



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

November 27, 2018

The Honorable Randall J. Meyer
Office of Ohio Inspector General
James A. Rhodes Tower
30 East Broad Street – Suite 2940
Columbus, Ohio 43215

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
2018 NOV 29 AM 9:27

Re: Report of Investigation 2017-CA00044

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

Thank you for your office's time and resources to investigate this matter. This letter is in response to the three recommendations offered by your office.

Recommendation: "Review the actions of Tammy Knisley and take any administrative action deemed appropriate."

Response: Upon receipt of the Inspector General's report on Park Manager Knisley, the Division of Parks and Watercraft conducted an administrative investigation. That investigation was reviewed in accordance with agency procedures and a pre-disciplinary meeting was held on November 9, 2018. The meeting officer's report to the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) determined that the evidence established just cause for discipline. As a result, Ms. Knisley was demoted to Assistant Park and Watercraft Manager and transferred to East Fork State Park effective November 25, 2018. She was also given a Last Chance Agreement for violation of Rule 39.

Recommendation: "Consider whether an internal policy should be implemented directing employees to follow the same process as the public when making personal campground reservations and obtain a written acknowledgement from all employees of their understanding of the policy."

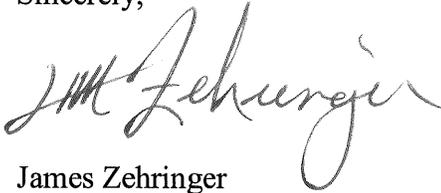
Response: Based upon receipt of the Inspector General's report the Division of Parks and Watercraft implemented a Campsite Closure Directive. This Directive clarifies employees shall not use Field Manager to create a reservation for themselves or their family members or hold sites for personal use. Employees shall not use Field Manager to create reservations or hold sites for other employee's families and friends. Employees should make all personal reservations through the call center or public website. Existing business rules shall apply to all employees. This directive was delivered to all division employees (785 employees) with a state e-mail address.

Recommendation: "Consider designating an employee to periodically review campsites that have been closed and ensure they are closed for a valid reason."

Response: ODNR, Division of Parks and Watercraft management staff and district managers are e-mailed weekly a closure report for their review for the parks they manage. This report includes the site numbers held, dates held, and the employee justifications for the closure.

Again, thank you for your efforts to investigate this matter. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Zehringer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

James Zehringer
Director