

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED AGENDA & ACTIONS
June 24-25, 2015

Agenda Items

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
1. Consent Calendar A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – April 8-9, 2015 B. Approve Time Extensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-1237D, City of Cheney, Betz Park Baseball/Softball Fields • 10-1580D, Swinomish Tribe, Swadabs Shoreline Access & Restoration • 11-1064P, City of Entiat, Entiat Moorage • 10-1306A, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Cape Disappointment – Seaview Dunes Acquisition • 10-1383D&R, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Lake Sammamish Beach Renovation and Boardwalk • 11-1074P, United States Forest Service Olympic National Forest Pacific Ranger District, Calawah ATV Trail Planning • 07-1974AD, Malaga-Colockum Community Council, Malaga Community Park C. Volunteer Recognition for Advisory Committees	Motion: Approved, June 25, 2015 Resolution 2015-05, amended to remove the April 8-9, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested
2. Director’s Report A. Director’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative and Budget Update • Discussion on Potential Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Budget Proviso • Policy Report • 2016 Meeting Calendar Proposal B. Grant Management Report C. Performance Report (<i>written only</i>) D. Fiscal Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Billing Update • Omni-circular Update 	Briefing Briefing Briefing	Once the Legislature releases the 2015-17 budget, staff will finalize the approved ranked lists and disseminate them to the board. No follow up action requested. No follow up action requested.
3. State Agency Partner Reports	Briefing	No follow up action requested.

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
4. Follow up from the Board Retreat A. Review performance measures from strategic plan B. Review the reorganized policy lists and three-tier policy plan	Briefing	Member Mayer suggested forming a team to scope the performance measures that meet board, staff, and legislative needs. Chair to decide whether to form a subcommittee, timing, and membership. Staff will review existing strategic plans to summarize common goals and disparities in support of a unified statewide strategy.
5. Review of Revised Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria	Briefing	Staff will present the final draft policies and evaluation criteria for board consideration and approval at September's meeting.
6. Revision to the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Manual to Address Legislative Budget Proviso Language	Briefing	No follow up action requested.
7. Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Tier 2 Project Preview	Briefing	No follow up action requested.
8. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium	Resolution 2015-06 Decision: APPROVED	No follow up action requested.
9. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium	Resolution 2015-07 Decision: APPROVED	No follow up action requested.
10. Land and Water Conservation Fund, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium	Resolution 2015-08 Decision: APPROVED	No follow up action requested.
11. Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium	Resolution 2015-09 Decision: APPROVED	No follow up action requested.
12. Boating Facilities Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Agencies • Local Agencies 	Resolution 2015-10 Decision: APPROVED Resolution 2015-11 Decision: APPROVED	No follow up action requested. No follow up action requested.

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
<p>13. Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the program and categories • Education and Enforcement Category • Nonhighway Road Category • Nonmotorized Category • Off-road Vehicle Category 	<p>Resolution 2015-12 Decision: APPROVED</p> <p>Resolution 2015-13 Decision: APPROVED</p> <p>Resolution 2015-14 Decision: APPROVED</p> <p>Resolution 2015-15 Decision: APPROVED</p>	<p>No follow up action requested.</p>
<p>14. Recreational Trails Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium</p>	<p>Resolution 2015-16 Decision: APPROVED</p>	<p>No follow up action requested.</p>
<p>15. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Trails Data – Sneak Peak</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>No follow up action requested.</p>
<p>16. Process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Director Evaluation</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>No follow up action requested.</p>
<p>17. Overview of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition Strategy</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>The board requested staff briefings on the role of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, and on the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) studies recently published.</p>
<p>18. Conversion Request: Vancouver Waterworks Park (RCO #84-9015D)</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>Staff will present the conversion for board action at the November meeting.</p>
<p>19. Overview of Potential Changes to the Grant Programs and Criteria for 2015-17</p>	<p>Briefing</p>	<p>The board requested information on the use of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), as well as how to continue to use RTP funds.</p>
<p>20. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase III Revisions/Public Hearing</p>	<p>Resolution 2015-17 Decision: APPROVED</p>	<p>No follow up action requested.</p>

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 24, 2015

Place: Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Jed Herman	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Peter Herzog	Designee, State Parks & Recreation Commission
Mike Deller	Mukilteo	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Seattle		

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

**Due to technical difficulties, the recording is intermittent throughout the morning of June 24, 2015.*

Call to Order

Chair Spanel called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Cindy Gower called roll and determined a quorum.

Chair Spanel reminded the board and audience that all decisions made by the board are dependent upon the state capital budget, which the Legislature has not yet finalized.

Chair Spanel asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Willhite moved; Member Deller seconded. Member Mayer requested an adjustment to add more time to the discussion regarding a potential Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) budget proviso and the retreat follow-up (Item 4). Director Cottingham stated that she would discuss the potential WWRP budget proviso during her report (Item 2). The board agreed to adjust the schedule, overlapping with the lunch hour as needed. Motion carried.

Chair Spanel expressed appreciation to all advisory committee volunteers, sharing that each volunteer will receive a signed acknowledgement of their contribution.

Item 1: Consent Calendar

The board reviewed Resolution 2015-05, Consent Calendar, which included the following:

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – April 8-9, 2015
- B. Approve Time Extensions
 - [10-1237D](#), City of Cheney, Betz Park Baseball/Softball Fields
 - [10-1580D](#), Swinomish Tribe, Swadabs Shoreline Access & Restoration
 - [11-1064P](#), City of Entiat, Entiat Moorage
 - [10-1306A](#), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Cape Disappointment – Seaview Dunes Acquisition

- [10-1383D&R](#), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Lake Sammamish Beach Renovation and Boardwalk
 - [11-1074P](#), United States Forest Service Olympic National Forest Pacific Ranger District, Calawah ATV Trail Planning
 - [07-1974AD](#), Malaga-Colockum Community Council, Malaga Community Park
- C. Volunteer Recognition for Advisory Committees

Member Mayer brought up a needed amendment to the April meeting minutes. He moved to remove the meeting minutes from the consent calendar; Member Bloomfield seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-05; Revised

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Pete Mayer

Resolution: APPROVED

Member Willhite moved to approve the April meeting minutes; Member Herzog seconded. Member Mayer noted that the minutes from April's meeting do not accurately reflect an addition to the board retreat discussion of the 2015-17 work plan, specifically that the board agreed that a strategic plan for the Youth Athletic Facilities program should be developed. Chair Spanel directed staff to research the correct language and bring the revised minutes for later approval (see approval later in the minutes).

Item 2: Director's Report

Director's Report: RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham briefly highlighted several agency news items. RCO staff received recognition from the National Trails Program. Darrell Jennings, RCO's State Trails Administrator, did an outstanding job submitting RCO's nomination package. The nomination highlighted RCO's RTP Advisory Committee, which has representatives from various trail user groups, federal and state land managers. As a result, Marguerite Austin, RCO Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, traveled to Washington D.C.'s Capitol Hill to accept an award at the Great Outdoors Week ceremony. RCO was also recognized for its outstanding fiscal accountability.

Director Cottingham recognized Leslie Connelly, RCO Natural Resource Policy Specialist, for completing the extensive SR 520 conversion through the arboretum in Seattle.

Finally, Director Cottingham shared that, as the Legislature has not passed a budget, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) directed state agencies to execute contingency plans for closing government operations. State employees are receiving layoff notices in preparation of a potential government shutdown. On June 1, RCO emailed sponsors, contractors, and partners who hold an active agreement with RCO about the possibility of a shutdown.

Legislative and Budget Updates: Director Cottingham provided an update of the current legislative session, including an overview of the proposed budgets from the Governor, the House, and the Senate. Director Cottingham highlighted a potential transportation revenue package that would result in supplemental funding to the Boating Facilities Program and the Non-highway Off-Road Vehicle Account (NOVA).

Director Cottingham highlighted several potential budget provisos which may impact RCO programs:

- Potential limits on state acquisitions
- Potential review of habitat and recreation funding

- Potential review of the WWRP statute
- Potential for directed projects in YAF
- State Lands Ombuds position

Member Willhite expressed the need to discuss the budget proviso and potential impacts in more detail. He stated that the issues remain, regardless of current or potential budgets. Director Cottingham explained that RCO is limited in terms of advocating for specifics within the Governor's budget, other than initially requested funding amounts, and RCO also cannot advocate for additions to the budget. She explained that there are advocacy groups who serve in that capacity on behalf of RCO's budget. She added that Chair Spanel was able to share letters on the board's behalf with legislators.

Member Mayer asked about discussions that pertain to the role and participation of the board, referring to Member Willhite's comments and Director Cottingham's explanation of limited agency authority.

Director Cottingham shared that her discussions with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC; advocacy group for the WWRP program) resulted in the recommendation that the board take the lead in reviewing the WWRP program. The outcome of the bill reflecting this plan is yet to be determined.

Member Mayer asked about any information that may pertain to the role and responsibility in the WWRP program review, should the bill pass. Director Cottingham explained that the specifics are not known, but as part of the fiscal note (a step in the bill review process), RCO calculated related costs and suggested 3-4 additional meetings led by a facilitator and support staff; the fiscal note amounted to approximately \$62,000.

Member Deller asked about potential negative feedback in response to the bill. Director Cottingham explained that the Legislature felt that the board is too close to the WWRC to remain impartial.

