



Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board

2021 Meeting Minutes [Meeting #1]

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 & Wednesday, February 3, 2021

[After the meeting concluded, it was determined there is a necessity for a second round of applications. A second meeting is scheduled for June 8 & 9, 2021 to review Round #2 applications. The meeting on February 2 & 3, 2021 is titled Meeting #1, while the meeting on June 8 & 9, 2021 will be titled Meeting #2.]

Day 1: Tuesday, February 2, 2021
09:00am – 4:30pm

Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) Members Present:

Motorized Trail Representatives	Non-Motorized Trail Representatives	Diversified Trail Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bryant Wright 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Christy Gentemann ❖ Libby Kugel ❖ Mike Sirofchuck, <i>ORTAB Chair</i> ❖ Lang Van Dommelen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sally Andersen ❖ Jeff Budd ❖ Mike Rearden

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)

Director’s Office Staff Present:

- ❖ Ricky J. Gease, *Division Director*
- ❖ Melissa A. Richie, *Administrative Operations Manager*
- ❖ Samantha A. Hudson, *Administrative Officer II, Grants Section Manager*
- ❖ Tara L. Epperson, *Grants Administrator II, Recreational Trails Program*

The meeting was called to order at 09:00am by *DPOR Tara Epperson*. Roll call was taken, and meeting protocols discussed. This meeting was conducted using Cisco WebEx, connecting via webcam, audio, and chat features. Meeting was recorded using Cisco WebEx recording features, including audio, video, and chat features. Minutes recorded to be drafted and typed, following the second day after the meeting concludes.

DPOR staff and ORTAB Members introduced themselves, provided brief introductions, the locations and project categories they represent, and other affiliations, if any.

DPOR Division Director Ricky Gease provided a brief status update on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Last spring, State Legislation approved a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) position to administer the program; however, a position for LWCF was not approved and the current Grants Administrator position remains vacant this year. DPOR Management have been covering the responsibilities of the vacant position until DPOR can obtain Legislation approval to hire. LWCF is available for local governments to apply for and utilize funds. This stated funding has been requested this year for Legislation to approve funding to hire the vacant Grants Administrator position to allow this program to continue presently and in future years. A brief preview was provided, describing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). More discussion regarding the SCORP will continue near the end of the meeting, during the “New Business Items” portion.

Following introductions, the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representative Miles Brookes*, introduced himself and gave a brief update regarding the FAST Act and FY2021 funding for the Recreational Trail Program.



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The FAST Act is a five-year surface transportation authorization, signed by President Obama in 2015, allowing the authorization of implementing the RTP. The FAST Act expired September 30, 2020, and has been extended another year, scheduled to expire September 30, 2021. FY2021 funding for the RTP remains the same as last year and recent prior years, no changes to funding in FY2021. FHWA authorizes \$1.5 million available for RTP Funds [not including Department of Transportation (DOT) Stipulation Authority, which allows for \$1.36 million of funding available for awarding.] No changes regarding federal protocols for the RTP. Congress is currently of progress of implementing another long-term authorization plan, which will hopefully pass in July 2021. FHWA hopes to receive more news then.

ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck discussed opportunity for public comment during today's and tomorrow's meetings. ORTAB Members may choose to update their scores during discussion at any time; scores will be finalized near the conclusion of meeting when final recommendations are provided to *DPOR Director Ricky Gease*. ORTAB Members are responsible for declaring any conflicts of interest for project before discussion begins and must notate on their ORTAB Scoresheets. [In accordance with AS 39.52.220]. Mike expresses that he will do the best to allow everyone an opportunity to speak. He will be calling upon ORTAB Members in different orders to ensure everyone speaks and change order to allow ORTAB Members to speak at different times. ORTAB Members may also state that he/she has "no comments," certainly acceptable when discussing the project applications.

ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck moved for ORTAB to vote and select an ORTAB Vice Chairperson to cover the ORTAB Chairperson duties, in cases where the Chairperson is unavailable. ORTAB Member *Jeff Budd*, nominated by *ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck*, to serve as ORTAB Vice Chairperson. *Jeff Budd* has had experience in prior years' serving on ORTAB, this being Mr. Budd's fifth term. Mr. Budd served as ORTAB Chairperson when he served in prior terms and has much experience with directing ORTAB meetings and are experienced with the ORTAB Chairperson's responsibilities. Mr. Budd agreed to serve as ORTAB Vice Chairperson. *Sally Anderson* seconded recommendation. Motion passed, with majority vote, and no opposition. *Jeff Budd* selected and approved to serve as ORTAB Vice Chairperson.

Public Comments session began, per ORTAB Chairperson's discretion. Each person was allowed two (2) minutes to speak. Mike asked if any applicants on the phone would like to speak.

- Mindy Eggleston with Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) offered assistance during the discussion of their organization's application and will be available.
- Lynne Brandon with Sitka Trails Works (STW) "echoes" Ms. Eggleston. Available to answer any questions during discussion of their organization's application.
- Steve Cleary with Alaska Trails, also available to answer any questions during discussion of their organization's applications.
- Shawna Popovici with DPOR Interpretation and Education Section, representing two (2) Safety & Education projects. Available to answer any questions during discussion.
- Harry Holt with Lake Louise Snow Machine Club (LLSMC), first year applying with RTP. Available to answer any questions during discussion.
- Steve Neel, prior Grants Administrator for RTP, listening into call. No applications submitted but listening to meeting.
- Melissa Smith with DPOR Ninilchik Region, submitted an RTP application. Available to answer any questions during discussion.



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- Lanette Oliver with Valdez Adventure Alliance, available to answer any questions during discussion.
- Geoffrey Orth, listening into call.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application discussion and scoring began.

