



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

March 2008

Item #24: Boating Programs Advisory Committee Consolidation and Structure

Prepared By: Jim Eychaner, Senior Outdoor Resource Planner

Presented By: Jim Eychaner, Senior Outdoor Resource Planner

Approved by the Director:

Proposed Action: Decision

Summary

SHB 1651, enacted during the 2007 legislative session, created the "boating activities program." The legislation requires the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to "solicit input from a boating activities advisory committee." Because the new program complements and overlaps the existing agency-managed boating grant programs (the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) and the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program), staff proposes establishing a single new advisory committee to evaluate grant applications, to provide advice on policy issues for the three programs, and to provide advice on how to better coordinate and deliver services to boaters.

Staff Recommendation

Approve a single advisory committee called the "Boating Programs Advisory Committee" to (1) help guide the Boating Facilities, Boating Infrastructure, and Boating Activities grant programs, (2) participate in RCO boating-related planning and policy development, and (3) provide advice on how to better coordinate and deliver services to boaters. The staff recommends that the committee be composed of recreational boaters from a variety of boating interests and areas around the state, as well as representatives of state and local government boating facility providers.

Staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2008-020, approving the 15-member committee structure and authorizing the Director to appoint the members of the committee.



Background

RCO currently uses the services of a volunteer Boating Facilities Program Advisory Committee. The committee provides the agency with consistently valuable advice on “nuts and bolts” items from policy recommendations to grant evaluation for the Boating Facilities and Boating Infrastructure programs.

In developing this proposal, RCO staff sought the guidance from members of the Boating Facilities Program Advisory committee, the ad hoc HB1651 advisory committee, and additional members of the boating community regarding ways that the agency could (1) meet the requirements of the new and existing boating programs and (2) maintain the current level of volunteer assistance.

We were advised that a single advisory committee would be the most efficient way to get guidance on all three programs. That guidance would range from advice on policy to grant application review and evaluation.

Because SHB 1651 offers opportunities for new applicants (i.e., nonprofit organizations and federal agencies) and offers opportunities to fund projects and programs serving all boaters, we also were advised to consider a new approach to the membership of a boating advisory committee.

Analysis

Staff agrees with the advice of the boating community and proposes to consolidate program advisory committee responsibilities to a single committee called the Boating Programs Committee. Doing so improves efficiency and provides an opportunity to recruit committee members with fresh perspectives on the varieties of activities supported by the Boating Facilities, Boating Infrastructure, and Boating Activities Programs.

RCO staff recommends that the Boating Programs Committee have 15 members. Members would have broad perspective and viewpoints, and would not necessarily represent specific agencies, user groups, or clubs. We propose the following committee composition:

- 8 representatives of the boating community, balanced for boat type and diversity of geography, gender, age, and affiliation. These boaters also must have broad experience with and understanding of the needs of recreational boaters.
- 4 representatives from local agencies, ports, and/or Tribes; and
- 3 representatives from state agencies;

We recommend that the boaters have a majority of the positions on the committee. This recommendation is to respect the opinion of those who believe the committee should include boaters only, while recognizing that agency providers offer needed insight and advice.

One of the roles of the committee will be to evaluate grant applications. The committee will also participate in boating-related planning and policy development done by RCO and provide advice on how to better coordinate and deliver services to boaters. In the future, additional advisory roles may be added to their scope of work.

Next Steps

RCO is currently recruiting for interested volunteers for this committee. Applications are due by March 25th. If the Board approves the recommended format and role for the committee, appointments will be made by the Director. In early April, staff will be evaluating the applications and recommending appointments to the Director. The committee will meet as soon as possible after appointment to consider outstanding questions concerning SHB 1651. A key question for the new committee is use of the remaining appropriated funds (\$353,000.00).

Attachments

Resolution 2008-020

- A. Recruitment announcement
- B. Application form

RESOLUTION #2008-020

Boating Programs Advisory Committee Consolidation and Structure

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board awards grants for the state Boating Facilities Program (BFP) and the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Legislature enacted another boating related program in SHB 1651; and

WHEREAS, this new Boating Activities Program requires the Recreation and Conservation Office to solicit input from a boating activities advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of government accountability and performance to maximize public involvement while ensuring efficiency and coordination with other related programs and providers; and

WHEREAS, the advice of the boating community and boating service providers is essential to the management of the boating grant programs entrusted to the Recreation and Conservation Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board's strategic plan (#18) supports the creation of means to "[r]egularly seek and use constituent feedback in policy and funding decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the boating programs advisory committee as recommended in memo item #24, dated March 2008, is approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Office staff is directed to take the necessary steps for recruiting and appointing members of the boating programs advisory committee.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 27, 2008

Item #24, Boating Programs Advisory Committee Consolidation and Structure

March 2008

Attachment A, Page 1

Attachment A: Recruitment Announcement

The state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) needs volunteers to serve on its Boating Programs advisory committee. RCO manages three grant programs that support facilities and services for recreational boaters. The programs are the Boating Facilities Program, the Boating Infrastructure Grant program, and the Boating Activities Program. Individually, the 14 positions now available will represent the point of view of:

- Local agency, 4 positions
- State agency, 2 positions
- Federal agency, 1 position
- 8 citizens at large, with interests that address the diversity of recreational boating, from paddling to power squadron cruising, who may also belong to a nonprofit organization that supports any form of recreational boating.

