

Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB)

MEETING
MINUTES: LWCF

DECEMBER 12, 2024

1:00 – 4:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED BY	Ricky Gease, Director, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
TYPE OF MEETING	LWCF Applications for State Projects: Funding Recommendations
ATTENDEES	<p>ORTAB Members Present. Libby Kugel, Jeff Budd, Ron Lurk, Rod Arno, Mike Sirofchuk by phone or through MStems.</p> <p>ORTAB Members Joined Later: Andrew Carmichael and Christy Gentemann</p> <p>Staff Present: Ricky Gease, Director; Joel Del Rosario, Admin Ops Manager; Jean Ayers and Kathleen Tarr, Grants Administrators. Stuart Leidner, Matanuska-Susitna Park Superintendent.</p> <p>Members of the Public: none present</p>

Agenda: 2 State-Sponsored Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Applications

1:00 PM. Meeting was called to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum established with 6 of 8 ORTAB members initially on-line. Two others joined somewhat later.

Director Gease welcomed attendees and noted that the agenda had changed so that the 2 LWCF applications could be addressed first, followed by many more RTP applications. Introductions of State staff and ORTAB members ensued.

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. Hearing none, the Chair called for presentations on LWCF proposals for ORTAB's consideration.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Presentation of Proposals by State DPOR Representative	Rys Miranda
Ranking of Proposals	ORTAB Members
<p>DPOR: Finger Lake State Recreation Site: Paving, Striping, and Electrical. LWCF Request: \$675,000. <i>Proposed actions include the following elements: 1. Pave approximately 125,000 square feet of road and parking areas. 2. Stripe the finished pavement. 3. Repair 200 feet of settling paved roadway. 4. Install electrical hook-ups for each campsite at the RV campground. 5. Run underground electrical to service the electrical hook-ups. 6. Install junction boxes for underground electrical access. 7. Slightly expand the boat launch parking area by three parking stalls. 8. Reconfigure two existing campsites.</i> (Ranked 1; Score 85)</p> <p>Q&A: Members commented that electrical service would decrease the noise and fumes that generators produce in campgrounds, which would greatly improve users' experiences at this site. They also asked whether the site was used year-round, and Stuart Leidner reported it received heavy use all year, as it was within easy reach of large population bases of Anchorage and Mat-Su residents. Additionally, in winter, Finger Lake is a very popular ice fishing destination. When asked why the parking area was only being increased by 3 stalls, Rys explained that a peat probe of the area revealed that 3 new stalls could be reasonably incorporated into the plan. However, beyond that limit, soils were still soggy at 8' below the surface, so planning anything further was not feasible.</p> <p>DPOR: Johnson Lake State Recreation Area: Paving, Striping, and Electrical. LWCF Request: \$821,920. <i>Proposed actions include the following elements: 1. Pave approximately 115,000 square feet of road and parking areas. 2. Stripe the finished pavement. 3. Expand the boat launch parking area. 4. Install electrical hook-ups to each campsite at the RV campground. 5. Run underground electrical to service the electrical</i></p>	

hook-ups. 6. Install junction boxes for underground electrical access. 7. Construct an orientation kiosk. 8. Install a single-lane, concrete plank boat ramp. (Ranked 2; Score 82)

Q&A: Members again noted that electrical service would decrease the noise and fumes that generators produce in campgrounds, and commended DPOR for improving users' experiences at this site. Members also inquired about the rate structure between campgrounds with electricity versus those that don't have power hookups. Rys explained that K'esugi Ken, the newest campground in DPOR's inventory, is the only one currently that has power available. Rate structures would be increased to perhaps \$50-60 per night, which should make it still affordable for families, while less attractive for squatters. Members expressed enthusiasm and support for each project.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Motion to recommend funding for each project, as ranked and requested.	Motion: Andrew Carmichael
Motion approved unanimously.	Second: Jeff Budd
OTHER AGENDA TOPICS	<p>Evaluation Score Sheets. Some ORTAB members said they had a difficult time finding answers to the evaluation questions within the applications. Jean realized that an older evaluation sheet had inadvertently been distributed to ORTAB. She distributed the current version after the meeting, which ORTAB would use for the January 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Date for Future ORTAB Meeting. The next meeting for ORTAB members will occur January 14-16, 2025. That meeting will be conducted in a hybrid in-person and MSTeams format to discuss non-State RTP and LWCF applications.</p>
CONCLUSION	Hearing no further comments, Chair Kugel concluded the LWCF portion of this joint meeting at 1:45, and the Board took a brief break before beginning discussions of RTP proposals.