

West Virginia Legislature
PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT
to
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2013 - 2014 Interims

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The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met each month during the 2013-2014 period beginning in June 2013 to discuss and study parks, recreation and natural resources issues. The topics assigned to the committee by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance were as follows:

- SCR57 How to maintain State Parks**
- SCR58 Laws pertaining to use of firearms for hunting and recreational shooting enthusiasts**
- SCR60 Feasibility of DNR entering into lease agreements for hunting and other opportunities**

JUNE 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at Grand Vue Park, a county park located in Marshall County. After a brief description of the park, the members proceeded with a tour of the park.

JULY 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday July 23, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Frank Jezioro, Director, WV DNR, and Curtis Taylor, Chief of Wildlife Resources, DNR presented SCR 60 - Feasibility of DNR entering into lease agreements for hunting and other opportunities. Bob Beanblossom, Division of Natural Resources, discussed upcoming site visitation to Twin Falls State Park and surrounding parks on September 11-13, 2013. The committee discussed possible alternative dates during the same week due to conflicts of some members.

AUGUST 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday August 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Curtis Taylor, Chief, Wildlife Resources Section, WV DNR presented SCR 58 - Laws pertaining to use of firearms for hunting and recreational shooting enthusiasts. Bob Beanblossom, Division of Natural Resources, discussed the upcoming site visitation to Twin Falls State Park and surrounding parks on September 10-12, 2013.

TOUR OF STATE PARKS FACILITIES SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met at Twin Falls Resort State Park on September 10, 2013 for a tour of the park and facilities. A reception and dinner was held at Twin Falls Lodge. On September 11, 2013, the subcommittee toured Panther Wildlife Management Area and R. D. Bailey and Horse Creek Lake Wildlife Management Areas. On September 12, 2013, the subcommittee toured Little Beaver State Park.

SEPTEMBER 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday September 24, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Kenneth Caplinger, Chief, Parks and Recreation, WV DNR presented the WV state parks budget review and discussion of SCR 57 - To maintain the state park system and find a dedicated source of revenue to address the maintenance, repair and renovations of the state parks. Bob Beanblossom, Division of Natural Resources, proposed an upcoming site visitation to Canaan Valley Resort State Park for the ribbon cutting of the new lodge during the West Virginia Tourism Conference on October 28-30, 2013.

OCTOBER 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Bob Beanblossom, District Administrator, Parks and Recreation, Division of Natural Resources, provided a history of the West Virginia state parks system.

TOUR OF CANAAN VALLEY RESORT STATE PARK

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on October 28, 2013 at Canaan Valley Resort State Park in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Tourism. A reception was held with local representatives. On October 29, 2013, the subcommittee attended a tour of Canaan Valley Resort State Park. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held with Governor Tomblin for the Canaan Valley Lodge. The subcommittee participated in a legislative panel. On October 30, 2013, the subcommittee toured the Canaan Valley Ski Lift Area.

NOVEMBER 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Summer Wyatt, WV Humane Society, spoke about exotic animal regulations in West Virginia and other states, as well as situations where exotic animals have escaped. Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief in Charge of Game Management, DNR Wildlife Resources and Lt. Colonel Jerry Jenkins, DNR, Law Enforcement Section, discussed proposed exotic species legislation.

DECEMBER 2013

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Emily Fleming, Acting Director, Parks Division, WV Department of Natural Resources, provided an update on the budget meeting, a prioritized list of park repair projects, proposed cuts in the parks system, including Hawks Nest Golf Course, and dedicated source of funding ideas with input from members.

JANUARY 2014

The Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Subcommittee met on January 6, 2014. Paul Johansen, DNR Wildlife Division will give the 2013-2014 Big Game report. Emily Fleming, Acting Director Parks Division, will update the committee on DNR's legislative agenda. Further, the committee will consider: **HB/SB: Relating to the development of corporate sponsorships for state parks and recreational areas managed by the Parks and Recreation Section** as a means of addressing SCR 57.

Recommendations: The Subcommittee recommends **HB/SB: Relating to the development of corporate sponsorships for state parks and recreational areas managed by the Parks and Recreation Section** in response to SCR 57.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator William R. Laird IV, Chair

Delegate Jeff Eldridge, Co-Chair
Delegate Danny Wells, Co-Chair