

Proposed Agenda Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Regular Meeting

September 4, 2012

Natural Resources Building, Room 175, Olympia, WA

Board members outside Olympia will attend and participate in this meeting by conference call.

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:

- Comments about topics not on the agenda are taken during General Public Comment.
- Comment about agenda topics will be taken with each topic.

If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison or at rebecca.connolly@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:

If you need special accommodations, please notify us at 360/902-3013 or TDD 360/902-1996.

Tuesday, September 4

1:20 p.m. Establish Conference Call

Board members should call the conference line so staff can confirm the settings on the recording system.

OPENING

1:30 p.m. Call to Order

Board Chair

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
 - Review and Approve Agenda – September 4, 2012
-

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

1. Consent Calendar

Board Chair

A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – June 2012

Resolution #2012-05

1:35 p.m. 2. Operating and Capital Budget Requests for 2013-15

Steve McLellan

A. Operating Budget and Capital Budget Requests Based on Revenue Projections

Resolution #2012-06

B. Capital Budget Request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Resolution #2012-07

2:30 p.m. ADJOURN

Next meeting: October 17-18, 2012 Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-05
September 2012 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following September 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

1. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Meeting Minutes, June 27-28, 2012

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summarized Meeting Agenda and Actions, June 27-28, 2012

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 2: Management Report	No follow up action requested
Item 3: Selection of Subcommittee to Conduct Director Performance Evaluation	No follow up action requested
Item 4: Preview of Applications Submitted for Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program Funding, Tier 1 and Tier 2	No follow up action requested
Item 5: Preparing for the 2013 Legislative Session, Budget and Request Legislation	This item will be brought to the board for decision in September 2012.
Item 7: Public Comment Received about the Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses	This item will be brought to the board for decision in October 2012. Changes to the policy will be made as noted in the minutes.
Item 9: Briefing on Compliance Issue at Woodland Park in Lacey	This item will be brought to the board for decision in October 2012.
Item 10: Preview of the tour for June 28	No follow up action requested

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Consent Calendar	Resolution 2012-03 Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved board meeting minutes – March 2012• Approved eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491• Continued FARR advisory committee and delegate authority to director to appoint members	Correct typographical error on page 3
Item 6: Performance Review and Strategic Plan	Motion to adopt revised board strategic plan Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds language to goal 3 regarding competition in grant processes• Adds language to principle 5 regarding work to sustain board investments• Adds language to strategy regarding economic and ecosystem benefits.	No follow up action requested
Item 8: Follow-up to State Parks' Request to Allow Shower Facilities in State Parks Cabins	Resolution 2012-04 Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waives the cabin eligibility policy for project #12-1341 to allow State Parks to propose cabins that include the shower amenities• Directs RCO to prorate costs of the shower facilities.	No follow up action requested

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: June 27, 2012

Place: Port Angeles Red Lion, 221 N. Lincoln, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Bill Chapman, Chair	Mercer Island	Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Larry Fairleigh	Designee, State Parks
Pete Mayer	Vancouver	Dave Brittell	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harriet Spanel	Bellingham		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the meeting materials provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.

Opening and Management Reports

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined. Representative Steve Tharinger, as well as Mayor Cherie Kidd and Nathan West of Port Angeles, welcomed the board to the area.

Consent Calendar

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2012-03, Consent Calendar. The consent calendar included the following:

- A. Approve board meeting minutes – March 2012
- B. Approve eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491
- C. Continue FARR advisory committee and delegate authority to director to appoint members

Chair Chapman requested a typographical correction on page three (“worship” changed to “workshop”) of the draft March meeting minutes.

Resolution 2012-03 moved by: Dave Brittell and seconded by: Ted Willhite
Resolution APPROVED

Item 2: Management Report

Director’s Report: Director Cottingham introduced Leslie Frank as her new executive assistant, and reviewed organizational changes to manage retirements, resignations, and budget reductions. She also reported that the city of Port Townsend and Port of Port Townsend have settled their grievances related to Kah Tai Park. The RCO will be working with them to implement the resolution and ensure that the outcome protects RCO interests. The Director informed the board that she would be heading to

Washington, DC in July to work on funding for salmon programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program. She noted that Susan Zemek would be contacting board members to attend big check ceremonies. The Invasive Species Council will be working with other agencies to deal with tsunami debris.

Policy and Legislative Update: Steve McLellan, policy director, noted that the agency would be looking for ways to update the trails plan, which was last updated in 1991. Staff will look for ways to tie it into SCORP, and may seek funding from the legislature. He noted that the Puget Sound Partnership planned to approve the Action Agenda in August. It will be used in budget development for 2013-15; the board's programs have typically rated well in the previous action agendas. He concluded by explaining how policy topics will be brought to the board over the next year to 18 months for incorporation in the manuals for the 2014 grant round.

Member Willhite noted that there were no trail groups in the SCORP advisory committee and asked whether staff had been able to recruit a participant. Dominga Soliz responded that they had been trying to recruit a representative, but had not been able to get a positive response.

Grant management report: Deputy Director Scott Robinson updated the board on the progress of the 2012 grant cycle. Over 200 volunteers will participate in the grant evaluation process. He noted the status of a few evaluation cycles, reminding the board that they are using both in-person and written evaluations. A second group of applications is due in early July; as of yesterday, 215 applications had been received.

Member Mayer noted the drop in applications from 2010, and asked if staff would be doing any survey follow-up to determine what the reasons were. Robinson responded that they had asked informally, and that it appeared that match was an issue, along with the drop in WWRP funding in the last biennium which made applicants leery this cycle. Sponsor staffing capacity to apply for and implement grants also is an issue.

Member Brittell noted that downsizing staff was a factor for WDFW. The need for grant funding is there, but sponsors do not have the staffing capacity to apply for and implement funded grants.

State Agency Partner Reports

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): WDFW is trying to implement the projects that were in the jobs bill (supplemental budget), including nineteen boating access projects on the list. They would have been projects for RCFB grants in the future. They are very busy putting in RCO grants, and staff is excited about doing the work. They are involved in the tsunami response. In April, Okanogan County discontinued discussions about the agreement to do a joint economic analysis of WDFW's land acquisitions in the county. There has been great disagreement about payment in lieu of taxes and how values are set.

