

Additional Materials for 9/14/2017 RCFB Special Meeting:

- Revised memo - Item 2 (change in placement of asterisks on attachment A)
- Public Comment received via e-mail
 - Hogerhuis, Donna – Town of Wilkeson
 - Lopez, Sarah – City of Arlington
- Draft RCFB Strategic Plan 2017 – for brief discussion

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: September 14, 2017

Title: Overview of Available Funding and Short-term Funding Strategy

Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer and Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Summary

The attached summary provides an overview of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board funding currently available. This includes funding from the legislatively-adopted operating budget and the re-appropriations from prior capital budgets. It does not include any new capital funds as the Legislature has not yet adopted a 2017-19 capital budget.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: Request for Decision

Request for Direction

Briefing

Funding Available

Attachment A provides budget details for Board review. Staff will provide a briefing to the Board at its September 14, 2017 meeting.

Item 2 – Attachment A

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board – Budget Detail 2017-2019 Biennium

Operating Budget

FTE	Funding Uses	Amount
12.0	RCFB Related Administrative Funds (including board costs)	5,049,092

Capital Budget - Reappropriations only

FTE	Funding Uses	Amount
17.7	RCFB Related Administrative Funds	2,281,030
	Funds Obligated in Projects:	
	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account - ALEA	3,888,737
	Boating Facilities Program - BFP	11,452,979
	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation - FARR	417,944
	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities - NOVA	6,277,343
	RCO Recreation Grants - RRG	22,984,378
	Recreation Trails Program - RTP	2,210,099
	Youth Athletic Facilities - YAF	4,173,141
	Boating Infrastructure Grants - BIG	1,582,508
	Land and Water Conservation Fund - LWCF	2,770,550
	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - WWRP	48,920,215
	Total funds obligated	104,677,894

	Funds Not yet obligated in Projects:	
	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account - ALEA	328,263
	Boating Facilities Program - BFP	1,420,021
	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation - FARR	154,056
	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities - NOVA	124,657
	RCO Recreation Grants - RRG	1,639,297
	Recreation Trails Program - RTP	162,037
	Youth Athletic Facilities - YAF	99,754
	Boating Infrastructure Grants - BIG	-
	Land and Water Conservation Fund - LWCF	-
	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - WWRP	9,501,185
	Total funds not yet obligated in projects	13,429,270

Federal Authority - in reappropriations, using new 2017 federal funds

	BIG	124,000
	LWCF	1,509,000
	RTP	1,214,944
	Total federal funds available for new federal awards	2,847,944
FTE		
29.7	Grand Total	128,285,230

* Funds to be used to fund partially funded or alternate projects on the 2016 lists once the state capital budget is adopted

** Funds to be awarded in the near future

PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Donna

Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 12:49 PM

Cc: mayor@townofwilkeson; clerk@townofwilkeson

Subject: Re: Public comment for board meeting

Item 4: "Options to allow 2016 Applicants to Proceed with Certain Aspects in Light of the Capital Budget Situation."

Thank you for allowing comment. This summer, the Town of Wilkeson placed 3rd on the RCO's WWRP award list (thank you!) and we are eager to move forward on at least half of the town park project as soon as possible. Our project is basically two fold- 1) replacing worn playground equipment with new and 2) leveling the adjacent play field. Most of the RCO funds are set aside for the playground equipment costs. The field work will take the least amount of cash in this project (town could wait for reimbursement in 2019) and can be done right away. Pending our construction contractor's schedule and approval, we would like to move forward this year on leveling the field in 2018 for good reason. Fall season is the best time for excavating work as it is nice and dry from summer. Often fall through winter is an easier time for our in-kind field labor and also means our small town maintenance staff is more available to help than during the growing spring season.

Donna Hogerhuis, Wilkeson Council Member and Project Coordinator

cc: Robert Walker, Mayor

Trisha Summers, Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Sarah Lopez
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:36 AM
Subject: public comment for RCO funding board Sept 14

Dear WA State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

We would like to share our current dilemma in regards to our splash park project that is in line for \$500,000 funding from RCO this year. The City of Arlington and the community have been planning and fundraising for the splash park for several years. We were so excited to be named as a potential grant recipient. The Stillaguamish Tribe matched the grant with \$500,000 and community members through Arlington Rotary raised another \$150,000. We have given the public the expectation that the splash pad would be built by summer of 2018. They have waited patiently for two summers of fundraising.

We are asking RCO Funding Board to consider granting us and other cities in similar predicaments, the ability to use our funds to start our projects, without penalty from current grant policies. This year's issue with the state budget is a very unique circumstance, and we are asking that you help us by allowing us to spend our own funds to get started on our projects so that we can keep our word to the community.

**Sarah Lopez
Community Revitalization Project Manager
City of Arlington
360-403-3448**



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

Mission

Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Goals

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are fundamental concepts that form the basis for board policy.

