

## Recreational Trails After Action Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Time: 3:00PM to 5:00PM

Location: MS Teams

- This meeting was requested by the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAAC) to discuss the program and FY22 application submissions.

### PRESENT:

- **RTPAC Members:**
  - *Non-Motorized*
    - Simon Pryor
    - Glee Mayer
    - Andy Banta
    - Chuck Neubauer
  - *Motorized*
    - Todd Storey
- **NDPRD:**
  - Char Langehaug
  - AJ Torgerson

### ND Parks & Recreation Department Grants Coordinator, Char Langehaug, NDPRD

Char welcomed everyone to the after-action meeting. She reviewed that there were 18 applications totaling \$3.1 million grant requests with approximately \$1 million available to award.

### RTPAC Board Roll Call

Char completed a roll call allowing everyone to say what their favorite project was and why.

### RTPAC Board Comments:

1. *Sheyenne River Trail Extension* – It is a unique water trail project with many partnerships.
2. *Pancratz Trail* – It is in a unique area of North Dakota (Medora).
3. *Coal Creek Restoration 2022* – MDHTA is a commendable non-profit organization that puts hard work into their trails.
4. *Tioga Dam Trail* – The city had a great need for this trail to help establish recreation for the community to promote the permeance of residents.
5. *Turtle Mountain OHV Trail Upgrades* – This is a new applicant to the program that is passionate about the OHV trails in the Turtle Mountains and has a need for trailside facilities such as vault toilets.
6. *Trail Maintenance Equipment* – This could help with restoration of existing trails around the state.
7. *Other projects mentioned were* Minot Park District and City of New England trails that have some commendable aspects to the applications. It was mentioned that the Souris River Valley (Minot) has tremendous potential for outdoor recreation opportunities.

**RTPAC Board Questions:**

*Which applications are motorized and non-motorized? Can you further explain what diverse use means?*

1. Motorized – Trail projects primarily intended to benefit motorized use by snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles.
2. Non-motorized – Trails project primarily intended to benefit only non-motorized recreational trail use such as canoe/kayak, hiking, biking, equestrian, and other human-powered modes.
3. Diverse Use– A project intended to benefit multiple modes of either non-motorized (ex. walking & biking) or motorized (ex. ATV and Snowmobile) uses.

*Can you please explain the "40-30-30" requirement?*

RTP Legislation (23 U.S.C. 206) requires that States use 40 percent of their funds in a fiscal year for diverse recreational trail use; 30 percent for motorized recreation; and 30 percent for nonmotorized recreation. A project for diverse motorized use (such as snowmobile and off-road motorcycle use) may satisfy the 40 percent diverse use requirement and the 30 percent motorized use requirement simultaneously. A project for diverse non-motorized use (such as pedestrian and bicycle use) may satisfy the 40 percent diverse use requirement and the 30 percent nonmotorized use requirement simultaneously.

Example: As we have a lot of non-motorized applications that come in every year to fulfill this criterion, we need to make sure that the 30% for motorized recreation (ex. snowmobile/OHV) projects is met. A motorized application (if the only one) may end up ranking higher than the rest of the non-motorized applications to fit this requirement.

Should I rank trails based on the usage or if there is a large population in the area? Would this be more of a need?

There are no population-based requirements in the scoring of applications for the Recreational Trails Program. This decision is up to your own discretion as a board member. An argument can be made that there is an urgent need for a trail that receives more usage with a higher populated area. On the other side, smaller communities have a need for grant funding and trail recreation opportunities for their citizens. It may be helpful to consider the quality of the trail application and how it fits into the requirements for the Recreational Trail Program.

Why did the program see an increase in motorized recreation applications this year?

OHV usage has increased in the past couple years. This could be causing the growth for the demand to establish more OHV opportunities. Another reason for the increase may be to the increased knowledge of the grant program to the motorized recreation community.

Why was there an increase in large requests for funding this year as there were five applications that requested the maximum funding amount for the program?

The price of materials has increased since the pandemic. Concrete and reinforcing bar are two common trail material requests that have increased in price.

A signage request was made in a current application. The signage has been funded by RTP in the past. Isn't part of the agreement of the program to maintain the signage, so would it still qualify for funding?

Yes. Signage would qualify through the Recreation Trails Program. A debate may be made that it is up to the initial project sponsor to update the signs without the support of this program. A debate could also be made that the signs will eventually need replacement after initial funding request due to the addition and decommission of trails.

What is the difference between a sidewalk and trails?

Recreation Trail – The term “recreational trail” means a track across land used for recreational purposes such as hiking, biking equestrian, or water activities. Motorized trails would include the usage of snowmobile and off-highway vehicles (ex. UTV).

Sidewalk – RTP funds should not be used to provide paths or sidewalks along or adjacent to public roads or streets unless: it is needed to complete a missing link between other recreational trails or the committee deems it beneficial for the community to engage in outdoor recreation.

Usually, sidewalks consist of concrete pathways under 6' wide adjacent to public roads solely used to transport and not necessarily recreate.

What is the deadline the applications are due again?

Make sure that each board member will submit the final ranking of applications to the Grants Coordinator by Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

*Thank you all for being an integral part of the  
Recreational Trails Program. You all represent the state of North Dakota in addressing the  
recreational trail use needs!*