Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission
Regular Business Meeting
May 20, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center, 100 North Water St., Tahlequah, OK 74464

MINUTES

Agenda Items are listed in the order of action by Commissioners.

01. Meeting called to order.

Chairman Hilsher called the meeting to order.

02. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT
Monte Bradford	Jeff Bashaw
Randy Corp	Michael Fuhr
Gerald Hilsher	John Larson
Riley Needham	Trey Peyton
David Pickle	Steve Randall
David Spears	
Rick Stubblefield	

03. Recognition of Retirement of James Hickman, OSRC Maintenance Supervisor

Chairman Hilsher recognized retiring Maintenance Supervisor James Hickman for 25 years of service to the OSRC. Hilsher presented Hickman with commendations of service from Governor Mary Fallin as well as Representatives Will Fourkiller and Mike Brown and Senator Wayne Shaw of the Oklahoma Legislature. Hickman also received a 25 year pin for his years of service.

04. Introduction of guests and visitors.

Derek Smithee, Oklahoma Water Resources Board; John Della-Maggiora, Sequoyah Outing Club; Joel Lamb; Dennis Gibbs, Save the Illinois River (STIR); Shannon Otteson-Gosa, STIR; Ed Brocksmith, STIR; Gary Vandenbos, STIR; Barb Daily, STIR and Blue Thumb; Bill James, OSRC; Teddye Snell, Tahlequah Daily Press; Cassandra Carter, OSRC; and Cheryl Allen, OSRC.

05. Comments from guests and visitors.

There were no comments.

06. Consideration and discussion, vote to approve, amend, or take other action approving minutes from February 18, 2014 OSRC Regular Business Meeting.

Commissioner Pickle motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Corp seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Abstain	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent
Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye
Larson	Absent	Stubblefield	Aye

07. Administrator's Report

Administrator Fite introduced Derek Smithee of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Fite asked Smithee to give meeting attendants an update of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Second Joint Principles and Actions.

Smithee updated attendants on progress of the stressor test study, the purpose of which is to ascertain the appropriateness of the current .037 mg/L phosphorus standard for the Illinois River watershed.

Smithee informed attendants a contract to perform the study had recently been executed with Dr. Ryan King of Baylor University. Study sites and data analysis methods had also been determined. The study's end date was set for December 2016.

Smithee explained the study is not to determine a specific numerical phosphorus standard, but to evaluate the appropriateness of the current standard. If data indicates phosphorus levels between .027 mg/L - .047 mg/L are not harmful to the watershed, the

current standard will be held by Oklahoma and Arkansas. If data indicates levels below .027 mg/L or above .047 mg/L, both states will promulgate the new standards into their water quality regulations.

Smithee advised anyone interested in more information to visit the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, or Oklahoma Water Resources Boards websites.

Commissioner Corp asked if the study would include recommendations for phosphorus loading reduction. Smithee responded that the study would answer what the TMDL target will be, but will not detail loading reduction.

Smithee further explained that while the focus of the study would be on phosphorus loads, the study would also include information about other variables, including blue-green algae concentrations. Smithee also stated the majority of sites will be located on the Illinois River, Barren Fork Creek, and Flint Creek. Some observations will be taken of Lee Creek, Little Lee Creek and other regional streams. Due to budget, time and travel restraints, no work will be done on the Upper Mountain Fork. There will be approximately 30 sites from which data will be collected bimonthly.

Smithee informed attendants interim reports will be available at the end of 2014 and 2015.

Fite reported the final 2014 CFDL statistics.

Fite reported he had approved the transfer of a total of 82 CFA 2 CFDL's from Riverside Resort and Hanging Rock Camp to Arrowhead Resort for 2014. This transfer did not increase the number of CFDL's allowed in CFA 2.

Fite said 58 temporary CFDL's had been issued in CFA 3 for 2014.

Fite reported CFDL issuance for each float area as follows:
CFA 1
Total available: 205
Total issued: 87
CFA 2
Total available: 2375
Total issued: 2375
CFA 3
Total available: 1320
Total issued: 728

In total, 3,190 CFDL's were issued and 710 were not. Fite reported CFDL issuance was at

its lowest level since 1983. Licensing generated $111,650, an 8.6% decrease from 2013.

Fite reviewed the OSRC's FY–15 budget.

Fite reported the OSRC's state appropriations were not cut. The agency received $94,000 in FY-14 supplemental appropriations. Approximately $80,000 is intended for FY-15 water sampling. The remaining $14,000 is intended to fund cost of shared administrative services provided through Oklahoma Management Enterprise Services.

Commissioners asked for an explanation of account 601: AFP Encumbrances. Administrative Manager Cheryl Allen explained the purpose the account functioned as a holding account for encumbrances that had not yet been paid out.

Fite offer explanation of revolving funds 260 & 261. Account 260 is $271,315 appropriated funds. Each month, 1/12th of the funds are allotted for spending. Account 261 holds any agency generated funds, such as CFDL and camping fees.

08. Education Outreach Report

Education Outreach Coordinator Cassandra Carter reported an overview of education outreach activities.

Carter gave an overview of the first Illinois River Bio Blitz. The two hour event included 15 volunteers who identified 98 different biological species at the Boy Scout Hole access area.

