

Special Meeting Agenda Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

November 7, 2016

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501
Conference Call (Board Members Only)

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment: If you wish to comment at the meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person. You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, or at wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov.

Written comments must be received by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016.

Meeting Accommodations: Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or e-mail leslie.frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received at least three business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide two weeks' notice for requests to receive information in an alternative format and for ASL/ESL interpretation requests.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

OPENING

1:00 p.m. Call to Order

Chair

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda – November 7, 2016 **(Decision)**

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

- 1:10 p.m. 1. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
Funding Allocation in the State and Local Parks Categories**
Resolution 2016-52

*Kaleen Cottingham
Wendy Brown
Adam Cole*

2:00 p.m. ADJOURN

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 7, 2016

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
Funding Allocation in the State and Local Parks Categories

Prepared By: Wendy Brown

Summary

Recreation and Conservation Office staff requests a decision from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board that will adjust the funding allocations for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – State and Local Parks categories.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2016-52

Background

At the October 26, 2016 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted policy related to the implementation of Senate Substitute Bill (SSB) 6227, which establishes new funding percentages for acquisition and development in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – State Parks and Local Parks categories. See Item 5A and Item 5B of the [October 2016 materials](#) for more information.

The Legislature requires that ‘no less than 40 percent and no more than 50 percent of funding allocation shall go to acquisition costs’ in both of these two categories, leaving the board with some discretion on implementation between the 40-50 percent range. In creating the project funding lists for 2017-19, staff identified unforeseen consequences resulting from the board’s new policy of leaving no partially-funded acquisitions, which places constraints on project funding. For this purpose, staff requests a modification to the existing policies.

There are two major concerns with implementation of the new board policy for these two WWRP categories:

- At various funding levels, the percent of acquisition either falls below 40 percent or above 50 percent and violates state law.
- Implementing the new board policy requires RCO to manually create the list, rather than having it be automated, leaving it less transparent and predictable to the Legislature, stakeholders, and the public.

State Parks Category

In the State Parks category, the policy adopted is to: “Fund acquisition costs up to 50 percent, but fund no partially-funded acquisition projects. The remainder of funds go to development costs.”

When there is a partially-funded acquisition project in this category, funds are pulled from that acquisition and put into the next development project or projects on the list (which may or may not be partially-funded).

While the policy is implementable at many funding levels, there are numerous other funding levels where the acquisition costs fall below 40 percent and we violate the existing statute. On the current list, this situation is best illustrated at the \$40 million level (Table 1); however, it occurs at multiple funding levels between \$40 and \$100 million.

Table 1. State Parks Category:
Comparison of Funding Levels at the ‘Straight 50-50’ and ‘New Board Policy’ Formulas

Rank	Type	Project Name	Grant Request	\$40 million	
				Straight 50 50	New Board Policy
1	D	Lake Sammamish Picnic Area – Sunset Beach Phase 7	\$2,739,500	\$2,588,760	\$2,739,500
2	D	Iron Horse-Tekoa Trestle Decking and Railing	\$1,450,612	Alternate	\$1,438,020
3	A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
10	A	Moran- Lawrence Point Acquisition	\$2,874,520	\$1,588,760	Alternate
Funding Total				\$5,177,520	\$5,177,520
Percent of Acquisition Funding				50%	19.3%

Local Parks Category

In the Local Parks category, the policy adopted essentially works in the reverse of the State Parks policy, whereby the direction is: “Fund acquisition costs at 40 percent and development costs at 60 percent, but fully fund any partially-funded acquisition projects or project costs.”

When there is a partially-funded acquisition project in this category, funds are pulled from the lowest-ranking development project or projects (which may or may not be partially-funded) and put into that partially-funded acquisition project.

Again, while the policy is implementable at many funding levels, there are multiple funding levels where acquisition costs rise above 50 percent and we violate the existing statute. On the current list, this situation is best illustrated at the \$40 million level (Table 2).

Table 2. Local Parks Category:
Comparison of Funding Levels at the 'Straight 40-60' and 'New Board Policy' formulas.

1	D	Phil Johnson Ballfields Renovation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
3	D	Wilkeson's Roosevelt Park	\$43,122	\$43,122	\$43,122
5	D	Cougar Mt Precipice Trailhead Dev	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
6	D	Selah Skate Park	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
7	D	Hale Park Phase 2 Construction	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$372,522
8	D	Woodruff Park Sprayground & Picnic Shelter	\$446,380	\$446,380	Alternate
9	D	Manette Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$72,010	Alternate
10	D	Bidwell Park Development	\$500,000	Alternate	Alternate
11	A	Clark Lake Park Expansion: Walla Acquisition	\$716,876	\$716,876	Alternate
12	A	LBA Woods Morse-Merryman Parcel Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
28	A	Mount Grant Preserve	\$1,000,000	\$354,132	\$1,000,000
Funding Total				\$5,177,520	\$5,177,520
Percent of Acquisition Funding				40%	52.5%

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the following:

- Fund the State Parks category at 50 percent acquisition costs and 50 percent development costs 1) to accomplish the goals and needs of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and their stakeholders and 2) to enable the Legislature to fully understand what it is they would be funding in the final budget bill.
- Fund the Local Parks category at 40 percent acquisition costs and 60 percent development costs 1) to accomplish the goals and needs of the local parks community and 2) to enable the Legislature to fully understand what it is they would be funding in the final budget bill.
- Per board decision in October 2016, revisit this new policy on an as-needed basis.

Next Steps

If adopted by the board, the new funding formulas will be immediately applied to the WWRP – State Parks and Local Parks ranked lists.

