A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held Friday, January 7, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members - Ms. Dana Duxbury, Ms. CArol Lash and John Loupos. Also present was Commissioner William F. M. Hicks.

No formal business was conducted - the Board members attended the farewill luncheon for Secretary John A. Bewick at the '57' Restaurant, Boston.

February

No meeting held
Charging Commission posts

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held Wednesday, March 3, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members Dana Duxbury, Carol Lash, Dyanne Tosi, and Sarah Bell. Also present was Commissioner James Gutensohn.

The meeting was called to order with formal introduction of Commissioner Gutensohn and the new member of the Board, Dyanne Tosi, to the Board of Environmental Management.

Dana Duxbury and Sarah Bell were unanamously re-elected as chairman and secretary, respectively, for the year 1983.

Commissioner Gutensohn then reported on several departmental matters; first, the proposed FY'84 budget request. He said, House I will be out today and it is my understanding that there are no major cuts below what the former secretary had proposed. Major items included are $1.5 million for Urban Services, which is the operational component of the heritage parks, and a field management career ladder program within the Division of Forests and Parks. Also, an item of $1.6 million for the heritage parks is included in the Governor's emergency capital outlay jobs program. An overview of the entire budget request will be put together and forwarded to you before the next Board meeting, he added.

Commissioner Gutensohn informed the Board that prior to his swearing-in he had discussed with Senator Atkins a proposal to develop a new program for open space land acquisition. At the present time, he said, DEM has an on-going plan entitled SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - (federal) - this plan identifies projects for acquisition and easements and it is up-dated annually in order to qualify for federal funds. It could be the tool with which to begin, he said, but at some future time, we should address land acquisition priorities and policies. There is also a need for a department-wide management plan. There is no doubt such a plan is essential and in this regard, I hope to put together an in-house task force made up of forest management, heritage parks, and parks and recreation personnel,

to put together one document which would address elements of need and priorities.

Commissioner Gutensohn then discussed with the Board the Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste issues. In my opinion, he said, it is necessary to make some major changes in the handling of the hazardous waste issue and I am in the throes of preparing an overview of my perception of change and hope to have it completed for the Board's consideration at the next Board meeting. He further stated that he was re-thinking large scale solid waste facilities and that material was also being put together outlining his proposal and when completed will be used as a discussion document at the Cabinet level.

Ms. Duxbury remarked that in her opinion, what is needed is to build a state concensus to determine where the demand is. This has never been done, she said, and the validity is there to do so.

Commissioner Gutensohn then informed the Board that John Shortsleeve will be leaving the Bureau at the end of the month and that he hoped to appoint Joan Gardner to the position of acting director. He said he would place a formal recommendation before the Board at a later date.

Ms. Duxbury stated that she felt Ms. Gardner lacked the technical expertise the position requires in order to deal with industry.

In reviewing personnel matters within the Department, the Commissioner informed the Board that Bennet Petry, Deputy Commissioner, will be leaving the Department on March 18th and that he was replacing him with Gerald Roosa on an acting basis. Gerry's duties in this capacity will be internal administration, legislation and budgetary control. I have absolute confidence in his ability to carry out these duties, he said. Also, I hope to have on board very shortly a director of communications which I feel is vital to this agency.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 29, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Sarah H. Bell

Sarah H. Bell
Secretary

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held Monday, April 4, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members - Dana Duxbury, Sarah Bell, John Loupos, and Commissioner James Gutensohn, Joan Gardner, Project Manager - Bureau of Solid Waste, and Gerald Roosa, Deputy Commissioner,

The meeting began with Commissioner Gutensohn's explanation of the Department Memorandum designating Joan Gardner as Acting Director of the Bureau of Solid Waste. He explained that no malice was intended and that he was not aware of the statutory requirement for Board approval. He informed the Board that he would be asking for approval to appoint Joan Gardner as Acting Director prior to the end of the meeting.

The discussion then turned to the responsibilities of the Bureau of Solid Waste including both solid and hazardous waste.

Commissioner Gutentohn explained that the Department and the Administration are looking at several approaches to the hazardous waste issue -

1. A letter sent to the IT Corporation to prompt the Corporation to come forward with specific facility proposals for the Warren site.
2. Successful implementation of the Superfund legislation.
3. Adoption of Phase II regulations.
4. Monthly DEQE/DEM meetings to further explore and analyze the potential for source reduction.
5. A public education program which shifts emphasis from telling the public about impacts to providing local funding to non-profit organizations to develop educational programs.

