

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: January 30, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Michael Shiosaki, Chair	Seattle	Bob Bugert	Leavenworth
Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Trang Lam	Camas	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kitty Craig	Seattle	Peter Herzog	Designee, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to 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 meeting.

Call to Order:

Chair Michael Shiosaki called the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 9:00 AM and **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call, determining quorum. Of note, Member Ohlson-Kiehn, Member Lam, and Member Windrope were absent.

Motion: Move to Approve **January 30, 2024**, Agenda

Moved By: Member **Herzog**

Seconded by: Member **Bugert**

Decision: **Approved**

Chair Shiosaki introduced himself as the new Chair, and new member, Bob Bugert. Chair Shiosaki then asked all members to introduce themselves.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Shiosaki noted that the consent agenda included the minutes from the October 24 and 25, 2023, and December 4, 2023, meetings; nine-time extensions; and recognition of thirty-three advisors.

Motion: Move to Approve **Resolution 2024-01**, Consent Agenda

Moved By: Member **Burgess**

Seconded by: Member **Herzog**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy highlighted two grant rounds that demonstrated the need for legislative funding. The Local Parks Maintenance (LPM) program funded fifty-three projects with nearly \$5 million; however, there were 214 applications with a total ask of \$18.5 million. Similarly, the Outdoor Learning Grants (OLG) funded twenty-seven projects, totaling \$3.7 million but had 111 applications requesting \$15.3 million.

Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director, shared that this Legislative Session began on January 8 and has a first cut-off on January 31. Budgets are expected to be announced in the second half of February and session is scheduled to end on March 7. Mr. Milliern highlighted key session items including the fast start with early initiatives and fiscal notes; Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding; salmon recovery and riparian money; and the Outdoor Recreation Caucus meetings that will continue through 2024.

Mr. Milliern explained the legislative budget requests related to recreation.

- \$1 million for a Lower Snake River Dams recreation impact study if the dams are removed. This assessment would be a cost share with the federal government.
- \$150,000 to update the Recreation Economic Study. The original study was done in 2015 and was last updated in 2020. This funding would keep the study on track to be updated on a five-year cycle.
- \$5.8 million for the Community Forest Program (CFP) to fund two more projects on the ranked list, one in Grays Harbor and one on Whidbey Island.
- Other items in RCO's budget requests are related to salmon recovery.

The policy team met in December to refresh their Policy Work Plan and discussed teaming up on more complex items, like the recent Criteria Changes, which the board can anticipate seeing more of.

Mr. Milliern presented an overview of the work plan, noting that most salmon related items were not listed unless they had elements that crossed over with recreation. The work plan was provided to the board and is included in the meeting [materials](#).

Mr. Milliern highlighted the items completed in 2023 including the Criteria Changes in multiple programs by Leah Dobey and Ben Donatelle; a review of the Youth Athletic

Facilities (YAF) program by Mr. Donatelle and Mr. Milliern; and the development of the LPM program by Nick Norton.

In 2024, staff will continue developing an equity grant program; standardizing the board schedules; exploring options for meeting minutes; implementing the State Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan ([SCORP](#)); and develop a CCA outreach plan. Mr. Milliern explained items planned for 2024 included developing the 2025-2027 budget; multi-site eligibility review; reviewing and streamlining appraisal waivers; assessing the impact of objective criteria; a review and update of Manual 3; reviewing the Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program; Farmland Program review; and replacing the urban clusters designation that was recently sunset by the federal government. Ongoing policy staff work includes the state-tribal recreation impacts workgroup, comprehensive plan review and approval, equity study.

Pending funding, policy staff will develop a forest carbon grant; conduct a Lower Snake River Dams recreation impact study; and update the Economic Study.

Member Herzog asked about the "RCFB Section" item listed. Mr. Milliern explained that these are smaller items pertaining to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) that need refinement and will be added as capacity allows.