State Parks: Larry Fairleigh noted that State Parks is continuing its change process. He noted that they have seasonalized their ranger and maintenance force; they need to learn how to manage and recruit for that force. The Discover Pass revenue is slightly ahead of revised projections. He thinks the public will come to accept the fees, but that it will take two to three years. The Transformation Strategy continues to unfold. He noted that the operating budget request for the 2013-15 biennium will be between \$10 and \$20 million in general fund, including requests to cover "social good" exemptions (e.g., disabled veterans) and stewardship activities with no revenue potential. They will make a request of about \$40 million in capital funding. He also provided updates on Mount Spokane and Fort Worden.

Department of Natural Resources: Craig Partridge briefed the board on the Community Forest Trust program, which was passed in 2011. The program allows for acquisition of working forest lands that have important local community conservation and recreation value to be managed as working conservation lands. The legislature did not fund the program, so DNR is reaching out to communities to identify properties that they can take to the legislature for funding. They are looking for either private or state trust lands that are at risk of conversion to non-forest uses and significant community conservation values. The likely candidates will probably have recreation values as well, with self-sustaining revenue opportunities. They may have proposals coming from Yakima County, Jefferson County, Kitsap County, and the Nisqually area.

General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business: Briefings & Discussion

Item 3: Selection of Subcommittee to Conduct Director Performance Evaluation

Chair Chapman presented the process for conducting the director's evaluation in 2012 and invited members to contact him if they would like to participate in the subcommittee.

Item 4: Preview of Applications Submitted for Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program Funding, Tier 1 and Tier 2

Marguerite Austin presented the applications received by the RCO for BIG funding, as described in the staff memo. She also explained the structure of the grant program and the funding that likely will be available. She described the next steps leading to the grant awards in March 2013. Director Cottingham noted the role of the advisory committee, and that it had rejected a project in the past for lack of community support. Austin noted that the committee also is responsible for evaluating Tier 1 projects when more than one is submitted.

Item 5: Preparing for the 2013 Legislative Session, Budget and Request Legislation

A loose wire on the sound system caused a number of breaks in the sound recording of this topic.

Steve McLellan presented the information about the budget requests as described in the staff memo. The RCO must submit a budget to the Office of Financial Management on September 5, 2012. The board will need to decide the amount to request for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and other grant programs on September 4. McLellan presented three options for board consideration: a WWRP request as a percent of general obligation funds, a WWRP request as a per-capita expenditure, and a WWRP request as a percent of the amount of funding requested ("need"). He noted that staff is asking for direction about additional information that the board is looking for.

Public Comment

Heidi Eishenhour, WWRC and Washington Association of Land Trusts, noted that it is important to ask for what the state needs. She highlighted some easements completed in Jefferson County that are creating a local farm economy, noting that it is a financial benefit of WWRP. She encouraged the board to request a healthy level of funding such as \$100 million. Kids, farmers, and others need recreation and conservation areas. In response to a question from Member Willhite, she asked that the board request the highest level of funding they can.

Tom Bugert, WWRC, said that they are at a crossroads. They are planning to make a recommendation to the board before the September meeting. Many stakeholders view this year as a turning point, deciding whether or not they will continue to use and support WWRP as a vehicle for their work. If they cannot get the support for WWRP, they may lose support. Member Bloomfield asked if an indexing methodology would be supported by WWRC. Bugert responded that yes, but none of the methodologies fully capture everything that is happening. They are using the same lenses, and also looking at capital budget cuts.

Board Discussion

Board members discussed the concept of "need" as presented by staff at length. In general, members agreed that the term "need" was inaccurate because the analysis by staff reflected the amount of funding requested, which is not the same as need. Members noted that it was too low to be need, and cited various studies that had placed need for recreation and conservation funding at much higher levels. Members also noted that sponsors may not be requesting funds in this cycle for several reasons, including decreased WWRP funding in 2011-13, lower sponsor staffing, and difficulty finding match. Chair Chapman suggested that staff replace "need" with "applications."

Board members asked staff to include the following data in the analysis for the September decision:

- A comparison of the amount the board had requested versus the amount appropriated over time
- The number of special local projects ("earmarks") that are also on the WWRP list

Member Fairleigh noted that WWRP is now institutionalized in the state capital budget so it lacks the sense of urgency that it had when it was created. They really need a problem statement and a solution to refresh WWRP.

Member Mayer noted that another challenge is asset preservation. Local governments do not want to add to the burden they already have right now. The board needs to help sponsors preserve what we have and help sponsors.

Member Bloomfield suggested that the board come up with an indexing approach that uses internal and external indicators, such as population growth, to connect the need for recreation and open space to actual expenditures. McLellan noted that while it could be useful in the future, doing that in-depth analysis would not be possible within the next month. Member Spanel noted that indexing can work against you.

Item 6: Performance Review and Strategic Plan

Rebecca Connolly presented the information as described in the staff memo, highlighting the causes of performance that did not reach targets. With regard to projects not closing on time, Connolly noted that a significant problem is bottlenecks following the end of the fiscal and calendar years. Board members suggested that if staff were to revise the targets, they should look at the typical time it takes to complete a project. Director Cottingham noted that the biennial grant round would give staff a year to focus on active grant management.

Agency Strategic Plan

Rebecca Connolly presented an overview of the changes proposed to the agency strategic plan, as described in the staff memo. Director Cottingham noted that the RCO strategic plan is an umbrella plan that encompasses the goals and missions of this board, as well as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Invasive Species Council, and the Habitat and Recreation Lands Group.

Chair Chapman noted that he was pleased to see the reference to environmental sustainability and the testing of the new criteria. He asked for clarification about where the lands group was mentioned in the plan. Director Cottingham responded that it was in the plan, but that the board had received only a summary of changes.