The Commissioner also mentioned that he is asking private industry to publicize their success with source reduction.

Regarding the Chapter 21D siting process, the Commissioner stated that as of the date of the meeting he was still working with the Administration in developing a policy towards changes in the legislation, but he was opposed to any changes at this time. He noted that Senator Amick's proposed changes are substantial and

emphasis on 21D would divert attention and energy from other necessary hazardous waste approaches and tasks. Dana Duxbury and the Commissioner agreed that the need for facilities is still an important issue to be addressed rather than the emphasis on quickly siting a facility, the position adopted by the King administration.

In the area of solid waste, the Commissioner noted that a DEQE/DEM task force would be meeting regularly to develop new directions and approaches to the solid waste problem.

The meeting then returned to discussion of the appointment of director of the Bureau of Solid Waste. Dana Duxbury mentioned the importance of identifying the qualifications and responsibilities of the director. The Commissioner pointed out that Board members - Dyanne Tosi and Carol Lash, who were both absent, requested that the discussion be deferred until they were present. John Loupos and Sarah Bell related their interest in having some form of selection process. Ms. Bell stated that the Board might circulate and discuss ideas on how the process might be carried out prior to the next Board meeting.

The Board members then interviewed Joan Gardner to consider her qualifications as acting director.

On a motion of John Loupos, the Board members voted in the affirmative, 3-0, to approve Joan Gardner as acting director of the Bureau of Solid Waste. Commissioner Gutensohn reported that both Dyanne Tosi and Carol Lash asked to be recorded in the affirmative - making the vote unanimous.

The date of April 29, 1983 was confirmed for the next Board meeting in the Boston office.

Sarah N Bell
Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental mangement was held April 29, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Ma. Present were the Board members - Dana Duxbury, Sarah Bell, Dyanne Tosi, and John Loupos. Also present was Commissioner James Gutensohn.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duxbury. Commissioner Gutensohn reported that Carol Lash called to express her regrets that she was unable to attend the meeting.

The minutes of the March 3, 1983 meeting were approved as presented.

Items discussed at the meeting included the following:

BUREAU OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Commissioner Gutensohn and Joan Gardner gave a report on the newly developed public education program which was initiated through the distribution of RFP's to over 100 communities, industry, environmental and government organizations. Meetings will be held in four areas throughout the state and meetings will be arranged with those organizations expressing an interest in responding to requests.

Questions were raised as to the status of the $10 million Solid Waste bond issue and it was agreed that a status report will be given on the bond issue at the May or June meeting of the Board.

DEM LAND ACQUISITIONS

Messrs. Yaro and Bliss reported on the acquisition of Washburn Island. A report was also given on the April 13 public meeting held in Falmouth on eminent domain taking of Washburn Island. Mr. Yaro discussed with the Board the management planning report which had been prepared for the Island; Mr. Bliss gave an account on the plans for Island management.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED - that the Board of Environmental Management, pursuant to chapter 79 of the General Laws, approves the exercise of the power of eminent domain by the Department of Environmental Management and a pro tanto award not to exceed $2,250,000 for the below described premises:

"That certain parcel of land containing about 335 acres, more or less, known as Washburn Island, and being more particularly shown as Lot 2 on a certain plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Falmouth, Schofield Bros. Associates, Inc., Surveyors, January 1969, Scale 1 in. - 500 ft." on file with the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Registered Land Section, Plan No. 36365A, Sheets 1-4, together with all appurtenant rights thereto, including littoral, riparian, tidal, ferry, access easements, rights of way, nagigational rights and other appurtenant rights as there may be. The parcel to be conveyed is further described in Certificate of Title No. 77128 (Parcel 2) on file at said Registry.

UP-DATE - SCORP PROGRAM

Susan Ziegler made a presentation on the on-going SCORP program and distributed issue papers that are currently being discussed by various sub-committees that have been organized to address key issues.

