

SnowTRAC Meeting

August 23, 2002

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Marianne Beckham. Quorum present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Beckham - Anchorage

Lee Johnson, TRAAK Board Liaison - Fairbanks

Craig Seibert - Trapper Creek

Frank Woods - Dillingham

Greg Barclay - Soldotna

Christine Noakes - Big Lake

Mark Wilke - Juneau

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Kenton Bloom - Homer (excused)

Bruce Friend - Anchorage (excused)

Staff present: Jim Renkert and Teri Gilpin, ASP

Public: Howard Davis (Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers), Soldotna

There were no alternates or proxies.

Greg moved "to approve minutes from April 19, 2002 as submitted." Frank Woods second. Motion approved.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Greg Barclay declared a conflict with grant application #3, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers.

Frank Woods declared a conflict with grant application #21, Curyung Tribal Council.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

Jim suggested that public appearances be moved up on the agenda. Discussion. Committee agreed to 10:00 a.m. for public appearances. Frank moved "to approve changes to the agenda." Craig seconded. Motion approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Jim Renkert announced Dale Bingham's retirement. Dennis Heikes is the new Mat-Su Area State Parks Superintendent.

FY00 GRANT STATUS

- Certified letters were sent to the Alaska State Snowmobile Association regarding their two grants. They have not responded. On one grant they owe us almost \$1,200.00 for part of an advance they did not use.
- Have not heard from Trail Mix and Juneau Snowmobile Club lately regarding their change in project from Lawson Creek bridge to Lake Creek Trail improvements.
- The kiosk for the Point Mackenzie Trail Head, Mat-Su Borough has been received and should be going up soon. They requested an extension for their grant through March 2003.
- City of Wasilla Trail Head grant extended until 3/31/03.

- Mountaineering Club/Eklutna Cabin is extended to 12/31/02.
- EagleSong Lodge requested a reimbursement and an extension. Part of their reimbursement is being processed, and another part is being denied. They are protesting the denial. Discussion.

FY01 GRANT STATUS

- Fairbanks North Slope Borough/Fairbanks Snow Travelers just about closed out, only \$241.00 left on the grant.
- White Mountain Volunteer Fire Department cabin project is almost finished.
- Copper Country Snowmobile Club has requested a change of project scope to a surveying, mapping and grooming project.
- Big Lake Chamber of Commerce, Trail Grooming, expires at the end of October.
- Brevig Mission has not submitted any progress reports. No response puts them in noncompliance.
- Ketchikan is closed.
- Pilch Land Surveying, Trail Grooming is completed and closed.
- Lake Louise Snowmobile Club, Phase I Trail Surveying Project is closed.

FY02 GRANT STATUS

- Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center has submitted their final report.
- Fairnet, Statewide Safety Curriculum got an advance but we have received no progress reports.
- Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Snow Sense for Snowmobilers, Jill Fredston is working on it.
- Fairbanks Police Department and Fairbanks Snow Travelers, borough wide safety and education program also got an advance. They've sent in a progress report.
- North Slope Borough has submitted their final progress report.
- St. Michaels Trail Shelter, no contact.
- Interior Trail Grooming, Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail, no contact.
- Ohogamiut Traditional Council in Marshall, no contact.
- Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers has a reimbursement request being processed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This year's budget is \$200,000. We over spent about \$3,000 last year, which was covered with parks operating funds. State Parks is working on hiring a part-time position to administer the grant program.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Jim Renkert collected the signed Travel Authorization and reimbursement forms.

ASSA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW

The convention is scheduled for November 9 & 10 at the Egan Center. State Parks has been invited to set up a complimentary booth. Discussion of display.

Meeting recessed for a break @ 11:05 a.m.

Reconvened @ 11:23 a.m.

Welcome Christine Noakes to meeting.

Mark Wilke reported on the results of the Legislation Committee actions in Juneau. Current law for Alaska required all persons to have a driver's license to operate a motor vehicle on public land. With the action of this committee, the law was amended to exclude off road vehicles on public land. Jim Stratton attended several meetings and spoke on our behalf. Discussion on regulations and safety being our primary work topic at the next meeting. Thanks to Mark for the good work.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Open discussion and general comment on the grant applications. Overall the applications had generally poor documentation. It did not appear that some of the applicants put a lot of time into their applications.

ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Grant #1 - Chugach State Park Snowmachine & Signage: Anchorage Snowmobile Club. Discussion on the non-compliance, quality of three quotes, and lack of details. Mark Wilke moved "the next grant application cycle include, in the instructions, three bids are required for goods or services over \$500." Craig Seibert seconded motion. Discussion. Motion and second was withdrawn.

Break for lunch 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened @ 12:30 p.m.

Grant #1 continued. Continued discussion. Scored less than the 60 point minimum. **Score: 54**

Grant #2 - West Lake Blvd Trail Underpass in Big Lake: Mat-Su Borough. Discussion on the legal access, lack of signatures, and letters of support. Discussion on the need for more detail. **Score 87**

Grant #3 - Trail grooming and maintenance: Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, Clam Gulch. Discussion on the legal access on all parts of the trail along with letters of non-objection. Discussion of liability issues. Mark Wilke moved "we fund this grant with the stipulation that they groom only on the trail that they have legal access, and proof will be on file and part of the agreement." Frank Woods seconded. Motion passed. **Score: 89**

Grant #4 - Public Use Dedication, Buena Vista subdivision: City of Wasilla. Discussion on the lack of support letters and lack of proof of property ownership. Funded on the condition applicant provides proof of a willing seller. **Score: 84**

Grant #5 - Petersville Road Grooming and Signing: Alaska Snow Cat, Trapper Creek. Discussion and comments on the lack of attention and detail in this application. Frank moved "this grant be ineligible due to the lack of legal access and lack of permit or letter of permission." Mark second. Discussion. Motion failed. Discussion. Application is eligible.