Member Bloomfield stated that this is an opportunity to examine the board's communication plan, specifically regarding the board's role relative, or in contrast to, the WWRC. She suggested using the identity of the board to speak strategically to the power and value of grant programs, rather than individual parties. Chair Spanel acknowledged Member Bloomfield's comments, describing her letters to the Legislature that, in part, distinguished between the board and the WWRC, and spoke to the value of grant programs across the state. Member Mayer requested copies of the chair's letters to the Legislature be shared with board members.

Director Cottingham advised that the final outcome of the budget and potential provisos is still unknown. Tom Bugert, The Nature Conservancy, agreed with Director Cottingham's statement, adding that there is a likely possibility that more than one proviso will be passed as part of the budget. Director Cottingham stated that one is currently focused on funding and acquisitions, and a second is focused on the WWRP review.

Chair Spanel concurred that the outcomes are yet unknown, and current speculation will not change what is ultimately decided. To that point, Member Mayer asked how the board might be kept informed of the ongoing proviso developments or needed communication from the board. Director Cottingham stated the neither the agency nor the board are in a negotiating role at this time, and all agencies and lobbyists are currently waiting for the Legislature to pass the budget. She added that her advocacy efforts have focused on the board to conduct the WWRP review, rather than the Habitat and Recreation Lands

Coordinating Group (Lands group) which is named in another potential proviso. The latter proviso seems to have more traction in the Senate at this time.

Member Bloomfield asked the agency members of the board to speak to any efforts they have contributed to the issue of the WWRP budget proviso.

Member Herman stated that the communication between agencies and the Legislature has been somewhat strained and one-sided, but the budget dilemmas seem to be prevalent across the country. Member Herman is concerned about JLARC potentially conducting the WWRP review, as the scope goes beyond acquisitions to include regulatory policies and structure. DNR has provided data when requested, continuing weekly discussions with the Legislature and remaining supportive.

Member Stohr echoed Member Herman's comments, stating that WDFW also spent a considerable amount of time providing data. The controversy surrounding large WDFW acquisitions has encouraged them to remain supportive. Their largest policy concern is the potential polarization between local recreation acquisitions and larger habitat and conservation easements. He also shared that there is some concern about a bill that places the Ombuds position at the Washington State Conservation Commission, as there is long standing tension between salmon recovery and agriculture practices creating a strong need for neutrality.

Member Herzog shared that State Parks is experiencing a difficult situation where policies seem to be created by the budget, versus a policy development process, and these conversations are not as transparent as the agency would like to see. He added that this may be the way that agencies are governed by the Legislature. In regard to the proviso items, State Parks is cooperating by providing information and input as possible.

Member Deller suggested a discussion for the next strategic planning session that covers the board's role in policy development, to include strategies for dialogue and open communication. Member Herman added that this may be a difficult process to alter, referring to open communications versus budget provisos that create or drive policy. Director Cottingham provided an example of the development of the grazing policy; the agency worked to be ahead of the potential budget provisos and related policies, but explaining the agency's program policies versus the law to sponsors and the Legislature, in terms of public access on acquired lands, continues to be challenging.

Member Mayer commented on the pervasive issue of public access as it translates to real-world projects, and asked how the board can ensure that public access is allowable and part of project plans, contingent upon the grant category funding. He added that this may be part of the grant applications, scoring, etc. that are within the board's authority in order to make better decisions. He stated that these proactive moves promote better practices, without waiting for a budget proviso or other mandate to act.

Chair Spanel responded to Member Mayer's comments, stating that the board does proactively take many of the measures he described. The challenge, she noted, is that public perception heavily influences decisions and actions, and change takes time. She shared that she invited legislative members to attend a board meeting to express any concerns.

Member Willhite agreed that outreach and communication is important and efforts could be improved. The issues brought up this session will be long-term, and he advocated for a continued discussions during subsequent meetings to address them.

Director Cottingham continued with the items from the Director's Report (Item 2 of the board materials), sharing that the Governor recently signed two bills. ESSB 5843, the Outdoor Recreation bill, creates a senior advisor to the Governor on outdoor recreation. Additionally, the position focuses on job creation associated with the industry of outdoor recreation and the bill potentially allocates \$1 million in funding for the "No Child Left Inside" initiative. HB 1392, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Administrative Rate bill would average the administrative rate over the past five biennia, potentially granting RCO with a 4.3% increase this upcoming biennium.

Director Cottingham provided information about issues that are presenting challenges in Congress related to grant programs administered by RCO, namely the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). There are continued efforts to reauthorize the LWCF program, which expires this year, while addressing similar concerns regarding federal land acquisition versus state administered grant programs. The funding proposed in each the federal Senate and House budgets seems fairly consistent with past requests, although they are also dealing with similar issues regarding conservation and recreation. RCO shares a person in Washington D.C. with WDFW and the Puget Sound Partnership who is monitoring the conversations regarding the program in Congress.

The RTP is part of the transportation alternatives in the Map 21 program, which is a highway and transportation funding bill. The program expired two months ago; despite receiving an extension to August, many are advocating for the program to be cut.

2016 Meeting Calendar Proposal: Deputy Director Scott Robinson shared the proposed 2016 board meeting calendar. RCO schedules meeting rooms in the Natural Resources Building up to one year in advance, and the proposed dates are based on grant cycle and legislative scheduling needs. Staff will provide a calendar with potential conflicts from other boards and groups to avoid conflicts as much as possible.

Director Cottingham acknowledged the grant management staff for their efforts in supporting sponsors and preparing for each board meeting.

Director Cottingham invited grant manager Kyle Guzlas to describe some preliminary details regarding the board's tour meeting scheduled for September 15-16 in Spokane. Chair Spanel suggested inviting legislative representatives from neighboring districts on the tour. The board then briefly discussed travel logistics and scheduling.

Grant Management Report: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager, provided a status update on recent grant management activities. RCO sent four staff to the International Trails Symposium in Portland, Oregon, an experience that proved inspiring and educational. Staff also attended the Washington Recreation and Park Association Conference.

Ms. Austin shared that the Washington State Trails Coalition contacted Darrell Jennings, RCO Outdoor Grant Manager and Trails Administrator, to request training later this fall that would support sponsors in the application process. Other requests include staff presentations at the Infrastructure Coordinating Council's convention in October. These activities support the Recreation Trails Plan.

Ms. Austin announced that Washington State received two nominations for national recreational trails in honor of National Outdoors Month. The two recognized trails include the Mount Si Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

At a special awards ceremony on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., the Coalition for Recreational Trails presented their 2015 annual awards, part of the Recreational Trails Program, issued by the National Association of State Park Directors. Washington received the Tom Petri Annual Achievement Award for "Outstanding State Trails Programs," in large part due to the board's strategic efforts and planning, which include the grant program structure, a transparent open public meeting process, the online grants database system, PRISM, the role of the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee, and the efforts that RCO undertakes to ensure fiscal accountability.

Fiscal Report: Chief Financial Officer, Mark Jarasitis, provided an update on the new e-billing process, launched on March 31. Mr. Jarasitis reported that all billings are now submitted, received, and processed electronically. Since the new process began, RCO has received 620 invoices and paid 578 invoices within 30 days of receipt. RCO accounting staff received feedback from grants staff commenting that the process is simple, streamlined, and saves time and paper. Both grants staff and project sponsors appreciate the transparency of the process as all information is now available online.

Member Deller inquired whether any technical issues were identified, as well as the size of RCO's fiscal team. Mr. Jarasitis described some issues discovered on the first day regarding data syncing problems; however, both fiscal and IT staff were able to resolve the problem within a few days. RCO fiscal team consists of four core employees, all outdoor grant managers, and IT staff.

Member Willhite inquired about the process involved for notifying sponsors and staff in the case of a potential layoff. Director Cottingham shared that RCO completed the contingency plan process and all contractors have been notified. Member Willhite asked about the financing regarding e-billing. Director Cottingham shared that the agency is prepared to continue supporting the electronic process, and anticipates becoming fully paperless in the future.

Mr. Jarasitis also updated the board on the new federal omni-circular rules. The omni-circular is a collection of uniform financial requirements, cost principles, and an audit required for all federal funding awards. RCO accounting staff reviewed the omni-circular and identified needed changes to RCO procedures, including changes to agreements in PRISM. Director Cottingham shared that the new rules are already being applied within the agency.

Item 3: State Agency Partner Reports

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Member Herman provided an update for DNR. All state agencies are still awaiting a final budget; all employees received layoff notices and firefighting personnel in Western and Eastern Washington received furlough letters. Member Herman shared news regarding a drought and potential fire-hazard area along the Queets River, as well as an update regarding land and recreational use along the Teanaway. Member Herman shared that RCO money supported conservation efforts in Woodard Bay, rich in cultural history and previously used by Weyerhaeuser as a logging transport site.

Washington State Parks: Member Herzog shared information on behalf of State Parks in a handout comparing State Parks' initial request of \$159 million with the Governor's, House, and Senate budget proposals of \$135, \$140 and \$135 million, respectively. These actions indicate that State Parks may settle at status quo in terms of a final budget. State Parks remains vigilant in ensuring that open parks remain operational. Concerns arose regarding revenue streams, and Mr. Herzog shared that State Parks is exploring additional one-time sources to support gaps in funding. The Discover Pass continues to be a

positive revenue source. Member Herzog shared that the WWRP funding remains volatile, and may be underfunded.

Member Herzog shared information about the State Parks and Recreation Commission activities, recent and upcoming park openings, and the 2nd Annual Capital Campout occurring this coming weekend.