UP-DATE - HERITAGE STATE PARK PROGRAM

Messrs. Yaro and Greene presented an up-date on the heritage park program. It was noted that there are funds pending in the Emergency Capital Outlay Budget for construction activity, and funds proposed in the Governor's FY'84 budget to provide management personnel

UP-DATE - BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS

Andrea Lukens presented a slide show on the Boston Harbor Islands that had been prepared for the Department of Environmental Management in 1980. Andrea and Mr. Yaro discussed the '83 summer program which will be discussed in more detail at a subsequent meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commissioner Gutensohn proposed that Gerald Roosa be designated acting commissioner in his absence.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was -

VOTED - to designate Gerald Roosa as acting commissioner with the power to sign for the department in the event of any incapacity or absence of the commissioner from office, in compliance with Chapter 21, Section 3A.

Commissioner Gutensohn then reported on the status of Joan Gardner as the acting director of the Bureau of Solid Waste Disposal. He indicated that he would personally talk with each Board member prior to formally recommending that Ms. Gardner be made permanent director.

The Board members agreed to hold some of their Board meetings within the next year at the following areas:

Holyoke State Park - Visitors Center - Region 4
Borderland State Park - Region 1
Harbor Island - Region 1
Halibut Point - Region 2

The interpretive services program will be discussed at the May Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 1983.

Sarah H. Bell
Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was called to order on May 24, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Dana Duxbury. Those present included Dana Duxbury, Sarah Bell, John Loupos, and Commissioner James Gutensohn.

The minutes of the meetings of April 4 and April 29, 1983 were moved for approval by Sarah Bell, seconded by John Loupos and unanimously approved.

John Fiengold, Planner-Natural Heritage Program made a presentation on the management planning process which the Department of Environmental Management is currently implementing. The program of management planning will be carried out jointly between the Division of Forests and Parks and the Office of Planning and Development. It was agreed by the members of the Board that an up-date on this program would be made on a monthly or bi-monthly basis with particular attention on issues and policies of statewide significance, and on management plans that are being developed for specific facilities.

Ivy Schram, Counsel for the Department presented an amendment to the Wellesley Order of Restriction under Chapter 131, Section 40A. Following a discussion on the amendment, upon motion of Sarah Bell, seconded by John Loupos, it was

VOTED - to approve the following amendment -

> An order under G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40A, recorded in Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 4786, Pages 325, 326, 327, - is hereby amended by adding as paragraph "7" the following line on Page 326 of said order:
>
> 7. "This order shall not restrict the construction. operation or maintenance of the Kelly Field Brook Relocation Project as delineated and conditioned by an Order of Restriction issued by the Wellesley Wetlands Protection Committee under G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40A.

Commissioner Gutensohn and the Board members affixed their signatures to the Amendment of Order.

The Board members agreed to meet on Wednesday, June 15, 1983 at 1:30 p.m. in the office of the Commissioner. An agenda item will be a presentation by Richard Thibedeau (Chief Planner, Water Resources Division) on the River Basin

Planning Program. Copies of the Plan were distributed to the Board members. Commissioner Gutensohn asked that they review the report for discussion at the June meeting. It was also agreed that at the June meeting, dates for Board meeting locations would be selected for the next 3 or 4 Board meetings.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Sarah H. Porter
Secretary

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday June 15, 1983 at 1:30 p.m. Those present were Sarah Bell, John Loupos and Commissioner Gutensohn.

Due to a lack of a quorum, no formal business was conducted.

Richard Thibedeau, Water Resources Planner, briefed the Board on the water analysis study recently completed by the Division of Water Resources.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 28, at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Sarah H. Bell

Secretary

July

July 28.

Bd Mect.

2 present.

No Journal Meeting held.

Sarah Bell
John Loops

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held Wednesday, September 21, 1983 at 12:30 p.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members - Dana Duxbury, Dyanne Tosi and Sarah Bell. Also present was Commissioner James Gutensohn.

The minutes of the May 24 and June 15, 1983 meetings were approved as submitted.

Extensive discussion was held on the need for regular dates for all future Board meetings. It was agreed that future Board meetings would be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

A discussion followed on the need for regular presentations by division directors on major programs within individual divisions. Commissioner Gutensohn indicated his approval and stated that he felt such presentations would be beneficial to everyone and that he would keep the suggestion in mind when preparing future agenda.

Discussion then followed on a proposal that each Board member identify a particular program on which they wished to focus their involvement. (This will be taken up at a subsequent Board meeting.)