Grant funding was approved on the condition the applicant obtain the necessary permits. Alaska State Parks will not sign the grant agreement until all permits are obtained. **Score: 78**

Break until 2:00 p.m. Reconvened.

Grant #6 - Snowmobile Trail Improvements: City of Aleknagik. Discussion on the clarity of this application documentation, surveying, and match amount. It does not meet the 25% match amount. Discussion. Further discussion postponed. **Score: 82**

Grant #7 - Ikpik Cabin: Native Village of Shismaref. Scored below the 60-point minimum. **Score: 40**

Grant #8 - Nelchina Mendeltna Trail Survey. There was lack of documentation for approval letter, easement, and legal access. Mark moved "it not be funded due to the lack of legal access." Greg seconded. Motion passed. **Score: 65 DQ**

Grant #9 - Kenai Peninsula Trail System: Alaska Snow Safaris. Scored lower than the 60-point minimum, no matching funds, and a letter stating no legal access. **Score: 53 DQ**

Grant #10 - Amphitheater Mountains Trail Grooming: Denali Highway Trail Club Inc. Jim checked with the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development and there is no organization incorporated as the Denali Highway Trail Club, Inc. Discussion of application and the misrepresentation of their legal status as an incorporation. Chris moved "they not be funded due to the misrepresentation." Seconded by Greg. **Score: 71 DQ**

Grant #11 - Farewell Burn Trail Maintenance, Iron Dog Inc. Discussion on lack of proper documentation. Mark moved "to deny funding due to no legal access to groom." Frank seconded. Motion passed. **DQ**

Grant #12 - Nelchina - Mendeltna Trail Development. Does not meet the 60-point minimum. **Score: 51**

Grant #13 - Lake Louise Rec. Trail Development and Grooming: Lake Louise Snowmobile Club. Brief discussion on the lack of documentation. Does not meet the 60 point minimum. **Score: 54**

SAFETY AND EDUCATION APPLICATIONS

Grant #20 - Avalanche Awareness Education and Safety Training: B.A.R.R.T. Good application, committee was impressed. **Score: 97**

Grant #21 - Snowmobile Avalanche Safety, Curyung Tribal Council: Dillingham. Short discussion on the signage detail and rates. **Score: 78**

Grant #22 - Iron Dog Racers Snowmobile Safety Awareness. Discussion on the lack of details and documentation. **Score: 79**

Grant #23 - Snowmobile Safety Pamphlet Training, Supplies, and SAR Gear: Valdez Motor Sports Club. Short discussion on the lack of quotes for the phone, otherwise a good application. **Score: 86**

Grant #24 - Wolf Pack Youth Safety Program: Lake Louise Snowmobile Club. Discussion on lack of mock up, outline of course, and bids on printing. **Score: 86**

Grant #25 - Brevig Mission Traditional Council. Discussion on the lack of detail and documentation required. Does not meet the 60-point minimum. **Score: 55**

Collection of signed score sheets.

FUNDED GRANTS

Acquisition, Development, and Maintenance Projects

2. West Lake Blvd. Trail Underpass	\$15,000.00
3. Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers	\$15,000.00
4. Public Use Dedication, Wasilla	\$15,000.00
5. Petersville Road Trail Grooming	\$15,000.00
6. Aleknagik Trail Improvements	<u>\$ 9,689.00</u>
	\$69,689.00

Safety and Education Projects

20. BARRT Avalanche Awareness	\$15,000.00
21. Snowmobile Avalanche Safety	\$ 2,290.00
22. Iron Dog Racers	\$ 5,681.00
23. Snowmobile Safety Pamphlet	\$15,000.00
24. Wolf Pack Youth Safety Program	<u>\$ 5,250.00</u>
	<u>\$43,221.00</u>
TOTAL	\$112,910.00

Revisit of Grant #6. Discussion reopened. Chris moved “to give applicant an opportunity to bring their match in to line with 25% minimum.” Craig seconded. Discussion. If the match is not increased to the 25% minimum, then this grant will be denied funding. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Review committee's Operating Policy and Procedures. Jim will distribute revised version via e-mail.

DATE & AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Friday, November 8 @ 9:30a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Conference Room 640, City Hall, 632 W. 6th Avenue, Anchorage. Next meeting will review and discuss snowmobile regulations.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mark Wilke commented on the clarification of the policy for meetings. Chris Noakes commented that if you can't attend try to provide your scores through an alternate. Jim Renkert reviewed Regulations. Chair Marianne Beckham asked the committee members to bring a letter to the next meeting that states who their recommended alternate will be.

Alternates are subject to approval by State Parks director, Jim Stratton. Discussion on extra grant money. Possibilities are emergency fund and safety and education.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

No members of the public asked to speak.

MEETING ADJOURNED 4:15 p.m.