

OKLAHOMA SCENIC RIVERS COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 19, 2014
MEETING TIME: 5:30 p.m.
MEETING PLACE: Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center
100 North Water Street (located across the street on the Northeast corner of the Old Cherokee Capital Square located in downtown Tahlequah)
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

MINUTES

01. Meeting called to order.

Chairman Hilsher called the meeting to order.

02. Roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gerald Hilsher
John Larson
Riley Needham
Trey Peyton
David Pickle
David Spears
Rick Stubblefield

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Bashaw
Monte Bradford
Randy Corp
Michael Fuhr
Steve Randall

03. Welcome and recognition of newly reappointed Commission Members:

- 1. Dr. Riley Needham (appointed by Brian Bingman, Senate President Pro-Tempore);**
- 2. Michael Fuhr (appointed by Governor Mary Fallin); and,**
- 3. Gerald Hilsher (appointed by Governor Mary Fallin).**

The Commission welcomed and recognized newly-reappointed Commissioners Gerald Hilsher and Riley Needham. Michael Fuhr was absent and will be welcomed at next Business Meeting.

04. Introduction of guests and visitors.

Gina Levesque, Oklahoma Conservation Commission; Teddy Snell, Tahlequah Daily Press; Deb McAlister; Howard Tate, Illinois River Ranch; Mike and Pam Hazen, War Eagle Resort; Jack Spears, Arrowhead Resort; Max McCullough and Francie Fite; Brandon Brown, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; George Foster, Cherokee Nation.

05. Comments from guests and visitors.

This item is included within the agenda to allow time for public comment to the OSRC Board of Commissioners. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. This agenda item allows NO ACTION may be taken by Commissioners.

Jack Spears congratulated Chairman Hilsher for being reappointed. He then handed out a letter related to user fees that he said was food for thought. Mr. Spears spoke about privately-owned kayaks and canoes being floated on the river as a problem, but a good problem for the Commission. He discussed how privately-owned flotation devices do not contribute financially compared to Commercial Floatation Device Operations impact. He purported it as an opportunity for the Commission to pick up some extra revenue.

Deb McAlister addressed Commissioners about traffic needing to slow down around her ranch located adjacent to East 730 Road (aka: Needmore Hollow Road).

06. Consideration and discussion, vote to approve, amend or take other action approving minutes from May 20, 2014 OSRC Regular Business Meeting.

Commissioner Stubblefield made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2014, OSRC Regular Business Meeting. Dr. Needham seconded the motion.

The vote follows:

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

Motion passed 5 Aye 2 Abstain.

07. Administrator Report.

Administrator Fite reported on recent OSRC activities, on the budget, and funding and answered questions.

In summary he reported the OSRC had a very busy summer with observing he felt float operators have had a good year. He said it's been challenging to the OSRC because of lack of funds, equipment and needed manpower. Trash and litter collections have been up this year. Law enforcement issues were marginalized on the weekends, up and down somewhat.

08. Education Outreach Report.

Administrator Fite reported on Cassandra Carter's departure. He discussed her accomplishments and duties.

09. Ranger Department Report.

Administrator Fite reported on the agency's decreasing budget has resulted in a lack of manpower.

10. Consideration, vote to approve, amend or take other action approving FY-2015 (July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015) OSRC Budget.

Cheryl Allen, Administrative Officer talked about the revenue and that appropriations are the same as last year. Commercial flotation licensing renewals are down again this year and are dropping each year. She estimates a 6% drop for FY-2015 based on last year's renewals. The OSRC received a supplemental appropriation of \$94,000.00, a one-time payment from the legislature. This includes \$80,000.00 the state's cost-share of the \$200,000 U.S. Geological Survey stream gaging and water quality monitoring of the Illinois River Basin and \$14,000.00 for Office of Management and Enterprise Services to provide administrative services support to the OSRC. Camping fee revenue is about the same as last year. The auction that Ms. Carter, former OSRC Education Outreach Coordinator conducted in conjunction with Save The Illinois River, Inc. generated \$8,500.00 for deployment of portable toilets during the summer at public use areas. Rollover funds from FY-2014 are estimated to be close to \$50,000.00. OSRC has a small contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for ranger services for some of their areas (Sequoyah Club, Welling Bridge, and Boy Scout Hole) and if staff work the total budgeted hours it will generate \$11,500.00 in revenue. OSRC also received a small grant from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for \$8,000.00. That money will go toward trash bags for the float operators to distribute to their customers, "Watershed Awareness" signage for Highways 10, 59 and 62 and to pump raw sewage and clean out trash/debris from public access area pit toilets. Private flotation device user fees have doubled from last year. The FY-2015 Budget is \$577,581.00

Expenses for FY-2015 are similar to last year. Seasonal employee expenses are down. Health insurance expense will be similar to FY-2014 for FY-2015. The Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department used to support us administratively with no charge. OSRC now pays OMES for administrative support and \$14,000.00 will help offset that expense.

Motion has been made and approved for the consideration of budget.

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

Motion passed 7 Aye 0 Nay

11. Open discussion among OSRC Commissioners for the purpose of beginning a review of the Illinois River Management Plan.

This item will include an opportunity for the public to make comment and interact with the OSRC Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hilsher stated he feels it is time to take a look at the Illinois River Management plan. Is it time to re-evaluate the goals and implementation? How do we restructure our view? Several questions need to be answered, such as the structure and content of the meetings.

12. New Business.

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

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment.

Commissioner Needham moved to adjourn. Commissioner Peyton seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed 7 Aye 0 Nay

Passed and approved this 11 day of December, 2014. John Larson
Secretary/Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 11 day of December, 2014.

Cheryl Myerley Allen
Signature of notary officer
My Commission expires: December 11, 2017
Commission #01019412