Chair Spanel inquired about the implications of a government shutdown on revenue streams over Fourth of July weekend. Member Herzog noted that the impact would be significant, and they are communicating as much as possible.

Member Deller asked about the private sector amenities that State Parks envisions as drawing more revenue. Member Herzog shared some potential ideas, such as cabins or cell phone towers to draw funding. Member Willhite stated that the communication efforts of the board should reflect today's discussion.

Member Mayer asked about the Subway promotion of the Discover Pass. Member Herzog shared that the Subway promotion is going well and will be going statewide this month.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Stohr briefed the board on the WDFW budget projections. WDFW anticipates a resolution to the \$10M projected deficit. Member Stohr discussed the contingency planning that agencies had to undertake due to the lack of budget and potential issues resulting from non-appropriated funds, lack of spending authority without a budget, concerns about continuing certain operations in the case of a shutdown. Specific impacts mentioned include law enforcement, hydrologic permitting, revenues from salmon stamps and trouble maintaining hatcheries properly running and staffed.

General Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Break: 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 4: Follow up from the Board Retreat

Director Cottingham and Deputy Robinson summarized the agency's follow up actions since the board's April retreat, and provided an overview key performance measures as a basis for discussion. The board needs to determine whether these measures will support meeting their established goals. Topics for discussion included: 1) ideas and directives related to board statutes and strategic plan; 2) agency, board, and WWRP performance measures; and 3) RCO's draft three-tiered policy list.

The first topic addressed board statute (79A.25.005), regarding a "unified statewide strategy" (USS). The board discussed the recently released JLARC study (January 2015) and the emerging scope of work for development of a lands accountability system. The Legislature asked RCO to explore the funding and creation of the accountability system for future use to replicate the JLARC study. A report on the scope of the project is due to the Legislature in December.

From a policy perspective, Member Mayer requested that the board discuss and staff address how the duties of the board are relating to statute, how performance measures are quantified, and how efforts are coordinated across the state to "move the needle" in recreation and conservation progress.

Member Bloomfield discussed the USS concept, advocating that through a roll-up of strategic plans, the board may be able to ask and answer questions regarding how the board is fulfilling their obligations per statute. The measures would then become more than data about where and how much, but about qualifying the data to determine effectiveness. Some programs do this (WDFW's Lands 20/20), but can the board include all these plans and visions in an integrated manner that addresses the schisms between programs and agencies that will then provide measures for progress.

Member Herman addressed Member Bloomfield's comments, stating that agencies have specific missions, statutes, plans, etc. that they must adhere to; however, there is an overarching goal to coordinate with other entities to their best ability. Chair Spanel added to Member Herman's comments, stating that there must be shared control and coordination. Breaking down silos is a concern, but the board statute may not cover all the gaps necessary in doing this work.

Director Cottingham addressed the idea of spatial data in a lands accountability system, stating that funding continues to be a barrier. Member Herzog stated that agencies are faced with large questions regarding land acquisition and conservation that provides context for the board's discussions and goals to reach coalescence between conflicting plans, goals, and missions of respective entities.

Member Mayer stated the SCORP is managed to provide certain outcomes over time, and public surveys inform the SCORP of constantly changing goals and priorities. He asked how the board's work is responsive to recreation use trends as identified by SCORP, and further, how grant programs are adjusted to address the same trends. Member Mayer stated that he is unclear about how the board incorporates a strategic vision to move the needle and respond to data in the SCORP or the trails plan.

Chair Spanel replied stating that the strategy is shared, maybe not as unified as it should be, but that the shared control and feedback moves the needle in a strategic way. Member Mayer continued, stating that he does not see how the board is strategically addressing priorities and plans as outlined in the SCORP and the Recreational Trails Plan.

Member Deller cautioned the board not to address perfection over continuing with work; all measures cannot be synced up with changing components at all times.

Member Willhite expressed greater confidence in the coordination of agencies since his time on the board, but, as a member he believes there is not enough communication about their work. He specified that better communication about what agencies' respective plans are and how they coordinate would be helpful in light of the fact that all plans may not be synced or coordinated perfectly.

Member Bloomfield stated that the board is not at a point where they have been able to organize a response to the problem of coordination and a USS. She suggested a potential way to summarize multiple strategic plans and assess them for overlapping areas to find unity and shared goals to make decisions upon. Member Stohr noted that this is not just a board issue, but a national issue, in that a USS requires time and effort and not all necessary representatives are at the table to have a discussion.

Director Cottingham stated that the policy work presented was intended to be a discussion about the SCORP. Member Mayer stated that the RTP is a good model for addressing the SCORP strategy.

Deputy Director Robinson asked the board if there are other items from the retreat that they would like to discuss at this time. Member Willhite requested a discussion of the budget provisos as shared this

morning during the director's report (Item 2). He asked about coordination with other entities, e.g., JLARC. Director Cottingham responded that RCO does communicate with many entities, including JLARC, the Legislature, etc.

Member Mayer identified a number of policy items from the retreat, asking whether they are still part of the priorities of the board and staff. Director Cottingham responded saying that staff re-prioritized the three policy tiers as requested by the board at the April retreat. She stated that the policy work plan is contingent upon a robust budget and the ability to hire another policy staff member.

Director Cottingham addressed the issue brought up by Member Mayer, of the YAF Strategic Plan, noting that there is currently no funding to do this work and the board will need to determine a feasible way to accomplish it.

Deputy Robinson shared that as a result of the performance measure discussion at the retreat, a copy is included in the board folders for reference. He added that the board may choose to have a discussion on how to refine or adjust these ongoing.

Member Mayer suggested forming a team to scope the performance measures that meet board, staff, and legislative needs. He added that a past board discussion on trails led to an update of the state trails plan with six priorities, some of which are included in Tier 2. He would like to know the progress of the board in meeting those priorities in tomorrow's discussion.

Deputy Robinson advised that there is room for change, but it must be addressed slowly to refine and adjust criteria.

Item 5: Review of Revised Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria

Meg O'Leary, RCO Policy Administrator, summarized the proposal of changing two existing policies and adding three new policies to the WWRP Farmland evaluation criteria and program policies. Ms. O'Leary shared that staff is soliciting input on the proposed changes to the policies, the revised evaluation criteria, and whether to proceed with the public review process as outlined for the next grant cycle in 2016. Ms. O'Leary outlined the proposed policy changes and revisions to the evaluation criteria which include seven main elements: land, infrastructure, stewardship, community values, building envelope, match, and easement duration. A crosswalk of the current and proposed changes is included in the board memo (Item 5).

Member Bloomfield asked about the language describing allowable costs, specifically regarding the cost of protecting the right to develop a trail versus the cost to develop the trail, as she sees the former as an indirect cost. She described a rangeland example, where the boundaries along private ownership or agricultural be used to provide public access and application score should not be lowered due to the amount of impervious surfaces involved in trail development. Director Cottingham clarified that if the landowner agrees to public access as an allowable use, then the grant category criteria allows for that element.

Member Mayer would like to see public access for recreation maximized, within the criteria and requirements of the Farmland Preservation Program. He referenced the points awarded for stewardship, and suggested that there be reference to public access or use as counting for points.

Member Willhite asked whether the criteria addresses private landowners' actions on their land in the face of competing public interests. Director Cottingham explained that such issues don't necessarily pertain to farmland areas and more to conservation easement lands, due to IRS restrictions on fee simple lands. Member Willhite asked if there is criteria for higher level review, as there should not be. Director Cottingham confirmed that there is not a higher review component.

Member Mayer asked about planning requirements for local zoning classifications. Director Cottingham stated that there is no planning requirement for the farmland category, but zoning must qualify under the agriculture open space tax requirements.

Member Mayer asked about impervious surface limits and where this level was established. Director Cottingham stated that RCO attempted to follow guidelines from Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) requirements on impervious surfaces.

Ms. O'Leary outline the next steps incorporating any changes provided by the advisory committee. In July and August the revisions will be shared openly for public comment. Staff will present the final draft policies and evaluation criteria for board consideration and approval at September's meeting.

Member Mayer noted that the new language for recreational trails on farms (page 4 of the board memo) says "allowed" versus the previous language stating "encouraged," and it should be more clear in the intention behind the criteria. Director Cottingham agreed that both words should be incorporated in the new policy changes.

Member Willhite asked whether additional points would be awarded if it fits into the comprehensive trails plan, specifically whether points should be awarded for connecting to established national trails and encourage connectivity. Director Cottingham expressed concerns regarding criticisms from the farmland community that more non-farming criteria drive prioritization, and there should be clear focus on either farmland preservation or recreation. She suggested bringing that question to the advisory committee.

Member Mayer agreed with Member Willhite on the issue of promoting connectivity, while meeting mutual interests and still protecting the purpose of the farmland preservation program.

Item 6: Revision to the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Manual to Address Legislative Budget Proviso Language

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Grant Manager, presented a brief history of the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program progress over the past year. RCO received almost two-hundred letters of intent in August 2014, which received board approval at the April 2015 meeting. Based on the higher level of letters of intent received, RCO is uncertain as to why the pre-application level is lower than anticipated (only 26 received). It seems that sponsors are not as ready as they anticipated, due to reasons such as lack of match or general un-readiness. Applications are due July 1, 2015 and the board will approve grant awards in November 2015.

Ms. Austin discussed the proposed budget proviso for the YAF program, in which RCO must require grant recipients of youth recreation field grants to have a fee waiver policy for youth athletic clubs who use the fields acquired, developed or renovated with funds from this appropriation. The fee waiver policy must discount or waive fees based on the youth athletic club's rates charged and scholarships provided to low-income athletes compared to other clubs using the fields.

