

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 9, 2014

Agenda Item: 13

Information

Topic: Reports

Agenda Item: 13a

Topic: Sustainability Plan

Attachment: None

Prepared by: MG Devereux

In 2001 the Oregon Legislature passed the Oregon Sustainability Act (ORS 184.421) which set out general goals for sustainability in state agencies, as well as created the Oregon Sustainability Board. The Board was responsible for reviewing sustainability plans created by state agencies. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) created a plan which was reviewed and accepted by the Sustainability Board in 2004. The agency committed to four overarching actions: incorporate sustainability into grant criteria for grants managed by OPRD; remove hazardous and toxic chemicals from OPRD janitorial and landscape activities; develop an environmental management system for OPRD activities; and eliminate two-cycle engines from OPRD operations. OPRD staff put a significant amount of work into these goals and has made sustainability a key part of everyday operations. Much of the overall agency approach has been guided by the Natural Resource and Environmental Management Policy (COM 20-0) revised by the Commission in 2004 to reflect the Oregon Sustainability Act.

Current Efforts

The attention to the 2004 plan has drifted. OPRD staff continues to look for ways to meet the overall goals of sustainability, but there is not currently an organized approach. Unlike some larger agencies, OPRD does not have a single point of contact for sustainability efforts. In 2013 the Sustainability Board began to discuss the need to refresh the original sustainability plans created in 2004. A small group of staff have been formed into a task force to help create an update approach to sustainability that recognizes the staff and resource limitations of the agency and captures the significant contribution OPRD can make to sustainable action. The task force has created some focus areas that use the official definition of sustainability to develop actions in the areas of community, economy, and environment.

Specific actions are still being developed and reviewed, but the actions will center around these concepts

Community:

- Expanding access to park programs or experiences to underserved communities through programs like Let's GO
- Providing opportunities for environmental education through stronger connections with local schools

- Collaborative development of sustainability practices with local and county park providers
- Develop outreach and training materials for heritage partners to improve opportunities for historic building preservation

Economy

- Improve operational efficiencies to maximize public investment into staff, visitors, and facilities
- Decrease energy costs through education, system upgrades
- Utilize SCORP and other outreach programs to strengthen understanding of economic impacts of parks and recreation

Environment

- Develop preferred material list to address Green Chemistry Executive Order
- Create incentive process for park managers to develop innovations in energy or operational efficiencies
- Improve GIS application to enhance integrated pest management strategies
- Create sustainability actions for park master plans
- Work to reduce climate impacts through reductions in fossil fuel and other material uses

In most cases OPRD staff are already working on these initiatives, but have not combined or cataloged them. The 2014 sustainability plan will create a better systems approach to documenting these and other actions that contribute to sustainable actions. Staff will be presenting the draft plan to the Sustainability Board in May.

Prior Action by Commission: Revised adoption of policy COM 20-0 Natural Resource and Environmental Management Policy 2004

Attachments: COM 20-0

Agenda Item: 13b

Rulemaking Status

Prepared by: Vanessa DeMoe

Rulemaking Activity Log

OAR & Division	Subject Matter	Commission Approval for Rulemaking	Rulemaking Process Opened	Hearing Dates	Public Comment Expiration Date	Target Date for Commission Adoption
736-018-0045	Brian Booth State Park Comprehensive Plan		2/13/2014	3/18/2014	4/18/2014	
736-021	Smoking Restrictions on the Ocean Shore	2/5/2014				
736-010	Smoking Restrictions	9/24/13	11/15/13	1/7-1/16/2014	1/17/14	Adopted
736-040	John Day Scenic Waterway	5/8/2013	Not filed yet	N/A	03/31/14	
736-015	Fee Increase	5/8/2013	7/15/2013	8/20 through 8/23/13	8/30/13	Adopted
736-002	Agreements with non-profit organizations	5/8/2013	6/13/13	7/30/13	8/2/2013	Adopted
736-053	Heritage Commission - grants and statewide celebrations	5/8/2013	5/15/2013	6/19/13	6/21/13	Adopted