Appointed members will serve staggered terms of two to four years. The program provides grants to local, state, and federal agencies, as well as qualified nonprofit organizations, to provide facilities and services supporting recreational boating. RCO grants pay for boat launches, transient moorage, upland restrooms, floating restrooms, safety and educational programming, and other services.

All advisors are unpaid volunteers. When the budget allows, travel expenses may be provided. Generally, members attend up to ten weekday meetings a year reviewing and evaluating projects.

An ideal person for each of these positions understands the spectrum of issues associated with recreational boating, from access to environmental sustainability, and also regularly communicates with recreationists that use these lands. Also, an ideal person has an interest in better coordination and delivery of services to boaters. Such a person has some familiarity with RCO grant program issues, has the time and interest to participate in committee activities, actively works for win-win solutions, and seeks creative outcomes. RCO committee members may hold membership in organizations that submit grant applications to RCFB. Past members may apply.

RCO's goal is to ensure that the Committee appointees represent the full range of Washington's geographic, cultural, gender, physical ability, and age characteristics.

To apply for committee membership, complete the [application and support materials](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rcfb/temp/adv_cmte_apps/boating.doc) (http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rcfb/temp/adv_cmte_apps/boating.doc) and submit to RCO **no later than March 25, 2008**. Or contact Jim Eychaner at 360-902-3011 (TTY, 360-902-1996), jim.eychaner@rco.wa.gov.

[Close](#)



APPLICATION FORM

Must be received by the Office NOT LATER THAN March 25, 2008.

→ If using a computer to complete this form: use "tab" key or mouse to jump to next field; use space bar or "x" key for check boxes. ←

1- Contact Information:

Yes No Are you a Washington State resident?

Name: _____

Preferred
Mailing
Address: _____

Home Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

City & Zip: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Phone #1: _____

Phone #2: _____

Work Home Mobile

Work Home Mobile

Employer Name
(If applicable) _____

Job Title
(If applicable) _____

2- List any membership in relevant professional or civic organizations (such as boating activities, outdoor recreation, habitat) include offices held and dates:

3- RCO expects some committee members may wish to represent a specific agency or interest group and to regularly communicate with that agency or group on boating issues. Please list any groups you would represent:

3b- How many years of experience do you have with the noted interest groups?

4- Yes No. Can you demonstrate agency or interest group support for your nomination (for example, a petition or letters from organization leadership, etc.)? If yes, please attach.

5- Yes No. In a typical year, Boating Programs Advisory Committee members attend four weekday meetings in Olympia for project reviews and evaluation. Will you be able to make this commitment?

6- Name any outdoor recreational activities relevant to this committee's work in which you regularly engage. Include years of experience.

7- Personal Information. RCO seeks to represent Washington's ethnicity, gender, physical ability, and ages on its advisory committees. Your confidential and voluntary response below will help us achieve this goal.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Are you Latino(a), Hispanic, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> No or Spanish? |

If you are Asian or Pacific Islander, check one box below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian | <input type="checkbox"/> Laotian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

If you are American Indian or Alaska Native, supply the information below:

- Eskimo
 Aleut
 Enrolled or principal tribe if American Indian-Tribe:

If you are Latino(a), Hispanic, or Spanish, check one box below:

- Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano
 Puerto Rican Cuban
 Other Latino(a), Hispanic, or Spanish. Enter group, such as Colombian, Dominican, etc.

- Other Race: _____ Birth Year: _____ Female Male

Yes No Do you have a permanent physical, sensory, or mental condition that substantially limits major life functions, like as working, caring for yourself, walking, using your hands, seeing, hearing, speaking, learning?

I understand that if this nomination is accepted, RCO expects that I will uphold boating program policies and the advisory committee's charter. Policies and charter are available on request from RCO (see below).

8- Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

9- Optional: With this form, we encourage you to include a paragraph on personal goals or philosophy and your thoughts on any boating issues of particular interest.

SEND THE PARAGRAPH AND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

JIM EYCHANER
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
PO Box 40917
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0917

(360) 902-3011
TTY (360) 902-1996
JIM.EYCHANER@RCO.WA.GOV
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

02/26/08