Attachments

A. Resolution 2016-52

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2016-52
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks Category**

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15.050(2)(a and b) authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to allocate between 40 and 50 percent of the appropriations to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks and State Parks categories for acquisition project costs; and

WHEREAS, in an open public meeting on October 26, 2016 the board adopted resolutions 2016-34 and 2016-35 establishing its funding frameworks for allocating funds between development and acquisition costs in the WWRP Local Parks and State Parks categories; and

WHEREAS, following these adopted funding frameworks could result in funding acquisition costs outside of the statutory constraints set forth in (RCW 79A.15.050(2)(a and b)); and

WHEREAS, the board held an open public (special) meeting on November 7, 2016 and accepted public comment on the new proposed funding frameworks from November 3 through November 7 2016, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed and considered public comments on the recommendations in Item 1;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board rescinds its adopted resolutions 2016-34 and 2016-35, and adopts the following funding frameworks in the WWRP Local Parks and State Parks categories as described in Item 1:

State Parks Category

Fund the State Parks category at 50 percent acquisition costs and 50 percent development costs.

Local Parks Category

Fund the Local Parks category at 40 percent acquisition costs and 60 percent development costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board shall revisit this new policy on an as-needed basis.

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by:

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date:

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED AGENDA & ACTIONS
November 7, 2016

Agenda Items

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
1. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Funding Allocation in the State Park and Local Parks Categories	Resolution 2016-52 Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: November 7, 2016

Place: Conference Call, with opportunity for public attendance at the Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Michael Shiosaki	Seattle
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Peter Herzog	Designee, Washington State Parks
Pete Mayer	Renton	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Deller	Mukilteo		

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Willhite called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Member Milliern was excused.

Item 1: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Funding Allocation in the State Parks and Local Parks Category

Director Cottingham explained the purpose for convening this special meeting of the board. At the October 26, 2016 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted policy related to the implementation of Senate Substitute Bill (SSB) 6227, which establishes new funding percentages for acquisition and development in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) - State Parks and Local Parks categories.

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, explained that the Legislature requires that 'no less than 40 percent and no more than 50 percent of funding allocation shall go to acquisition costs' in both of these two categories, leaving the board with some discretion on implementation between the 40-50 percent range. In creating the project funding lists for 2017-19, staff identified unforeseen consequences resulting from the board's new policy of leaving no partially-funded acquisitions, which places constraints on project funding.

She explained the two major concerns with implementation of the new board policy for these two WWRP categories:

- At various funding levels, the percent of acquisition either falls below 40 percent or above 50 percent and would thus violate state law.
- Implementing the new board policy requires RCO to manually create the list, rather than having it be automated, leaving it less transparent and predictable to the Legislature, stakeholders, and the public.

Staff proposed the following solutions for board consideration:

- Fund the State Parks category at 50 percent acquisition costs and 50 percent development costs. This would: 1) accomplish the goals and needs of the Washington State Parks and Recreation

Commission and their stakeholders and 2) enable the Legislature to fully understand what it is they would be funding in the final budget bill.

- Fund the Local Parks category at 40 percent acquisition costs and 60 percent development costs. This would: 1) accomplish the goals and needs of the local parks community and 2) enable the Legislature to fully understand what it is they would be funding in the final budget bill.
- Per board decision in October 2016, revisit this new policy on an as-needed basis.

Public Comment

Joan Fleming, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, shared that her organization supports the new changes proposed.

Board Discussion

Member Stohr opened a discussion about combination acquisition and development projects. Brent Hedden explained that RCO views the project portions separately to align with the policies for each type of project funding.

Member Shiosaki asked about potential consequences should the board reverse the policy and adopt the proposed changes, specifically with regard to partially funded projects. Director Cottingham and Member Herzog explained that State Parks was concerned about partially funded projects with phased acquisitions, but have since learned to work with landowners to accomplish their project goals and needs.

Member Bloomfield stated that the resolution includes language to revisit the policy, which maintains flexibility and allows for adjustment should future issues arise.

Member Mayer expressed concerns about maintaining transparency between state agencies, referencing the thresholds of acquisition and development. Member Deller agreed; he shared his support of new changes.

Member Willhite acknowledged that the changes meet the legislative intent of the WWRP statute, fairly allocates resources, allows for flexibility, and addresses concerns regarding transparency and balancing acquisition and development funding.

Resolution 2016-52

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

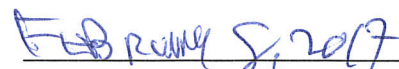
Decision: Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m. by Chair Willhite.

Approved by:



Ted Willhite, Chair



Date

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2016-52
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks Category**

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15.050(2)(a and b) authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to allocate between 40 and 50 percent of the appropriations to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks and State Parks categories for acquisition project costs; and

WHEREAS, in an open public meeting on October 26, 2016 the board adopted resolutions 2016-34 and 2016-35 establishing its funding frameworks for allocating funds between development and acquisition costs in the WWRP Local Parks and State Parks categories; and

WHEREAS, following these adopted funding frameworks could result in funding acquisition costs outside of the statutory constraints set forth in (RCW 79A.15.050(2)(a and b)); and

WHEREAS, the board held an open public (special) meeting on November 7, 2016 and accepted public comment on the new proposed funding frameworks from November 3 through November 7 2016, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed and considered public comments on the recommendations in Item 1;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board rescinds its adopted resolutions 2016-34 and 2016-35, and adopts the following funding frameworks in the WWRP Local Parks and State Parks categories as described in Item 1:

State Parks Category

Fund the State Parks category at 50 percent acquisition costs and 50 percent development costs.

Local Parks Category

Fund the Local Parks category at 40 percent acquisition costs and 60 percent development costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board shall revisit this new policy on an as-needed basis.

Resolution moved by: Mike Deller

Resolution seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield

Adopted Date: November 7, 2016