

**AGENDA SHEET FOR COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF: SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation & Golf

**CONTACT PERSON:** Doug Chase / Paul Knowles

**PHONE NUMBER:** 477-2720 / 477-2188

**CHECK TYPE OF MEETING ITEM BELOW:**

BID OPENING:

2:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA:  9/27/16

5:00 PM LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

BY LEAVE: (Item Title)

SPECIAL SESSION: (Item Title)

9:00 AM BOARD BRIEFING:

**BELOW FOR CLERKS USE ONLY:**

Clerk's Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: (Majority – Unanimous) \_\_\_\_\_

Denied: (Majority – Unanimous) \_\_\_\_\_

Renews/Amends No. \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purchasing Dept. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA TITLE: SHALL THE BOARD OF SPOKANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE FINALIZED 2016 CONSERVATION FUTURES PRIORITIZED ACQUISITION LIST AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION FUTURES LAND EVALUATION COMMITTEE?**

**RECOMMENDATION: Please Approve.**

The Spokane County Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee (LEC) working with Parks, Recreation, and Golf Department staff has completed the Conservation Futures evaluation and ranking process for 38 nominations received during the 2016 Open Nomination Round. In accordance with the evaluation process approved by the Board of County Commissioners, (1) a public meeting was held on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to hear public testimony on specific nominations, (2) the LEC toured all 38 nominations, (3) each nomination was scored via the Evaluation Criteria, (4) a preliminary ranking of the nominations was developed by the LEC on July 13<sup>th</sup>, (5) staff completed additional research on the "Top 15" nominations (as ranked in the preliminary ranking developed by the LEC) and provided a recommendation to the LEC for consideration, (6) the LEC finalized the proposed 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and recommended approval of said list to the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Board of County Commissioners, and (7) the PAC considered the LEC's recommendation and recommended to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the finalized 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List.

Staff recommends to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the finalized 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List as recommended by the Land Evaluation Committee and Parks Advisory Committee.

**BACKGROUND:**

Every five to six years (on average), Parks, Recreation & Golf staff work with the Conservation Futures Land Evaluation Committee to update the program, including the evaluation process and nomination materials ahead of opening a new nomination round. Ultimately, the Board of County Commissioners approve all changes and/or updates to the program and authorize opening a new nomination round to accept and consider new Conservation Futures nominations. The last Open Nomination Round was held in 2010.

Per the adopted 2016 Conservation Futures Program and schedule, Spokane County Parks held an Open Nomination Round and accepted new property nominations from February 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016. 38 nominations were received and each nomination was reviewed for completeness and forwarded to the Land Evaluation Committee. Concurrently, the nominations identified for probable City of Spokane ownership were previewed by the City of Spokane Park Board's Lands Committee.

A public meeting was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at CenterPlace in the City of Spokane Valley to present all 38 nominated properties to the community and provide an opportunity for the public to express their support for nominations directly to

the LEC. The LEC toured all 38 nominations over two days on June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and scored the LEC-component of the Evaluation Criteria. Parks, Recreation & Golf staff and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists toured each site prior to the LEC tours and scored their respective Evaluation Criteria components. Staff compiled the scores from each component and presented those raw scores to the LEC on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Taking those scores, the site visits and the public input into account, the LEC developed a Preliminary Ranking and requested staff to conduct additional research on the Top 15 nominations. Staff obtained and reviewed title reports for the Top 15 nominations and provided answers on other questions / concerns specific to each nomination. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, staff presented their recommendation based on the research findings to the LEC for their consideration. Considering the staff recommendation and other factors, the Land Evaluation Committee finalized the proposed 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List and recommended approval of said list to the Spokane County Parks Advisory Committee and the Board of Spokane County Commissioners. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Parks Advisory Committee held a special meeting to consider the LEC's recommendation. At that meeting, the PAC approved forwarding the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

If approved, the 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List will guide Conservation Futures property acquisitions for the next five to six years, with funding provided through the voter-supported Conservation Futures property tax levy as well as applicable grant funding opportunities provided by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and other sources.

- Please see **finalized 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List** (See attached)
- Please see **2016 Conservation Futures Nomination Overview Map** (See attached)
- Please see **Top 15 Conservation Futures Nominations – Detailed Maps** (see attached)
- Please see **2016 Conservation Futures Program Overview and Nomination Form** (see attached)

**FISCAL IMPACT:** 2016 Prioritized Acquisition List properties will be acquired pursuant to their ranking as funding is available through Conservation Futures and other funding opportunities. Acquisitions identified for Administrative Acquisition will be pursued upon approval of the Acquisition List and set contingencies being satisfied. Maintenance of these properties, if acquired, will be provided by Conservation Futures M&O funds and other sources TBD.



1) Director, Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf



2) Legal Department

This item will need to be codified in the Spokane County Code.