

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summarized Meeting Agenda and Actions, October 17-18, 2012

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 2: Management Reports	No follow up action requested
State Agency Partner Reports	No follow up action requested
Item 3: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework	No follow up action requested
Item 9: Communications Plan Update	No follow up action requested

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 1: Consent Calendar	<u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-08</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved Board Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2012 • Approved Cost Increase: TCSA Shotgun Target Storage Building, RCO #11-1053D • Approved Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013 • Approved conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A) • Approved Service Recognition: Steve McLellan • Approved Volunteer Service Recognition: Douglas Strong 	No follow up action requested
Item 4: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants	<u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-09</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the Critical Habitat Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-10</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the Natural Areas Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-11</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the State Lands Restoration Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-12</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the Urban Wildlife Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. 	No follow up action requested
Item 5: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Riparian Protection Account Grants	<u>APPROVED Revised Resolution #2012-13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the Riparian Protection Account ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. • Added authorization for the director to request a budget proviso, as needed, to address under subscription to program at certain budget levels. 	No follow up action requested
Item 6: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Account Grants	<u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-14</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the Farmland Preservation Account ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. 	No follow up action requested

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 7: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account Grants	<p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the Local Parks Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-16</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the State Lands Development Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-17</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the State Parks Category ranked list of projects (Table 2) for submission to the Governor. <p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the Trails Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. <p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-19</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the Water Access Category ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor. 	<p>Director Cottingham to work with parties as requested to facilitate resolution of control and tenure issues related to Susie Stephens Trail project.</p> <p>Staff to better prepare evaluators in the Local Parks Category regarding how to evaluate match. Staff was asked to contact the city of Bellingham to address their concerns.</p>
Item 8: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grants	<p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account ranked list of projects (Table 1). 	No follow up action requested
Item 10: Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses	<p><u>APPROVED Resolution #2012-21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the proposed policies regarding allowable uses policies (i.e., livestock grazing, telecommunications facilities, and tree removal). 	No follow up action requested

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: October 17, 2012

Place: Capitol Campus, O'Brien Building, Hearing Room D, Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board members present:

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

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

Call to Order

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined.

Director Cottingham reviewed the materials provided to board members in the packet and introduced new staff members Nona Snell and Adam Cole.

Consent Calendar

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2012-08, Consent Calendar. The consent calendar included the following:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2012
- b. Approve Cost Increase: TCSA Shotgun Target Storage Building, RCO #11-1053D
- c. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013
- d. Approve conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A)
- e. Service Recognition: Steve McLellan
- f. Volunteer Service Recognition: Douglas Strong

Resolution 2012-08 moved by: Ted Willhite and seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield

Resolution APPROVED

Item 2: Management Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham noted that the fall would be busy with big check ceremonies, and that the Trails Conference would be next week. She noted that she was at a national meeting recently with other agency directors who manage grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She reported that the agency has submitted materials as required for the transition to a new governor and new agency director, if needed. Director Cottingham stated that the RCO has been asked to facilitate conversations between sponsors and other stakeholders about how to overcome differences with regard to project implementation and conversions (Susie Stephens trail, Spruce Railroad trail and SR 520 conversion).

Policy and Legislative Update: Steve McLellan noted the work being done to update the Trails Plan through the SCORP process. Chair Chapman asked about the idea of creating a map of the trails that exist. McLellan responded that the funding did not exist to create a detailed map, although they are doing an inventory and hope to lay the foundation for a more comprehensive approach in the future. Chair Chapman noted that trails mean different things to different people, and suggested that regional trails are the highest need for a trails plan because the connections are the hardest to achieve and identify.

Nona Snell then noted that the budget outlook for 2013-15 is about the same as it was in 2011-13, and that the bond outlook looks good for 2013-15. The constitutional amendment, if passed, would increase the amount of bonding capacity available in the short term. Chair Chapman noted that the debt reduction measure is intended to smooth out the highs and lows; Snell concurred, noting that it would ease planning.

Grant management report: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, discussed two IT projects: 1) the application workbench, which is in the final stages of development and will guide applicants through the on-line application process beginning in 2013; and 2) the compliance workbench, which is being managed by Leslie Ryan Connelly, and will begin development in late November. He concluded by noting that 650 applications came into the RCO this year, including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects. The Recreation and Conservation staff processed over 400 applications.

Rebecca Connolly reported that surveys would be sent out over the next few weeks to staff, applicants and volunteers regarding the 2012 application process.

