

Item # 9

**WWRP  
Matching Funds – Evaluation Points  
Habitat Conservation Account**

June 2007

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**Background**

- Requested by the Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Request to review how match is considered and rewarded during the evaluation process
- Issue arose during the 2006 evaluations

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**Matching Funds: Current Rules**

- RCW 79A.15.030(3):  
*"The Committee may use or permit the use of any funds appropriated for this chapter as matching funds where federal, local, or other funds are made available for projects within the purpose of this chapter."*
- RCW: 79A.15.060(5), 79A.15.070(4), and 79A.15.120(8): *"The Committee may not approve a local project where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded...."*

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## Matching Funds: Current Rules

IAC Manual 10: WWRP: Policies

- State agencies are not required to provide matching funds for WWRP.
- ...Applicants are encouraged to contribute matching shares.... This is typically reflected in the project evaluation criteria where preference points are sometimes given for non-governmental contributions.

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## Matching Funds: Current Rules

Evaluation Criteria - Public Benefit

- Project Support
  - a. Describe the support/partnerships you have from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies etc.? How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.*
  - b. Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, i.e., grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc.*

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## Matching Funds

- Sometimes state agencies secure match to implement large scale projects.
- Applicants must include match in the project to get credit/points.
- Consider whether IAC should modify how applicants are rewarded for match.

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### Matching Funds: Options

- No change
- Add a separate team scored evaluation criteria that addresses secured and/or anticipated match; OR
- Add a staff scored evaluation criteria that guarantees points for match based on:
  - Secured – documented; and/or
  - Unsecured – anticipated but not documented.
- Other?

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### Matching Funds: Programs with a Match Criteria

- Boating Facilities Program
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
- National Recreational Trails Program
- Nonhighway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities
- WWRP: Riparian Protection Account

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### Matching Funds: Scoring Example

#### WWRP-RPA: Matching Shares Criteria

To what extent will the applicant match any IAC grant funds with other contributions?

<u>Percent of Match Provided</u>	<u>Match Points</u>
• 50 percent	0
• 50.1 to 60 percent	1
• 60.1 to 70 percent	2
• 70.1 percent or more	3
• Non-federal/state over 10%	+1

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## Pros & Cons

### Make Changes

- Rewards applicants who submit projects that are priorities in other grant programs
- Separate criteria would focus specifically on match and not be buried with other benefits
- Greater leverage of WWRP dollars

### Do Not Change

- Already addressed in existing criteria
- Adding additional points for match may dilute the significance of the "quality of habitat" in the habitat categories
- Statutory match required for local agencies who may not be rewarded for providing the same amount of match

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## Matching Funds: Next Steps

- June – Staff analysis and review
- July/August – Public review of proposed changes/options
- September – Report to Board to finalize option
- October – Final draft for public review
- November – Board action on recommendation
- January 2008 – Application Workshops

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**SCORED BY IAC STAFF**

*(Criteria 8 and 9 are scored by IAC staff)*

**Matching Shares**

To what extent will the applicant match any IAC grant funds with other contributions?

This question is scored by IAC staff based on information submitted as part of the application. Native American tribes, local agencies, and lead entities are required to provide a fifty percent match (RCW 79A.15.120(8)). Ten percent of the fifty percent match must be from non-federal and non-state sources (proposed WAC change which may take effect February 2, 2006). State agency applicants are not required to provide a matching share.

All applications are scored on items a through e whether a match is required or not.

To qualify, contributions must be eligible for RPA funding.

- a. 50 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources ..... (0 point)
- b. 50.1 to 60 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources ..... (1 points)
- c. 60.1 to 70 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources ..... (2 points)
- d. 70.1 percent or more of project's value will be contributed from other resources ..... (3 points)
- e. If the matching share includes non-federal or non-state contributions equivalent to more than ten percent of the total project cost: .... (Staff adds 1 point to the score assigned above.)

**IAC staff scores a maximum of 4 points**