400 miles long.

The NBRT Foundation is partnering with the Harrison Trails Foundation to acquire the remaining four miles from Wolf Summit into Clarksburg. This

is also an effort of the Rail Trail Conservancy to make West Virginia a major hub for biking, hiking and horseback riding in the Eastern United States. Their feasibility study on the Industrial Heartland Trail will be released publicly in Bridgeport, West Virginia on April 24th.

Finally, National Trail Opening Day will be hosted by the Harrison Trail and North Bend Rail Trail Foundations on Saturday, April 7th in Salem, West Virginia. Both groups will host musical entertainment, a bike rodeo for kids and history lectures about the trains that once were the life-blood of our region.

The Foundation continues to support the staff of the North Bend Rail Trail State Park. Last year we purchased a \$6,000 specialized dump trailer which can dump stone, rock or dirt to either side of the trailer or be dumped out the back like a normal dump truck. The trailer is ideally suited for rail trail work. In addition, we support the maintenance crew with specialized safety gear designed for trail maintenance. We also clean off graffiti and recently helped the Highway Department install directional signs to the trail from U.S. Route 50.

## **2017 Tygart Lake State Park Foundation Report**

Tygart Lake State Park Foundation 2017 activities began with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for our community children age ranging from 3 -12. There was a great turn out and it was basically over right after we blew the whistle to start! For every 5 eggs the kids find, they in return get a bag of candy with 5 pieces in it. We also had our 1st annual Easter Candy and Bake Sale in April with a profit of \$615. In May we participated in the Spirit of Grafton with concessions of hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos and cheese, pork BBQ, sodas & water.

The Foundation decorated a truck to participate in the Grafton Memorial Day Parade where an annual parade has been held since 1867 to honor fallen war heroes. We gave out candy & mini flags to the community in attendance. A yard sale was put on in June and one in October for 2 days both months. In total we made \$800 with the 2nd day basically giving most everything away and just asking for a donation if they were able to give. Both times we donated the remaining items to our local Salvation Army. In September we worked together with All Aboard Grafton for their Adventure Club activities.

Foundation members once again provided a chance for our community to stir the apple butter during the annual Appalachian Fall Fest. Members and guest stirred the apple butter from 6 AM - 3 PM in an over one hundred year old copper kettle over the open fire. The Jarring of 72 pints of apple butter was followed and sold as a fund raiser. The Fall Fest includes hayrides, heritage artisan demonstrations and crafters. We also sponsored a West Virginia basket raffle to give away at the end of the Fest. In total were able to raise \$1,604 for the Foundation.

In October we held our Annual Terror on The Tygart weekend with “haunted hayrides” through a “spooky” decorated second picnic area. There was a great turn out, even for the pouring down rain on Saturday evening. We raised \$2,311.52 including a donation that was “matched” for the amount we made from the weekend.

The Park restaurant was reopened in May and we were able to hold our Annual Tygart Lake State Park Breakfast with Santa. It was a wonderful time with Jacob, our park Naturalist, helping us to provide

crafts available for the kids as they waited to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. There was also a carriage ride with 2 horses up to the Dam and back. It was a pretty chilly day so everyone was able to snuggle up on the carriage under a blanket and enjoy the ride. Some of our Foundation members were able to enjoy a Christmas Lunch with the Park Employees. The employees help to support our Foundation activities and we are so very thankful for them. Our last event of the year was being a part of our town's Annual Christmas Parade. We again decorated a truck and threw out candy to our community.

All in all we had a great year. We hope to do many more activities for our community this year. We have already started with our second Annual Easter Candy and Bake Sale. We are gearing up for Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday and are hoping for a great turn out. We will be working with the Park to create a Butterfly Habitat and put Brenda Kirby Stout's "In Memory Of" plaque there permanently. She was a dedicated employee of the Park for over 10 years. We are also working towards getting a pavilion built and hope to have many benches added throughout the park with dedications on them this year.

**Watoga State Park Foundation  
Report for the West Virginia State Park Foundation  
Annual Meeting, March 29, 2018.**

In 2017 the Watoga Foundation worked to increase park revenue by bringing more guests to the park and providing funds to help with both activities and infrastructure.

The solar water heating for the swimming pool greatly increased community use, and brought the pool close to self-supporting. Ongoing improvements to the insulating blankets should further enhance the warm reception received from the public.

Trail work by Foundation volunteers continues at a high rate, both in the park and on the Greenbrier River Trail.

The foundation has helped provide funds for the excellent programs put on by the Naturalist/Programmer.

We have collaborated with other community groups again on the Wild Edibles Festival, and a new success, "Art in the Park".

The 5K and half marathon trail races of the Watoga SP Mountain Trail Challenge started two years ago made a profit of \$3300 in 2017. Entries are already coming in for the 2018 races in August – most from people who will be running Watoga's trails for the third year in a row.

Plans to build a miniature golf course are moving forward, with over \$15,000 in donations received.

The Foundation was notified in October that our application for a \$150,000 Federal RTP grant to develop mountain bike trails had been approved. We look forward to working closely with the DNR,

local mountain bicycling clubs, hikers, botanists and forest ecologists to build sustainable mountain bike trails to DNR specs with minimal environmental impact during and after construction.

Recent studies of the Rock Run watershed have identified large areas of old-growth forest, the full extent of which are being ascertained. Many trees more than 300 years old grow in Watoga. The foundation is participating in workshops and hikes in the area for mapping, tree measurement and studies of the old-growth ecosystem. Park Superintendent, Jody Spencer, was presented with a plaque by the Old-Growth Forest Network celebrating Watoga's inclusion in its national database.

-- end of reports --