State Agency Partner Reports

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Jennifer Quan noted that they are doing significant work with Okanogan County, and are focusing on acquisitions that result in conservation easements. They are still hoping to do a fiscal impact analysis of acquisitions in the county. The three agencies have engaged in a business plan for the Discover Pass. Member Willhite asked what is being done with stakeholders in Okanogan. Quan responded that they are continuing to do outreach, and they are trying to focus on providing information. Member Mayer asked Quan if the issue was unique to WDFW. She responded that in Okanogan County, it was a local concern with WDFW's acquisition strategy and not with other agencies.

Department of Natural Resources: Craig Partridge noted that the burn ban has been lifted.

State Parks: Larry Fairleigh reported that the Commission would have a meeting the following week in Vancouver. He noted that the work session would include discussions about revising the fee schedule, wetland mitigation projects, and the notion of endowment lands, which would not include board-funded properties. Fairleigh also discussed the notion of increasing the number of events that they would do to raise revenue and market the parks. They are working with the city of Issaquah on plans for Lake Sammamish State Park. They also will be discussing budget, Discover Pass sales, and how to be a fee-for-service enterprise. They will be meeting with RCO staff to discuss how the transformation affects RCO grants.

General Public Comment

Tom Bugert, Outreach Director for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, commended the board for requesting \$90 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. He noted that WWRP has been falling as a percent of both the capital budget and per capita spending. He thanked staff for the work done in the project ranking and evaluation process.

Board Business: Briefings & Discussion

Item 3. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework

Scott Robinson presented information about the WWRP program funding, eligibility, and grant process as described in the staff memo. He noted that staff would present the projects and ranked lists. The board would be asked to approve the lists without funding lines. The lists are then submitted to the governor for inclusion in the budget. The board discussed the process by which the governor or legislature can remove projects from the ranked lists.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 4. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants

Sarah Thirtyacre presented information about the WWRP Habitat Conservation Account, including the categories and primary focus, eligible project types, the types of habitat protected, applicant eligibility, and evaluation elements. She noted the process changes for the 2012 evaluations.

Item 4a. WWRP Critical Habitat Category

Sarah Thirtyacre presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category, including species protected. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Rattlesnake Mountain 2012.

Member Willhite asked if there were efforts to coordinate with the federal government in the area. Member Quan responded that they are participating in a group that is actively working to coordinate efforts.

Resolution 2012-09 moved by: Jennifer Quan and seconded by: Betsy Bloomfield
Resolution APPROVED

Item 4b. WWRP Natural Areas Category

Kim Sellers presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category, including species protected. She highlighted a new preserve designated by the Department of Natural Resources, and concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve 2012.

Resolution 2012-10 moved by: Craig Partridge and seconded by: Larry Fairleigh
Resolution APPROVED

Item 4c. WWRP State Lands Restoration Category

Kim Sellers presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She explained what restoration meant, and highlighted the types of projects that constitute restoration. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Oak Creek Forest Restoration.

Member Quan noted that the category has been a significant contributor to WDFW's investments, and that they are very excited that the Oak Creek project will help minimize fire damage. Member Bloomfield noted that there was an article in the Yakima Herald recently about the benefits of prescribed fire treatments.

Resolution 2012-11 moved by: Jennifer Quan and seconded by Craig Partridge
Resolution APPROVED

Item 4d. WWRP Urban Wildlife Category

Myra Barker presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category, including species protected. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area-Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve 2012.

Resolution 2012-12 moved by: Larry Fairleigh and seconded by Harriet Spanel
Resolution APPROVED

Item 5. WWRP Riparian Protection Account Grants

Sarah Thirtyacre introduced the item by giving an overview of the account, noting that the WWRP program must receive \$40 million before the account is funded. She reviewed the eligible project types, public use requirements, development guidelines, focus, applicant eligibility, and evaluation process and elements.

Thirtyacre then presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects received in the 2012 application cycle. She noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 2.

Marguerite Austin then noted that in September, the board approved a request of \$90 million for the WWRP program. If that amount is approved, the amount available for projects in the account exceeds the amount requested for projects. Since there is only one category in the account, the board cannot transfer the funds to another category. Marguerite presented four options for board consideration:

1. Do nothing
2. Move eligible alternates from the habitat conservation account to the riparian protection account
3. Hold a supplemental grant round
4. Submit a budget proviso that would allow the board to move funds to alternates in the habitat conservation account

Austin noted that staff preferred the fourth option, and presented advantages and disadvantages of that option. She noted that the board would simply be authorizing the director to take the action if needed; it

would only be used if the funding level triggered the need for the proviso request. She provided draft proviso language.

