



Memo

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Doug Coutts, Director
Date: 4/13/2018
Re: Grant Committee Reports

At this point, the board needs to make a go/no go decision on all of the grant applications. Below is a brief overview of where each grant currently stands and staff opinion of how to proceed.

Note for all grants: I have been informed by Kyle Guzlas at the RCO that he has been promoted and we will be assigned a new Grants Manager, I do not know who yet, but Kyle is already difficult to reach as he has started some of the duties of his new job and is in meetings all week. Hoping to connect with him on Friday regarding some of these outstanding issues.

Parks Enhancement Grant: In discussions with Kyle Guzlas regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and encumbrances, it came to light that some of the items on the Parks Enhancement Grant list would be ineligible for a WWRP or LWCF grant. I spoke to Kyle and went through the list of projects in detail to review each item and confirmed what is not eligible, what does not add value to the application and what should be included. Note that we could exclude an area of the park from the encumbrance of LWCF if we applied for both grants as matching grants. One thought that was discussed was the concept of separating out the Property Acquisition from the rest of the Parks Enhancement projects and applying for that separately. A note on the Property Acquisition-Shelly Ackerman and the Save the Trails group have indicated that they should be able to cover the cost of the appraisal.

Staff recommendation: Staff would recommend doing an acquisition only grant for the trails property with LWCF and WWRP local parks as matching grants. Staff recommends further review of the eligible/ineligible projects on the Parks Enhancement list for the program, look for appropriate funding methods for the projects on the list.

Campground Grant Phase 2: Looking at facility design for a Campground Welcome Center, we were notified in our discussion with Kyle that anything to do with indoor recreation would not be eligible for these grants and we should make the building specific to the Campground operation. A re-design is in progress and we should have a new draft design for the board meeting. Next steps would be to develop building costs and itemize list of tasks included in the project.

Staff Recommendation: Based on our current point of progress on this application, and the short timeline, it is questionable whether or not we would have a viable application ready for the May 1st deadline for this project. For now, staff recommends continuing to attempt for this grant cycle and evaluating again on April 30th for a final go/no go decision with the grant committee.

Athletic Fields Grant: Don was looking into the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation Grant and Josh was looking into the Community Sports Development Council Grant as possible matches to the Youth Athletic Facilities Grant application. Have not heard back on these from them as yet. I contacted the county and Public Athletic Fields are exempt from Island County' outdoor lighting standards. As good neighbors, we will probably want to attempt to adhere to the standards as best we can, but we are not required to do so. I have contacted MUSCO lighting regarding a quote on Field Lights and should receive a budgetary quote from them on lighting for field 4 in the Sports Complex sometime this week. Once I know power requirements for the system, I can look into costs to provide appropriate power to that area of the park for the lighting. Mark has reached out to a former player at South Whidbey High School with connections to an artificial turf company to see about providing us more specific numbers or a deal on artificial turf for the project. We are trying to schedule a meeting.

Staff Recommendation: This project is attractive as we could use private grants to match the state dollars and not have to provide a local match. Staff would recommend dedicating more time and energy to this application and pursuing this as best we can, making a final go/no go decision based on the status on April 30th.

Lakes Grant: we have had discussions with Derek Hacker of the WDFW and he has effectively joined our committee now to develop these proposals. As it stands, we have reviewed who should be lead on these applications and determined that the WDFW has access to grants not available to the Parks District and is not required to provide matching dollars for grants so it makes more sense for the WDFW to be the applying agency for these grant applications. Derek has checked and the internal WDFW timeline for WWRP grant applications is closed so he is running the Lone Lake and Deer Lake projects up the Chain of Command for approval to proceed with applications in the Boating Facilities Program for motorized Boating facilities the application deadline for these grants is not until September. I am checking with Kyle Guzlas, hopefully Friday, to see if we can apply for to project sites within one grant application or if it needs to be to separate applications. Also, WDFW environmental staff has nixed the idea of a retaining wall at the Goss lake site, they will not allow it. This effectively removes that project from the applications.

Staff Recommendation: Based on what we know right now, staff recommends proceeding with this grant application targeting the Boating Facilities program through the WDFW for projects at Deer Lake or Deer Lake and Lone Lake based on further talks with Derek and the WDFW. Continue talks with the WDFW on projects at Goss Lake and review the project list there with an eye towards the 2020 grant cycle.

Trails Grant: Working on scheduling a meeting with representatives from the County to start work on an Inter-Local agreement as the first step to collaborate on the development of the

Bridge to Boat trail and the spur trail system we have been discussing. This is a great step on this plan and needs to happen for us to look at whether or not we can use the County right of way to apply for Grants for trails beside County Roads or the County's access to the State right of way to apply for Grants for trails beside State Route 525. Informal discussions with Island County staff have indicated that to use the State right of way would require a much more formal process than previously anticipated but more will be discussed at the meeting. We have also heard from Commissioner Helen Price-Johnson that funding for the section of the Bridge to Boat trail from the Ferry to Ken's Korner has been pushed off for another year by a two to one County Commissioner vote.

Staff Recommendation: Based on where we currently are in this process staff recommends pushing this application out to the 2020 grant cycle. With no agreement in place and no detailed plan for trails staff believes that we should continue the process of building a coalition with the County and other interested parties to put a consolidated plan and proposal together to pursue phase one of grants in 2020.

Staff Recommendation- All Projects: With all of these project applications, staff recommends if they are not determined viable for this year we continue the process of the grant committees as an ongoing process to develop the applications for the 2020 cycle. This will ensure anything that is not deemed a viable application will not fall off the radar and progress that has been made in each of these areas will continue and flourish.