1. **Project Title:** Old Kasilof Landing SRS Facility Improvements

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Design and Construction Section

Project Category: Development

Federal Funds Requested	\$1,250,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$1,250,000.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$2,500,000.00	Total Project Cost	\$2,500,000.00

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- *Christy Gentemman* asked, if the project site is conveniently reached by public transportation? Applicant responded yes, it is off a public road system, off K Beach Road.
- *Libby Kugel* asked what is the plan for LWCF if there is no staff available (vacant Grants Administrator position) to administer the program?
- *Mike Rearden* asked if this site would be only for boat retrieval, not for boat launching, correct? Applicant responded yes, the river is mainly drift boats, so the boats could be retrieved down river at this retrieval site. The launch facility is upriver. This site downriver would be the only public retrieval site.
- *Sally Andersen* asked if there was a public call for LWCF applications? *DPOR Director Ricky Gease* responded the current application cycle was focused on state-funded projects, while in Spring 2021, there is a plan to call for other LWCF project applications. This was necessary to obligate/award current LWCF funds available so that funding does not lapse. There are tight time-restraints currently.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications discussion and scoring began.

DPOR Tara Epperson provided a brief overview of the RTP and awarding processes. New updates with the ORTAB Scoresheet to better align with the outline of the RTP application. Would appreciate recommendations and feedback from ORTAB on how to continue improvements and suggestions to assist ORTAB in scoring projects.

[Ranked as follows, in order as discussed during meeting, not by ORTAB Score]

1. **Project Title:** Eklutna Lakeside Trail Brushing

Organization Name: Alaska Trails

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$75,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$20.67
Match Requirement	\$8,333.33		
Total Participating Cost	\$83,333.33	Total Project Cost	\$83,354.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 86.14/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, this is a very high-use area and would be considered a good project.



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- *Libby Kugel* and *Bryant Wright* state they are board members of Alaska Trails, with no direct affiliations with the project. ORTAB Members discussed and agreed that there was no conflict of interest. [During discussion in Day #2, ORTAB Members reconsidered and determined this would be a conflict of interest. Scores redacted.]

2. **Project Title:** Little O'Malley Peak Trail

Organization Name: Alaska Trails

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$72,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$8,000.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$80,000.00	Total Project Cost	\$80,000.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 88.43/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project and glad to see the proposed plan.
- *Libby Kugel* and *Bryant Wright* state they are board members of Alaska Trails, with no direct affiliations with the project. ORTAB Members discussed and agreed that there was no conflict of interest. [During discussion in Day #2, ORTAB Members reconsidered and determined this would be a conflict of interest. Scores redacted.]

3. **Project Title:** Delta River Walk Park, Phase I

Organization Name: Delta Junction Trails Association

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$75,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$2,443.00
Match Requirement	\$8,333.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$83,333.00	Total Project Cost	\$85,776.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 87.89/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project, glad to see project in a more rural location, nice to see new applicants.
- *Jeff Budd* asked more clarification on David-Bacon funds. Contractor explained federal funds required as a pass-through. Applicant explained more on gravel.
- *Mike Rearden* asked how many people expected to use trail. Applicant explained high-use due to accessibility, only spot viewing spot of the river, by improving viewing spot, allow more users to visit area.

4. **Project Title:** Chugach State Park Video Trail Guides

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Interpretation and Education Section

Project Category: Safety & Education

Federal Funds Requested	\$35,581.80	Non-Participating Costs	\$1,732.00
Match Requirement	\$3,953.53		
Total Participating Cost	\$39,535.33	Total Project Cost	\$41,267.33

Final Average ORTAB Score: 92.22/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:



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- ORTAB general feedback, good to see projects like this applied for. A good project.
- *Mike Sirofchuck* asked how many views occurred on past videos completed. Applicant stated the most recent video “Bird to Gird Trail,” received over 2,000 views within first two (2) weeks and now up to 7,000 on Facebook page, not including views from YouTube channel. Especially more interest from new trail users interested in visiting the area. Internet comments received from videos has been good, a lot of viewers sharing with others to share the information about the different trails.

5. **Project Title:** Grewingk Glacier Management Unit
Organization Name: DNR DPOR Interpretation and Education Section
Project Category: Safety & Education

Federal Funds Requested	\$17,900.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$221.11
Match Requirement	\$1,988.89		
Total Participating Cost	\$19,888.89	Total Project Cost	\$20,110.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 86.11/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project. Agreed that project is good to promote safety for trail users of this area. Pictures would be important to inform trail users of this area.
- *Bryant Wright* asked, with present dangers of area, has State Parks considered moving the location or area. *DPOR Director Ricky Gease* stated that dangers were reviewed in the area, it is an extremely popular area for trail users for glacier viewing and visiting. Promoting awareness of the area would be extremely beneficial to the area to promote safety. Applicant clarified visitors camp there, but there is no official campground.
- *Christy Gentemann* asked how labor in-house would be planned. Applicant explained that working with the University during this project. Items would be messaged thorough University experts to be sure that all information is correctly relayed in the safety material.
- *Libby Kugel* asked what type of items would be relayed in safety material. Applicant explained one item would include more of the “science” behind landslides and how they naturally occur, while the second item would include more of the “safety” aspect, and what trail users can do to promote and maintain their safety in the area. “What to watch for.” Not to restrict recreation, but to ensure trail users are aware while they are recreating in the area.

Break for Lunch, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications discussion and scoring continued.

[Ranked as follows, in order as discussed during meeting, not by ORTAB Score]

6. **Project Title:** Sea Lion Cove State Marine Park Trail Repairs
Organization Name: Sitka Trail Works
Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$33,616.23	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$3,751.70		
Total Participating Cost	\$37,367.93	Total Project Cost	\$37,367.93

Final Average ORTAB Score: 88.22/100



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ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project, good to see different organizations working together to work on a project such as this. Good opportunity for local area to improve this area.
- *Mike Rearden* asked for more clarification on why the project amount was so low. Applicant stated this is a realistic look for this project and anticipates there may be a “Phase II” to a larger project.
- *Bryant Wright* asked the best form of transportation to reach project area. Applicant stated water transportation [boats] are the best ways to access project area. “Waterways are our highways.”

ORTAB Recommendation:

- *Bryant Wright* noticed that project timeline appeared to be a bit short. If applicant would consider, recommendation to extend project timeline to allow more flexibility to complete the project. Applicant appreciated this recommendation and intended to increase timeline to allow more flexibility in timeline to complete the project.