Member Fairleigh noted that the strategies were very high level rather than measurable and asked if there was another document. Connolly responded that it was a lesson learned from the last plan, in which the strategies were too specific, and the agency had a difficult time writing a measureable work plan. She explained the work plan approach used by the agency with monthly reports to the director. Connolly noted that the work plan is updated in the off-years from the strategic plan, following approval of the biennial budget. Director Cottingham clarified that her performance review acts as a bridge between the two documents.

RCFB Strategic Plan

Rebecca Connolly presented the strategic plan adopted by the board in June 2010. The board agreed on the following changes:

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

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 ~~for~~ to sustain that funding and those investments.

Strategy 3.A.2. – Increase public understanding of project benefits including economic and ecosystem benefits.

Motion to approve the revised plan was made by: Dave Brittell and seconded by: Craig Partridge
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7: Public Comment Received about the Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses

Grazing Policy

Dominga Soliz presented the comments and the subcommittee responses as described in the staff memo. The board discussed the use of grazing leases on habitat lands managed by state agencies, and why working lands may be purchased with Critical Habitat funds.

Chair Chapman asked that the policy say that it be a market rate lease. Member Brittell noted that it was up to the sponsor agency to do the process correctly and that the revenue policy also applies. Chair Chapman asked that it be included as footnote. Soliz responded that the lease policy requires compliance with state and federal requirements, but that a footnote can be added.

Chair Chapman also referred to the comment that stated that there is no review about where the money goes from revenue generated. He thought that the first two bullets of the existing Income Use policy were too vague and risked losing the money. He would like to revisit that policy at some point in the future to narrow it. Soliz noted that they looked at this two years ago, and that it does have federal tax implications. Staff will look at it.

Telecommunications Facilities Policy

Dominga Soliz presented the comments and the subcommittee responses as described in the staff memo. Chair Chapman suggested that new structures may be appropriate in some circumstances (e.g., putting up lights that are needed, with the intent of mounting telecommunications facilities) and asked the subcommittee to look at if there is a way to do it without changing the intent of the policy. Director Cottingham noted that it would be inappropriate to put up structures just for the purpose of telecommunications. Soliz noted that the example provided by the chair is consistent with the intent of the policy, and that it may be a matter of clarification.

Tree Removal Policy

Soliz reviewed the eight comments about tree removal, mostly noting a need for clarifications, and explained the subcommittee recommendations in response to the comments.

Chair Chapman noted that he understood why the subcommittee removed the word “imminent,” but suggested there should be some potential risk. Member Mayer noted that most agencies use ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) standards and stated that the board should defer to that established standard rather than creating their own standard. The board discussed the options for incorporating standards in the policy, agreeing that they should use established standards.

Member Willhite asked if the policy should include replanting following tree removal. Member Mayer responded that for local agencies, that would be covered by local ordinance. Director Cottingham reminded the board that other policies and laws already apply. This policy is designed to determine when sponsors need to come to the agency or board for permission to do something. Member Brittell noted that there already are checks in place through forest practices rules.

The board discussed whether to include language about tree removal “solely” for economic purposes. Member Partridge suggested “solely for revenue generation.” Subcommittee members Mayer, Spanel, and Brittell recalled that they believed that the revisions should have included such language. Members agreed that “revenue generation” was better language than “economic purposes,” and asked staff to soften the language so that it recognizes that while there can be economic benefit, it not be the sole intent of the tree removal.

Member Mayer suggested that a park master plan equate to a site specific stewardship plan in the policy.

Director Cottingham asked if it needed to go out for public comment again after it is revised again by staff. The board did not believe that a formal period would be necessary.

Clarification of “Conveyance of Property Interests” in conversion policy

Director Cottingham explained that the subcommittee recommended taking the leases off of the proposal because of issues raised by State Parks. The board had no comments.

Allowable Uses Framework

Soliz explained the framework proposal, comments received, and subcommittee recommendation not to change the proposal. Member Mayer suggested that in the boxes, it say "all of the criteria" on page 3 of Attachment A. He also suggested that the staff brief the board when the procedure is used. Chair Chapman suggested a few briefings until it becomes routine.

The board discussed various suggestions made by respondents for future policies. Director Cottingham reminded the board that the RCO has limited staff availability for policy considerations.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 8: Follow-up to State Parks' Request to Allow Shower Facilities in State Parks Cabins

Dominga Soliz presented the State Parks request to allow showers in two cabins proposed for development at Rasar State Park as described in the staff memo. Member Spanel noted that she thinks the assertions that showers would (1) expand the user base to the elderly and families with young children and (2) extend the season were inaccurate.

Resolution 2012-04 moved by: Larry Fairleigh and seconded by: Pete Mayer
Resolution APPROVED

Board Business: Briefings & Discussion

Item 9: Briefing on Compliance Issue at Woodland Park in Lacey

Sarah Thirtyacre presented information about the board's compliance policies, as well as a conversion that the board will decide in October. She asked the board if there was additional information they needed before that decision. She noted that after the staff memo was written, the city suggested a second property as a possible replacement property. Although it has fewer recreational similarities to the converted property, it has a better location with improved access and better connectivity to other park properties.

Member Mayer asked if the second parcel had the same acreage; Thirtyacre responded that it would likely have a similar size and value to the first. Member Bloomfield asked if the seller was willing. Thirtyacre responded that it already had been purchased under a waiver of retroactivity. Member Fairleigh asked why the board could not vote on this topic today. Director Cottingham responded that the city needed to complete public comment. Member Spanel asked how many other conversions should be expected from Lacey. Thirtyacre responded that she was aware of only one other conversion that occurred when a road was rerouted for safety.