Principle 1. The board's primary roles are to (1) ensure the best possible investment of funds in protecting and improving habitats, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation opportunities, (2) provide accountability for those investments, and (3) provide citizen oversight to the funding process.

Principle 2. Successful protection and improvement of Washington's ecosystems and recreation requires coordination across all levels of government and geographic scales. Decisions and actions should be guided by a statewide perspective coupled with each local community's social, economic, and cultural values and priorities.

Principle 3. The plans and strategies (conservation and/or recreation) of federal, state, tribal, local government, and other partners should help guide the identification and prioritization of projects.

Principle 4. Projects must have explicit objectives, as well as appropriate designs and implementation plans to meet those objectives.

Principle 5. The board will continue to work with federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties to evaluate and improve the funding process. The board also will continue to ensure that it funds the highest priority projects with integrity and impartiality and provides accountability to the Legislature and the public to sustain that funding and those investments.

Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Objective 1.A.

Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.

- Strategy 1.A.1. – Evaluate and develop strategic plans and investment policies so that projects selected for funding meet the state’s recreation and conservation [needs/priorities and assist communities in need](#).
- Strategy 1.A.2. –Gather and interpret data that inform plans and help the board to provide grant programs that balance investments across a range of activities.
- Strategy 1.A.3. – Coordinate recreation resources information and priorities.

Objective 1.B.

Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

- Strategy 1.B.1. – Provide partners with funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitats.
 - For example, this includes projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity; protect “listed” species; maintain fully functioning ecosystems; protect unique urban wildlife habitats; and/or protect game and non-game wildlife.
- [Strategy 1.B.2. – Provide partners with funding to protect and enhance working farm and forest lands.](#)
- Strategy 1.B.3. – Provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.

- For example, this includes projects such as bicycling and walking facilities “close to home”; programs that assist with facility operation and maintenance; facilities most conducive to improved health; outdoor sports facilities; programs that provide improved recreation data; and/or access to nature and natural settings (includes fishing and hunting).
- Strategy 1.B.4. – Help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects.

Goal 2: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Objective 2.A.

Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities

- Strategy 2.A.1. – Evaluate and develop policies and practices to reduce the number of projects not starting or finishing on time.
- Strategy 2.A.2. – Regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs.
- Strategy 2.A.3. – Ensure the work of the board and staff is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner.

Objective 2.B.

Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

- Strategy 2.B.1. – Ensure the board has time on its agenda to discuss high-level policy issues.
- Strategy 2.B.2. – Implement a board member and staff feedback process.

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Objective 3.A.

Broaden public support and applicant pool for the board’s grant programs.

- Strategy 3.A.1. – Expand the board’s support by developing key partnerships.
- Strategy 3.A.2. – Increase public understanding of project benefits including economic and ecosystem benefits.
- Strategy 3.A.3. – Increase the public and sponsor understanding of the relationship between projects and climate resiliency.

- Strategy 3.A.4. – Perform regular assessments to determine the public’s priorities for outdoor recreation and conservation funding.
- Strategy 3.A.5. – Advocate for the protection of habitat and recreation through multiple venues.
- Strategy 3.A.6. – Expand reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grant programs.

Key Performance Measures

Goal	Framing Questions	Performance Measures
<i>We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.</i>	Within its authority is the board creating opportunities for recreation?	Projects funded by type, location, sponsor type.
	Is the board funding projects that have been identified as priorities through recognized planning efforts, such as SCORP?	Projects submitted for funding that address current gaps in service per SCORP and state-wide recreation plans.
	Within its authority is the board protecting and restoring natural systems and landscapes?	Acres protected (through acquisition). Acres restored.
	Is the board funding projects that protect and restore natural systems and landscapes as identified in planning efforts?	Projects submitted for funding that address current gaps based upon recent planning efforts. Projects implemented by natural resource agencies in relationship to their internal plans and priorities.
Goal	Proposed Framing Questions	Proposed Measures
<i>We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.</i>	Is the evaluation process objective and fair?	An increase in the percentage of project applicants rating their overall satisfaction with the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application process, • technical review process • evaluation process as ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied.’

Goal	Framing Questions	Performance Measures
	Is the board fulfilling its statutory role to ensure statewide outdoor recreation and conservation needs are being met through grant programs?	Biennial board self-assessment points to a positive trend in fulfillment of its statutory role.
	How well do we maintain the state's investments?	Percent of completed projects in compliance with the grant agreement. Number of sites inspected over a biennium.

Goal	Proposed Framing Questions	Proposed Measures
<p><i>We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.</i></p>	Are stakeholders and the public involved in policy development and project selection?	<p>The number of individuals and discrete organizations RCO reached out to for policy development and/or review.</p> <p>The number of hours donated by board volunteers.</p>
	Are we achieving statewide participation in our grant programs?	Number of projects submitted by location (e.g. county or other geography).