7. **Project Title:** Reflective Wands

Organization Name: Petersville Community Non-Profit Corporation

Project Category: Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$13,500.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$1,500.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$15,000.00	Total Project Cost	\$15,000.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 85.44/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- *DPOR Tara Epperson* asked for confirmation from applicant, if materials in the award were already purchased, prior to the award being approved. Applicant clarified and confirmed, materials have not yet been purchased that are outlined in the application. Other reflective wands were purchased using other funds, so to promote safety in the area until application would be considered and approved but are not the reflective wands outlined in this application.
- ORTAB general feedback, good photographs and seems like a good project. Group discussion on whether the applicant had met the local governing body support requirement. After much discussion, DPOR Grants Administration Management confirmed that a local governing body support letter IS a requirement that must be met. Applicant states support letters have been obtained. Applicant will need to supply local governing body support letter for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

8. **Project Title:** Niniichik State Parks Trail Grooming Equipment

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Kenai Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$10,245.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$1,148.86		
Total Participating Cost	\$11,393.86	Total Project Cost	\$11,393.86

Final Average ORTAB Score: 87.44/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:



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- ORTAB general feedback, a good project, nice to see this project for this area and a good benefit to the community. ORTAB asks if there may be potential for expanding in this project area to allow for more trail access/usage. Applicant has currently budgeted at set time for grooming, but grooming could fluctuate weather dependent.

9. **Project Title:** Cindy and Crosswinds West Trail Improvements

Organization Name: Lake Louise Snow Machine Club, LLC

Project Category: Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$62,990.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$3,262.26
Match Requirement	\$6,998.90		
Total Participating Cost	\$69,988.90	Total Project Cost	\$73,251.16

Final Average ORTAB Score: 86.11/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, seems an important and good project. ORTAB liked that applicant including the objectives and results was very helpful during review. A very well-written application.
- Lang Van Dommelen* asked for more clarification on how organization will fund project. Applicant clarified that organization does have funding, and “ready to go.” Applicant stated they have funds for the entire project, to include federal and matching requirement.
- Sally Andersen* asked for confirmation that local governing body support letter was provided. Applicant states they believe they have. *DPOR Tara Epperson* to research further to verify if this requirement has been met.
- Jeff Budd* asked if land management approval has been met. ORTAB questions if this may cause concern or discrepancies when trying to obtain the easement portion of this. *DPOR Tara Epperson* to research further to verify if what applicant supplied fulfills the land management approval requirement.
- Bryant Wright* asked clarification for local governing body letter, and if support would be needed from Division of Mining, Land, and Water to complete project in unincorporated borough area.

ORTAB Recommendation:

- Bryant Wright* recommended asking Division of Mining, Land, and Water to confirm authorization, especially considering that applicant is trying to obtain the easement portion of the project. Applicant agreed and appreciated recommendation; will contact Division of Mining, Land, and Water.

10. **Project Title:** Shoup Bay Trail, Phase II

Organization Name: Valdez Adventure Alliance

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$15,911.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$1,767.88		
Total Participating Cost	\$17,678.88	Total Project Cost	\$17,678.88

Final Average ORTAB Score: 90.00/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:



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- ORTAB general feedback, glad to see Phase II of this project, and that Phase I was executed well. A good project, and happy to see a “5-year” plan of this project.
- *Sally Andersen* asked if the applicant has an updated excavator-rental quote; while the quote showed the daily rate, it did not reflect the total quoted cost for the rental. Applicant stated they would obtain updated copy of the excavator quote and submit.
- *Bryant Wright* asked the applicant for more clarification on how the applicant will transport the D-1 gravel to the project trail site. Applicant clarified for Phase I, applicant hired contractor Happy Trails to assist with the project. For Phase II, applicant will be using their own equipment [trailer] to transport the materials at the project site.

ORTAB Chairperson Mike Shirofchuck moved to call on applicant Shimai Toshi Garden Trails, Inc. – “Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trails,” as applicant had called into meeting today. *DPOR Tara Epperson* requested a brief discussion with ORTAB Chairperson to share new information that the Director’s Office received very recently, the previous week. After discussion, ORTAB Chairperson and DPOR agreed to table this application and to discuss tomorrow would be beneficial – to allow ORTAB to review and consider the new information, as well as allow the applicant an opportunity to review the new information and prepare a response for tomorrow’s discussion.

11. Project Title: Haines Area Multi-Use Trail Maintenance

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Southeast Region

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$74,781.56	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$9,115.20		
Total Participating Cost	\$83,896.76	Total Project Cost	\$83,896.76

Final Average ORTAB Score: 75.00/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, good feedback on encompassing kiosk improvements to the area. A good project to benefit the Haines community.
- *Libby Kugel* asked for clarification on the trail locations, and if it includes multiple trails or a singular trail. Applicant clarified that the general topography is the area is river flats that had previously flooded, they are now overgrown with cottonwood and alder. Prior to skiing usage, it was previously used by off-road vehicles so there are roads going “everywhere” and a dike that was built for a fish-spawning stream. The area has had motorized-use traffic, which has become ideal project for grooming for a diverse use of trail-users.
- *Jeff Budd* stated the application could have been written better or there may have been missing pieces to the application, and maps were hard to decipher what specific areas the project work would be completed, asks if the Buy America Act certification has been met, and has concerns about the amount of money the project costs. Applicant clarified that Buy America Act certification has been obtained. Applicant further explains that renting the wood-chipper was the only option, under the Buy America Act threshold but would have liked to purchase; the other large cost was labor and added buffer to allow for unplanned time constraints that may occur over the course of the project.



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- *Mike Rearden* asked for clarification on the project start date and if start date would be June 2021 or August 2021. Applicant clarified that the project start date is expected for August 2021.