Item 10: Preview of the tour for June 28

Sarah Thirtyacre provided an overview of the tour to be conducted on June 28, and an overview of the Olympic Discovery Trail. Driving directions were provided to members of the board and those in attendance.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Approved by:

Bill Chapman, Chair

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-03
June 2012 Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following March 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

- A. Approve board meeting minutes – March 2012
- B. Approve eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491
- C. Continue FARR advisory committee and delegate authority to director to appoint members

Resolution moved by: Brittell

Resolution seconded by: Willhite

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: June 27, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Resolution #2012-04

Providing Policy Waiver so that Cabins with Shower Facilities at Rasar State Park are Eligible in 2012 WWRP State Parks Grant Round and Related Costs are Prorated

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted a policy in 2011 making certain cabins and other overnight recreational facilities eligible in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Parks category; and

WHEREAS, the board policy required that cabins and other overnight recreational facilities would not be eligible if they exceeded a "simple, basic design" as defined in policy; and

WHEREAS, State Parks has requested a waiver of the cabin eligibility policy so that they may submit a grant application that includes cabins that have shower facilities at Rasar State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Rasar State Park cabins meeting the definition of "simple, basic design" in all ways except the inclusion of shower facilities; and

WHEREAS, State Parks believes that shower amenities showers will help expand the user base of the park, lengthen the recreation season for overnight visitors, and provide more opportunities for the park to generate revenue; and

WHEREAS, providing the policy waiver could inform future policy discussions about the State Parks transformation strategy and the fundamental intent of the outdoor recreation grants and could provide a pilot so that staff can better understand the costs of added amenities and test the feasibility of prorating costs; and

WHEREAS, providing the policy waiver allows the project to proceed through the evaluation process and does not guarantee funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, providing a waiver supports the board's strategies to (1) evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation and conservation needs and (2) provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board waives the cabin eligibility policy for project #12-1341 to allow State Parks to propose cabins that include the shower amenities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the project is funded, State Parks must purchase and install the shower facilities with non-board funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Recreation and Conservation Office staff will prorate costs as appropriate with regard to the shower facilities.

Resolution moved by: Fairleigh

Resolution seconded by: Mayer

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: June 27, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2A**

Meeting Date: September 2012
Title: Operating and Capital Budget Requests for 2013-15
Prepared by: Steve McLellan, Policy Director
Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer
Approved by the Director:

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office must submit its 2013-15 biennial budget (operating and capital) to the Office of Financial Management on September 5, 2012. Staff is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve several budget requests.

The funding request for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is addressed in Memo 2B.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-06

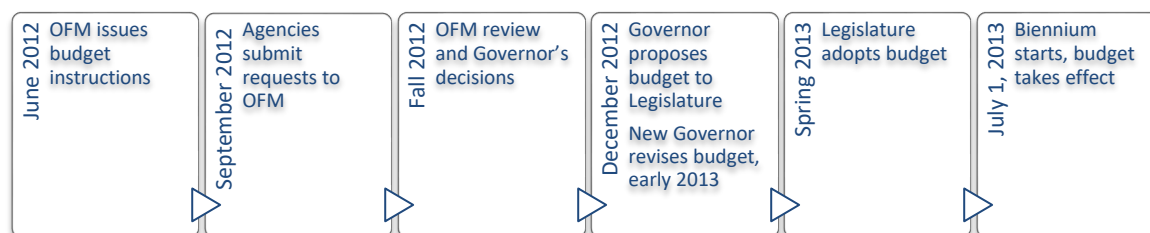
Purpose of Resolution: Approve funding requests for the 2013-15 state biennial budget.

Background

State Budget Process

Washington enacts budgets on a two-year cycle, beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The budget approved for the 2013-15 biennium will take effect July 1, 2013 and run through June 30, 2015.

The RCO must submit its 2013-15 biennial budget proposal to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) by September 5. OFM will then analyze the proposal and work with the Governor to develop her budget recommendation. By law, the Governor must propose a biennial budget in December. After taking office, the new Governor will submit a revised budget to the Legislature. The following diagram shows the process.



The funds that are appropriated in the 2013-15 biennium for grant programs will be awarded in June 2013 to projects that have been evaluated and ranked during the current grant round.

Grant Programs

Table 1 shows the appropriations for the board's grant programs over the past three biennia. As indicated, some agency budget requests are based on dedicated fund revenue projections, some are based on expected federal funds, and others are requests for general funds or bond funds. The table does not include funds appropriated for salmon recovery.

Table 1

<i>Figures in Millions</i>		Appropriation		
		07-09	09-11	11-13
STATE PROGRAMS				
Programs for which the board requests a funding level				
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP)	Bonds	\$100.0	\$70.0	\$42.0
Boating Activities Program	GFS (Operating)	2.0	0	0
Youth Athletic Facilities Program (YAF)	Donation/Interest, Bonds	2.5	0	0
Programs for which budget is based on revenue projections				
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Program (ALEA)	Sales/Bonds	5.03	5.03	6.8
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	Tax/Fees	8.02	0*	8.0
Firearms & Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)	Tax/Fees	.47	.50	.37
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	Tax/Fees	9.04	0*	5.5
Subtotal, State Programs		\$127.1	\$75.5	\$62.7
FEDERAL PROGRAMS <i>(spending authority is sought based on potential federal appropriation)</i>				
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	Federal	0.2	1.0	2.1
Land & Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF)	Federal	1.0	4.0	4.0
Recreational Trail Program (RTP)	Federal	3.5	4.0	5.0
Subtotal, Federal Programs		4.7	9.0	11.1
RCFB Grant Program Totals		\$131.8	\$84.5	\$73.8

* The legislature reprogrammed these funds to State Parks in 09-11.

Budget Outlook for 2013-15: Operating Budget

The financial outlook for the next biennium continues to be uncertain. The current estimate – based solely on the need to provide increased funding for basic education to comply with court rulings – is that the operating budget will face a shortfall of over \$1 billion. The most recent update to the revenue forecast was flat; further updates are scheduled in September and November. The November forecast will be the one used by the Governor as she makes final budget decisions.

Budget Outlook for 2013-15: Capital Budget

The outlook for the upcoming capital budget is contingent on whether voters approve a proposed constitutional amendment this November. Senate Joint Resolution 8221 (SJR 8221) resulted from the work of the state Debt Limit Commission. It would reduce the constitutional debt limit to 8 percent of revenues (from the current 9 percent) over the next 20 years. At the same time, it would calculate the debt limit using six years of revenues (rather than the current three), and would expand the revenue base upon which the debt limit is calculated.