Carter discussed the first Illinois River Heritage Festival. Approximately 20 individuals, organizations and musicians participated and 200 – 250 visitors attended.

Carter reported plans to update the agency website.

09. Ranger Department Report

Ranger Supervisor Bill James reported the seasonal ranger staff would consist of five rangers including himself.

James discussed constraints the department would be facing.

An Oklahoma Highway Patrol grant funded ranger Dustin Davis' salary. To fulfill grant requirements, Davis is dedicated to patrolling the highway and cannot always assist with other calls.

James reported constraints regarding hiring. Title 51 prevents the OSRC from hiring

sheriff or county officers. This limited the pool of seasonal applicants. James stated he and Administrator Fite would work to amend this statute to add permissive language in the 1st Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature (2015). Of the four seasonal rangers that James was able to hire, two had full-time jobs and two were new.

James identified the most pressing constraint was the ranger department budget.

Chairman Hilsher questioned James about cooperation with other law enforcement offices. James answered other offices have been cooperative, and that Shannon Buhl with the Cherokee Nation Marshals Office in particular has offered substantial support.

10. **Consideration, vote to approve, amend or take other action of proposed contract with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for litter control and abatement within the scenic rivers system for the period July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Contract is subject to approval by ODEQ and funding to implement and total services not to exceed $49,500.**

Fite gave an overview of the proposed contract. $25,000 of the proposed funding would fund salaries for five employees. Of those five employees, three would work 15 40 hour weeks policing litter on the river and two would be devoted to OSRC parks. Remaining funding would be used for supplies.

Fite did note the ODEQ's budget had been cut by $12 million and, consequently, the ODEQ might not be able to fund the agreement.

Commissioner Stubblefield motioned to approve. Commissioner Corp seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Aye	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent
Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye
Larson	Absent	Stubblefield	Aye

11. **Consideration, vote to approve, amend or take other action approving FY-2015 OSRC -U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for the continuation of the Project Surface-Water Monitoring and Water-Sampling in the Illinois River Basin for the period July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Contract is subject to availability of OSRC cost-share match funds in amount of $79,750 to implement and total contract not to exceed $197,400.**

Federal funds contributed to match OSRC cost-share: USGS Cooperative Water Matching Funds $55,250; USGS Streamflow Information

Program Funds $42,800; and, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers $19,600.

Chairman Hilsher clarified that the supplemental FY-14 funding provided by the legislature would fund the OSRC's share of water sampling.

Commissioner Stubblefield motioned to approve. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Aye	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent
Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye
Larson	Absent	Stubblefield	Aye

12. ***This item added to this revised Agenda***
Consideration, vote to approve, amend or take other action to contract with Oklahoma Conservation Commission for cost-share grant funding to pump wastewater and clean out of residual trash and debris from the underground vaults of 12 pit toilet facilities located in public access areas to the Illinois River at estimated cost of $5,000; purchase and installation of 12 new scenic rivers watershed signs to replace old signs in the Illinois River Watershed at an estimated cost of $2,000; providing state's cost-share match for the 4th quarter of FY-2014 (April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014) to fund U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for the continuation of the Project Surface-Water Monitoring and Water-Sampling in the Illinois River Basin at the cost of $19,938; and, remainder of contract funds dedicated to the purchase of trash bags for litter clean-ups. Contract is subject to availability of USEPA/OCC 319(h) funds to implement and total services not to exceed $28,000. OSRC will provide $10,000 cost-share match.

Chairman Hilsher asked for clarification of the OSRC's cost-share match. Fite explained the OSRC's match would consist of staff time and labor.

Commissioner Pickle motioned to approve. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Aye	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent

Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye
Larson	Absent	Stubblefield	Aye

13. Consideration, vote to approve, amend or take other action that OSRC host a public forum, with participation of river basin stakeholders along with interested professional, industrial, academic and governmental entities, for the purpose of reviewing the Illinois River Management Plan with focus to evaluate its past and future effectiveness.

Chairman Hilsher proposed the agency generate a dialogue with public river basin stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the Illinois River Management Plan and the OSRC's effectiveness of placing the plan into action. Hilsher proposed Commissioners and OSRC coordinate a public forum in which parties interested in the watershed could participate in a frank discussion of the plan and the agency. Hilsher asked for support in creating a special sub-committee to coordinate the forum.

Chairman Hilsher motioned to approve. Commissioner Corp seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Aye	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent
Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye
Larson	Absent	Stubblefield	Aye

14. New Business

Under the Open Meeting Act, this agenda item is authorized only for matters not known about or which could not have been reasonable foreseen prior to the time of the posting of the agenda or any revised agenda.

No new business was brought forward.

15. Adjournment

Commissioner Hilsher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Larson seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

Bashaw	Absent	Needham	Aye
Bradford	Abstain	Peyton	Absent
Corp	Aye	Pickle	Aye
Fuhr	Absent	Randall	Absent
Hilsher	Aye	Spears	Aye

Larson Absent Stubblefield Aye

Passed and approved this 19 day of AUGUST, 2014. _____
Secretary/Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 19 day of August, 2014.

_____
Signature of notary officer
My Commission expires: December 11, 2017
Commission #01019412