Joanne Nichols made a presentation on the promotional program for the Division of Forests and Parks which is currently in its development stages and scheduled for implementation early next spring. This program and other initiatives described in Commissioner Gutensohn's August 17 Forest & Park Memo was also discussed.

The Commissioner also discussed with the Board the possibility of an artist design competition for a poster and logo for the Harbor Islands State Park.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 1983 at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Sarah H. Bell
Secretary

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held October 25, 1983 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members - Sarah Bell, Evelyn Silver and John Loupos. Also present was Commissioner James Gutensohn.

Commissioner Gutensohn introduced Evelyn Silver as the newly appointed member to the Board of Environmental Management filling the vacancy created by Dana Duxbury, whose term recently expired. Ms. Duxbury held the position of chairman, therefore, discussion followed on the election of new officers. A motion was made by John Loupos, seconded by Evelyn Silver, and by unanimous vote, Sarah Bell was elected Chairman. On motion made by Sarah Bell, seconded by Evelyn Silver, John Loupos was unanimously elected Secretary pro tem. Also by unanimous action, the Board requested Commissioner Gutensohn to prepare a letter for the Board's signature expressing its appreciation to Dana Duxbury for her years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

The minutes of the September 21, 1983 meeting were approved as submitted.

Michael Meagher of the Office of Land Acquisition presented two eminent domain proposals for Board approval. His presentation included the acquisition of 109.64 acres of land from Pauline Dombrowski, and a 11.982 acre parcel from Martha McCabe/Barry Vogel. Both parcels, he said, are to be additions to the Appalachian Trail system in Berkshire County.

In discussing the McCabe/Vogel acquisition, it was the consensus of the Board that action on this particular parcel be tabled until the November meeting because of a question on the appraisals. However, following a discussion with Director Bliss and a report by Commissioner Gutensohn on his conversation with Douglas Poland (Regional Supervisor - Berkshire County) regarding this property, the Board agreed to approve the acquisition. They did, however, request a briefing on the Department's appraiser selection process at the next Board meeting.

On a motion made and seconded by John Loupos and Evelyn Silver, respectively, it was -

VOTED - That the Board of Environmental Management, pursuant to Chapter 79 of the General Laws, approves the exercise of the power of eminent domain by the Department of Environmental Management for the below described premises:

109.64 acres more or less in Mount Washington shown on a plan of land entitled, "Survey of Tracts 252-11A and 252-11B, 252-11B, Dominick & Pauline Dombrowski" Town of Mt. Washington, Berkshire County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Scale 1" = 200", dated June 8, 1982, prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C., drawing number 82-100.

VOTED - That the Board of Environmental Management, pursuant to Chapter 79 of the General Laws, approves the exercise of the power of eminent domain by the Department of Environmental Management and a pro tanto award not to exceed $5,000 for the below described premises:

11.982 acres more or less in Mount Washington shown on a plan of land entitled, "Survey of Tract 252-13, Martha McCabe & Barry Vogel (Reputed Owner), "dated May 19, 1982, by C.T. Male Associates, P.C.; bounded by the Massachusetts/Connecticut State Line, the Chittenden Lot Brook, and lands of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Commissioner Gutensohn stated that he would have Shiela Radar, Department Attorney for land acquisitions, make a presentation on the appraiser selection process at the November meeting.

Presentations were then made by John Hannon, Director of the Division of Waterways, and Gilbert Bliss, Director of Forests and Parks on activities within their respective divisions. A presentation by Joan Gardner, Acting Director of the Bureau of Solid Waste was postponed until the November meeting due to a lack of time.

The Board then discussed areas of interests that they, as Board members, would like to concentrate on. They are -

Sarah Bell (Appalachian Trail, Water Supply)

Evelyn Silver (Heritage Parks)

John Loupos (Waterways activities)

Items to be discussed at the November meeting will be as follows:

Fiscal Year 1985 Budget Request

Update on the Bureau of Solid Waste Activities (J. Gardner)

Report on Selection Process for Appraisers (S. Radar)

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 1983 at the Moore State Park in Paxton.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary

The November 22, 1983 meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held at 10:30 a.m. at the restored 1820 School House in the Moore State Park in Paxton.