The proviso language was distributed by the Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA) to their constituents, and some concerns arose regarding fee restrictions as they may limit revenue.

Ms. Austin noted that should the proviso pass, it would be incorporated into the YAF program policies but will not require any board action.

Member Mayer stated that there is that encourages investment in urban areas, which may create some overlap in this program.

Item 7: Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Tier 2 Project Preview

Laura Moxham, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, presented an overview of the Tier 2 applications which have been submitted for federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program funding in federal fiscal year 2016. Ms. Moxham briefly summarized the program criteria, eligibility requirements, funding maximums and match requirements, and the types of evaluation processes.

The BIG Tier 2 projects are received on an annual cycle. This year, 2015, two applications have been received totaling \$1,135,000. Final applications are due August 14, 2015.

Ms. Moxham provided a summary of each project application: 1) Point Hudson Jetty Replacement at the Point Hudson Marina, submitted by the City of Port Townsend; and 2) Eagle Harbor City Dock Replacement at the Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park on Bainbridge Island, submitted by the City of Bainbridge Island.

Ms. Moxham summarized the new federal rule changes (omni-circular) as they apply to the BIG program, resulting in some Tier 1 and Tier 2 classifications and changes to the evaluation criteria. A chart describing all changes and resulting program differences is included in the board materials (Item 7).

Member Herman asked which entity will determine useful life, and the recorded interests of real property. Ms. Moxham explained that RCO would determine this in part, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the term of the useful life would be the recorded interest, rather than in perpetuity. Director Cottingham clarified that the new rules/changes are more in line with how RCO addresses property development policy at this time.

Member Deller asked about the percentage of slips in a particular project that must be 26' or greater to qualify. Ms. Moxham explained that the BIG program will only allow application for costs associated with the proration provided for slips that serve boaters with vessels greater than 26' in length, e.g., if fifty percent of the slips are 26' or greater, then the sponsor may apply for fifty percent of the cost.

Member Mayer asked what the match source is for the Port of Port Townsend project. Ms. Moxham responded that the sponsor intends to increase their bond capacity, and may form an industrial development district to be eligible for additional funding.

Ms. Moxham shared that it is part of the policy to allow public comment on any proposal forwarded for national competition. Staff will bring policy changes at a later meeting for board decision.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Lunch: 12:40 p.m. – 1:21 p.m.

Board Business: Grant Awards

Item 8: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Ms. Austin presented an overview of the WWRP program, including a brief description of the eleven grant categories and the program's structure, and the ranked lists for 2015-17. The board already approved the WWRP ranked lists at the October 2014 meeting, in order to meet the November 1, 2014 deadline.

Ms. Austin described the funding structure, funding allocations to the WWRP and individual categories, and funding formulas that support the program. Ms. Austin outlined the statutory requirements for each program category; two programs will not be funded unless the 2015-17 appropriation is over \$40 million (Farmland and Riparian Protection). Returned funds from the current or prior biennia may be rolled into alternates on the project lists. The Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts' surplus, if any, may be allocated to other categories within the same account.

Member Mayer asked for clarification regarding the statutory formula for acquisitions versus development in the WWRP program. Ms. Austin shared that the formulas are somewhat flexible (e.g. at least 50% for acquisitions, but could be more), however the board previously decided that they did not want to play "catch up" and have since maintained as much balance as possible.

Ms. Austin specified that per Washington Administrative Code (WAC), applicants must certify that they have a funding match in place. RCO notified sponsors in mid-April and found that four projects did not certify match. Some sponsors also withdrew their applications for individual reasons.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board finalize and adopt the ranked project lists and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-06).

Public Comment

Neil McClure, President of the Yakima Greenway Foundation, addressed the board. He expressed appreciation for the RCO process and its positive impacts on the Greenway. He thanked the board for their efforts, as Greenway-related projects have significantly added to a generational quality of life in the community. Mr. McClure acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the partnership and funding from the board, and thanked the board again for their work and contributions.

Member Willhite asked Mr. McClure to speak about the merit of awarding points for connectivity. Mr. McClure agreed that it has incredible value, and partnering with Naches and Yakima have supported the success of these projects. Connectivity creates more fruitful projects with added value.

Member Mayer thanked Mr. McClure for his comments, noting that he has experience the Greenway firsthand. He acknowledged the effort that has gone into developing that project, thanked Mr. McClure for this work and contributions.

Member Bloomfield thanked Mr. McClure as well, noting that he is a personal friend. The vision to extend the Greenway concept south leads to greater opportunities for connectivity, and the dynamic interconnected trail system will benefit the state. Mr. McClure concurred.

Jack McCarn, Port of Waterman Commissioner, shared that, as one of the smallest ports in the state, the efforts of the board are greatly appreciated. The port generates little income, a few jobs, and some resources; the project would not be possible without funding from the board. Projects are ready to move forward, contingent upon funding approval.

Chair Spanel asked about the location of the port. Mr. McCarn stated that the port is located in Kitsap County, to the east of Bremerton. He added that the port will be part of a new kayak trail, part of which includes a pea gravel beach for launching kayaks with minimal services.

Resolution 2015-06

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 9: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Sarah Thirtyacre, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, presented an overview of the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA). The board already approved the ALEA ranked lists at the October 2014 meeting, in order to meet the November 1, 2014 deadline.

Ms. Thirtyacre described the program goals and applicant eligibility. State agencies, local governments, and Native American tribes are eligible applicants within this program (all must provide a 50% match). This year, RCO received twenty-three applications. If all projects were funded this would total an investment of over \$27 million, with over \$17 million provided in match. In accordance with WAC, all applicants certified their match in advance of this meeting.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-07).

Member Deller asked who determines a navigable waterway. Member Herman shared that DNR determines this.

Public Comment

Member Spanel invited Mr. McCarn for further public comment. Mr. McCarn spoke to the project's ranking on the list and thanked the board again for their work, as the ALEA program is important to the county.

Member Deller asked about the Port of Waterman's bond capacity. Mr. McCarn stated they are anticipated funding from WWRP to braid with other sources.

Tony Bolstad, Port Commissioner of Skamania County, sponsor of project number 12 on the ranked list, stated that the ALEA grant would be of great benefit to the community. He described the related recreational and tourism activities that would come as a result and support the Stevenson community. It is currently the premier wind-surfing location on the Washington State side, reliant on tourism and competing with Hood River, OR, across the river.

Member Deller commented on the project as an example of the connectivity of economic development and recreation. Mr. Bolstad shared information about a meeting between the City of Stevenson and the port regarding connectivity goals, specifically the trail system.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-07

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 10: Land and Water Conservation Fund, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Ms. Moxham presented an overview of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program goals and the top ten recreation activities. Ms. Moxham stated the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) program not only ensures Washington State's LWCF grant eligibility, but also serves as a tool that helps decision-makers and recreation-providers prioritize acquisition, renovation, and development of recreational resources statewide.

There were four priorities identified for Washington State which included 1) considering the changing demographics in the project area; 2) continuing to offer diverse outdoor recreational opportunities; 3) maximizing sustainability and environmental stewardship; and, 4) placing more emphasis on improving accessibility for recreationists with disabilities. These priorities have been incorporated in the evaluation criteria questions for the program and this list of projects was evaluated against these priorities.

Ms. Moxham described the applicant eligibility requirements, and shared that RCO had thirteen project applications requesting approximately \$5.7 million in grant funds, exceeding last year's requests by over \$1.4 million. Including the sponsor match, this represents over \$28 million in investments. This grant round is the first since the SCORP was released.

Ms. Moxham shared a map of the spatial distribution of the ranked projects, highlighting one of the ranked projects from the east side of the state and noting how the project met the four priorities as identified above. She then described the federal program goals and scoring comparison across projects. Ms. Moxham commented on the great diversity between project sponsors and project types.

Member Willhite asked for thoughts on why only one project on the east side of the state was submitted. Ms. Moxham noted that the stringent federal program requirements sometimes serve as a deterrent, and many sponsors opt for the local parks grant category instead.

Ms. Moxham proceeded to describe the LWCF top-ranked project, North Creek Forest Acquisition Phase 3 (#14-1362). The project would acquire up to 22 acres of urban forest for hiking and walking trails, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and conservation and recreation opportunities. The project has gone through several stages of land acquisitions, receiving a great amount of local support and public media attention. The project accomplished three of the four SCORP priorities.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-08).

Member Herman inquired about the appraisal calculation accuracy. Ms. Austin confirmed that the amounts are correct.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-08

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 11: Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Adam Cole, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, provided an overview of the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program which supports activities including handgun, muzzleloader, rifle, shotgun, and archery activities.

Mr. Cole described the unique match and liability insurance requirements, as well as the applicant eligibility requirements. Mr. Cole described the make-up of the advisory committee, comprised of local, state, and tribal community members.

Mr. Cole presented a recently completed FARR project at the Gig Harbor Sportsmen's Club - Lead Shot Containment Curtain 2012 (RCO Project 12-1745). The project resulted in a shot containment curtain measuring 510" long by 50" high. The total cost was approximately \$230,000, of which \$150,000 came from the FARR program.

Mr. Cole highlighted programmatic changes for this year's applications. In addition to raising the maximum grant award from \$100,000 to \$150,000, in January of 2014, the board also approved several other updates to the program:

- Do not fund recommendation,
- Additional public hearing requirement,
- Implementing the sustainability policy,
- New compliance period for land acquisitions,
- Design certification and inspection.