Chair Chapman asked if funds could be moved to alternate projects from older lists. Austin responded that funds can be moved forward, but not backward. Bloomfield asked which categories are eligible. Austin responded that State Lands Restoration projects are not eligible because they do not include acquisition of land, but the other categories are. Chair Chapman reviewed the options and their potential implications. Bloomfield noted that it would be important to ensure that the additional funds secured through a proviso be allocated via the existing formula so that it is fair. Fairleigh suggested that the best option at this point is to do nothing, and preserve options. Willhite concurred, and suggested that the board wait until the next meeting. Mayer asked if wait and see was a viable option. Director Cottingham noted that they have two meetings before the end of the legislative session at which they could discuss this further, however, her hands are tied once the Governor presents a budget. Chair Chapman responded that in his opinion, it leaves staff and supporters with little to say about an undersubscribed category.

Bloomfield asked if they adopt the proviso, if they could refine it later and then take testimony to determine how to implement it. Director Cottingham advised that a proviso be kept simple.

Partridge noted that the approach used in the past – and suggested in option 2 – was seen by some as subjective, and that the fourth option would invite a broader discussion. Mayer asked if applicants who had alternates in the HCA could reapply in a supplemental grant round. Director Cottingham reminded the board that projects would have to go to the legislature. Marguerite responded that there are several options for structuring such a grant round.

Partridge asked how subjective the determination would be regarding how well the projects meet the eligibility criteria. Austin responded that the staff would use project metrics, which include information about whether or not a project has riparian elements. That provides important baseline information. However, eligibility would be discussed with applicants. Partridge noted that they are setting a precedent for the future, and they need to think about that. Chapman commented that they are creating flexibility that already exists within other accounts.

Quan asked if the option 4 was to adopt proviso language or to authorize staff to submit the language. Chair Chapman said that the board would adopt language. Following lunch, staff presented revised proviso language. Director Cottingham further clarified that it would allow them to go back to previous riparian lists. Chair Chapman asked Scott Robinson if staff could determine where the funds would go if the proviso were approved. Robinson responded that there are good projects on the previous list, and there was little funding available, so they could go down the list. The board agreed to revise proviso language so that it would allow staff to use the previously adopted (2012) WWRP Riparian ranked list.

Resolution 2012-13 moved by: Ted Willhite and seconded by Larry Fairleigh
Member Willhite moved to amend the resolution to include the suggested proviso language.
Member Bloomfield seconded. Motion APPROVED.
Resolution APPROVED

Item 6. WWRP Farmland Preservation Account Grants

Scott Robinson presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the account. He provided some history about the number of grant rounds, projects funded, and the number of acres protected. He addressed the 2012 grant round, summarizing the number of acres that would be protected, the number of applicants, the funds requested, and locations. He discussed the unique features of the farms, how they support the communities and wildlife, and the variety of different farms and rangelands. He concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Hedlin Farm in Skagit County.

Resolution 2012-14 moved by: Craig Partridge and seconded by Betsy Bloomfield
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7. WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account Grants

Darrell Jennings presented information about the WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account, including the categories and primary focus, eligible project types, the types of habitat protected, applicant eligibility, and common evaluation criteria. He noted the process changes for the 2012 evaluations such as the planning eligibility due date, standing advisory committees, and the timing of staff review. He compared the 2010 and 2012 grant cycles, noting that there were about 25 fewer applications in this account.

Item 7a. WWRP Local Parks Category Resolution

Marguerite Austin presented information about the category, a history of the grants awarded, and the current applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category. She noted in particular the ways in which projects responded to questions about sustainable elements, highlighted the unique features of a few projects, and discussed key themes, such as family recreation, restrooms, playgrounds, and sports facilities, that ran throughout the projects. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Evergreen Rotary Inclusive Playground.

Member Spanel asked why there are blanks on the draft \$90 million funding list. Austin responded that it was due to the requirement to use at least half of the funds for acquisition. Member Mayer asked if it was typical for acquisitions to rank lower than development projects. Austin responded that it is typical, and that anecdotal evidence is that it is due to the immediacy of threat criterion.