Those present were:

Board Members

Sarah Bell, Chairman
Carol Lash
Dyanne Tosi
Evelyn Silver
John Loupos, Secretary pro tem

Also present

Commissioner James Gutensohn
Joanne Nichols
Robert Yaro
Harry Dodson
James Tofling
John Pelczarski
Denis Miliken
Janet Taber (Friends of Mill Village)

The Chairman, Sarah Bell, presented the minutes of the October 25, 1983 for approval. Evelyn Silver moved that the minutes be approved, John Loupos seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without correction.

Robert Yaro first reported on the procedure utilized by the Department in selecting appraisers for acquisition projects. He indicated that the Department only used appraisers that have been approved either by the Office of Attorney General or the Department of Public Works, and that selection for particular work assignment was based on the lowest respective bid. Considerable discussion regarding the selection process ensued, and Mr. Yaro agreed to have a written report prepared for the Board's review when a wide discrepancy occurred between two appraisals.

Commissioner Gutensohn then reported on the DEM budget request and the substance of the report is included in the attached letter to Kelly McClintock and attached memo to Secretary Hoyte. Mr. Roosa indicated that he would present

an up-date on the budget at either the December or January meeting, depending on when he is able to obtain the Administration's recommendation for the Department's F.Y. 1985 budget.

The major portion of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Harry Dodson on the Master Plan that is being developed for Moore State Park. Mr. Dodson stated that the Master Plan is being developed in conjunction with The Friends of Mill Village and is part of an over-all DEM initiative to develop management plans for all major facilities.

Janet Taber (The Friends of Mill Village) reported on the efforts of this group and several items which they are particularly concerned with. These items are summarized in the attached letter from Cacky Hodgson, President of The Friends of Mill Village.

Dyanne Tosi indicated that she would like to be particularly involved in the areas of hazardous waste and Boston Harbor Islands.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 1983 at 10:30 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner.

Items to be discussed at the December Board meeting will be as follows:

Fiscal Year 1985 Budget (tentative) G. Roosa
Arming of Forests and Parks Police
Presentation by Joan Gardner on Bureau of Solid Waste activities
Presentation by Joanne Nichols on Office of Communications activities

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. - followed with lunch prepared by Mr. Toffling and a walking tour of the Park.

Secretary pro tem

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held Thursday, December 15 1983 at 10:30 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were the Board members - Sarah Bell, Dyanne Tosi, Evelyn Silver and John Loupos; absent - Carol Lash. Also present was Commissioner James Gutensohn.

The Chairman, Sarah Bell, presented the minutes of the November 22nd meeting for approval. John Loupos moved that the minutes be approved, Dyanne Tosi seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Joan Gardner, Acting Director of the Bureau of Solid Waste Disposal, made a presentation that led to a discussion on hazardous and solid waste activities of the Bureau, with particular attention on the newly initiated public participation and source reduction programs. The substance discussed is contained in the Bureau's Fall Newsletter (previously distributed) which is a synopsis of the Bureau's activities in each of these areas.

Gilbert Bliss, Director of the Division of Forests and Parks made a presentation which led to a discussion on the problems of law enforcement in the State's forest and park system. The substance of his presentation is contained in the memoranda that was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Following considerable discussion, the Board requested another presentation on this issue at the February meeting focussing specifically on the periodic evaluation of the DEM employees authorized by the Director to carry firearms.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 23, 1984 and Tuesday, February 28, 1984.

Items to be discussed at the January meeting are as follows:

Nomination of James Miller, Director of the Bureau of Solid Waste Disposal
Eminent Domain authorization for the Brewster property
Presentation by Charles Kennedy, Director of the Water Resources Division

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary pro tem

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Management

MEMORANDUM

100 Cambridge Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02202

Division of
Forests & Parks

To: Commissioner James Gutensohn

From: Director Gilbert A. Bliss

Subject: Arming of Forest & Park Police

Date: November 3, 1983

The Division at this time has 17 Forests and Parks Police Officers. Each officer has undergone intensive training, study and graduation from one of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Academies as mandated by Chapter 41, Section 96B. Individuals selected to attend training academies were employed by the Division previous to their being selected. Most possessed a minimum of 3½ years experience in the recreation field. No new positions have been created. The designation as a Forests and Parks police officer is conferred upon successful candidates as outlined above. The duties and responsibilities of Forests and Parks Police Officers are in addition to the individuals regular duties as an employee of the Division.