Member Deller asked about the historic funding level for the program. Mr. Cole replied that it has ranged from \$500,000 - \$800,000; this year's funding level was about \$580,000. Director Cottingham added that the funding is from \$3.00 from all concealed weapon permits.

Mr. Cole provided overall statistics on the project applications received this year, then proceeded to describe the FARR top-ranked project, Issaquah Sportsmen's Club Sound Abatement (RCO Project #14-2101). The project aims to reduce noise leaving the rifle and pistol ranges.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-09).

Public Comment

Dennis Witcher, Secretary of the Yakima Valley Sportsman's Association, thanked the board for their work and the opportunity to apply for grant funding. He spoke of the generational use of the Yakima facility, and shared that the RCO staff, Laura Moxham and Marguerite Austin, have been very professional and helpful in the process.

Member Deller asked how many members that the facility would support. Mr. Witcher stated that there are approximately 100 shooters, but also noted that several programs, including some for youth, are supported by this program.

Member Mayer asked whether law enforcement shares the range. Mr. Witcher stated that the range is not shared as it is too small and differs in regulatory use.

Resolution 2015-09

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Jed Herman

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 12: Boating Facilities Program, Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Kyle Guzlas, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, presented an overview of the Boating Facilities Program (BFP). Since the program started, RCO has funded 629 total projects. By statute, the BFP is split into two categories for state and local agency projects with equally divided funding.

Mr. Guzlas highlighted several recently completed projects: 1) Lake Sammamish Boat Launch Improvements, State Parks, 2) Sling Launch Renovation, Port of Edmonds, 3) Lake Samish Access Site Renovation, WDFW, and 4) Langley Boat Ramp Boarding Floats, Port of South Whidbey.

Mr. Guzlas provided overall statistics on the project applications received this year for the state agency category, then proceeded to describe the category's top-ranked project: Martin Access Boat Ramp (RCO #14-1777), sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and located close to the city of Woodland, in Cowlitz County. Because of the close proximity to the main stem of the Columbia River, this ramp receives extensive use and has degraded over time. WDFW design and permitting staff are familiar with this type of design. WDFW constructs several access sites a year and is efficient in their design and construction methods.

Local governments (which include cities, counties, park and port districts, and other special purpose districts) and tribal governments are eligible applicants in the local agency category. Mr. Guzlas provided overall statistics on the project applications received this year for the local agency category, then proceeded to describe the category's top-ranked project: Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Ramp Extension (RCO #14-2100). The Port of Bellingham will extend the ramps at the Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch facility. Major elements include removal and demolition of some existing panels, minor dredging of built up material at the toe of the ramp, sub-grade preparation, setting pre-cast panels, and placing rip rap.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolutions 2015-10 and 2015-11).

Member Willhite observed that the Martin Access Site allows for further connectivity, a continuing theme.

Member Mayer asked about the accessibility needs of boat launches and ramp/gangway projects. Mr. Guzlas shared that he consulted with Rory Calhoun, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, to determine the accessibility details. Mr. Calhoun addressed the board, stating that conditions are improving. Staff is supporting sponsors in building in accessibility components into their projects more thoroughly and intentionally, noting that this is improving project diversity and quality.

Director Cottingham added that Mr. Calhoun will be representing RCO on the Boating Safety Advisory Group.

Member Stohr asked about the Lake Pateros Boat Launch. Mr. Cole came forward and described the project conditions, noting that RCO funds were not used for in-water work.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-10, State Agencies

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-11, Local Agencies

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer

Seconded by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution: APPROVED

Item 13: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Darrell Jennings, Senior Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, and Dan Haws, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, presented an overview of the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program and submitted projects. The NOVA is the only grant program required by statute, and is divided into four different categories: non-highway, non-motorized, off-road vehicles, and education and enforcement. Funding comes from a portion of the motor vehicle fuel tax, which is used for grants and grant program administration. The Off-road vehicle category receives funding from Off-road vehicle permit fees in addition to the fuel tax funds. While RCO prepares many grant program plans, the NOVA plan is the only one required by statute; it is updated every six years.

Mr. Jennings described the programmatic changes that apply to the 2014 grant round, including the adoption of a new NOVA plan, revised definitions for development and maintenance projects, updated evaluation criteria, application metric changes, and the requirement against "equipment only" grants. Mr. Jennings stated that, in general, only government agencies can apply for NOVA program funds. To be eligible to apply, agencies must have a long-range strategic plan on file. Over half of the 119 proposals were submitted by the U.S. Forest Service (62 projects in total); DNR submitted the second largest number of proposals (43 projects); local agencies third (11 projects); and State Parks and WDFW comprised the remainder (3 projects).

Member Mayer asked about the education and enforcement category funding splits. Mr. Jennings stated that a portion goes to law enforcement, but it is not exclusive. Member Mayer asked about the non-highway category criteria. Mr. Jennings said he would address that question in the individual category descriptions next in his presentation.

Mr. Jennings described the Education and Enforcement program criteria, applicant eligibility, funding structure, and top-ranked project: RCO #14-1838E, Snoqualmie Corridor, sponsored by DNR.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-12).

Public Comment

Glen Glover, Executive Director of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, thanked the board and staff for their leadership and administration of grant funding. He acknowledged the transparency of RCO's processes and inclusion of stakeholder participation. He encouraged the board to approve the ranked lists as presented, sharing that his organization's project is ranked number four on the list.

Resolution 2015-12, Education and Enforcement Category

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Mr. Haws described the Nonhighway Road (NHR) program criteria, applicant eligibility, funding structure, and top-ranked project: RCO #14-2130M, Methow Valley Campground Maintenance, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District. The project will address the many maintenance issues and duties most commonly found in campground facilities.

Member Deller asked about the role of forest rangers in enforcement on lands funded by NOVA grants. Mr. Haws explained that there is always a ranger present to oversee maintenance or address problems or violations (vandalism, etc.) at a higher level. Generally they are there to serve as crew leaders and accomplish the work.

Member Mayer asked for a definition of a nonhighway road. Mr. Haws and Mr. Jennings explained that it is often a public agency road, such as U.S. Forest Service roads, DNR roads, or non-city, non-county, or non-state-highway roads. Ms. Austin clarified that part of the gas tax fees support those going to use roads not supported by gas tax funds to get to recreation sites.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-13).

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-13, Nonhighway Road Category

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Pete Mayer

Resolution: APPROVED

Mr. Haws described the Nonmotorized program criteria, applicant eligibility, funding structure, and top-ranked project: RCO #14-1800, Naches Wilderness Trails Maintenance and Operations, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District. The project will fund a four-person trail crew, plus a crew leader and materials, to maintain the Naches backcountry trail systems.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-14).

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-14, Nonmotorized Category

Moved by: Member Betsy Bloomfield

Seconded by: Member Mike Deller

Resolution: APPROVED

Mr. Haws described the Off-road Vehicle program criteria, applicant eligibility, funding structure, and top-ranked project: RCO #14-1799M, Naches Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operations, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District. This project will maintain approximately 250 miles of motorized trails for motorcycles, quads and four wheel drive vehicles and is supported by over 2,000 hours of volunteer labor.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-15).

Member Deller asked about the distinction and proximity of off-road versus nonmotorized program criteria. Mr. Haws explained that typically the use is established and there is usually a distance between the two conflicting trail/road uses. Member Herman added that user groups help with educational component of these areas.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Resolution 2015-15, Off-road Vehicle Category

Moved by: Member Pete Mayer
Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite
Resolution: APPROVED

Break: 3:40 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Item 14: Recreational Trails Program, Review and Approve Ranked Lists for the 2015-17 Biennium

Mr. Jennings described the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), a federal-aid assistance program intended to help states create and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail use. The program's goal is to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance on recreational trails that provide a backcountry experience.

Mr. Jennings provided background on the sources of policy guidance for RTP, then proceeded to provide general statistics regarding the 2014 grant requests (total funding amounts) and 2014 applications as compared to other grant programs. Applications vary somewhat by sponsor, but are mainly comprised of federal agencies and non-profit organizations.

RTP is divided into two categories of projects: general and education. Mr. Jennings provided details regarding respective category criteria, funding, metrics, and notable changes for the 2014 grant round.

The top-ranked general category project was RCO #14-1981M, Front Country Trail Maintenance. The Washington Trails Association (WTA) will use this grant to maintain 375 miles of hiking trails in Washington. "Front country" means a focus on the first three miles of a trailhead.

The top-ranked education category project is RCO #14-1974E, Snoqualmie Volunteer Ranger program for 2016-2017, sponsored by the Snoqualmie Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Grant funding will be used to hire a Volunteer Program Coordinator, who will recruit, train, supervise, and support volunteer rangers patrolling the Alpine Lakes, Clearwater, and Norse Peak Wilderness areas and surrounding backcountry.

Mr. Jennings described the RTP federal assured access requirements. As a way to distribute the funding equitably, projects are categorized into five types of uses that the trail or trails serve and each category has a minimum amount of funding it receives. Once the board approves the ranked list of projects, RCO staff must apply these percentages to allocate the funding.

Mr. Jennings summarized the annual advisory committee meeting. Feedback from the meeting centered on three main areas: the application process and rankings, evaluation criteria, and the evaluation materials.

Mr. Jennings concluded by summarizing feedback from surveys conducted of the advisory committees (evaluators), applicants, and grants staff. Feedback was centered on two main themes: timing of the grant application materials and cycle, and application materials and scopes of work.