Chair Chapman noted that a letter was received on the morning of the meeting from the city of Bellingham complaining about one of the evaluators. The letter was shared with all board members. Austin noted that this particular evaluator used the full 0-5 evaluation scale, and did score other projects lower. Director Cottingham noted that the board used to have a policy of dropping the high and low scores. Austin responded that the practice was dropped on the advice of a statistician. Willhite asked if the evaluator scored all projects low, and suggested that the director should respond. Chair Chapman agreed that staff should respond, and stated that if an evaluator is rejecting projects on the basis of large match, it is in opposition to the match policy. Austin responded that it would be addressed at a meeting with evaluators and that she would do more work in the future to prepare evaluators.

Resolution 2012-15 moved by: Pete Mayer and seconded by Jennifer Quan
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7b. WWRP State Lands Development Category

Leslie Ryan-Connelly presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, locations, and the key themes in the projects such as trails, shoreline access, camping. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, North Willapa Bay Recreation Development Phase I.

Resolution 2012-16 moved by: Ted Willhite and seconded by Jennifer Quan
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7c. WWRP State Parks Category

Karl Jacobs presented information about the applications, applicant, and projects in the category for the 2012 grant cycle. He noted the funds requested, locations across the state, and shared photos of the projects that are proposed. He noted the sustainable elements in the projects. Karl also summarized the board's delegation of evaluation and ranking of projects in this category. He presented the top project in the category, Olallie Trail Development 2012, and concluded the presentation by recommending adoption of the State Parks Commission's revised ranked list.

Member Mayer asked why the Rasar cabins dropped from fourth to eleventh. Member Fairleigh noted that the Commission thought that the per-cabin cost was too high, and wanted a better business plan before making the investment. The changes to the list reflect implementation of the Transformation Strategy. Member Willhite asked if the Commission's criteria are different than the RCO evaluation criteria. Fairleigh responded that RCO and State Parks staff fine tune the criteria, but it is the Commission's prerogative to disagree with the ranked list based on the changes that happen to its business needs. Chair Chapman noted that it has long been the Commission's option to rerank the list or remove projects.

Public Comment

Carolyn Guske, Port Townsend, spoke about the Miller Peninsula Initial Park Access project. The trail is a loop trail, that is very popular and open year-round. Parking is limited to on-street parking due to development of the vacant land where parking used to take place. They want the project to be ranked number four, as it appears on the State Park Commission list.

Resolution 2012-17 moved by: Larry Fairleigh and seconded by Pete Mayer
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7d. WWRP Trails Category

Darrell Jennings presented information about the applications, applicants, and projects in the category. He noted the funds requested, locations, and how the projects collectively meet the criteria for the category. He concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Point Defiance Missing Link.

Public Comment

Dale Sekijima, Fog Horn Ditch Company, spoke in opposition to the Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2 project. He stated that the town does not have control and tenure, and cannot legally implement the project. The town's proposal places the ditch operation in jeopardy. Their core concern is simple – they want no liability concerns or additional operating costs from the trail. Over the past 2½ years, they have tried to work with the town, but to no avail. They have concluded that this objection is their only recourse.

Member Willhite asked if the Ditch Company was willing to engage in discussions with the city. Dale responded that they are, and that they have proposed alternative routes for the trail. They support the goal of moving pedestrians off the state highway, but they think there are safer ways to do it. With regard to the current location and its proximity to the ditch, he believes it is untenable.

Mayor David Acheson and Town Planner Rocklynn Culp, Town of Winthrop, spoke in favor of the Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2 project. He stated that the current location was evaluated through a public process 15 years ago. It has the benefit of providing a trail to the schools in the community. She noted that they are appreciative of RCO support and expertise. Both stated that they are committed to working with Fog Horn Ditch and believe that they can resolve the issues responsively.

Chair Chapman asked Marguerite Austin to clarify the timeframe in which the issues need to be resolved. Austin responded that the administrative rule is that sponsors must provide all documents within 90 days of final funding approval, which would give them until about September 2013. The director can extend it in some circumstances. Director Cottingham noted that they cannot expend any funds, and we cannot have a contract, until control and tenure is resolved. Willhite noted it is very important to respect the rights of the adjoining landowners. Chair Chapman summarized that the parties have indicated a willingness to work out the differences, the director has offered to facilitate it, and the obligation is to work it out before September 2013.