Member Craig asked if there was cross-agency work occurring regarding the CCA outreach plan scheduled for June 2025. Mr. Milliern answered that Caroline Morin, Equity Coordinator, is working with other agencies, and noted that while RCO may use other agency's plans as reference points, RCO's plan will look different. Member Craig asked if updates would be brought to the board and Mr. Milliern did not anticipate updating the board.

Member Bugert asked about the Acquisition Manual Update that did not have a date provided in the timeline. Mr. Milliern explained that work is just beginning on this complex topic, so the timeline is unknown.

Grant Management Report

Marguerite Austin, Section Manager, began her report by highlighting the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities (COAF) program that opened on January 17 with an applicant webinar attended by 250 people. There is \$12 million available for the first round of grants. Preapplications, a new process being tested in COAF, are due on March 13, after which selected projects will be invited to submit a final application that will be due in June. In October, Director Duffy will make initial grant awards and if RCO is successful in their 2025-2027 request for an additional \$12 million for COAF, the ranked list will

continue to be funded. Awards will be made based on regions instead of in a statewide competition. Ms. Austin emphasized the great interest in this program that already had fifty-six preapplications submitted from a variety of community sizes.

The grant management section was preparing for the next grant cycle with outreach events, such as four free application webinars on February 14, covering Parks: active and passive recreation; Habitat Conservation; Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); and Working Lands: farms and forests. On August 7, there will be additional free application webinars with information on backcountry trails, boating, and shooting range programs.

Regarding COAF, **Member Bugert** asked if staff planned to make a Legislative request for additional funding once designated funds run out. Mr. Milliern explained that there is \$12.5 million designated for this biennium and while another \$12.5 million has been promised by Legislation, but which will need to be included in the budget request for the next biennium. Member Bugert noted this appeared to be a great program for improving equity and **Director Duffy** added that COAF is an opportunity to test equity-oriented approaches, such as the preapplication and technical support, to see how they can be applied to other agency and board programs. **Member Craig** asked if there were other programs that use a preapplication. Ms. Austin answered that there is something similar used in LWCF, and a preapplication is being used in COAF to decrease the administrative burden to applicants. Preapplications that require only preliminary information will be scored and projects that score well will be invited by the director to submit a final application with additional evaluation criteria and more detail provided by sponsors.

Grant Services Report

Kyle Guzlas, Grant Services Manager, provided a grant services update on the advisory committees and procedural changes. There were sixty-five vacancies across eighteen advisory committees and RCO received the largest number of applications in a recruitment effort with 154 applications. Director Duffy appointed ninety-two new members to seventeen committees. Noting the higher number of appointees than vacancies, Mr. Guzlas explained that some committees were expanded to include more community members and a new committee was established for COAF. The most effective outreach for recruitment was through social media where sixty-seven percent of applicants heard about the advisory committees.

Sharing the geographic distribution for applications and committee appointments, Mr. Guzlas highlighted that while only twenty-five percent of the applications came from Eastern Washington, they accounted for forty-three percent of appointments.

This was the first year that RCO collected voluntary applicant demographic data that approximately sixty percent of applicants submitted after completing their application. While this data does not paint a full picture of advisory committee members, it will help staff identify trends over time and target future recruitment efforts.

In 2023, staff made procedural changes by updating individual committee charters with new term limits and updated composition goals; creating a [new conflict-of-interest policy](#); and updating the advisory committee stipend policy to align with the Office of Equity's Community Compensation Guidelines. Additional advisory committee information can be found under the "Get Involved" tab on RCO's [website](#).

Staff plan to develop a grant evaluator bias awareness training video and a new advisory committee orientation process in 2024.

Noting the changes to the stipend policy that include reimbursement for additional items and an increased stipend, **Member Craig** asked how that impacts the budget. Mr. Guzlas shared that while the stipend policy is new as of 2022, money was saved in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic shifted from hosting committee members in Olympia to an online Zoom format. Staff will continue tracking spending across programs.