12. Project Title: Halibut Point and Mosquito Cove Trail

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Southeast Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$54,415.27	Non-Participating Costs	\$50.01
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Match Requirement	\$6,046.14		
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Total Participating Cost	\$60,461.41	Total Project Cost	\$60,511.42
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Final Average ORTAB Score: 80.44/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, felt Sitka could really use maintenance projects such as this. General follow-up questions clarified the project scope of work; the applicant provided clarification as written in the application. This application will be managed my Parks staff who are currently on seasonal leave. There is currently an active grant for a similar project, but the grant will close in time before this application is awarded.
- *Christy Gentemann* asked DPOR for clarification on the local governing body requirement for Alaska State Parks' projects. *DPOR Tara Epperson* clarified that Alaska State Parks' projects located within a State Park require a letter from the Park Superintendent and a letter of support from the Citizen's Advisory Board. The letter from the Park Superintendent may fulfill the following requirements: local governing body letter, landowner authorization, and a support letter.

ORTAB Recommendation:

- *Libby Kugel* recommended to DPOR, asking applicants for photographs of the project location that are specific to the work area, instead of a more generalized photograph. This may help ORTAB better understand the area and location better and get a better visual of the work needing to be completed.

13. Project Title: Halibut Point SRS Latrine

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Southeast Region

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$75,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$92.22
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Match Requirement	\$8,333.33		
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Total Participating Cost	\$83,333.33	Total Project Cost	\$83,425.55
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Final Average ORTAB Score: 86.44/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project. Some of the ORTAB Members feel the DNR DPOR Southeast Region's three (3) applications [Halibut Point and Mosquito Cove Trail, Halibut Point SRS Latrine, Point Bridget State Park Trails, Phase II] should have been more thorough and more details provided upfront. Overall, still a good project to improve latrine maintenance and safety in the area.
- *Bryant Wright* asked for more clarification on the cost estimates for the prices for toilets and installation, concerned that there were not enough funds requested to meet the bids.



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Applicant clarifies the bids were collected based on various regions within the State of Alaska, not specific to the Sitka area. The pricing quotes were obtained from the DNR DPOR Design and Construction Section with estimates of rates around the State.

ORTAB Recommendation:

- *Bryant Wright* recommended if applicant chooses model for toilet and install, to contact the vendor for a more accurate quote and cost estimate for the installation. Also recommended completing this project in different phases, if necessary, to ensure there is enough funding to complete the entire project.

14. **Project Title:** Point Bridget State Park Trails, Phase II

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Southeast Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$71,900.28	Non-Participating Costs	\$38.88
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Match Requirement	\$7,988.92		
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Total Participating Cost	\$79,889.20	Total Project Cost	\$79,928.08
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Final Average ORTAB Score: 88.89/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a few general follow-up clarifying questions asked. No comments or general statements regarding this project.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm, to continue tomorrow.



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Day 2: Wednesday, February 3, 2021

09:00am – 4:30pm

ORTAB Members Present:

Motorized Trail Representatives	Non-Motorized Trail Representatives	Diversified Trail Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Meghan McClain ❖ Bryant Wright 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Christy Gentemann ❖ Libby Kugel ❖ Mike Sirofchuck, <i>ORTAB Chair</i> ❖ Lang Van Dommelen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sally Andersen ❖ Jeff Budd, <i>newly elected</i> <i>ORTAB Vicechair</i> ❖ Mike Rearden

DNR DPOR Director’s Office Staff Present:

- ❖ Ricky J. Gease, *Division Director*
- ❖ Samantha A. Hudson, *Administrative Officer II, Grants Section Manager*
- ❖ Tara L. Epperson, *Grants Administrator II, Recreational Trails Program*

The meeting was called to order at 09:00am by DPOR Tara Epperson. Roll call was taken, and meeting protocols discussed. This meeting was conducted using Cisco WebEx, connecting via webcam, audio, and chat features. Meeting was recorded using Cisco WebEx recording features, including audio, video, and chat features. Minutes recorded to be drafted and typed, following the second day after the meeting concludes.

As discussed in yesterday’s meeting, ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck is scheduled absent this morning but does plan to join meeting at earliest opportunity later this morning. Newly elected ORTAB Vice Chairperson Jeff Budd to assume the ORTAB Chairperson responsibilities until ORTAB Chairperson joins meeting.

A brief recap of yesterday’s meeting was provided by DPOR Tara Epperson. The current 30% motor-30% non-motor-40% diversified federal requirements were discussed with ORTAB and asked to keep this in mind when discussing the project categories after the final scores of all RTP applications were provided. If the 30-30-40 could not be met, DPOR Director Ricky Gease stated Alaska State Parks will be announcing a second grant round for RTP projects and seek more motorized trail projects for consideration. It would become extremely important for the ranking of the projects, based on ORTAB’s final scoring, for DPOR Director Ricky Gease to determine which projects will move forward. If a second grant round of RTP projects is announced, ORTAB may be required to meet again in Late Spring or Early Summer 2021.

ORTAB Vice Chairperson Jeff Budd provided a brief recap, discussing the House Rules and how public comment opportunities will be available throughout the meeting. RTP projects will be discussed in order as shown on Page 5 of the agenda. ORTAB Members must declare if they have a conflict of interest before discussing the applications. Speakers should clearly state their name so that attendees over the phone understand who is speaking, and to ensure that the meeting minutes are accurate.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications discussion and scoring continued.

[Ranked as follows, in order as discussed during meeting, not by ORTAB Score]



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15. **Project Title:** Caines Head SRA Trail Maintenance

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Kenai Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$42,025.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$30.56
Match Requirement	\$4,669.44		
Total Participating Cost	\$46,694.44	Total Project Cost	\$46,725.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 92.11/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project. Seems like a very popular trail, especially with the number of visitors. Well-written application and seemed a good benefit overall to Alaskans and visitors alike.
- *Meghan McClain* asked for clarification on the project cost for retreading an existing trail. The applicant is not present to respond. *DPOR Tara Epperson* advised ORTAB, if applicant is not available that ORTAB defer to other ORTAB Members for their opinions or if needed, DPOR could note questions and reach out to applicant following meeting.
- *Jeff Budd* stated the reason may be because of the form of material transportation; the applicant will be using helicopter transportation for materials.
- *Libby Kugel* stated that the applicant is also applying to maintain 7 miles of trail while other applicants have not applied for as many miles, so “seven (7) miles feels like a lot compared to some of the other projects,” a good price for the number of miles.
- *DPOR Director Ricky Gease* stated that this has been a high-use area in prior years, when cruise ships arrived in Seward. While cruise ships did not arrive in 2020 and not planned in 2021 due to strains of pandemic, high usage is expected to continue. *DPOR Director Ricky Gease* further states the goal is to improve the Kenai region to encourage more trail-users in the area.
- *Bryant Wright* stated he feels the transportation costs for the area are very reasonable, much cheaper than transporting materials on foot.

