

W.7.b.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

Date: January 14, 2005
TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Public Works, Parks Division
PRESENTED BY: Todd Winter, Parks Division Manager

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE PARKS MANAGER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE ORCHARD POINT AND PERKINS PENINSULA PARKS LOCATED ON FERN RIDGE RESERVIOR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE WATER LEVEL IS RETURNED TO NORMAL RECREATION POOL.

I. MOTION

Move to authorize the Parks Manager to close Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks located on Fern Ridge Reservoir until such time as the water level is returned to normal recreation pool.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

Due to issues with the integrity of the dam structure at Fern Ridge Lake, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that the pool level at Fern Ridge Lake will be maintained at a maximum of 360' elevation until repairs to the dam structure can be completed. This is approximately 13.5 feet below the normal recreation pool level. The timeline for completion of the repairs is currently estimated to be at least 3 years.

During this period of low water levels, Orchard Point and Richardson marinas will be out of the water. Boating and swimming access to the lake will be extremely limited, and Lane County park usage will be severely impacted. Parks Division needs to make operational adjustments to reduce expenses during this time, while still accommodating expected usage.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

Lane County Parks operates four park areas at Fern Ridge Reservoir under lease agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Day use facilities are currently maintained at Orchard Point Park, Richardson Park, and Perkins Peninsula Park. Zumwalt Park is maintained as a walk-in only day use area that is popular with local

Temporary closure of two marinas
M&S expense reductions

Proposed closure of two Class A parks (Orchard Point and Perkins)

Estimated total loss of revenue FY04-05 is \$212,779.00.

Estimated fiscal impact for FY 05-06 is \$280,000.00.

The Parks Advisory Committee has discussed these impacts, and concurs with Parks staff on recommending the temporary closures of Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks.

C. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the Parks Division recommendation to temporarily close Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks until such time as the water level is returned to normal recreation pool
2. Do not approve the Parks Division recommendation to temporarily close Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks until such time as the water level is returned to normal recreation pool.

D. Recommendations

Parks staff and the PAC recommend option 1.

E. Timing

Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks would not open as scheduled in May 2005, and remain closed until normal recreation pool levels return at Fern Ridge Lake.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Operational changes will go into effect immediately upon approval of this Board Order.








V. ATTACHMENTS

Map of Fern Ridge Reservoir area.

Todd Winter
Parks Manager
Lane County Parks Division

Lane County Parks
Fem Ridge Area
January 2005

Legend

-  Park Site
-  Metro Plan Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Water
-  Road
-  Tax Parcel

E