BREAK: 10:06 AM – 10:20 AM

General Public Comment

Although there was no public comment, **Director Duffy** added to the Director's Report by emphasizing RCO's sixtieth anniversary year in 2024 and highlighting new staff members Lorik Soukiazian, Fiscal Analyst, and Eric Tompkins, Contract Specialist.

Item 3: Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Policy Changes

Adam Cole, Policy Specialist, briefed the board on the Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program, currently under review for improvements. Staff and stakeholders identified inefficiencies, such as over 100 small projects submitted each biennium due to relatively low grant limits, so they submit multiple applications for a service area; a full week of in-person evaluations; and difficulty distinguishing high priority projects.

In the near term, staff are considering policy changes to grant limits, criteria changes, larger and longer scale projects, evaluation process, and possible combination projects

to improve efficiency without reducing the impact of the program. Mr. Cole plans to return in April for direction on changes and again in July for a decision, ahead of applications opening in August. In the long term, staff are primarily considering block grants and evaluating synergy with other trails programs and unmet trending needs, conducting a fuel usage study, and looking into a shift to a road usage charge.

NOVA provides funding for planning, development, maintenance, acquisition, and education and enforcement. Federal, state, and local governments, tribes, and motorized nonprofit groups may all apply. The [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 46.09](#) establishes NOVA and identifies eligible sponsors, funding allocation, eligible projects, and requires an advisory committee to be made up of government representatives and recreational users representative of the beneficiaries of the program based on the latest fuel use study, which is a survey of motorized recreation occurring in the backcountry.

Mr. Cole explained the breakdown of funding for NOVA that comes from one percent of the State's gas tax and is the only way for recreationists to receive a refund on taxable fuel used on non-taxable roads. Additionally, off-road vehicle (ORV) permit fees contribute to NOVA funding but only for ORV projects. More details on funding and eligibility in the NOVA program can be found in [Manual 14](#). NOVA has two categories: Education and Enforcement, and Recreation. Within the recreation category there are three subcategories: nonhighway road, nonmotorized, and off-road vehicles. Nonhighway roads and nonmotorized categories have a grant limit of \$150,000 for maintenance projects that make up most of the NOVA projects. Additionally, while match is not required for NOVA, it is scored and most sponsors bring match.

In a breakdown of funding by sponsor type, Mr. Cole noted that the United States Forest Service (USFS), receives nearly half of NOVA funding, followed by state government, local government, and nonprofits, noting that a great deal of recreation happens on federal land within the state and this distribution reflects the priorities. **Member Herzog** asked for clarification on how the funding for each category is determined; Mr. Cole answered it is determined by the statute, adding that the current breakdown was a change in legislation based on the previous fuel use study conducted fifteen years ago.

Member Bugert asked if combination projects are allowed in statute. Mr. Cole answered that combination projects could be allowed per the statute, but raising grant limits and allowing combination projects is up to the board. Mr. Cole added that allowing combination projects would be more efficient for applicants.

Member Craig asked how the increased use of electric vehicles could impact this program. Mr. Cole explained that there are two transitions happening. Electric vehicles

are more common and combustion engines have gotten more efficient, both reducing fuel tax revenues. The State Legislature is considering a transition to a road usage charge instead of fuel tax. The fuel usage study would clarify problems and solutions of the current fuel tax; regardless, one percent of the state motor pool account will continue to be dedicated to NOVA.

Members discussed project types and **Marguerite Austin** explained that most planning projects are for comprehensive plans, occasional design permitting, and maintenance projects around popular recreation sites, which typically score well. Out of 100 2022-2023 NOVA projects, six were planning projects and forty-nine were maintenance.

Mr. Cole briefly compared the Washington Wildlife Recreation (WWRP) program to NOVA, highlighting the discrepancies between the two. In the 2023-2025 biennium, WWRP received \$120 million, 225 applications, and has eleven advisory committees, whereas NOVA received \$12 million, 104 applications – nearly half of the total applications of WWRP – and has only one advisory committee.