The net effect of these changes would be to have a larger capital budget in the short term, but it would grow more slowly over time. If the changes are approved by voters, the current estimate of capital budget capacity for 2013-15 is \$1.65 billion. If the changes are not approved by voters, the short-term capital budget would be \$1.25 billion (primarily because it would be calculated using only three years of data, all during the recession). Of course, if the revenue situation materially changes over the coming months, these capacity estimates also will change.

Board Decision Requested

Staff is asking the board to approve recommended funding levels for several grant programs, and to approve the operating budget submission prepared by the director.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the operating budget submission prepared by the director.

Staff recommends proposing funding levels based on estimated revenues for the following grant programs:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA)
- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grants (federal -- BIG)
- Firearm and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal -- LWCF)
- Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Account (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (federal -- RTP)

For the Boating Facilities Program, staff also is recommending that RCO seek a \$3.3 million capital appropriation from bond funds to “backfill” the partial sweep of the Recreation Resources Account during the 2012 session.

For the Youth Athletic Facilities program, staff is recommending that RCO seek a \$3 million capital appropriation from bond funds. This program did not receive new funds in the current biennium.

For the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, staff has presented several options for the board to consider in selecting a funding level (see Item 2B).

Analysis

Operating Budget

The final operating and capital budget submission will include funding levels approved by the board, some technical changes, and decision packages approved by the director. Decision packages are formal proposals for additions to an agency’s budget.

One substantive decision package relates to the work of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group). The Lands Group enabling legislation encourages better visibility and coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisitions. To that end, there is interest among participants in providing an updated, GIS-based, web-accessible state lands inventory to help Legislators and others see what properties the state currently owns and how they relate to land conservation strategies. State agencies will also be able to use the data to make more strategic decisions about acquisition objectives. When the lands group was renewed last session, no funding was provided for administrative functions. This new project would be above and beyond what RCO and participating agencies can absorb in their current budgets.

The final budget submission will also include requests for salmon recovery grant and operating funding (determined in consultation with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board), and for operating funding for the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Capital Budget

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

The funding request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is discussed in Item 2B, and will be requested under Resolution 2012-07.

Revenue-Based Budget Requests

Several of the board’s grant programs are supported by either federal funds or dedicated state revenues. RCO staff has worked with the appropriate agencies to estimate the federal apportionments and revenue projections for the 2013-15 biennium. The grant program budget requests that would reflect those projections are as follows:

Table 2

Program	2013-15 Request
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$6,600,000
Boating Facilities Program	\$5,963,000
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	\$2,200,000
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation	\$775,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$4,000,000
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	\$8,305,000
Recreational Trails Program	\$5,000,000

Boating Facilities Program: Recreational Resources Account “backfill”

During the 2012 legislative session, \$3.3 million of the Recreational Resources Account was diverted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to pay for marine enforcement activities. In her veto message on the budget, the Governor declined to veto this sweep because of the effect it would have on the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s budget. However, she raised concerns about the policy and programmatic implications of the sweep, and urged lawmakers to consider ways to reverse its effects.

To ensure that the account maintains a positive balance in the 13-15 biennium, the legislature will need to either reinstate the funding (“backfill”) or the board will need to reduce the available grant funding in fiscal year 2014 by \$3.3 million (about one third of current levels). Backfilling the funds would allow the board to conduct a full grant round. As of August 21, there are 31 boating applications requesting a total of \$13 million for fiscal year 2014.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) request

The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program was created with a one-time \$10 million contribution as part of the initiative to build Qwest Field. In the 2005-07 biennium, the legislature added \$2.5 million to this account¹. There have been no other funds deposited in the account, and the program is winding down. The board allocated the remaining funds in the account to eligible WWRP projects in March 2012.

There is interest among local parks stakeholders to support a new appropriation since YAF funds can support functions or facilities that are not allowed under WWRP or the Land and Water Conservation Fund, such as maintenance and minor works/repairs to capital facilities. Based on discussions with key stakeholders and an analysis of the RCO’s capacity to issue and manage new grants, staff is recommending that the board request \$3 million in capital bond appropriation for YAF.

Attachments

Resolution 2012-06

¹ The appropriation was subject to the RCO securing private matching funds. The Legislature removed the RCO matching share requirement in the 2007-2009 state capital budget and reappropriated the funds.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-06
Recommending a Funding Level for Recreation and Conservation Office
Administration and Grant Programs in the 2013-15 Biennium

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) must submit a 2013-15 Operating and Request Budget to the Office of Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, the operating budget will be in conformance with the Office of Financial Management instructions, including carry-forward, maintenance level, and enhancement items; and

WHEREAS, the RCO must also submit a 2013-15 Capital Request Budget to the Office of Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, for federally supported programs and revenue-supported state programs, the amounts requested will need to reflect estimated federal apportionments and the current revenue projections by the Departments of Transportation and Licensing; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) finds there is a continuing and compelling need for funding to maintain and enhance the state's quality of life and ecosystem health by investing in outdoor recreation opportunities and important plant, fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the board finds that the Boating Facilities Program helps state and local agencies fulfill a critical need for recreational boating access on both fresh and salt waters in our state, and that the funds removed from the account in the 2012 Supplemental Budget should be reinstated so that a full grant round can be conducted; and

WHEREAS, the board finds that there is a need for grant funding to perform maintenance and minor repairs to capital facilities to protect the state's investments in recreation opportunities and that such funding can be provided through the existing Youth Athletic Facilities program; and

WHEREAS, the RCO administered grant programs are critical components furthering the goal of maintaining and enhancing the state's quality of life and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, requesting budget support for these grant programs, and the RCO administration necessary to implement those grant programs, enables the board to fulfill its mission and goals;

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-06
Recommending a Funding Level for Recreation and Conservation Office
Administration and Grant Programs in the 2013-15 Biennium

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The board hereby approves the 2013-15 budget requests shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$6,600,000
Boating Facilities Program <i>(this amount plus backfill amount noted in #2 below for a total of \$9,263,000)</i>	\$5,963,000
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	\$2,200,000
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation	\$775,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$4,000,000
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	\$8,305,000
Recreational Trails Program	\$5,000,000
Youth Athletic Facilities	\$3,000,000

