



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

January 20, 2006

TO: IAC Members & Designees
FROM: Laura Johnson, Director *LJ*
SUBJECT: Director's Report, January 2006

February Agenda Overview: The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m., Thursday the 2nd. Unlike your November session, the February meeting is primarily about future grant policies, not current grant awards.

Both meeting days will focus on criteria for grants, as expressed in administrative rules (WACs) and related manuals. The criteria are for the four new parts of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and the National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP). You will be asked to approve a Request for Proposals launching a pilot mitigation banking program under WWRP, and you will be asked to formally complete your conversations about matching fund shares by approval of a new WAC.

In addition, we will discuss the agency name change and hear recommendations for trails-related planning. Not least, Grays Harbor County's plan for operation of the Straddleline ORV Sports Park will be ready for your review and approval.

We will end the meeting on Friday with a noon tour of Straddleline Park, just west of Olympia. The park is likely to be a bit muddy, so be sure to bring appropriate footwear. We should have you on the road home by about 2 p.m.

Board Appointment: I am pleased to let you know that the Governor has (very wisely!) reappointed Val Ogden to the Committee. We are delighted to have Chairman Ogden's continued excellent leadership at the IAC.

Other Staff Work, December and January:

In addition to preparing the policy matters for the February meeting session, your staff also was engaged in:

SRFB Work: Between the IAC's November meeting and the holidays, staff's major focus was on supporting the work of the SRFB. It held its annual grant session in early January and awarded \$26 million to 104 salmon habitat projects around the state.

Legislature Started: January 9, and will end March 9. Jim Fox will present a detailed update at the meeting. The appointed Board members may be called for confirmation hearings this session.

LWCF Update: The Bush Administration's effort to use Hurricane Katrina budget cuts to de-fund the entire 2006 appropriation was not successful. Instead, LWCF, along with other federal programs, will receive a 1 percent cut. We are awaiting final approval from the National Parks Service to fund the fiscal 2006 LWCF grants you approved in September.

Litigation: By agreement among all parties, the ORV Sports Park litigation in Thurston County Superior Court has been dismissed, ending that chapter in the park's saga.

On January 10, the Washington State Supreme Court denied the Northwest Motorcycle Association's request to review the appeals court decision upholding the NOVA program's fuel tax funding.

We appreciate the good work of our counsel, Susan Thomsen, in these matters.

Supplemental Budget: We submitted technology-related supplemental budget request items. These items were not funded.

POG & GMAP: The "Priorities of Government" process is underway. We are participating on Team 9, Natural Resources, and Team 10, Cultural and Recreational Resources. We also have had a recent GMAP presentation, and the related strategic plan materials will be before you for approval for use in the 2007-09 biennial budget preparation process. Your April meeting will include discussions on the budget and plan.

I look forward to seeing IAC members in February. If you have questions, please contact me at 360-902-3003.