The rate of inflation in the United States has increased by thirty-two percent since 2016 when grant limits were last increased. In periods of inflation, it is important to note that state and local governments often experience even higher rates of inflation than consumers. Mr. Cole shared a series of past NOVA maintenance projects that highlight the need across the state.

Staff are considering equity improvements to the NOVA program, such as incorporating recent board approved criteria changes made in other programs. Staff will conduct participant surveys, engage the advisory committee, study past projects, host focus groups, look at existing plans and the economic environment, and solicit public comment.

Members discussed statutory guidance and how the program can incorporate changes and improve while maintaining statutory compliance, and advisory committee's role in prioritizing projects to meet current high needs. Mr. Cole explained that among the advisory committee, there were mixed feelings on block grants and anticipates further discussion.

Member Burgess noted the importance of keeping in mind how these potential changes fit into SCORP throughout the process and views this as an opportunity to lead the conversation with Legislators.

Chair Shiosaki asked who determines which changes are the highest priority. Mr. Cole answered that the advisory committee will make these determinations.

Member Craig wondered if there were foreseeable challenges between stakeholder, staff, and advisory committee interests. In the short term, Mr. Cole thought it feasible to make changes to grant limits, introducing the concept of combination projects, and changing evaluation criteria for efficiencies; however, the longer-term issues, like block grants and longer duration agreements, will need more deliberation.

Member Bugert asked if there was potential for cross-communication between organizations. Mr. Cole answered this would be part of the targeted outreach.

Member Herzog wondered if there were budgetary constraints when considering long-term grant agreements. Mr. Cole explained that the ability to address long-term grant agreements is already in place in another grant program, but budgetary policy or legislative rules will need to be considered.

Chair Shiosaki asked which other RCO programs exist where applicants are asked to bring priorities. Mr. Cole answered that WWRP – State Parks has a similar process where the commissioners share priorities and those are combined with program priorities, and state agencies prioritize what they will submit each year in other WWRP grant categories.

Item 4: Featured Projects

City of Edmonds, Civic Park

Henry Smith, Outdoor Grants Manager, highlighted the City of Edmonds Civic Park ([RCO #14-1199](#) and [#18-1379](#)), a major, multi-phase acquisition and development project. At the August 2014 meeting, the City of Edmonds was awarded funding through WWRP – Local Parks, RCO Recreation Grants Local Parks Category, and fifty percent sponsor match to purchase the 7.2 acres Civic Center Park from the Edmonds School District. In 2018 the City of Edmonds was awarded funding through WWRP – Local Parks, Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and sponsor match for development needs.

In June 2023, the City of Edmonds celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony highlighting the upgraded athletic fields, playground, skate park, and tennis courts, and the addition of pathways, an outdoor fitness zone, multi-use sports court, bocce courts, a gathering plaza, picnic area, restrooms, petanque courts, pollinator meadow, accessible playground, and more.

Mr. Smith highlighted the work done by Kyle Guzlas, Dan Haws, former Parks Director Carrie Hite, and current Parks Director Angie Feser, who together made these projects possible.

City of Stevenson, Stevenson Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

Russell Malburg, Outdoor Grants Manager, highlighted the Stevenson Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan ([RCO #22-2504](#)) funded through the Planning for Recreation Access (PRA) program. While PRA is not a board funded program, it plays an important role in projects that may come to the board that require a recreation plan, such as Boating Facilities Program (BFP), WWRP – Recreation grants, NOVA, and LWCF. PRA helps remove the recreational plan barrier for sponsors to create the foundational base for future projects.

PRA was established in 2021 by a directive from Legislature and provides \$2.3 million for recreation planning to communities that lack outdoor recreation facilities and resources. Mr. Malburg highlighted sections of the [PRA policy manual](#), emphasizing PRA's intent to prioritize projects that address gaps in racially diverse neighborhoods in dense urban areas and in small, rural communities by providing planning resources necessary to be successful in future funding efforts through board programs or other funding sources. Additionally, PRA prioritizes applicants and communities that have not received an RCO recreation grant in the past ten years.