2. The board hereby approves a request that \$3.3 million to be reinstated to the Recreation Resources Account to ensure sufficient funding for the Boating Facilities Program.
3. The Director is authorized to modify and/or update the amounts as new revenue forecasts become available or to comply with Office of Financial Management budget instructions or directives. The Director also shall modify and/or update the request as necessary to meet the budget needs of the affiliated boards and councils, and to provide for scheduled rent, services, personnel increment dates, labor contract costs, and other operations costs.
4. The Director is authorized to apply for outside funding sources to supplement the capital budget consistent with the board and agency mission.
5. The Director shall submit any necessary reappropriation requests.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2B**

Meeting Date: September 2012
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Budget Request for 2013-15
Prepared by: Steve McLellan, Policy Director
Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer
Approved by the Director:

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office must submit its 2013-15 biennial budget (operating and capital) to the Office of Financial Management on September 5, 2012. Staff is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve several budget requests.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-07

Purpose of Resolution: Approve funding requests for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program during the 2013-15 biennium.

Background

Please see memo 2A for a description of the budget process and overview.

Board Decision Requested

Staff is asking the board to decide on the amount of funding to request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP). Staff will enter the request amounts into Resolution #2012-07 during the meeting, before the vote.

Staff Recommendation

Staff is not making a funding recommendation regarding the WWRP but has provided the following analysis for consideration by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board).

Analysis

WWRP is funded through the capital budget with general obligation bonds. WWRP includes four accounts: Habitat Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, Farmland, and Riparian. Distribution among the accounts and categories is set in state law.

Table 1 compares the board's requests, governor's budgets, and legislative appropriations since the 1999-2001 biennium.

Table 1

Biennium	Board Request	Governor's Budget	Legislative Appropriation
99-01	\$50 million	\$50 million	\$48 million
01-03	\$45 million	\$45 million	\$45 million
03-05	\$45 million	\$30 million	\$45 million
05-07	\$60 million	\$45 million	\$50 million
07-09	\$100 million	\$70 million	\$100 million
09-11	\$100 million	\$50 million	\$70 million
11-13	\$100 million	\$20 million	\$42 million

Approaches for Determining a Request Level

At the June 2012 meeting, staff presented the board with three approaches for determining a funding request level for 2013-15. These approaches included considering WWRP as a percent of general obligation bonds, the amount expended per capita, and the amount of funding requests met. The board indicated that the first two approaches seemed sound, while the third should be used to only to provide context about the potential effects for grant applicants.

Table 2 shows the level of funding that is consistent with different data points for the two options. The more detailed charts presented to the Board in June are included as Attachment A.

Table 2

	Lowest Historical	Current Biennium	Average ¹ Historical	Highest Historical
Option 1: Percent of GO Bonds				
<i>Percent</i>	2.9%	3.7%	4.6%	6.8%
Amount for 2013-15 (in millions)	\$49	\$60	\$76	\$112
Option 2: Per Capita				
<i>Amount Per Capita</i>	\$6.16	\$6.16	\$12.06	\$19.51
Amount for 2013-15 (in millions)	\$43	\$43	\$84	\$136

Projected Funding at Different Funding Levels

As of August 3, sponsors had submitted 176 grant applications for WWRP totaling \$123.4 million. Table 3 shows four funding scenarios, the distribution to the eleven categories, and the current requests in each category. Table 4 shows the percent of funding requests that would be met at each level.

Table 3

<i>Dollars in millions</i>	--- Funding Levels ---							<i>Applications to Date</i>
	\$70 m	\$75 m	\$80 m	\$85 m	\$90 m	\$95 m	\$100 m	
Habitat Conservation Account								
Critical Habitat	\$11.8	\$12.4	\$13.1	\$13.7	\$14.4	\$15.1	\$15.7	\$15.7
Natural Area	\$7.9	\$8.3	\$8.7	\$9.2	\$9.6	\$10.0	\$10.5	\$14.9
State Lands Restoration	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.6	\$1.7	\$1.7	\$3.0
Urban Wildlife	\$5.2	\$5.5	\$5.8	\$6.1	\$6.4	\$6.7	\$7.0	\$17.1
Subtotal	\$26.2	\$27.6	\$29.1	\$30.6	\$32.0	\$33.5	\$34.9	\$50.7
Outdoor Recreation Account								
Local Parks	\$7.9	\$8.3	\$8.7	\$9.2	\$9.6	\$10.0	\$10.5	\$15.6
State Lands Development	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.6	\$1.7	\$1.7	\$2.4
State Parks	\$7.9	\$8.3	\$8.7	\$9.2	\$9.6	\$10.0	\$10.5	\$10.3
Trails	\$5.2	\$5.5	\$5.8	\$6.1	\$6.4	\$6.7	\$7.0	\$13.4
Water Access	\$3.9	\$4.1	\$4.4	\$4.6	\$4.8	\$5.0	\$5.2	\$9.1
Subtotal	\$26.2	\$27.6	\$29.1	\$30.6	\$32.0	\$33.5	\$34.9	\$50.8
Farmlands Preservation Account	\$5.8	\$6.3	\$6.8	\$7.3	\$7.8	\$8.2	\$8.7	\$8.4
Riparian Protection Account	\$9.7	\$11.2	\$12.6	\$14.1	\$15.5	\$17.0	\$18.4	\$13.5
Administration	\$2.1	\$2.3	\$2.4	\$2.6	\$2.7	\$2.9	\$3.0	
Total	\$70.0	\$75.0	\$80.0	\$85.0	\$90.0	\$95.0	\$100.0	\$123.4

¹ Median is the same for the percent of general obligation bonds, and slightly lower for the per capita calculation.