It should be noted that individuals who bear the title Forests and Parks Police Officer are appointed or reappointed on a bi-yearly basis. Appointments may or may not be renewed. The Director of Forests and Parks may at his discretion relieve any officer at any time for unacceptable dress, behavior or performance.

We are providing police training to selected employees at some of our key areas. Forests and Parks Police Officers so trained have a more humanistic approach to patron problems experienced at Division Forests and Parks than do other contracted enforcement officers. This humanistic approach is the result of the years each officer spent working with campers and day use patrons previous to his becoming a Forests and Parks Police Officer. Forests and Parks Police Officers are more in tune with our needs and our users needs.

Supervision of Division Forests and Parks Police Officers is in the hands of professional recreational management personnel. This approach stresses aspects of enjoyment and education rather than a

Gilbert A. Bliss
Director

more militaristic approach to law enforcement, which would not be appropriate in a recreational setting. Specific written policy has been adopted relative to the use of arms.

In an effort to further reduce unacceptable behavior by park visitors, the Division has employed, on an overtime basis, Natural Resource Officers, State Police, Registry Officers (enforcement division) and local police. These officers are armed and in most instances require the Division to work them in doubles. The dangers faced by officers are real. Our camping areas host the same problems as any small or medium size town.

Last fiscal year over $125,000 was spent to provide weekend law enforcement coverage at our facilities. The result although acceptable was not totally encouraging. The Division requires a daily police presence at many areas; a fiscal impossibility under our existing overtime system.

The best and most economical way to accomplish our goal of protecting our patrons and our officer is to have responsible Division employees, after gaining sufficient field experience undergo professional police officer training. This system is similar to the system used in the National Parks. Rangers at these parks fill dual roles, park employees and law enforcement officers when the need arises.

Forest and Park Police Officers must be equipped and prepared to handle any and all situations within our jurisdiction. In many cases, they work alone and are directed to areas where a problem exists and where in fact a major crime may have been committed or is in progress. Often times they are there because we expect a problem. The officer who is not armed cannot handle any escalation of force by a suspect and thus can not do his job. If such a situation were to arise, the life of the officer, and those of the general public would be in danger.

The general public and the criminal element thereof, incorrectly assume all police officers are armed. The badge and uniform alone are objects of assault. To put an officer in the field unable to protect himself would be unwise and would result in trained park police officers refusing to fill needed assignments.

The weapon itself commands respect and is part of the badge of authority. Its mere presence eliminates most minor situations from escalating. Its absence would most certainly encourage it.

Our forests and parks are subject to almost every type of crime or disturbance. Possession of dangerous weapons by park users is almost a daily occurrence. These dangerous weapons are concealed and rarely surface because the armed police officers visible presence as they deal with these persons results in a generally peaceful situation. They are detterents.

Situations encountered to this point by park police officers include assault with a dangerous weapon, possession of a dangerous weapon, disorderly persons (example 20 motorcycle gang members) and child abuse. These situations could have escalated were our officers not armed.

In summary, we deal with a population which is equipped with weapons for their own safety and use. Today, more and more people are purchasing and carrying weapons and with the high levels of crime people are more willing to use them. The police officer of today must be prepared to handle this situation. The absence of arming would effectively eliminate our small forest and park police unit and would be an unnecessary negative factor in our management.

We are dependent largely on other law enforcement agencies, both state and municipal, presently, with hopes of gradually establishing our own in-house capability in this area. These outside agencies are armed. The elimination of our forest and park police force would not make much of a difference presently but would preclude needed management growth in a very vital area.

I enclose for your reading, a 1979 issue of Trends which is devoted to park enforcement matters. I call your attention to the New York approach (page 22). This has long represented the approach I believe we should seek. The establishment of a Park and Recreation Assistant (PRA) position to augment a trained Forest and Park Police contingent will deal with our over-all situation in a positive way and will gradually reduce our dependence on outside law enforcement agencies who are not adequately oriented to park users and their feelings and problems. This is a future operational budget expansion that needs to be addressed.

Gilbert A. Bliss
Director of Forests and Parks

GAB:mk
attachment