In 2022, the City of Stevenson submitted their first ever application for an RCO grant and was awarded \$100,000 from PRA to create a comprehensive recreation plan, which was fully funded the grant.

Mr. Malburg briefly highlighted two other PRA grants in his region. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge ([RCO #22-2448](#)) received \$250,000 for increasing outdoor accessibility in the gorge. The Wishram School District ([RCO #22-2500](#)) received \$50,000 for a community park design and cultural resources survey. These sponsors are trying to make a big impact in their communities, and PRA will help them.

Member Craig expressed interest in tracking successful PRA sponsors to see which RCO programs they apply to in the future.

LUNCH: 11:48 AM – 12:46 PM

Item 5: Annual Compliance Report

Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager, provided the annual compliance report as outlined in the [meeting materials](#). The goal of the compliance program is to ensure that sites are managed for the intended purpose, use, and function; sites are open for public access for outdoor recreation; and habitat properties are protected and restored for

wildlife, salmon, and other species consistent with grant program policies. This is accomplished by providing guidance to sponsors and staff on changes that impact a project area; by conducting compliance inspections throughout the state; and noting when a site is in compliance and when there are uses that are inconsistent with the grant.

Compliance staff collaborate with sponsors on compliance issues to identify steps toward resolution. Issues can be resolved when a sponsor is willing and able to take necessary actions to return to compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

There are over 6,300 worksites in the compliance portfolio, which covers thirty-five RCO grant programs. These sites have a long-term compliance obligation ranging from the useful life of the facility to ten years to perpetuity, depending on the grant policy and project type. Board funded projects represent seventy-three percent of the compliance portfolio and salmon projects represent twenty-seven percent. Of board-funded projects, development projects account for forty-one percent, acquisitions account for thirty-seven percent and have perpetual compliance obligations, and restoration accounts for twenty percent.

Local governments are the primary sponsors within the compliance portfolio accounting for forty-five percent of the portfolio. While state agencies represent only one percent of the portfolio, thirty-three percent of projects in the portfolio are from the three major state agencies, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and State Parks.

Ms. Barker outlined the policies provided in [Manual 7](#) including obsolescence, allowable use, exception to conversion, and conversion. Staff apply the board's compliance and program policies to changes in uses or actions that impact the project area and funded facilities. There were requests for fifteen allowable use approvals in 2023, and one is pending. Ms. Barker noted that often there are conditions associated with the approval. In 2023, there were three requests and approvals for exceptions to conversions.

There were 301 unresolved compliance issues in 2023 with the goal of resolving ten percent. Nine percent were resolved, including closing issues related to obsolescence of facilities and transfer of grant agreements.

Five years ago, the agency added a position dedicated to compliance inspections which provided the ability to complete inspections with a review of the file documentation, map grant boundaries, conduct on-site inspections, note inconsistencies or findings, and follow up with the sponsor to resolve issues. A standard inspection protocol was developed and continues to be refined to improve accuracy, consistency, and efficiency

of inspections. Additionally, outdoor grant managers are no longer responsible for conducting compliance inspections and can focus on applications and active grant management.

In 2023, 339 inspections were completed, meeting eighty-five percent of the staff's goal. Sixty-one percent of those were completed on development sites, thirty-eight were acquisition projects, and one percent were restoration projects. Similar to past findings, eighty-six percent of project areas inspected were in compliance. Through this process, nine conversions were discovered and included activities like encroachments on the boundary, private use of a portion of the funded site, funded property was sold, a rental home occurring in a structure within the boundary, and one permanent closure. The most common findings are ineligible structures and no or restricted public access.

Member Burgert asked what happens when a site is found to be out of compliance and the partner is unwilling to address the issues. Ms. Barker noted that in this situation, the primary tactic is to continue communicating with the sponsor. Issues are only resolved when the sponsor is willing and has the resources to work with RCO.

