

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Hammocks Beach State Park

March 21, 2025



March 21		P&R Authority Meeting Agenda		
Time	Agenda Item	Action	Presenter	Support
8:00am	Ranger guided ferry			
9:30am	Call to open		Margaret Newbold	
9:35am	Members present/absent	Information	Margaret Newbold	
9:40am	Ethics statement/recusals	Information	Margaret Newbold	
9:45am	November minutes approval	Vote	Margaret Newbold	
9:50am	Information from the Secretary	Information		
Local Government Grant Program Business				
10:05am	Mental Health & State Parks Study	Information	NCSU	
10:40am	Local Grant Updates	Information	Vonda Martin	
State Park System Business				
11:10am	Funding Available FY24-25	Information	Brian Strong	
11:15am	State Parks Request	Vote	Brian Strong / Margaret Newbold	Attachment
12:00pm	Break for Lunch			
Other Business				
1:00pm	Division Update	Information	Brian Strong	
1:45pm	Final remarks and adjourn	Information	Margaret Newbold	
2:00pm	Tour the Teachers Building		Park Staff	

November 2024 Draft Minutes

Call to open

Chairperson Margaret Newbold called the meeting to order at 9:36am.

Roll Call for Attendance

Roll call for the Parks and Recreation Authority (PRA):

Ms. Margaret Newbold, present

Mr. Doug Auer, present

Ms. Amber Brown, present (virtual)

Ms. Addie Corder, present

Ms. Mavis Gragg, present

Mr. Lewis Ledford, present

Mr. Barnes Sutton, present

Welcome to Pilot Mountain

Ranger Jason Anthony welcomed the board to the park. He shared some history of the park and thanked the board for their continued support.

New and Returning Members – Swearing In

New board member Addie Corder was sworn in. Returning board member Barnes Sutton was sworn in.

Ethics Statement

Chairperson Newbold then read the Ethics Statement:

In accordance with The State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved. We ask members who recuse themselves do not participate in the discussion or voting of said matter.

Recusals

No Authority Members have any known conflicts of interest.

Minutes Review

Chairperson Newbold asked for the board members to review and approve the August 2024 meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Auer. The motion was seconded by Addie Corder.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye

Mr. Doug Auer, aye

Ms. Amber Brown, aye (virtual)

Ms. Addie Corder, aye

Ms. Mavis Gragg, aye

Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye

Mr. Barnes Sutton, aye

The motion passed.

Local Grants Update

Vonda Martin and Charlynn Smith co-presented research on recreational facility lifecycles to demonstrate that the 25-year restriction is still appropriate.

The local grants update paused to allow Secretary Wilson time for remarks.

Remarks from Secretary

Secretary Wilson joined the meeting and thanked the board for their continued service. He shared updates on the impact of Hurricane Helene in the NC State Parks system.

10-minute Break

Local Grants Update Continued

Vonda shared information on the outreach efforts of the local grants team and the impact of Hurricane Helene on local projects.

Amber Brown exited the meeting at lunch.

Break for Lunch: 12pm-1pm

State Parks Requests

Deputy Director Dave Head presented the State Parks System Land Acquisition and Design Development Projects for FY 24-25.

Park	Tract	Acres	PARTF	Match	Total
Wilderness Gateway State Trail	Pinnacle Mountains East & West	2,410	\$1,000,000	\$2,358,200	\$3,358,200
William B. Umstead State Park	Beals	1.7	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000
2,411.7	\$1,225,000		\$2,358,200	\$3,583,200	
<i>Previous PARTF Awards</i>			<i>\$1,112,500</i>		
<i>New PARTF Awards</i>			<i>\$112,500</i>		

There was some discussion regarding the land acquisition requests.

A motion to approve the land acquisition requests was made by Lewis Ledford. The motion was seconded by Mavis Gragg.

A roll call vote was taken:

- Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye
- Mr. Doug Auer, aye
- Ms. Addie Corder, aye
- Ms. Mavis Gragg, aye
- Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye
- Mr. Barnes Sutton, aye

The motion passed.

Dave presented State Parks System Capital Projects for FY 24-25.

Park Unit	Description	Proposed PARTF request	Total Project Cost
Carvers Creek State Park	Historic Farm Seat Improvements	\$500,000	\$8,086,356
Dismal Swamp State Park	Equipment Storage Building	\$600,000	\$600,000
Stone Mountain State Park	Stone Mountain Falls Stairway and Overlook Replacement	\$1,100,000	2,600,000
Elk Knob State Park	Northern Peaks State Trail development	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000
Bobs Creek State Natural Area	Design of initial access to natural area	\$150,000	\$150,000
DPR Statewide Maintenance	Maintenance Projects	\$2,260,611	\$2,260,611
Total	\$6,410,611	\$15,496,967	

There was some discussion regarding the capital project requests.