16. **Project Title:** Saddle Tread Reshaping

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Kenai Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$12,364.10	Non-Participating Costs	\$7,551.21
Match Requirement	\$1,373.79		
Total Participating Cost	\$13,737.89	Total Project Cost	\$21,289.10

Final Average ORTAB Score: 82.44/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, well-written application, good photographs provided. A good project to see in this area. Some stated it appears a bit costly for the work being completed. Applicant not present for comment.
- *Christy Gentemann* stated the project narrative indicates that applicant would be reconstructing with mineral soil and in the photographs, asks for clarification if there would be any possibility for an in-kind replacement and how to prevent future erosion from occurring again.



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- *Lang Van Dommelen* noted that there appeared to be a few discrepancies in the application; Question #3 asks if project benefits people with disabilities? Application states no. However, in Question #5 expected users are stated that users would include people with disabilities or wheelchair usage.
- *Sally Andersen* stated this trail has applied for funding in the past, this being the third or fourth application, and asks for a bit more streamlined in processes for this trail and/or a clear direction for the plan of this trail currently and in future. Would like to see a little bit more variety of trails, but not sure of what this region’s trail opportunities include. *Meghan McClain* concurred with this and stated this trail has received a lot of prior RTP funding and would like to see more variety with how RTP funds are allocated.

17. **Project Title:** Totem Bight Trail Improvements

Organization Name: DNR DPOR Southeast Region

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$74,432.78	Non-Participating Costs	\$53.33
Match Requirement	\$8,270.31		
Total Participating Cost	\$82,703.09	Total Project Cost	\$82,756.42

Final Average ORTAB Score: 88.67/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, a good project. Area gets a lot of visitors and usage; it is understanding why this work is needed in this area. “Big bang for our buck.” Applicant not present for comment.
- *Jeff Budd* asked if applicant met the Buy America Act verification requirement. *DPOR Tara Epperson* stated that the applicant had questions regarding the Buy America Act certification requirement, and an email was sent to the Federal Highway Administration for clarification. FHWA has not yet responded but anticipating response to determine if application meets Buy America Act requirements or if applicant is required to obtain certifications.

18. **Project Title:** Chena Lake River Park Trails Reroutes

Organization Name: Fairbanks North Star Borough

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$74,986.91	Non-Participating Costs	\$13,000.00
Match Requirement	\$8,331.88		
Total Participating Cost	\$83,318.79	Total Project Cost	\$96,318.79

Final Average ORTAB Score: 87.38/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, very good photographs. A good application and well-written, a very compelling project.
- *Bryant Wright* stated he is the applicant. Will not score this application.
- Applicant clarified that since applying, they have obtained Buy America Act certification for the steel items so that project is now compliant.

19. **Project Title:** Isberg East-West Multi-Use Trail, Phase II

Organization Name: Fairbanks North Star Borough



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Project Category: Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$99,368.35	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$11,040.93		
Total Participating Cost	\$110,409.28	Total Project Cost	\$110,409.28

Final Average ORTAB Score: 86.63/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, area gets a lot of usage from trail users. Budget narrative appeared a bit vague, but in general, a good project. Good photographs of Phase I completion.
- *Bryant Wright* stated he is the applicant. Will not score this application.
- Applicant clarified that since applying, they have obtained Buy America Act certification for the steel items so that project is now compliant.

20. **Project Title:** Eagle River Nature Center Trails

Organization Name: Friends of Eagle River Nature Center

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$49,200.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$5,465.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$54,665.00	Total Project Cost	\$54,665.00

Final Average ORTAB Score: 79.57/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, seems to be a good project. A reasonable amount of work for the budget requested. Applicant not present for comment.
- *Christy Gentemann* asked if the landowner authorization requirement was met. *DPOR Tara Epperson* to verify with applicant and determine if requirement was met.
- *Libby Kugel* and *Bryant Wright* state they are board members of Alaska Trails, and have conflicts of interest with this application. Will not score this application.

21. **Project Title:** Skeetawk Summer Trails Construction, Phase I

Organization Name: Hatcher Alpine Xperience

Project Category: Diversified

Federal Funds Requested	\$75,000.00	Non-Participating Costs	\$37,232.60
Match Requirement	\$8,333.00		
Total Participating Cost	\$83,333.00	Total Project Cost	\$120,565.60

Final Average ORTAB Score: 83.89/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- ORTAB general feedback, appears to be new to applying to RTP. The application was not very detailed but enough was provided to see the overview. Summer trails do not appear to be applicant's main experience, as ski trails. A bit different than other projects applied for. Applicant not present for comment.
- *Sally Andersen* asked if the landowner authorization requirement was met. Was not assured by their funding, as the application states they are "on track" for having all the funding available. *Mike Rearden* agreed with this, as the applicant did not confirm whether they had the funding available.