Another option is applying the board's high risk sponsor policy to sponsors who remain unresponsive on resolving conversions. The policy restricts the ability to apply for grant funding in the future if a sponsor continues to be non-responsive for up to two years after receiving the high-risk designation. The board has not applied this policy to date.

Member Craig asked how compliance impacts sponsor eligibility with other programs. Ms. Barker answered that the NPS policy requires consideration of an applicant's compliance record for LWCF. An applicant's compliance history with RCO grant funding is one of the evaluation criteria for the LWCF program. An applicant's compliance history is not a factor in any other grant program evaluation criteria.

Chris Popek, Compliance Inspector, highlighted compliance inspections conducted in 2023 following the compliance inspection strategy. The majority of inspections completed in 2023 were WWRP – Recreation projects, followed by bonds, other recreation grant programs, Boating Facilities Grant Program, LWCF, and salmon grants.

Mr. Popek highlighted three projects from the four largest categories.

- Marine Park in the City of Vancouver ([RCO #70-029D](#), [71-050D](#), [78-076D](#), and [06-1932D](#)) funded with BFP, bonds, and WWRP – Water Access funds for a total of \$394,712.
- Heritage Park in the City of Stanwood ([RCO # 92-239C](#), [97-127D](#), and [18-1981D](#)) funded with WWRP – Local Parks and YAF funds for a total of \$947,039.

- Heller Bar, a WDFW site ([RCO #68-603A](#), [69-611D](#), [73-610A](#), [83-604D](#), and [14-1751D](#)) funded with LWCF, BFP, WWRP – State Lands, and bonds for a total of \$666,291.

Noting that the highlighted projects were funded through multiple programs, **Member Burgess** asked if that was typical. Mr. Popek answered that he chose to highlight projects that utilized multiple grants, but single-grant projects are also common.

Member Craig asked about the digitization of records. Ms. Barker explained that there is an ongoing project that began several years ago to digitize documentation. Reviewing the complete grant file documentation has been incorporated into the protocol for compliance inspections.

Member Bugert asked who makes the final determination on compliance. Ms. Barker explained that the board has decision authority on conversions unless it is twenty percent or less of the original scope, \$75,000 or less, or is a trail re-alignment or property exchange to consolidate management, in which case the director has authority and can decide to elevate to the board if necessary.

Ms. Barker explained that the LWCF program is administered on behalf of the NPS. LWCF takes up around forty percent of compliance staff's time currently, and having Ashley Arambul dedicated to LWCF has helped tremendously. LWCF was created in 1965 to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, parks, trails, and preserve conservation lands. LWCF expired in 2018 but was fully and permanently funded in 2020 under the Great American Outdoors Act.

Revenue for this fund is generated from oil and gas leasing in the outer continental shelf and is currently about \$900 million annually that congress appropriates into three categories: federal land acquisition, state grants, and federal natural resource related programs. Washington's last appropriation was \$6.2 million.

LWCF has a perpetual obligation, and the compliance boundary covers the entire project area. Compliance issues include ineligible and unallowable buildings, boundary encroachments, and road expansions.

Staff are tracking forty-five conversions of LWCF sites; three have been approved and twenty-five are pending.

Ms. Barker highlighted projects that are in compliance.

- In 1966, Columbia Park in Benton County ([RCO #66-001D](#)) was the first project funded by RCO. The park was transferred to the City of Kennewick and has continued to provide outdoor recreation.
- In 1966, WDFW ([RCO #66-604A](#)) was awarded acquisition funding for 279 acres throughout the state for public access to lakes and rivers for fishing and boating.
- In 1979, Tacoma Metro Parks ([RCO #79-041D](#)) was awarded funding to develop People's Park, a small park in the Hilltop neighborhood.
- In 1991, the Prescott Park ([RCO #90-132D](#)) and Recreation District was awarded funding to renovate the community's outdoor swimming pool.
- In 2003, Asotin County ([RCO #03-1053D](#)) used LWCF funding to renovate a portion of a trail adjacent to the Snake River.
- In 2005, the City of Bremerton ([RCO #05-1237A](#)) was awarded funding to acquire a small area to expand Evergreen Rotary Park.

