

SUBJECT: Authorization of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly for the Borough Manager to enter into a grant agreement in the amount of \$25,000 with the Iditarod Trail Committee, Project No. 15015.

AGENDA OF: 5/2/2017

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Approved under the Consent agenda
5-2-17 (BS)

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the assembly for consideration.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER: _____

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator		
	Community Development Director	EP	
	Finance Director	CR	
	Borough Attorney	NS	
	Borough Clerk	JMM	4/25/17 (BS)

ATTACHMENT (S): Fiscal Note: Yes X No _____

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Sponsored By: Assembly member Kowalke

In the fiscal year 2013 areawide capital appropriations, the Matanuska-Borough Assembly approved \$150,000 for trail improvements and the scope of work stated the funding will support non-profit trail groups and volunteers to repair and maintain existing Borough trails.

Although these funds are set to expire on June 30, 2017, they have been included in the request for capital projects roll over legislation as we are continuing to work with user groups to improve trails systems throughout the borough.

The Community Development Department received a request from the Iditarod Trails Committee to provide funding to improve trail conditions in the Upper Susitna Valley between Finger Lake and Rainy Pass. These funds will be matched with over \$15,000 in-kind contribution in ITC tools and volunteer efforts.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race has had to move it's restart north to Fairbanks 3 times in the last 15 years, including 2 of the last 3 years. The primary reason for this move was due to low snow conditions in the Upper Susitna Valley, especially in the Rainy Pass area. The race was run in 2014 in low snow conditions through Rainy Pass creating unsafe trail and resulting in many injured mushers and broken equipment.

The Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization which organizes the annual sled dog race. **The ITC would like to make improvements to these regular trouble areas to minimize the odds of having to relocate the Willow restart in future years.** Their goal is to run the race every year on the Historical Iditarod Trail, including a race restart in Willow.

Not only is dog mushing is the official State of Alaska sport, the Iditarod is the marquee race in Alaska and the world. The Iditarod delivers a sense of community and cultural pride to the Valley while also being an economic driver for many businesses including hotels, lodges, gas stations, grocery stores, tourism related businesses, and other services. The loss of the Willow restart 2 of the past 3 years is a major economic blow to the Valley, especially the towns of Wasilla, Houston and Willow. Some individual lodges along the trail claimed direct economic losses of \$28,000-\$60,000 due to the moving of the 2017 Willow restart. According to a 2006 Northern Economics report commissioned by the City of Wasilla, "The Iditarod Restart is estimated to produce direct spending of \$1.6 million in Wasilla. These expenditures result in up to \$40,000 of direct sales taxes.

As these funds are intended to be utilized for maintenance and repair of trails, it appears that this Iditarod Trail project would put the funds to good use.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:


Respectfully request the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a grant agreement in the amount of \$25,000 to the Iditarod Trail Committee, Project No. 15015.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISCAL NOTE

Agenda Date: May 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Enter into a grant agreement for \$25,000 with the Iditarod Trail Committee for trail improvements, Project No. 15015.

ORIGINATOR:

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED \$25,000	FUNDING SOURCE Areawide Capital Appropriation
FROM ACCOUNT # 440.000.000 4xx.xxx	PROJECT # 15015
TO ACCOUNT :	PROJECT #
VERIFIED BY: 	CERTIFIED BY:
DATE: 4/20/17	DATE:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING						

CAPITAL		25				
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund						
State/Federal Funds						
Other		25				
TOTAL		25				

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

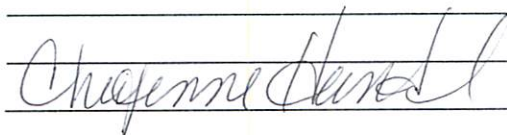
PREPARED BY:

PHONE: _____

DEPARTMENT:

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY:



DATE: _____