As the Legislature has not yet finalized a budget, staff requested that the board adopt the ranked project list and delegate authority to the RCO Director to award grant funding contingent upon approval of a 2015-17 state capital budget (Resolution 2015-16).

Member Deller asked about the historic funding levels and estimates of volunteer labor. Mr. Jennings stated that it is approximately \$1.8M per year, over 2 years. Donated unskilled labor is valued at approximately \$14.00-\$15.00 per hour, and skilled labor is valued at their respective professional wage rate.

Member Mayer asked about the role of indirect funds in this grant program. Mr. Jennings explained that 7% is allocated for administration, and the rest is allocated for grant funding; however, this amount did not allow overhead or indirect rates, and with the new federal rules, this amount will change and will be available to recipients through a negotiated rate or 10% base rate.

Member Mayer asked whether the program has always limited the eligibility to trails maintenance. Mr. Jennings replied in the affirmative. Member Mayer asked if this was a board decision, and revisited since the program's inception. Mr. Jennings and Director Cottingham replied that it was a board decision, and has not been revisited.

Public Comment

Debbie Jahnke, City of Port Townsend, addressed the board regarding the ability of smaller entities to compete in the grant round process. She shared that their application was compiled by volunteers, and while acknowledging the work of other larger entities, the Port Townsend trails are part of the whole community's daily life. She described the project application's purpose and goals, and how the city intends to fund the match.

Member Willhite thanked Ms. Jahnke for providing comments, and asked about how, from her perspective, should the inequity of organizations who are able or have capacity for grant-writing be addressed. Ms. Jahnke shared that she was impressed about the ability of smaller agencies to compete, and thought the process was equitable in that way. She suggested a potential weighting of applications, so that one applicant would only be able to have one project ranked in the top ten, or something equivocal.

Ted Jackson, RTP Evaluator, reported to the board regarding his participation as an evaluator. He suggested allowing evaluators to devote time to present a project of their choosing for the board's information. He asked about the federal funding for RTP used for forest-oriented projects, but noted that he appreciated the current use of project funds.

Resolution 2015-16

Moved by: Member Ted Willhite

Seconded by: Member Pete Mayer

Resolution: APPROVED

Board Business: Briefings

Item 15: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Trails Data – Sneak Peak

Darrell Jennings, Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager, and Jenny Konwinski, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), shared information about the GIS trails data project. The project was initiated in 2013 as a student and OCIO driven initiative. In collaboration with RCO, the OCIO applied for NOVA funding in 2014. The project will help meet state trails plan goals.

Mr. Jennings provided history of previous trail-mapping efforts. Ms. Konwinski provided an overview of the current project goals. The trails database was designed using federal standards as a guide and contains about 12,000 miles of trails information. Ms. Konwinski described the data collection process and outreach efforts for the project.

Ms. Konwinski presented an example of the data dictionary used to build the database for trails and trailheads, and described their quality assurance and data review processes. She described tools for future data collection efforts, including Esri's Collector for ArcGIS and a web-based file upload form, and showed examples of both. Ms. Konwinski concluded by sharing the project accomplishments.

Mr. Jennings discussed data that is still missing, the future work needed, and next steps for collaboration between RCO and OCIO. Ms. Konwinski shared that OCIO will be sharing the data maps in the next few weeks. She also described an upcoming pilot program with state agencies to allow those that maintain trails access to the database to update their own trails data. Mr. Jennings concluded by advocating for an ongoing commitment to continue to update, maintain, and manage existing trail resources, and to review and add new trail resources.

Member Bloomfield asked about the number of trail miles accounted for in the data. Mr. Jennings replied that there is some data missing and may not account for all trails in the state.

Member Herzog asked about the public availability of the data. Ms. Konwinski shared that while the data will be static, they are still determining how to address source data (ownership issues). However, the maps will be available.

Member Willhite asked whether the Pacific Crest Trail data was incorporated. Ms. Konwinski noted that some of the data needs work to clean it up or update it, along with many other data sources. Member Willhite furthered his question, asking if the plan is to make the data available to public users. Director Cottingham responded, stating that the proprietary questions have not been answered and there is a need to protect the source data for integrity purposes. The ultimate goal is to share it publicly.

Member Mayer commended the work of Ms. Konwinski and the collaborative efforts of other trails data managers. He asked about the allowable uses as outlined in the RTP, and whether funding could support the maintenance of the trails database. Mr. Jennings replied that this is still some uncertainty, both in Washington and with other states.

Member Bloomfield commented on the gaps in trails data, and appreciated the visual demonstration of where work needs to be done. Member Herman agreed.

Member Willhite stated that part of the issue is the definition of a trail, and the GPS points for determining these areas. Member Herzog noted that the data could support the Discover Pass initiative, supporting users with more information about recreational trails. Director Cottingham shared that similar conversations occur regarding funding and use of the boating app.

Mr. Jennings reported on the trails plan progress, and coordinated efforts with the Washington State Trail Coalition in support of the plan's goals.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:03 p.m. by Chairwoman Spanel.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 25, 2015

Place: Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Jed Herman	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Peter Herzog	Designee, State Parks & Recreation Commission
Mike Deller	Mukilteo		
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Seattle		

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

Call to Order

Chair Spanel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Cindy Gower called roll, and a quorum was determined. Member Stohr was excused.

Chair Spanel asked the board to review the revised April 8-9, 2015 meeting minutes. Member Deller made a motion to approve the revised minutes; Member Mayer seconded the motion. Director Cottingham noted that this would be added to Tier 3 of the work plan, with the expectation to find funding, and explore the scope of work. Member Mayer would like to add this as a future agenda item. Motion approved.

Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, led a discussion regarding potential changes to the 2016 meeting calendar provided at yesterday's meeting. One change includes shifting the August dates from 17-18 to 24-25. Ms. Loosle will contact WDFW for potential meeting conflicts based on the new dates.

Board Business: Request for Direction

Item 16: Process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Director Evaluation

Deputy Robinson described the annual evaluation process for the RCO director. The process was revised in 2014, where on even numbered years the board would hold a midterm performance evaluation, and on odd numbered years there would be a full performance evaluation. As part of the latter process, there would be a director self-assessment, and a partner/staff survey.

Deputy Robinson proposed a timeline for completing the full performance evaluation, allowing time for the survey, self-assessment, the formal director evaluation conducted by the board, and final evaluation shared with the Governor's Office. Deputy Robinson requested dates for completing the process from the board.

Chair Spanel asked about the timeline for the survey. Deputy Robinson stated that he would need at least four weeks, though the exact dates are flexible.

Chair Spanel noted that in previous evaluations, the board had formed a three-person sub-committee, comprised of the chair, one citizen member, and one agency member. Member Deller volunteered to be part of the subcommittee. Chair Spanel will speak with Member Stohr and Member Herzog to determine the agency member.

Member Mayer summarized the sub-committee process and how they engaged with the board prior to the executive section, asking for confirmation on the steps. Chair Spanel summarized the previous full performance process headed under the previous chair, noting the need for additional time to incorporate feedback from the survey and time to meet with the Governor's staff.

Member Deller asked that Deputy Robinson would gather information from the past sub-committee processes (persons contacted, questions asked, etc.) to prepare for the process.

Chair Spanel will coordinate with Deputy Robinson to form and prepare for the subcommittee process.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 17: Overview of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition Strategy

Cynthia Wilkerson and Julie Sandberg, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), framed the presentation by sharing WDFW's mission statement and reasons for land acquisitions. Ms. Wilkerson provided a history of WDFW land acquisitions; currently, WDFW owns and manages over one million acres of land, including conservation easements. She summarized the WDFW conservation tools, land acquisition principles, and conservation initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to "preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities."

Chair Spanel asked about lands that are ecologically and socially important. Ms. Wilkerson related this to economically or socially important species, such as salmon, and described the concept of working lands as an example.

Member Mayer asked about the classification of managed versus owned land. Ms. Wilkerson explained that WDFW manages the value of the land based on use, e.g., a boat launch, or conservation easement. The property may be owned privately, but WDFW will work with the owner to ensure that the use is meeting the habitat conservation plan currently in place.

Member Mayer asked if the conservation easements described by Ms. Wilkerson are included in the public lands inventory. Director Cottingham shared that this level of detail is not readily available. Member Mayer asked how the information is shared with the public; Member Herman described the simple fee process and how public lands information is shared among agencies, land owners, etc. Director Cottingham shared that the aggregate data for conservation easements is shared, although specific geographic locations are not included. Member Bloomfield noted that protection areas account for a large percentage of managed lands. Ms. Sandberg noted that agency partnerships create these "checkerboard" management of parcels.

Member Willhite asked about the purpose of the initiative specifically whether it is part of the WAC. Ms. Sandberg clarified that it is agency policy. The acquisition principles and conservation initiatives help guide the agency when it decides whether to purchase and manage lands.

Member Willhite asked if the WDFW principles and initiatives are coordinated with the SCORP or other plans. Director Cottingham clarified that the SCORP is RCO's plan; Chair Spanel added that the coordination or alignment of policy could be part of a later board discussion.

Member Willhite asked about how the WDFW policies are coordinated across other agencies and partners. Ms. Wilkerson shared that they work to share their policy with other groups, such as with the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group.

Ms. Wilkerson described the acquisition process through the following steps: 1) scoping and need, 2) evaluation and prioritization, 3) transaction and implementation, and 4) integrating ownership.