The 2024 Compliance Plan includes completing 400 inspections that prioritize acquisition and LWCF projects; resolving ten percent of compliance issues and completing two conversions; and design and develop an automatic compliance notice in PRISM. In April, Ms. Barker will request approval of a new compliance policy for corrective action, provided in the meeting [materials](#). The board was last briefed on the new policy proposal in June 2023. This policy would provide RCO and a sponsor the ability to develop a plan and timeline for corrective actions on a non-compliant use.

BREAK: 1:29 PM – 1:45 PM

Item 6: State Agency Partner Reports

Governor's Office

Jon Snyder, Governor's Office, shared that due to the upcoming cut-off date, there were few items to report on and anticipated more to report at the next meeting. Mr. Snyder was hopeful for a positive outcome of the bills State Parks, DNR, and WDFW had presented, noting State Parks had two bills, DNR had a bill regarding recreation use on their land, and WDFW had a bill regarding volunteers on their land. In the budget, Governor Jay Inslee had recommended policy proposals from all four agencies including an updated outdoor recreational impact study.

Governor Inslee had the pleasure of seeing former chair, Ted Willhite, at an event in January at the Governor's Mansion celebrating the Washington Wildlife Coalition.

The Governor was touring the state and planned to stop in Spokane at a clean air monitoring station built using CCA funding. Mr. Snyder noted that CCA funds many items in the Governor's budget related to conservation and adjacent to recreation.

Member Craig asked about the forest carbon grant proposal. Mr. Snyder was not sure about the bill. **Director Duffy** clarified that this was not a bill but was a request from RCO for \$5 million in the Governor's budget to create a program. Mr. Snyder expressed support for such a program, adding there was an additional \$8 million added to the budget for trust land transfer for DNR in the supplemental budget.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn was absent and did not provide a report.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Member Peter Herzog, State Parks, shared budget requests for the 2024 supplemental session.

From the operating budget, State parks requested \$14 million for a clean energy and climate adaptation package to address sea level rise; assist with moving the State Parks headquarters from Tumwater to Lacey; address staff housing; conduct outreach and assessments; and increase tribal affairs capacity.

State Parks requested \$13 million from the capital budget, and had \$6 million in the Governor's budget for maintenance, facilities in Twin Harbors, a new round about for the new Nisqually State Park, and renovations at Fort Flagler.

Legislative bills included a department request for guidance to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the commission while considering lived experiences and geography. [Senate Bill 5902](#) asks that interest on funds generated from the parks can be accrued by the agency, which could generate around \$600,000 in revenue to the agency. Additionally, State Parks requested the parkland acquisition account be an unappropriated account to better respond to acquisition opportunities.

State Parks is tracking the suggestion that the Julia Butler Hansen House in Cathlamet should be owned and operated by the State Parks system; however, this could be difficult for a state agency to manage as it is not connected to an existing state park. An additional piece of proposed legislation would allow State Parks to extend the current lease with Saint Andrews Seminary to an eighty-year lease.

An interagency-tribal steering committee has met ten times to discuss recreational impacts to natural and cultural resources and protected tribal rights on state lands. The

steering committee is setting up organizational and administrative systems in support of this State-Tribal effort. Specific work groups have been designated to take on specific tasks. Tribes have limited resources to engage in this work, so a main goal of the effort is to find the resources to expand tribal capacity.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Amy Windrope was absent and did not provide a report.

ADJOURN: 2:00 PM

Motion: Move to **Adjourn.**

Moved By: Member **Burgess**

Seconded by: Member **Craig**

Decision: **Approved**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2024, at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.



Approved by Chair Michael Shiosaki