

Meeting Minutes

Alaska Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: August 11, 2026 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00PM

Location: Via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Angelica Stabs/Rebecca Garrett

In Attendance

- ARTAC Members Present: Lisa Agnew, Craig Compeau, Lee Hart, Allie Sargent, Terry Valentine, and Jennifer Yuhas.
- ARTAC Members Absent: Jeffrey Collins
- Agency Staff Present: Angelica Stabs, and Rebecca Garrett (Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)) and Natalya Fomina, Department of Natural Resources.

Summary

The ARTAC committee met to discuss fiscal year (FY) 27 snowtrails funding and multi-use trails scoring rubric. Rebecca presented the updated scoring rubric with revised weights and criteria, including specific points for historic access trails. The committee reviewed 13 snowtrails applications, with discussion about Eureka Trails application due to compliance issues with nonprofit status and procurement policies. After debate, the committee voted to fund the entire slate of snowtrails projects with a contingency that Eureka Trails must complete their required paperwork before funding can be awarded. The committee also discussed the need for better preprocessing of applications to ensure all documentation is complete before committee review. Lee suggested forming a formalized process to prevent similar issues in future cycles and recommended adding discussion about grant applicant recusal policies to the next agenda. The committee agreed to schedule their next meeting for early November to review multi-use trails applications once DOT&PF completes their initial review.

Introduction to Multi-Use Trails Scoring Rubric

Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) introduces the multi-use trails scoring rubric for discussion. Jennifer Yuhas confirms that the rubric includes the changes discussed in previous meetings.

Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) explains the changes made to the rubric, including clearer instructions and percentages for scoring.

Angelica Stabs (DOT&PF) informs Craig Compeau that he has been promoted to a panelist.

Detailed Review of Scoring Rubric

Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) reviews the scoring rubric in detail, explaining each criterion and its weight. The rubric includes criteria such as applicant capacity, project description, project readiness, maps and graphics, public benefit, community support, and budget quality.

Jennifer Yuhas raises a concern about the inclusion of historic access trails, emphasizing their importance in Alaska. Craig Compeau supports the inclusion of historic access trails, sharing his experience with BLM and RS 2477 trails.

Discussion on Historic Access Trails

Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) agrees to update the rubric to clarify the inclusion of historic access trails. Plans to update the rubric to ensure applicants understand the need to clarify historic access trails. The committee agrees to accept scoring rubric after the updates are made.

Fiscal Year 27 Snowtrails Funding Discussion

Jennifer Yuhas places the fiscal year 27 snowtrails funding on the table for discussion. Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) presents the 13 applications received for snow trails funding, including mileage and cost per mile. And explains that Eureka Trails has not provided all the required documentation and is not currently approved for funding.

Concerns and Clarifications on Snowtrails Funding

Terry Valentine expresses concern about the high costs in Eureka Trails' application compared to other clubs. Rebecca Garrett (DOT&PF) clarifies that Eureka Trails has not completed their paperwork and is not currently eligible for funding. Lee Hart and Jennifer Yuhas discuss the importance of ensuring all paperwork is complete before approving funding. The committee decided to fund all other snow trails applications without Eureka Trails.

Public Comment and Final Vote

Petersville Nonprofit thanks the committee for their efforts and timely processing of grants. Lee Hart suggests formalizing the process to ensure all paperwork is complete before grant approval. The committee discusses the timing of future meetings and the need to review multi-use trail applications. A motion is made to adjourn the meeting, with a consensus to meet in early November to review multi-use trail applications.

Next Steps

Rebecca: Update the Multi-Use Trails Scoring Rubric to clearly reference and explain "Historic Access Trails" without specifically naming RS2477, ensuring applicants understand when to reference historic access.

Rebecca: Review and clarify the accounting process for unspent Snowtrails funds and report back to the committee.

Rebecca: Work with Matsu Borough and potentially DNR/State Parks to explore options for a website or system to track and report on winter trail grooming conditions.

Rebecca: Finalize the Multi-Use Trails application process in Submittable and open applications, considering adjusting the deadline from end of October to mid-October if possible.

Rebecca: Propose dates for the next ARTAC meeting early to mid-November to discuss the scoring process for Multi-Use Trails applications.

Rebecca: Follow up Eureka Trails to ensure they complete all requested paperwork (procurement documents, conflict of interest policy) and bring them back to the committee for reconsideration once completed.

Genevieve (Eureka Trails): Complete and submit all requested paperwork (procurement documents, conflict of interest policy) to DOT as soon as possible.

Committee: Consider formalizing a process to ensure all applicant paperwork is complete before grants are considered for approval at future meetings.

Committee: Add an agenda for the next meeting to discuss whether committee members who assist grant applicants should recuse themselves from voting on those grants.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 3:25 p.m., seconded, and approved.