Scoping and need involves evaluating the fundamental building blocks of species and land use/needs, and evaluating where more conservation action is needed. The perspective is both statewide and regional, with land acquisition priorities categorized by habitat type, e.g., aquatic habitats, critical habitat for specific species, terrestrial habitats, statewide priority landscapes, etc.

The statewide priority landscapes initiative drives agency coordination through a framework of policy, maintenance, appropriate authority, evaluation of use and value, etc. that then informs the Lands 20/20 process. Ms. Wilkerson continued by describing the acquisition priorities and how these are determined through the vision of shared values.

Ms. Wilkerson shared information about WDFW's conservation partners, including the board, and the work of the Lands 20/20 initiative, transaction procedures, funding sources, and future partnerships and investments.

Ms. Wilkerson described the Lands 20/20 process as the step of evaluation and prioritization in the acquisition process. The goal is to develop statewide and regional priorities together. Part of the acquisition process includes several steps for technical review, executive recommendations, public review, and a presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission).

Member Mayer asked about the order of review for projects. Ms. Wilkerson explained that the executive management team approves projects, which are then presented to the Commission after funding is acquired (potentially after the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board process).

Ms. Wilkerson described the main funding sources as the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)(ALEA, WWRP), the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She shared a historical overview of awards received through the various RCO grant categories. Director Cottingham noted that other grant categories, mainly federal sources, may be included (e.g., LWCF, ESRP, etc.).

Ms. Sandberg described the land transaction process, as part of the transaction implementation step in the acquisition process. Steps include finding and negotiating with willing sellers, obtaining fair market appraisal, negotiation and final agreements, and approval by the Commission.

In the final step of integrating ownership, Ms. Sandberg described the operation and maintenance process and funding included in the operation budget.

Member Mayer asked about the FERC process, specifically whether WDFW has obtained funding through the FERC relicensing process. Ms. Sandberg noted that she would need to defer to Member Stohr, not present today. Member Bloomfield noted that funds have come through mitigation for power lines, irrigation, and shrub steppe habitat that constitute other contracted funding sources.

Ms. Sandberg shared base funding sources, including the Discover Pass, and the operational (staffing) needs included in acquisition activities. She also shared information about working lands partnerships, including agricultural leases and grazing permits. Ms. Sandberg then described the Lands Division operating and maintenance budget, and an overview of the major fund source trends, and cost per acre over the past eight fiscal years.

Member Bloomfield asked about the Dingle-Johnson (DJ) funding, and Ms. Wilkerson described the sources of DJ funding, including licensing fees. Director Cottingham asked about the cost per acre to maintain, specifically what Washington receives compared to other states. Ms. Wilkerson stated that she would research this and return with those figures.

Ms. Sandberg concluded by describing the continuing efforts for the priority landscapes initiative, outreach and education, and payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) funding and operation and maintenance funding.

Member Mayer asked how PILT payments are collected. Ms. Sandberg described the choices that counties have in this process; WDFW pays thirteen counties currently. Ms. Sandberg and Director Cottingham described some of the legislative issues historically involved in the PILT process.

Member Willhite thanked Ms. Wilkerson and Ms. Sandberg for their presentation. He asked about whether revenue sources from wind or solar power are obtained through leasing properties. Ms. Sandberg affirmed this, and stated that they contract based on market rate.

Member Willhite asked about the extent of coordination with the U.S. Forest Service regarding landscape initiatives. MW stated that this is place-based, and dependent upon local plans and initiatives, as well as species needs relative to those areas. They also coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management.

Member Willhite asked about how WDFW responds to questions of maintenance once land is acquired. Ms. Sandberg noted that this is contingent upon funding, and operation and maintenance funding continues to be strained. She added that through the Lands 20/20 process, these problems have been mitigated. Often acquisitions are a coordinated effort and viewed in a long-term manner as an investment and risk-assessment.

Member Herzog asked about an assessment of the quality of land, and how unmet or unseen costs are evaluated. Ms. Wilkerson explained that strategically, WDFW will look at need, potential, and connectivity. Then they would assess through Lands 20/20 what needs to be done to the land. Once owned, they use ecological integrity monitoring, grading the property, and maintaining/managing to an enhanced level through metrics to reach these goals. Funding is limited for the latter process, and WDFW engages local scientist when possible.

Member Mayer asked about the biodiversity plan as part of the Lands 20/20, and about the biodiversity council. Director Cottingham explained that the biodiversity council expired several years ago, although after considerable progress made on the conservation opportunities framework. Ms. Wilkerson noted that the plan has not been updated, but they are using the existing information and adding in best available science.

Member Mayer asked about land transfers between agencies as part of the collaborative process, specifically whether one agency may be better suited to manage or own a parcel. Ms. Sandberg described the various plans and history of ownership as adding to a complicated process. Ms. Wilkerson added that this is the purpose of the lands group. Director Cottingham explained that the trust lands transfer program aims to transfer trust lands to the most suitable agency. She also mentioned the years-long land exchange between DNR and WDFW, which was scaled down due to complications with the federal LWCF conversion requirements.

Member Mayer asked to what degree WDFW encourages public access on acquired properties. Ms. Wilkerson said this is a fundamental value, however staffing capacity and funding remain as barriers. Ms. Sandberg added that public education through signage helps, especially when a parcel is not fully assembled. Ms. Wilkerson added that sometimes work with private landowners is involved to support public access, i.e., hunting rights.

Member Deller commended Ms. Wilkerson and Ms. Sandberg for their work.

Chair Spanel asked if staff works with landowners before an application is submitted. Ms. Wilkerson affirmed, stating it is part of the Lands 20/20 process.

Director Cottingham asked about when the county is notified in the process. Ms. Wilkerson said it should be before the Lands 20/20 process.

Member Herzog asked how many proposals are included in the ecological envelope. Ms. Sandberg responded that there are very few, if any. All projects must be connected with the county authorities and through the same process as other projects in Lands 20/20.

Member Bloomfield noted that a key understanding of the Lands 20/20 process relative to the WWRP and land acquisition controversies, is that WFW used to bring forth all projects and let the grant process winnow them down. The Lands 20/20 is a more sophisticated process for ranking that supports a clearer understanding of how the acquisition fits into statewide plans and visions. She said that the knowledge of this process should be shared more broadly.

Break 10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Item 18: Conversion Request: Vancouver Waterworks Park (RCO #84-9015D)

Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Specialist, briefed the board on an upcoming conversion request for project #84-9015D, Vancouver Waterworks Park. Ms. Barker began by reminding the board of their responsibility and authority in the conversion process, as well as the process for resolving a conversion.

Ms. Barker described the location and details of the conversion request. The proposed replacement is a 10.08 acre property, known as Shaffer Park. The city acquired the property under a waiver of retroactivity to retain its eligibility as a future replacement for a conversion. The City of Vancouver's request to approve

a 7.5 acre conversion at Workworks Park includes a recommendation of approval to the National Park Service (NPS).

Ms. Barker shared that staff will work with the City of Vancouver to help them finalize the conversion request which will be brought to the board for a decision at the November meeting. Contingent upon approval, staff will also help prepare and submit the board's recommendation and conversion documentation to NPS.

Member Deller asked about the public involvement and comment received. Ms. Barker explained that the Advisory Board is supportive; she has not heard about negative feedback or controversy.

Member Mayer noted that the park impact fees were used, and asked about other sources of funding. A member of the audience shared that no other funds were used. Member Mayer asked about the plan for the replacement property's plan for recreation. Ms. Barker noted that the skate park was funded from other sources and remains open to the public. For replacement properties, the city plans to build soft surface trails and benches.

Member Mayer noted that it is a significant amount of work, considering the requirements of Homeland Security, and commended their efforts.

Member Willhite asked about the conversion area's trees and open space. Monica Tubberville, City of Vancouver, replied that some underbrush may be removed to reduce nuisance activity, but no tree removal is planned.

Member Herman asked about the public use and perception of the site. Ms. Tubberville replied that is part of a water utilities site, but there the public uses the area as a park and access will remain outside of some gated areas.

Director Cottingham suggested adding elements to the proposed design map, e.g., location of the reservoir, for the November meeting.

Item 19: Overview of Potential Changes to the Grant Programs and Criteria for 2015-17

Ms. Austin summarized potential changes to policies and evaluation criteria for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant programs. The changes proposed would apply to grant applications received in 2016.

Staff identified potential changes to the board's policies and evaluation criteria (details summarized in the board materials). Most of the changes to the evaluation criteria were recommended by advisory committee members during the post-evaluation meetings or in the advisory committee survey in 2014.

Ms. Austin noted that the changes are necessary in part as a response to questions or concerns from applicants or sponsors, to address recommendations from advisory committee members and grants staff, to align program policies with federal or legislative changes, and to implement board approved plans

Ms. Austin provided a handout summarizing the board's program plans. She highlighted the SCORP action items (1-10) and briefly covered some of the changes to board plans that have occurred since June 2013. She briefly described the action items and priorities from the Boating Grant Programs Plan, adopted in April 2015, from the Washington State Trails Plan, adopted in January 2014, and the NOVA Plan, adopted in January 2014.

Ms. Austin presented lists of the potential changes to board grant program policies. She highlighted the policy topic, Control and Tenure, as possibly the most pressing at this time. She provided a description of the change, the programs affected, and feedback from applicants as reasons for the change. Also highlighted were the Eligible Project Types in Boating Grant Programs, BIG Policies, Omni Circular Policies, and Range and Course Safety.