Chair Chapman also noted an email received by the board in the morning from Robert Parlette about the ranking of the Rocky Reach Trail, which is ranked tenth on the Trails category list. Jennings stated, in response to board questions, that there was no clear reason why it did not score higher. Austin noted that alternate projects can receive funding if other projects close short over time. Member Spanel noted that they had received a direct appropriation for the project in the past, and she is not inclined to adjust the list. Member Fairleigh noted that the first phase will be going to construction in the spring.

Resolution 2012-18 moved by: Larry Fairleigh and seconded by Pete Mayer
Resolution APPROVED

Item 7e. WWRP Water Access Category

Laura Moxham presented information about the applications, grant limits, applicants, and projects in the category. She noted the funds requested, and locations. She explained that projects include habitat enhancement, fishing, general access, restrooms, and signage. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Eddon Boat Waterfront Park Expansion.

Resolution 2012-19 moved by: Pete Mayer and seconded by Betsy Bloomfield
Resolution APPROVED

Item 8. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grants

Leslie Ryan Connelly presented information about the program goals and evaluation criteria, as well as the types of projects in the category. She noted that projects must be adjacent to a navigable water body. She described how the applications meet public access, restoration/protection goals, or both sets of goals – and that the criteria are established to meet both. She noted the numbers of applications, applicants, and highlighted projects proposed in the 2012 grant round. She concluded by presenting the top project in the category, Woodard Bay NRCA Public Access and Education.

Director Cottingham noted that the 2013-15 budget request for this program, based on revenue projections, was \$6.6 million. Member Partridge reminded the board that the money come from the Department of Natural Resources' management of state-owned aquatic lands, and it's important to maintain support for the funds.

**Resolution 2012-20 moved by: Craig Partridge and seconded by Ted Willhite
Resolution APPROVED**

Briefings & Discussion

Item 9. Communications Plan Update

Susan Zemek presented the plan update, as described in the staff memo, along with quotes from the stakeholder survey. The proposed plan was attached to the memo. The board was complimentary of the plan.

Member Willhite asked if the plan would help with efforts to secure more state and federal funds for the grant programs, as well as additional grant applications. Zemek responded that those were outcomes of plan components.

Chair Chapman asked about the coordination with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition on ground breaking and ribbon cutting events. Zemek responded that they were determining which milestones were most significant for recognition, and that they would be more proactive in coordinating the outreach with the Coalition.

Director Cottingham noted the agency would be very cautious in its use of social media, and would be using filters to ensure that only appropriate content would be posted. She also noted that news clips would begin coming as a monthly link, rather than in the board materials.

Chair Chapman clarified that the Riparian Protection Account proviso approved earlier in the day would be used only as needed, and could be replaced with a LEAP list footnote.

Meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: October 18, 2012

Place: Capitol Campus, O'Brien Building, Hearing Room D, Olympia, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board members present:

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

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

Call to Order

[Note: The audio recording software was not functioning at this time.] Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined. Members Partridge, Fairleigh, and Quan were absent and did not attend the executive session. The board recessed at 9:10 to executive session for the purpose of conducting the performance review of the RCO director.

The board reconvened at 10:20 a.m. Members Fairleigh and Partridge joined the board at that time. Member Quan joined the board at 10:30 a.m.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 10. Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses

Dominga Soliz presented the subcommittee's policy proposals as described in the staff memo, highlighting the changes that had been made to reflect the board's direction at the June meeting. Members Spanel and Mayer thanked Dominga for her work, and said she had captured the thinking of the subcommittee correctly with good policy work.

Chair Chapman asked for clarification on the proposal regarding what structures a telecommunications facilities can be attached to. Soliz responded that it was new or existing building or structure that serves recreation purposes, which is clearly stated in the policy. There were no other questions about the telecommunications facilities proposal.

Member Willhite asked if staff was confident that there was sufficient outreach with user groups with regard to the grazing policies. Soliz responded that there were public comment periods, with emails sent to 8,000 people, press releases sent to 127 media outlets, and a public discussion in Okanogan County at a regular board meeting.