Table 4

Funding in Millions	\$70	\$75	\$80	\$85	\$90	\$95	\$100
All Categories	55%	59%	63%	67%	71%	75%	79%
Critical Habitat	75%	79%	84%	88%	92%	96%	100%
Natural Areas	53%	56%	59%	62%	64%	67%	70%
State Lands Restoration	44%	46%	49%	51%	53%	56%	58%
Urban Wildlife	31%	32%	34%	36%	37%	39%	41%
Local Parks	50%	53%	56%	59%	62%	64%	67%
State Lands Development	54%	57%	60%	64%	67%	70%	73%
State Parks	76%	80%	85%	89%	93%	97%	102%
Trails	39%	41%	43%	46%	48%	50%	52%
Water Access	43%	46%	48%	50%	53%	55%	58%
Farmland Preservation	70%	75%	81%	87%	93%	99%	104%
Riparian Protection	72%	83%	93%	104%	115%		

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration and approval of the 2013-15 funding requests enables the board to fulfill its goals, and supports the following objectives and strategies:

- 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 investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state’s recreation and conservation needs.
- Objective 1.B. – Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

Attachments

Resolution 2012-07

A. June 2012 Board Memo #5 Regarding Budget

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-07
Recommending a Funding Level for the Washington Wildlife and
Recreation Program for the 2013-15 Biennium

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) must submit a 2013-15 Capital Request Budget to the Office of Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) finds there is a continuing and compelling need for funding to maintain and enhance the state's quality of life and ecosystem health by investing in outdoor recreation opportunities and important plant, fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is a critical component to furthering the goal of maintaining and enhancing the state's quality of life and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, requesting budget support for these grant programs, and the RCO administration necessary to implement those grant programs, enables the board to fulfill its mission and goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the 2013-15 Budget request shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	\$

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summarized Meeting Agenda and Actions, September 4, 2012

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Consent Calendar	Resolution 2012-05 Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved board meeting minutes – June 2012	No follow-up requested
Item 2A. Operating Budget and Capital Budget Requests Based on Revenue Projections	Resolution 2012-06 Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approves 2013-15 budget request levels for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account; Boating Facilities Program; Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; Firearms and Archery Range Recreation; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities; Recreational Trails Program; and Youth Athletic Facilities• Approves other budget request actions for 2013-15	Submit budget request to the Office of Financial Management
Item 2B. Capital Budget Request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program	Resolution 2012-07 Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approves a 2013-15 budget request of \$90 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program	Submit budget request to the Office of Financial Management

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: September 4, 2012

Place: Room 175, Natural Resources Building, Olympia Washington
Most board members participated by conference call

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board members present in person or by phone:

Bill Chapman, Chair	Mercer Island	Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Larry Fairleigh	Designee, State Parks
Pete Mayer	Snohomish	Dave Brittell	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harriet Spanel	Bellingham		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the meeting materials provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined.

Consent Calendar

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2012-05, Consent Calendar. The consent calendar included the following:

- A. Approve board meeting minutes –June 2012

Resolution 2012-05 moved by: Ted Willhite
Resolution APPROVED, 8-0

and seconded by: Larry Fairleigh

Item 2A: Operating Budget and Capital Budget Requests Based on Revenue Projections

Steve McLellan reviewed the information presented in the staff memo, noting the budget is due on September 5. They have recently had meetings with OFM, and shortfalls are still anticipated in the general fund due to the McCleary decision. Revenue projections have not changed since the June meeting. He noted that OFM may solve the issue with the Recreation Resources Account (boating) in a second supplemental budget, but since that is not certain, staff continues to recommend that the board authorize a direct bond request to cover the sweep in the previous budget.

Member Spanel asked if the resolution could be changed to have the table show the boating facilities total, but to leave the note in the table. The board agreed it was a friendly amendment and the change was approved.

Public Comment

Board members received a letter from the Washington Recreation & Park Association supporting the staff recommendations.

**Resolution 2012-06, including the friendly amendment,
moved by: Dave Brittell and seconded by: Harriet Spanel
Resolution APPROVED, 8-0**

Item 2B: Capital Budget Request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Steve McLellan reviewed the information presented in the staff memo.

Chair Chapman and other board members thanked staff for the analysis in the memo and in June.

Member Spanel noted that it would be wise to start with a high number that reflected the need shown in the applications.

Member Willhite supported the recommendation, but was concerned that it might not be enough. He thinks that low interest rates may indicate that this is the right time to make a larger investment. However, \$90 million may be a better figure to reflect fiscal realities.

Member Fairleigh noted that State Parks staff supports the \$90 million figure, and will ask the Parks Commission to support it as well. The need continues to be as great as ever.

Member Bloomfield noted that population continues to grow, and indicates a growing need for habitat protection. If we are not prudent now, there will be a diminishing return for future generations. She also supports the \$90 million figure.

Member Mayer stated that Figure 3 supports the \$90 million request and indicates the projects that could be completed at that level.

Member Brittell stated that he wishes that they could ask for more, but the timing is off. He noted that WWRC and WRPA have done good work, and it is important to align with partners.

Chair Chapman noted that opportunity, in terms of low land prices, is creating a time when we can get good things done. Population means that more people need more good parks, and create pressure on the habitat base.

Public Comment

Board members received a letter from the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition urging the board to pass a recommendation in favor of funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for \$90 million for the 2013-15 biennium.

Board members received a letter from the Washington Recreation & Park Association concurring with the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition recommendation that the board adopt a \$90 million request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for the 2013-15 biennium.

Member Spanel moved to approve resolution 2012-07 at \$90 million. Member Mayer seconded the motion.