Member Bloomfield asked whether the board will have opportunity to explore land acquisition policies in more depth, including the cost-benefit analysis of structure destruction on public lands. Ms. Austin agreed that the urgency is why the item is currently listed, and although the allowable use policy addresses these structures in part, it is not comprehensive. Ms. Austin suggested that this be an item that the board address more fully, and allow enough time to do so (she suggested a year).

Member Herzog asked about how RCO is engaging the Commissioner regarding control and tenure. Director Cottingham stated that they have tried to do work-arounds on a case-by-case basis but it is time consuming. Member Herman shared that DNR hopes to have discussions over the next year to address these policies.

Director Cottingham shared that this policy list is a work plan presented for the board's information, to let them know the policy priorities and staff is seeking board input confirming that they are on track.

Director Cottingham, Member Herman, and Ms. Austin shared some of struggles and controversies surrounding grant programs and policies.

Member Willhite asked to what extent does the survey input affect the policy work plan choices. Ms. Austin explained that the staff received the surveys and analyzed the survey feedback to identify common themes; the goal is to integrate the survey results with the board policies. Director Cottingham noted that the grant manual revisions are driven largely by the survey feedback, which the board will approve in the fall.

Member Willhite asked about the policy of all grant integration to coordinate with the SCORP. Ms. Austin pointed the board to the memo (Item 19) in the board materials, which has more information about how the changes align to the board's plan.

Member Mayer stated that this is a response to surveys and feedback, and falls short of the strategic direction he expects to see. He said specifically that for multi-site acquisition policy, do we notify local agencies of board acquisitions? Ms. Austin shared that the board approved a policy that allows certain grant programs to substitute other suitable lands when lands identified within the geographic envelope are not available. Ms. Austin said that other multi-site policies address water and upland trails.

Member Mayer asked about projects that are adjacent to SRFB-funded projects. Ms. Austin replied that as long as it's consistent with policy and doesn't conflict with the purpose of the SRFB project then it is allowable. She added that this is part of the multi-site policy discussion, for which staff is requesting feedback from the board.

Member Willhite asked whether staff intends to incorporate issues from the budget as discussed yesterday, as well as long-term views as brought up by Member Mayer. Ms. Austin replied that this discussion is more centered around issues that have come up for which staff needs direction. The long-term hope, which funding has prevented, is a look at grant programs as a whole to assess purpose,

relevance, and revision. Director Cottingham added that there is a placeholder for the WWRP proviso, should it pass, on the Tier 1 policy list. The board discussed the need for deeper review, contingent upon the Legislature not making substantial changes.

Member Bloomfield asked about the capacity to carry out policy work. Ms. Austin explained that with limited policy staff, the executive management tries to identify the highest priority items.

**** Due to the scheduling of the public hearing, Chair Spanel paused the Item 19 briefing to allow for timely initiation of Item 20.*

Item 20: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase III Revisions/Public Hearing

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided a brief summary of the previous phases (Phase I and Phase II) of revisions to the WAC. The effects of the Phase III changes are to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the board and the RCO director. The changes also address definitions applicable to Title 286 WAC and agreements made to sponsors who receive grant funds.

The reason supporting the proposal is to bring alignment between:

- 1) Statutory direction and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's mission, goals, and duties;
- 2) Statutory direction and the duties of the director of the Recreation and Conservation Office; and
- 3) Administrative rules and project agreements issued to sponsors who receive grant funds from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.

Staff also proposed substantive changes to update definitions and amend rules for project agreements and long-term grant compliance for most grant programs. The complete text of all changes is included in the board materials (Item 20).

Ms. Brown shared that RCO followed the required public process for rule-making, and provided a summary of the steps and timeline for this process, as well as steps for the public hearing process. She summarized the process for adopting

Public Hearing

Chair Spanel opened the public hearing.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Board Discussion

There was no board discussion at this time.

Chair Spanel closed the public hearing.

Ms. Brown summarized the written public testimony for the board to consider. Attachment D, as noted in the board materials, was distributed to the board. There were two written comments received:

- Add donation to the definition of acquisition (286-04-010(1) WAC)
- Add habitat conservation to the mission statement (286-04-030(1)(b) WAC)

Ms. Brown presented the response to public comment to the board. Member Bloomfield read the comments and agreed with the changes proposed.

Ms. Brown outlined the options for adopting the rules, amendments, postponement, and/or withdrawal.

The staff recommendation is to revise the definition of acquisition in Attachment A and adopt Resolution #2015-17 based on Attachment A as amended. Staff will continue to work on other proposed revisions and prepare additional revisions for the next meeting in September 2015.

Member Mayer asked staff to share with the board the relationship of this board to the Lands group, per the statute amended in 2005. Director Cottingham explained that the statutory changes from 2005 left some uncertainty, as the budget comes out as under this board and names the SRFB. Historically, the board and the Lands group have been separate entities.

Member Herman and Ms. Brown explained that the Lands group is a coordinating body that serves as an open-ended forum and informal process for reviewing land acquisitions and projects.

Member Mayer expressed his concern that these changes are not ready for codification, and more board discussion may be necessary as it pertains to the board's role and decisions at the April retreat.

Chair Spanel and Director Cottingham shared that these changes are a re-organization of the WAC, and less a substantial change to rules. Chair Spanel recommended moving forward with the approval.

Member Herman stated that he did not see an alignment between these changes and the content of the retreat; Member Herman approved of moving forward with the changes.

Member Bloomfield stated that she would like to see more language as it pertains to the WWRP.

Member Deller asked Member Mayer to document his suggestions so that a more substantial discussion may be held over the next year or several months.

Member Willhite asked Member Mayer to share some of the concerns he has with the changes. Member Mayer referred Ms. Brown to the draft changes on page 2, Item 16, and asked whether this would include websites, maps, applications, etc. Ms. Austin explained that is not intended to be similar to an education project, where maps may be more common, so this definition is not as inclusive.

Member Mayer asked about page 3, Item 2 of the draft changes, and whether the membership of the board includes the chair, citizen members, etc. Director Cottingham shared that the authority is in statute and is the authority of the Governor.

Member Mayer asked about page 4, Item e of the draft changes and expressed that this seems to be more of a staff than a board role. Director Cottingham and Chair Spanel stated this is in statute, and may not be changed.

Member Mayer asked about the RCW 79A.35.030 that addresses the board's role in designating trails, which is not included in the WAC language. Director Cottingham suggested adding this to page 3, Item 3(l), under the "board is authorized to..." section using consistent statutory language so that it does not constitute a substantive change, as follows:

“(l) Designate state recreation trails pursuant to RCW 79A.35.030.”

Chair Spanel asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-17. Member Willhite moved; Member Deller seconded. Chair Spanel requested the amended portion of the resolution language to be as follows:

“**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the board does hereby adopt Attachment A, as amended, with non-substantive changes in response to public comments received and to add a new statutory reference to the designation of state recreation trails; and”

Resolution 2015-17, as amended

Moved by: Member Mike Deller

Seconded by: Member Ted Willhite

Resolution: APPROVED

****The presentation of Item 19 resumed after the adoption of amended resolution 2015-17.*

Item 19: Overview of Potential Changes to the Grant Programs and Criteria for 2015-17 (cont.)

Ms. Austin presented the potential changes to the evaluation criteria. She highlighted certain criteria, including Cost Efficiencies, Diversity, Health benefits. A timeline for drafting, revising, and preparing the policies for public comment was presented. The board would be asked to consider final approval at their November meeting.

Ms. Austin stated that due to volume, staff may not have the full list prepared by November. Some policies may be bundled and addressed more easily.

Member Herman asked whether staff will present any policy topics at the September meeting. Ms. Austin confirmed, and said staff intend to have draft for review available at that time. Some policies may require more time.

Member Mayer referenced RCW 79A.250 regarding evaluation criteria. He asked how this statute is incorporated. Ms. Austin state that there is a question for “proximity to people” included in most evaluation criteria; it is subjective, and evaluated by review teams. There are variations of the question and point-weighted. Ms. Austin shared that it is a goal to align the questions and points within all criteria.

Member Mayer asked about the terminology used in the criteria. Ms. Austin replied that the questions are ordered by defining service areas first, then evaluators begin with this basis; she added that there are lot of terms, and there could be more consistency.

Member Deller would like to see more meaningful metrics, e.g. how a project enhances connectivity.

Member Bloomfield commented that, in relation to a larger strategy, she observed a large concentration of trails mapped, and WDFW’s presentation of critical habitat; she asked about how to find gaps and begin to see the disconnects between data and landscape development/conservation.

Closing Remarks

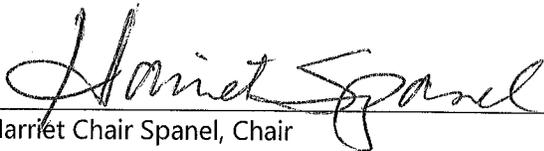
Member Mayer requested the board consider the following future agenda topics: 1) April retreat follow-up; 2) JLARC studies as they relate to the work of this board; 3) an update from or about the Lands group;

4) use of the RTP and how to continue to use funds; and 5) a workgroup to discuss performance measures of the board.

Member Willhite thanked the staff for incorporating board comments from the retreat, referring to the presentation from WDFW. He also praised the work of Ms. Barker for her work on the conversion process and preparations for the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Spanel.

Approved by:



Harriet Chair Spanel, Chair



Date