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- *Libby Kugel* stated their application states they have a long-term lease with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Also mentioned that this appears to be a different project that may connect trails together in the area. Would be neat to see how the trails would connect or how future phases occur.
- *Mike Rearden* also stated that the application was not very detailed and made it difficult to determine if it was a reasonable project.
- *Bryant Wright* stated that the plan appears to have been “self-authored” from the applicant, where it did not appear to have included public comment or agreed upon terms. Concerned it was steered towards specific user groups. Trails did not appear to be as needed, or stated as such, as there are lots of trails in this area. Concerns with access to the chair lift in the summer, or how applicant would manage chair lift during the summer months.
- *Christy Gentemann* expressed concerns with the public notice, as the notice was a copy of the master plan. The notice may not have been clear to the public of the application they were applying for, notice could have been more specific.
- *Lang Van Dommelen* is concerned with the chair lift costs and costs associated for trail users to access parts of the trail using the chair lift. Timeline completing construction appeared to be very aggressive and wonders if this is enough time. This area gets a lot of use, and improvements to access to some of these trails may increase the usage even more.

ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck joined the meeting. Current final scores reviewed, and preview of current project ranking.

22. Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trails

Organization Name: Shimai Toshi Garden Trails, Inc.

Project Category: Non-Motorized

Federal Funds Requested	\$74,467.50	Non-Participating Costs	\$0
Match Requirement	\$8,274.17		
Total Participating Cost	\$82,741.67	Total Project Cost	\$82,741.67

Final Average ORTAB Score: 78.89/100

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- *DPOR Tara Epperson* forwarded the ORTAB and the applicant letters that were received by the DPOR Director’s Office, expressing concerns about the application and public notice processes. ORTAB Members reviewed letters, and the response letter prepared by the applicant addressing the concerns.
- Applicant not present for comment at this time but scheduled to call in when they are available after 2:40pm.
- *Jeff Budd* stated project scored low as he felt was not the “best bang for the buck” with RTP funding. Siding with the letters of concern and would like the applicant to address the concerns before proceeding. Would like more information from the borough to confirm what the letters are stating.
- *Sally Andersen* stated she had looked up the Kenai Borough planning at the assembly and felt a lot of the letters duplicates of the same context. With this, it seems more like one neighbor had an issue with the project and gathered support from local neighbors and drafted the very same letter signed by different neighbors. While not a well-written application, it does provide seven



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(7) acres of recreational usage close to a school. There is already an existing trail in the area, so feels this is a “good bang for the buck” with RTP funding. Inclined to entirely discount these letters as “too little, too late,” as they were submitted after the public notice period and had their opportunity to comment earlier in the process, over many different forums how this project was presented. Questions that ORTAB was asked to consider by DPOR Director Ricky Gease, “is there a long-term maintenance plan?” This is not on the ORTAB scoring sheet, and something that should not be considered if other applicants are not scored based on this information. Seems unfair to ask if this applicant has a long-term maintenance plan when other applicants are not asked.

- *Mike Rearden* agreed with *Sally Andersen*. Felt that ORTAB should be reviewing the project based on its merit and feels the letters were “noise” submitted after the public notice period. The applicant followed the RTP application, and felt the applicant addressed the questions to the best of their ability. Felt the application should be reviewed as “the way it was submitted.” Felt if the borough was involved, that some form of notice must have been provided to the local community and would be nice to know exactly.
- *Libby Kugel* agreed with *Sally Andersen* and *Mike Rearden*. The letters were submitted by only a few neighbors and is not a well representation of the whole community. The project area is already on public land, so if this applicant does not work in this location, some other vendor or applicant may work in this location. The applicant responded that local parks in neighborhoods may benefit the property value of the houses in the neighborhood.
- *Mike Sirofchuck* stated they had a very similar experience occur in Kodiak. There was an application in Kodiak to expand parking in a near-by park, involving multiple meetings in various settings. Like this current application, the Kodiak project received letters for a few people at the very end of the application process with their disagreement with the project and claimed they did not know of the processes or claimed the project was not clear. This delayed the project for over a year, prevented the funding from being used in the park timely to make the improvements, and overall delayed processes and did not provide valid proof of their concerns. The letters received for this current application, some wrote “Chinese” or “Japanese” garden which really “stuck out to me” discerning for their opinion. Agreed with other ORTAB Members and felt these letters from neighbors were extremely identical and submitted at the last minute. Post cards seemed like an “above and beyond” approach to notifying the neighborhood. While not a well-written application, felt it is a good project overall. There does appear to be a lot of parking at the school available and would not be necessary to create a parking lot near the trail. Photographs appear that is area is a very under-developed piece of property that should use some work for recreational use.
- *Bryant Wright* stated he has mixed feelings about the perception whether outreach was sufficient, and the public notice was met. According to the application, yes, the applicant did meet the requirements. But does not feel it is quite the same as the planning process, reaching out to potential stakeholders. Feels having support from the local school, who may be a major stakeholder in this park, should have been notified or provided support for this project. Seemed like a good project that would benefit the school and community, maintenance would be expected as any other trail area. Was not compelled by the “drive” behind the project, and project seemed that there was a very specific agenda to this project by a smaller group. The public notice that was posted did not appear to be very clear in the message it was trying to



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convey and explaining what the project is. The applicant reaching to the assembly, the assembly may not have been aware of the entire aspect of the project and may have approved based on limited information regarding the project scope of work. Felt the applicant was really trying to give their best with public notice but felt that it could have been more specific and detailed. Questions why parking would be necessary in the project area, when school parking is right across the street, again having the school's input on the project would be beneficial. Felt it probably is a very small group of people opposing the project but did not provide comment within the public notice period. The neighbors may not have been aware of the assembly and are upset not having enough information from the public notices. *Libby Kugel* appreciated this perspective from the borough or project manager perspective, good comments to consider in the public notice processes.