Resolution APPROVED, 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Approved by:



Bill Chapman, Chair

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-05
September 2012 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following September 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

1. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Meeting Minutes, June 27-28, 2012

Resolution moved by: Willhite
Resolution seconded by: Fairleigh
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)
Date: September 4, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-06
Recommending a Funding Level for Recreation and Conservation Office
Administration and Grant Programs in the 2013-15 Biennium

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The board hereby approves the 2013-15 budget requests shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$6,600,000
Boating Facilities Program <i>(this amount plus backfill amount noted in #2 below for a total of \$9,263,000)</i>	\$9,263,000
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	\$2,200,000
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation	\$775,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$4,000,000
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	\$8,305,000
Recreational Trails Program	\$5,000,000
Youth Athletic Facilities	\$3,000,000

2. The board hereby approves a request that \$3.3 million to be reinstated to the Recreation Resources Account to ensure sufficient funding for the Boating Facilities Program.
3. The Director is authorized to modify and/or update the amounts as new revenue forecasts become available or to comply with Office of Financial Management budget instructions or directives. The Director also shall modify and/or update the request as necessary to meet the budget needs of the affiliated boards and councils, and to provide for scheduled rent, services, personnel increment dates, labor contract costs, and other operations costs.
4. The Director is authorized to apply for outside funding sources to supplement the capital budget consistent with the board and agency mission.
5. The Director shall submit any necessary reappropriation requests.

Resolution moved by: Brittell

Resolution seconded by: Spanel

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: September 4, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-07
Recommending a Funding Level for the Washington Wildlife and
Recreation Program for the 2013-15 Biennium

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) must submit a 2013-15 Capital Request Budget to the Office of Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) finds there is a continuing and compelling need for funding to maintain and enhance the state's quality of life and ecosystem health by investing in outdoor recreation opportunities and important plant, fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is a critical component to furthering the goal of maintaining and enhancing the state's quality of life and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, requesting budget support for these grant programs, and the RCO administration necessary to implement those grant programs, enables the board to fulfill its mission and goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the 2013-15 Budget request shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	\$90 million

Resolution moved by: Spanel

Resolution seconded by: Mayer

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: September 4, 2012

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Sen. Christine Rolfes

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
Joanna Grist

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION COALITION



August 13, 2012

Mr. Bill Chapman
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia Washington 98501

Dear Mr. Chapman,

The Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition and the 275 member organizations we represent respectfully urge the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to pass a recommendation in favor of funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for \$90 million for the 2013-15 biennium.

It is with great care that the Coalition undertook the recommendation process this year to ensure our recommendation is not out of step with the needs of Washingtonians. The Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program, the state's premier tool for habitat conservation and recreation opportunities, was created in 1989 to address the need in Washington for the protection of our natural heritage. With rapid population growth, that need persists today.

The Coalition measured need in Washington State through several metrics: historical spending on WWRP per capita, historical funding of WWRP as a percentage of the capital construction budget, real estate prices as measured through the real estate excise tax and the construction cost index as provided by WSDOT. Specifically:

- Based on WWRP per capita funding averaged over the last 20 years, WWRP funding in the next capital budget should be \$83.7 million
- Based on the Washington Department of Transportation's construction cost index averaged and adjusted for inflation, WWRP funding should be \$82.7 million
- Based on WSDOT's construction cost index (CCI) and on the Value of Real Estate Sales, WWRP funding should be \$99.6 million.

Averaging these three numbers together amounts to approximately \$89 million.

These measurements tell a common story. Despite the recession, the population of Washington State continues to grow at a tremendous rate. At the same time, WWRP funding has dropped, both in 2012 real dollars and as a percentage of GO bond spending in the capital budget. As a result, kids still cross highways to reach their only neighborhood park, pristine habitat continues to vanish to parking lots, and the general quality of life in Washington suffers.

As capital budget capacity increases as the state recovers from the recession, we have an opportunity. We respectfully request that the Board recommend the restoration of funding for the WWRP grant program to the \$90 million level so that this program will not only protect our quality of life, but preserve our natural heritage for our kids and grandkids.

Respectfully,

Peter Dykstra
Board President



Washington Recreation & Park Association

August 30, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

ATTN: Mr. Bill Chapman, Chair; and Committee Members

RE: Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA) written comments and requests on Capital Budget request Agenda items for Sept. 4 (Items 2A and 2B)

Dear Chairman Chapman & Board Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA), an organization established in 1947 with a mission of enhancing and promoting parks, recreation, open space, arts and leisure space, and creating active and healthy communities.

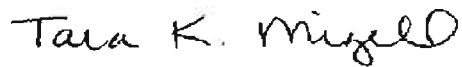
Specifically, on behalf of the 1,450+ public- and private-sector members we serve, we wanted to comment on three particular programs referenced within Agenda Items 2A and 2B that will be before you on Tuesday, Sept. 4. All three of these items are likely to be high priority for the WRPA when we finalize our 2013 Legislative Agenda in the fall:

- **Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) funding level:** We are in full agreement with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC), which provided you with an Aug. 13 letter on this topic. The WWRP is an absolutely critical program for funding of local parks, water access areas, trails, and more, and we believe it is vital that the state try to move the funding level for this program back toward the levels of funding allocated pre-recession. Staff has provided you with a very thorough analysis of WWRP funding, and the WWRC letter walked through a rationale for a \$90 million request. We fully support that request.
- **Youth Athletic Fields (YAF) Account:** We strongly support a request to re-establish funding for the YAF and in fact are examining ways to create ongoing and sustainable funding for this Account, which has been “de-funded” the last several years. As RCO staff indicated in a memo to the Board, the YAF can support activities and functions that are not ‘covered’ under the WWRP – so we restoring funding as a key endeavor.
- **Backfill of Recreation Resource Account (Boating Facilities Program):** We were very disappointed in the Legislature’s budget decision to divert \$3.3 million in RRA funding to

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) marine law enforcement. We strongly support a one-time, \$3.3 million general obligation bond issuance to ensure this important program is not cut by 1/3 or more in the 2013-15 biennium. We would note that in her "veto message" on the 2012 Operating Budget, the Governor expressed her concerns with this fund-shift and her hope that a solution could be found to remedy the problem.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on these aspects of Agenda Items 2A and 2B – and thank you for the work you do on behalf of our state's cherished natural resources and open space.

Sincerely,



Tara Mizell, CPRP
President
Washington Recreation & Park Association



Brit Kramer, CPRP, CAE
Executive Director
Washington Recreation & Park Association

Established in 1947, the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA) is a non-profit professional and citizen member organization serving over 1,450 members. The WRPA is dedicated to enhancing and promoting parks, recreation, open space, arts and leisure pursuits in the State of Washington, and to creating active and healthy communities.