

Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 30, 2020

Board Members:

Scott Bryant	Marshall Douglas	John Fleischli
Tim Caughran	Mick Wanless	Joseph Mark
Anthony Tindall	Kerry Leigh	

IDNR Staff:

Colleen Callahan	George Sisk	Kathy Barker
Judy Bauer	Tami Evans	Tim Schweizer

Chairman Fleischli called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll call was given; quorum was met.

IDNR Attorney George Sisk joined the meeting and stated that the Open Meetings Act was amended a few months ago to allow for virtual meetings. Even though board members are participating by phone, their participation does count as quorum. Since we are meeting virtually, and in case any members of the public want to know how we've voted, any action today whether its minutes or any other action, a roll call, by name will need to be done. This will keep us compliant with the Open Meetings Act. For anyone making a motion or seconding a motion, please state your name.

In regard to the Grants portion of today's meeting, the director's role today is as a participant. She will have an opportunity to weigh in once NRAB makes its recommendations. No questions should be directed to the director regarding grants.

Adoption of the January 13, 2020 and the November 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Marshall Douglas motioned to approve the January 13, 2020 and the November 30, 2020 meeting minutes; Anthony Tindall provided the second.

Roll call to accept the approval of the January 13, 2020 & June 22, 2020 meeting minutes was given and accepted by Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran,

Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Anthony Tindall, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin

Adoption of the November 30, 2020 Agenda – Marshall Douglas motioned to accept the November 30, 2020 agenda; Anthony Tindall provided the second.

Roll call to accept the approval of the November 30, 2020 agenda was given and accepted by Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran, Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Anthony Tindall, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin

Boat Area Access Development Grants – Kathy Barker – The FY21 Boat Access Area Development Program received 12 applications requesting \$1,4 million. Approximately \$725,000 is available for funding. Five-projects are recommended with four as alternates should additional funding become available. Three applications were determined ineligible. Once approved by NRAB, recommendations will go to the director for final approval. Scott Bryant motioned to approve the recommendation; Marshall Douglas provided the second.

Roll call to accept the FY21 Boat Access Area Development Program as recommended was given and accepted by Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran, Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Anthony Tindall, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin

FY21 Bike Path Grants – Judy Bauer – Judy reminded the Board to discuss projects by the numbers associated with the applicant, not by their name. Site visits were not done this year due to COVID, but all projects were evaluated and scored. 32 bike path applicants were received requesting almost \$4.9 million. \$1 million is available for award. Six applicants didn't supply proper paperwork. The remaining 26 applicants requested \$3.9 million. Two applicants scored 4.6 which is the cut line this year. Project #7 was picked over project #8. Project #7 had not received grant funds previously and project #8 has been closing parks due to financial strain. Grants staff recommends funding 7 bike path applicants and 3 alternates should additional funding become available. Kerry Leigh stated that she would think the opposite and that a grant would be given to a community that may be in more of a need. Judy stated that they have already been given grant assistance and they are closing parks that are supposed to be open; if they can't maintain what they have now, how are they going to maintain and

put up 50% for the grant award. Kerry asked if it's in their application where they get their match. Judy stated yes. Kerry asked if conversations are held with the applicants who apply regarding consolidating? Maybe they are closing some areas and consolidating their recreational possibilities. Judy stated that there's not necessarily a conversation but that she is also the post completion liaison for IDNR. If the project is an acquisition or if a grant is still active, which is 20-25 years depending on the grant funds or how long they are supposed to keep it open can cause a conversion. They are breaking the rules outlined in the grant.

Marshall Douglas motioned to approve FY21 Bike Path Grants as recommended by IDNR Grants staff; Mick Wanless provided the second.

Roll call to accept the FY21 Bike Path Grant Program as recommended was given and accepted by Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran, Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Anthony Tindall, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin

FY21 PARC Grants – Judy Bauer – PARC stands Park & Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program. Please use the number associated with the applicants for discussion purposes. PARC is a brick and mortar grant program that helps with indoor recreational facilities. Administrative rules set the parameters for funding distribution. \$25 million dollars is available. 20 percent will go to applicants 1-6. 10 percent goes to distressed communities; no one qualified this year. Staff recommends approval for projects 1-16, and 17-20 as alternates should additional funding become available. John asked about the disadvantaged list. Judy stated that there is a formula based on economics that is used to determine a disadvantaged community that includes the current published census data and information from the IL Department of Revenue. Scott stated that he believes the distressed communities on the south side of Chicago don't have any idea how to apply for the necessary paperwork to fix their community parks. We need to sit down and have a discussion on how to fix this problem. Judy stated that because of GATA and additional paperwork their hands are tied. Scott understands, but that as an Advisory Board and as citizens, we need to go to the legislators to fix the problems. It's not IDNR. The most distressed communities in Illinois have the hardest time getting money for their community. Judy agreed but on the flip side, how are those communities going to maintain and run those recreational units; a park may be easy, but a building is different. Kerry agreed that more conversations are

needed. When someone gets a grant, it galvanizes a community and other monies flood in; people love to match grants.

Marshall Douglas motioned to accept grants recommendation as presented; Joe Mark provided the second.

Roll call to accept the FY21 PARC Grants as recommended was given and accepted by Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran, Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Anthony Tindall** voted to approve all FY21 PARC grants but **ABSTAINED** from voting on Applicant #8. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin

2021 Natural Resources Advisory Board Dates – Colleen Callahan – Director Callahan proposed that the Board set meetings in February, May, August and November. Tami will send out an email to solidify 2021 dates.

IDNR Attorney George Sisk asked that when Tami reaches out to the Board to not reply all on the email response. It's procedural but if the conversation turns to business it violates the Open Meetings Act.

Board Comments:

Scott thanked Kathy Barker and grants staff for their continued hard work; great group of people.

John stated that as we move into a new year, and his term is up that he has enjoyed being on the Natural resources Advisory Board. It's been encouraging to see people volunteer their time. Please continue to provide the chairman with ideas for discussion.

Director Callahan thanked everyone for today's input and to grants staff for their work in preparing the grants discussion.

Director Callahan also thanked IDNR staff for working together, everyday as best we can. It's been a monumental effort every day.

Public Comments:

Kathy Barker thanked the board for all the rapport over the years. This will be Kathy's last board meeting as she is retiring.

Marshall Douglas provided a motion to adjourn at 3:40; Joe Mark provided the second.

Roll call was given to accept adjournment:

Scott Bryant, Marshall Douglas, Tim Caughran, Mick Wanless, Joseph Mark, Anthony Tindall, Kerry Leigh & John Fleischli. **Absent:** Jerry Hiller, Lynn Gipson, Darel Martin