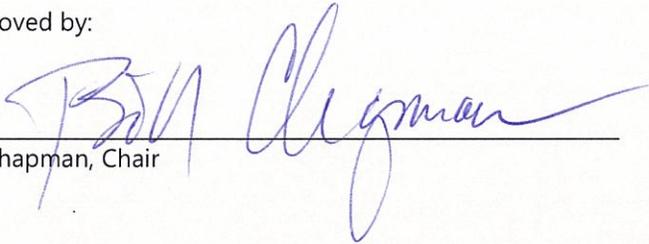
Chair Chapman noted that these are public investments it is good to ensure that policies provide staff with good direction about acceptable activities. Member Quan noted that it is important for the board to

continue to educate themselves about good land management and keep current on evolving approaches to healthy landscapes. Member Fairleigh stated that the policy correctly reflected State Parks' interests, and that he supports the policy proposals.

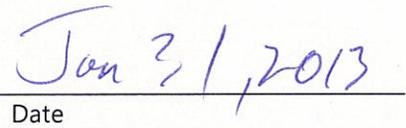
Resolution 2012-21 moved by: Harriet Spanel and seconded by: Pete Mayer
Resolution APPROVED

Director Cottingham reminded the board that the next meeting would be on January 31, 2013.

Approved by:



Bill Chapman, Chair



Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-08
October 2012 Consent Calendar

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

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2012
- b. Cost Increase Request: TCSA Shotgun Range Facility, RCO #11-1053D
- c. Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013
- d. Conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A)
- e. Service Recognition: Steve McLellan
- f. Volunteer Service Recognition: Douglas Strong

Resolution moved by: Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Bloomfield

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-10
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, eight Natural Areas category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Areas category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all eight Natural Areas category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species; and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Natural Areas category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Partridge

Resolution seconded by: Fairleigh

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-12
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, fourteen Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all fourteen Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of Urban Wildlife habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Fairleigh

Resolution seconded by: Spanel

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-13
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, fifteen Riparian Protection Account projects are eligible for funding from the Riparian Protection Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Riparian Protection Account projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all fifteen Riparian Protection Account projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Account*; and

WHEREAS, those program requirements include criteria regarding riparian habitat benefits, public access and education, relationship to existing planning documents, and ongoing stewardship, such that providing funds to these projects would further the board's goals to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process and make strategic investments; and

WHEREAS, the projects provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Riparian Protection Account projects for further consideration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes the director to request a budget proviso or LEAP footnote to the effect that "If additional funds are available, after funding the Riparian Protection Account (RPA) projects approved by the Legislature, the board may use these additional RPA funds for projects that are on the 2012 WWRP Riparian Protection Account ranked list previously approved by the Legislature."

Resolution moved by: Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Fairleigh

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-14
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Account, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, twenty-two Farmland Preservation Account projects are eligible for funding from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and

WHEREAS, these Farmland Preservation Account projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members, and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner, and

WHEREAS, all twenty-two Farmland Preservation Account projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program-Farmland Preservation Program*, including criteria regarding agricultural, environmental and community values, and

WHEREAS, all of the projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Farmland Preservation Account projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Partridge

Resolution seconded by: Bloomfield

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-16
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category, 2013-15,
Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, nine State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all nine State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Outdoor Recreation Account*, thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Willhite

Resolution seconded by: Quan

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-18
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Trails Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, twenty Trails category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Trails category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all twenty Trails category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Outdoor Recreation Account*, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, all of the projects acquire, develop or renovate pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, or cross-country ski trails, thereby furthering the board's goal to provide funding for recreation opportunities statewide, including bicycling and walking facilities and facilities most conducive to improved health;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Trails category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Fairleigh

Resolution seconded by: Mayer

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 17, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-21
Approving the Allowable Uses Policy Proposals

WHEREAS, recipients of grant funds frequently ask Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to make determinations regarding whether certain uses are permitted on grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff currently has no policy or standard practice for determining whether certain uses are permitted on grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, governing statutes and rules state that grant-funded land and facilities may not, without prior approval of the board, be converted to a use other than that for which funds were originally approved; and

WHEREAS, allowable uses of grant-funded land and facilities are distinguished from those eligible for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff have responded to these inquiries by developing proposed policies regarding allowable uses of grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the policies will help staff make clear, consistent, and more streamlined decisions about how to determine whether certain uses are consistent with the grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the policies are critical to ensuring that the board investments are maintained, and that the statutory intent of the programs is upheld; and

WHEREAS, these policies support the board's strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs; and

WHEREAS, the policy was published for 30-day public review, thereby supporting the board's goal to perform its work in an open manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board directs RCO staff to incorporate the policy statements in Attachment A of this memo into the applicable manuals with language that reflects the policy intent.

Resolution moved by: Spanel

Resolution seconded by: Mayer

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: October 18, 2012