



Nevada Department of  
**CONSERVATION &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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Colin Robertson, *Administrator*  
Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation

## **MEETING MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 10:00 AM**

**\* This meeting was held via teleconference only. \***

- **Video Recording of Meeting:** <https://playback.lifesize.com/#/publicvideo/f59b33a7-a3f0-43a2-afb5-261d6642f8da?vcpubtoken=8e00811d-ef7b-4a63-9964-330ddd1df591>

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:01am on January 21, 2021.

### **2. ROLL CALL OF THE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Administrator Colin Robertson called the roll. Present: Kate Marshall (Chair), Mauricia Baca (Education), Amy Berry (Conservation), Michael Brown (Governor's Office of Economic Development), Bradley Crowell (Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources), Robert Mergell (Nevada Division of State Parks), Dr. Andrew Pasternak (Health), Brenda Scolari (Nevada Department of Tourism), Mario Walther (Outdoor Industry), and Tony Wasley (Nevada Department of Wildlife). Absent: Richard Arnold (Nevada Indian Commission).

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments were received from: Philip Fell, motorcycle representative on the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, expressing interest in how the Division of Outdoor Recreation and OHV Commission can work together. This was the only public comment at this time.

### **4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\* – Kate Marshall, Chair**

Chair Marshall indicated that the agenda did not in fact need to be reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board, and so moved to Item 5.

### **5. REVIEW ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF ADVISORY BOARD ON OUTDOOR RECREATION \*FOR DISCUSSION\* – Kate Marshall, Chair**

Deputy Attorney General Anthony

Administrator Colin Robertson gave an overview of the current makeup of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, consisting of seven (7) seats named by statute [Lieutenant Governor (Chair); Director of the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; Director of the Nevada Department of Tourism; Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife; Administrator of the Nevada Division of State Parks; and the Chair of the Nevada Indian Commission, and four (4) seats appointed by the Governor

Chair Marshall offered some context for how and why the Division of Outdoor Recreation came to be in the 2019 Legislative Session, and explained the heritage of The Confluence of States, the association of states with offices of outdoor recreation. Chair Marshall thanked all advisory board members for their service, and the promise she believes the division and board have. She welcomed advisory board members to share their thoughts. All present shared comments, generally about their excitement and interest in participating on the advisory board, and the opportunity the board represents to effect positive change in Nevada. Chair Marshall shared appreciation and Administrator Robertson thanked and acknowledged board members for their service and participation. Deputy

Attorney General acknowledged the description of the board and its authority and role, and offered to provide information and training about open meeting law requirements as needed.

**6. APPOINT VICE CHAIR FOR ADVISORY BOARD ON OUTDOOR RECREATION \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*** – *Kate Marshall, Chair*

Chair Marshall nominates Amy Berry to Vice Chair, identifying Ms. Berry's depth of experience and the skill to facilitated the meetings in the Chair's absence. Director Bradley Crowell seconded the nomination of Ms. Berry. Ms. Berry expressed her honor in the nomination, with supportive discussion from Mauricia Baca. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. DIVISION OVERVIEW AND UPDATES \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** - *Colin Robertson, Administrator, will*  
Administrator Robertson presented an overview of the activities of the Division of Outdoor Recreation to date.

Administrator Robertson presented an overview of the activities of the Division of Outdoor Recreation to date. He presented an overview of Assembly Bill 486, the legislation authorizing the Division and outlining the role of the division, the administrator, and the advisory board. He explained why the division was created and why the State of Nevada joined the Confluence of States, the alliance of states with offices of outdoor recreation, built around four (4) founding principles: conservation and stewardship; education and workforce training; economic development; and public health. These principles also create the organizing principles of the Division of Outdoor Recreation. Activity highlights included summary information about the economic impact of outdoor recreation in Nevada from data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and its Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account. Nevada's most recent data indicate that the economic value of outdoor recreation in the state grew to \$5.5 billion in 2019 (up from \$4.1 billion in 2017), representing 3.1 percent of the state's domestic product and 59,499 jobs.

Administrator Robertson turned to partnerships across the state, providing examples from Travel Nevada and the Governor's Office of Economic Development and its rural development office, and the state's Recovery and Stabilization Plan. Federal agency partners include the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He also named, among others, the Nevada Association of Counties, the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition (NVOBC), and state, local and federal agency partners. He identified agency priorities of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); rural community and economic development opportunities; sustainable recreation planning/advocacy; a dark skies bill draft request, sponsored by Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall; and access and equity efforts in the outdoors.

