

Staff Report

Subject: DNR Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2022-2023 grant pre-application

Author: Jody Jones, Grants Coordinator presented by Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director

Department: Finance Department

Meeting Date: 5/2/23

Item Description: Consideration to submit a grant pre-application to the DNR Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Summary Recommendation:

Staff is requesting approval to submit a grant pre-application to the DNR Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Executive Summary:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a federal program authorized by Congress for the purpose of acquiring federal lands and assisting states and local governments with funds to acquire lands and develop and renovate outdoor recreation facilities. LWCF funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service (NPS), and NPS allocates the funds through state agencies as a grant program to state and local governments. The LWCF Program, first authorized in 1965, has resulted in Georgia receiving over \$120 million in matching grant funds. The program was reauthorized and received permanent funding in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 respectively. With the permanent funding, it is anticipated that Georgia will receive \$5-7 million annually.

In order to efficiently administer the grant funds, LWCF moved to a bi-annual grant cycle. With two years of allocations to award, an estimate of \$10 million will be available to local governments during the 2022-2023 grant cycle.

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Background:

1. Effingham County is requesting \$500,000.
2. The funding is requested for the walking trail portion of the Atlas park.
3. The grant is competitive.
4. There is a 50% cost share requirement.
5. Application deadline is May 31, 2023.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the LWCF grant pre-application submittal.
2. Do not approve the LWCF grant pre-application submittal.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve the LWCF grant pre-application submittal.

Other Alternatives:

N/A

Department Review: *(list departments)*

Finance Department

Funding Source:

50% match via SPLOT

Attachments:

LWCF 2022-2023 Funding Cycle Announcement