A motion to approve the capital project requests was made by Lewis Ledford. The motion was seconded by Addie Corder.

A roll call vote was taken:
Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye
Mr. Doug Auer, aye
Ms. Addie Corder, aye
Ms. Mavis Gragg, aye
Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye
Mr. Barnes Sutton, aye

The motion passed.

Division Updates

Director Strong shared division updates, including personnel updates and the agency's response to Hurricane Helene.

5-minute break 2:25-2:30pm

Presentation from Waypoint Adventures

Adam Combs from Waypoint Adventures presented about the organization's partnership with State Parks to offer outdoor recreation experiences to people living with disabilities.

Final Remarks and Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mavis Gragg. The motion was seconded by Addie Corder.

A roll call vote was taken:
Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye
Mr. Doug Auer, aye
Ms. Addie Corder, aye
Ms. Mavis Gragg, aye
Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye
Mr. Barnes Sutton, aye

The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Subject: State Parks System Capital Projects FY 24-25 funds

Presenter: Mr. Brian Strong –Director, Division of Parks & Recreation

Attachment: Project list and write-ups.

Background: Mr. Strong will present a project for Hurricane Helene Emergency Repair (HHER). Funding for the project will be through re-allocating funds from previous PARTF awards. Several parks in western North Carolina received heavy damage from Hurricane Helene. The Division has a long road to recovery as we address impacted infrastructure. Over the last several months the Division has been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assess damage to the parks and develop cost estimates for repairs. FEMA funding is on a reimbursement basis, therefore, all work will need to be completed prior to funding being reimbursed. One of the greatest obstacles to addressing the damage is the need for funds to start working on the projects. The HHER fund will allow the Division to begin critical repairs on infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene that has been approved by FEMA and then allow us to request reimbursement for these repairs. Funds can be transferred back to the PARTF projects they were taken from, or funds can be put back into the stateside share for re-allocation by the Parks and Recreation Authority.

As part of this proposal funding will be re-allocated from the following projects:

Park Unit	Description	Date Approved by PARTF	Approved PARTF request	Request Transfer of funds to HHER fund	Comments
Fort Fisher SRA	Repairs to Boardwalks	1/9/2023	\$500,000	\$500,000	Repair project is needed but can be deferred.
Mount Mithcell SP	Maintenance Area Repairs	1/9/2023	\$900,000	\$700,000	The Division will retain \$200,000 of the \$900,000 to begin design.
Carolina Beach SP	Maintenance Area Improvements	1/9/2023	\$2,200,000	\$1,800,000	The Division will retain \$400,000 of the allocated \$2.2 million to begin design.
Eno River SP	Quarry Safety Improvements	8/22/2019	\$200,000	\$200,000	Safety improvements have been made at the park level and funding is no longer necessary.
Chimney Rock SP	Village Restroom Improvements	1/6/2022	\$400,000	\$400,000	Project is not necessary since the restroom was destroyed in the Hurricane.
Carvers Creek SP	Residence Repairs	1/9/2023	\$200,000	\$200,000	Buildings are beyond repair and will be demolished. Funding is not needed.
Mayo River SP	Residence Renovations	1/9/2023	\$300,000	\$300,000	Repairs will be deferred but still necessary.
Multiple Parks	EV Charger Installation	6/1/2023	\$93,240	\$93,240	Funding was requested for matching funds for a grant. Grant was not awarded and funds are no longer necessary.
Total			\$4,793,240	\$4,193,240	

STATEWIDE

Hurricane Helene Emergency Repair Fund

Location: Wester Parks

Funds Requested: \$4,193,240

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will allow the Division to begin critical repairs on infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene that has been approved by FEMA and then allow the Division to request reimbursement for these repairs. The Division intends to reimburse PARTF once FEMA reimburses the Division.

Projects could include:

- New River State Park – Campground and river access repairs
- Mount Jefferson State Nature Area – Repairs to roads and overlook
- Grandfather Mountain State Park – Profile Trail repairs
- South Mountains State Park – Trail tread and bridge repairs, fishing pier repairs
- Chimney Rock State Park – access road repairs
- Lake James State Park – Mountain Bike Trail Repairs
- Lake James State Park – Dock replacement
- Lake James State Park – Paddle in campsite repairs
- Mount Mitchell State Park – Restaurant roof repairs
- Elk Knob State Park – Bridge repairs to restore back country management access
- Debris Removal at various locations

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING STATUS

\$ 0 Previously Allocated

\$ 4,193,240 To be re-allocated to Hurricane Helene Emergency Response Fund

\$ 4,193,240 Total Project Cost

PROJECT STATUS

Project has not started.

OPERATING EXPENSES

No additional operating expenses are anticipated.