- *Christy Gentemann* agreed with *Bryant Wright*, has mixed feelings about the project. She recognized that applicant met with assembly earlier and more consistently to provide notice but felt that the local community may not have received as many details as to the specifics of the project. The letters showed the neighbors frustrations, but felt their responses were past the public comment deadline and should not be considered.
- *Lang Van Dommelen* agreed with *Mike Sirofchuck's* sentiments on the project. *Bryant Wright* made some excellent points to consider.
- *DPOR Director Ricky Gease* appreciated ORTAB's different perspectives and observations to consider. Part of the processes for the project involved the City of Soldotna and is an interesting case because it is within Kenai Peninsula Borough land but within the City of Soldotna. In projects like this, he would anticipate the City of Soldotna to be involved in this process, that there would be a letter of support from the City of Soldotna City Council, something through the planning process with the City of Soldotna regarding the trail. With the lease of land for the project area, one would expect more involvement and discussions with the public, discussions with the local school district and verify how their parking lots can be utilized for trail visitors. If Phase II involves the parking, where will the parking be located? The lease from the borough, the borough may choose to redact the lease or give to someone else, so who would be maintaining the area then? Felt that there are a lot of unanswered questions that need answers and would feel more comfortable approving the project if there was a letter of support from the City of Soldotna, letter of support from the school district. And how on-going maintenance will be addressed. Concerned with the capacity of a non-profit organization managing this level of project, and on-going management and maintenance of the project. Feels there may be other higher-priority projects within the State, at this time.
- *Meghan McClain* stated that there may still be a lot of questions to be addressed. No other additional comments at this time.

ORTAB has concluded discussion of RTP applications and final scoring, pending response from RTP Applicant for "Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trail." ORTAB reviews the current project categories for each project to determine if the projects have been classified correctly, and make changes as needed (Motorized, Non-Motorized, Diversified).

Break for Lunch, 12:00pm – 1:00pm



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ORTAB continued review of current project categories for each project.

ORTAB Recommendation:

- *Mike Rearden* suggested in the future to entice more motorized projects, raising the current motorized maximum award limit above \$100,000.00.

ORTAB completed the review of current project categories for each project.

DPOR Tara Epperson reviewed options for ORTAB to submit final scoresheets to DPOR Director's Office:

Email: Parks.RTPGrantApp@alaska.gov

Mail: Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
ATTN: Recreational Trails Program
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501

DPOR Tara Epperson requested that all scoresheets, to include LWCF and RTP scoresheets, are submitted to DPOR Director's Office no later than Friday, February 19, 2021.

ORTAB Members asked if documents need to be returned to DPOR Director's Office. DPOR Tara Epperson initially stated documents do not need to be returned but requested if documents can be discarded. Sally Andersen asked, what if the documents were helpful for ORTAB to make notes for future reference when scoring. DPOR Tara Epperson appreciated this question and reconsidered initial statement. If ORTAB Members felt documents were helpful to ORTAB and to reference in the future, ORTAB may choose to keep the documents but requested that documents remain confidential. Electronic signatures are acceptable for signing the scoresheets.

RTP Applicant for "Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trails" joins the call at this time.

ORTAB Discussion/Questions or Comments:

- *Jeff Budd* asked for more clarification on parking options for trail visitors. Applicant stated that trail is within proximity to homes and buildings, within the small City of Soldotna. Most visitors simply walk from their homes to visit this area. There is legal parking available on both sides of the road [Marydale] that is next to the project site, that the City of Soldotna has recognized. Until applicant reaches Phase II, applicant stated they would rely on street parking availability and parking from the local school across the street from the project site. The applicant cannot regulate parking where visitors park but stated there is legal parking on the street that visitors can utilize. The applicant stated that the school parking lot is not available for use during school hours but after hours, again stating that they cannot regulate where visitors choose to park.
- *Mike Sirofchuck* asked further, if street parking is available, does the applicant have an estimate of how many visitors can park on the street and how it may affect the parking of the



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neighborhood. Applicant stated for the number of people helping on work in the area, parking has never been an issue and feels there is plenty of parking available along the length of the street. The applicant did not park on any other streets in the local community, so only the one street was utilized and was very clear to their volunteers and staff where they needed to park. Homes and driveways were not blocked and did not feel it impacted the neighbors' access to their streets, homes or driveways.

- *Libby Kugel* requested if a brief overview of ORTAB's earlier discussion could be provided to the applicant to inform the applicant on how discussion went to provide them with further insight. *DPOR Tara Epperson* offered to provide brief overview, and relayed key notes of ORTAB's earlier discussion to the applicant. Based on the application scoring criteria and the requirement outlined in the application, ORTAB agreed that the application met all of the requirements and is still considered for recommendation.
- *Bryant Wright* stated he felt the applicant did a good job with outreach with the resources they had available.

ORTAB Recommendation:

- *Bryant Wright* recommended that the public notice could have been conducted with more details, and possibly more involvement from both the school district and City of Soldotna to support the project. There may be some good contacts in the city to assist with vetting some of the public concerns for the project. Checking in with the school to seek a letter of support may be helpful as well. Applicant did state they have spoken with the site council members, and they appeared to be very excited about the project. Applicant stated they are working close with a point of contact at the City of Soldotna, who did inform them of the parking available along the street. Applicant had also been in contact with the Parks and Recreation and had discussed the project with local contacts in the Parks and Recreation to ensure they are following processes correctly for the project. The parking was not a part of this phasing so was not included in the application at this time. *Bryant Wright* recommended getting some of the documentation from the applicant's contacts may be beneficial to have some written support.
- *Mike Sirofchuck* agreed with *Bryant Wright* and recommended that the applicant obtain documents in writing from the points of contact that the applicant is speaking with to show more clarification in their application.

ORTAB has concluded discussion of RTP applications and final scoring. Motion passed for ORTAB to approve or deny the current final scores and project rankings. ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck conducts a roll call motion to approve or deny the final scores and project rankings:



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ORTAB has unanimously approved of the RTP Application – Funding Calculations Spreadsheet, approving of final score and project ranking.