In discussion, Director Crowell mentioned the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program and its lack of funding, as well as a bill draft to request three additional seats on the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, two non-voting positions from federal agency partners in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior, and one from the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO). Amy Berry shared her excitement about the huge opportunities for outdoor recreation in Nevada, and wondered if a major effort to develop a large scale recreation destination/opportunity in the state might be possible, and the potential to do something big is possible. Director Brenda Scolari shared the outcomes of Travel Nevada's "Discover Your Nevada" campaign and the public relations and communications efforts of Travel Nevada, offering the expansion and support of their programs with the initiatives of the Division of Outdoor Recreation and the activities of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation. Chair Marshall shared thanks for the board's comments and thoughts.

**8. STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** -  
*Colin Robertson, Administrator will provide an overview of the process of revising Nevada's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2022-2026. Current SCORP linked here:*  
[http://parks.nv.gov/forms/Nevada\\_Comprehensive\\_Outdoor\\_Recreation\\_Plan\\_2016-2021.pdf](http://parks.nv.gov/forms/Nevada_Comprehensive_Outdoor_Recreation_Plan_2016-2021.pdf)

Administrator Colin Robertson provided an overview of the purpose of the Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), explaining that these five-year plans are required for any state wishing to participate in the stateside grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the funding authority for which was increased dramatically in 2020 due to the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act into law in August 2020. The current SCORP will expire at the end of 2021, and will be revised for 2022-2026. A public survey tool and a land manager survey tool will be available in February and March for public and land manager input informing the 2022-2026 SCORP. The revised SCORP is due to the National Park Service in December 2021. Administrator Robertson shared that the Advisory Board's help spreading the word about the survey instruments and soliciting broad input will be appreciated.

9. **SB 52 \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** - *Kate Marshall, Chair* will provide an overview of SB52, legislation proposed to establish a program for awarding dark sky designation to certain sites in the State of Nevada (BDR 35-427).

Chair Marshall shared information about SB52, the point of which is to provide people awareness and modest incentive to work toward dark sky certification through the International Dark Sky Association. Chair Marshall discussed the Friends of Nevada Wilderness dark sky mapping efforts, and the photography and tourism campaigns tied to dark skies. Chair Marshall indicated that a common letter in support of the bill will be drafted by Administrator Robertson and the Lieutenant Governor's staff for supporters to consider signing. There does not appear to be opposition to the bill at this time, in part because the bill is an encouragement, not a restriction. Questions about the bill can be directed to Administrator Robertson or Chair Marshall's staff.

10. **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE, FOR NEXT MEETING(S)** – *Kate Marshall, Chair*

Chair Marshall indicated that she would like Administrator Colin Robertson to identify dates for three (3) additional meetings in 2021 to share with the advisory board and set them for the year, the third of which would be only as-needed. Topics for future agendas: Brad Crowell suggested future presentations on the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition, who they are and what they do; and an overview from someone in the hospitality industry to speak about the challenges gateway communities face in rural communities. Mauricia Baca suggested presentations from outdoor education organizations for the Advisory Board, on both programs related to career development and challenges related to COVID impacts, particularly in the relationship of outdoor education groups and the prospect of capitalization of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program. Director Tony Wasley suggested a future discussion of the matrix of resources and capacity of the organizations represented by the members of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, and the ways in which those resources/programs could be more effectively used.

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Philip Fell shared thanks to Chair Marshall and Administrator Robertson for the first meeting and the opportunities in Nevada to encourage world class outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 2) Director Crowell shared that the next meeting of the advisory board may come on the heels of significant federal funding for infrastructure and potentially outdoor recreation, and to look at ways to align and maximize federal investment opportunities in outdoor recreation.
- 3) Matthew Giltner, Pinenut Mountain Trails Association, shared his interest in Nevada's motorized community and the financial benefit of the motorized community on the outdoor economy in Nevada. Matthew indicated he's excited about the opportunity to work toward more responsible recreation in Nevada.

12. **ADJOURNMENT \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\***-- *Kate Marshall, Chair*

Chair Marshall called for a motion to adjourn. Director Crowell moves to adjourn; Administrator Robert Mergell seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:36AM.

Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Website at: <http://dcnr.nv.gov/> and <https://notice.nv.gov/>

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting. To request special accommodations or assistance at the meeting, please notify our office by

writing to the Off-Highway Vehicles Program, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701; or by calling 775-684-2794 no later than two (2) working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Please contact Colin Robertson at: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003, Carson City, Nevada 89701; [crobertson@ndor.nv.gov](mailto:crobertson@ndor.nv.gov); or 775-684-2700 to obtain support material for the agenda. Materials will also be posted on the [DCNR website](#).