Project Title	Organization	Average Application
Chugach State Park Video Trail Guides	DNR DPOR Interpretation and Education Section	92.22
Caines Head SRA Trail Maintenance	DNR DPOR Kenai Region	92.11
Shoup Bay Trail, Phase II	Valdez Adventure Alliance	90.00
Point Bridget State Park Trails, Phase II	DNR DPOR Southeast Region	88.89
Totem Bight Trail Improvements	DNR DPOR Southeast Region	88.67
Little O'Malley Peak Trail	Alaska Trails	88.43
Sea Lion Cove State Marine Park Trail Repairs	Sitka Trail Works	88.22
Delta River Walk Park, Phase I	Delta Junction Trails Association	87.89
Ninilchik State Parks Trail Grooming Equipment	DNR DPOR Kenai Region	87.44
Chena Lake River Park Trails Reroutes	Fairbanks North Star Borough	87.38
Isberg East-West Multi-Use Trail, Phase II	Fairbanks North Star Borough	86.63
Halibut Point SRS Latrine	DNR DPOR Southeast Region	86.44
Eklutna Lakeside Trail Brushing	Alaska Trails	86.14
Grewingk Glacier Management Unit	DNR DPOR Interpretation and Education Section	86.11
Cindy and Crosswinds West Trail Improvements	Lake Louise Snow Machine Club, LLC	86.11
Reflective Wands	Petersville Community Non-Profit Corporation	85.44
Skeetawk Summer Trails Construction, Phase I	Hatcher Alpine Xperience	83.89
Saddle Tread Reshaping	DNR DPOR Kenai Region	82.44
Halibut Point and Mosquito Cove Trail	DNR DPOR Southeast Region	80.44
Eagle River Nature Center Trails	Friends of Eagle River Nature Center	79.57
Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trails	Shimai Toshi Garden Trails, Inc.	78.89
Haines Area Multi-Use Trail Maintenance	DNR DPOR Southeast Region	75.00
FY2021 RTP Administrative Allowance	~DNR DPOR Grants Administration	
Totals without Admin Allowance		

Motion passed for ORTAB to accept or deny the current project categories and the current percentages categorized for Motor/Non-Motor/Diversified. ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck conducts a roll call motion accept or deny the current project categories and the current percentages:

ORTAB has unanimously accepts to the current project category percentages.

DPOR Director Ricky Gease provides a brief presentation regarding the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The overview is intended to inform ORTAB Members of what the plans will be for the SCORP and upcoming proposed projects within the State.

ORTAB Members each provide feedback on scoring, the review process, processes in general:

- *Sally Andersen* stated that the scoresheets have really improved this year, compared to years' prior. Would like to see a value per public dollar subjective category, like "professionalism-type" categories.



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Did not feel there was a way to evaluate whether the project was “ready to go.” Was not sure how the score of whether the budget was calculated correctly, maybe this is a bit obsolete. Would like to see Alaska State Parks required to submit public letters of support to understand public value a little bit better.

- *Mike Sirofchuck* recognized that *Mike Rearden* has been a long-term member of ORTAB and recognizes all his hard work and service. Thank you for all your service!! Prior years, RTP has received double the number of applicants so was glad to see that there were not as many applications as possible and less stress. With 22 application, there was enough time available to review. If there may more in future years and would like more time if more applications are submitted. Would like to include in the application, whether the project offered “new recreational opportunities.” Recommended creating more emphasis in the application for more photos and better maps with more precise reflection of where the project location is at. Thanks for all the hard work from DPOR staff and ORTAB!!
- *Jeff Budd* recognized the new ORTAB Members! Great expertise and knowledge really appreciated the in-depth discussion points made. DPOR Tara Epperson did amazing job. DPOR Director Ricky Gease has done a wonderful job providing insight and thank you for joining today’s meeting. A great job to DPOR staff running the meeting.
- *Libby Kugel* felt the timeframe was good to review the applications. Recommended if the application could have a two- or three- sentence project summary at the top of the page or application may be helpful when referencing what the application includes. Liked that the scoresheet aligned with the application so made it easy to score project better. Is interested in applying for a second term, as this is the final year to her first term. *Sally Andersen* would also be interested in applying for a second term.
- *Mike Rearden* thought the scoresheets were a huge improvement, would recommend that with the scoresheets being 8 pages, if the scoresheets could be mailed to ORTAB in future to save their own paper. Application formatting has improved considerably in recent years, which has made it easier to review and score projects. The quality of the ORTAB Members has been the best as he’s ever seen, everyone has been tremendous. Joined ORTAB 9 years ago, initially as a representative for western and rural area in Alaska. The difficulties that go along with seeking permissions for the projects was considerable. This may be why too many applicants from the bush or more rural areas have not been seen but would like to see more rural projects come through. Thank you to everyone and has been very fun getting a chance to work together!
- *Christy Gentemann* was very excited to join this board, and felt the process went very smooth! Thank you, to DPOR Tara Epperson and ORTAB Chairperson, for your professionalism! The meeting was run very well. Felt scoring time was adequate and went well. Would recommend adding to the application what the project cost would be to the public, so that the applicant could clarify and relay clearly in the project. Thank you to everyone!
- *Meghan McClain* thanks DPOR Tara Epperson for assisting with the meeting and appreciates all the board member’s time. Feels the applications were laid out well and well-organized. Thank you for everyone’s time!
- *Bryant Wright* thanks to ORTAB Members and ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck! Has been a wonderful learning process and is great to see the review process. Thank you to DPOR Tara Epperson, and DPOR Director Ricky Gease attending the meeting and providing insight to some of the Alaska State Parks projects. Guidance on the use category may be helpful, including the five categories that FHWA uses to categorize projects. Like adding the question of adding “solving the recreational



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problem,” and providing guidance. Provide guidance on how to address the ADA accessibility improvements and ask if FHWA requires specific ADA or generalized ADA requirements. Requested more photographs and maps would be great. Asked for ways that “we” could reach out to locations in Alaska that haven’t applied for funding and would be nice to spread where RTP funds are provided throughout Alaska. Some of the scoring may have been redundant but feel that at least the different sections reflect the weight of the priority of each section. Timeframe worked well for review. Thank you everyone!

- *DPOR Tara Epperson* appreciated everyone’s feedback, time and effort into reviewing the applications and projects. Thank you to ORTAB and ORTAB Chairperson Mike Sirofchuck for all your hard work and directing this week’s meeting. Thank you everyone!
- *Lang Van Dommelen* thanked everyone! This has been a great experience! Had adequate time to review the applications. Thank you!

The meeting adjourned and concluded at 4:20pm.