

NASORLO Annual Report to the Membership, October 9, 2019

From - President Lauren Imgrund and Executive Director Doug Eiken

Introduction: As we stated in the program we take pride in what we have accomplished over the past three years and look forward to working to continually strive to improve the nation's most successful outdoor recreation program – the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

At this meeting, we will celebrate the first step towards permanent long term funding and equity within the LWCF program, with the passage of the John D. Dingell Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019.. This bi-partisan victory, and the relationships we developed in the House and Senate, sets the state portion of LWCF in position to preserve a robust outdoor recreation grants program for generations to come.

We have challenges, as we will outline below, as this legislation is still not enough to guarantee robust funding for state grants. That is why we are supporting, along with many others, Senate and House legislation to permanently fund LWCF at the \$900 million level authorized in the Act.

We have listed below our stated priorities that went to all NASORLO Members with the 2019 Dues notices this past January. The outcomes are listed after each priority.

- 1. Support re-drafted legislation to re-authorized LWCF with a 40% State share. (Accomplished, although we would have preferred GOMESA NOT be included in the calculations)
- 2. Seek robust funding for state grants in FY 19, including full GOMESA allocations. (We were pleased to receive a slight increase to \$ 110 million for state grants, an increase to \$ 25 million for ORLP and \$ 60.6 million for GOMESA)
- 3. Defend all attempts to re-direct GOMESA or add "other" uses to state grants. (Partially successful. GOMESA was protected, but it was used in the 40% calculations, which we accepted, but did not support)
- 4. Continue to upgrade and post pertinent and timely information on our website. (Comments from random members and the Board indicate we achieved this objective.)
- 5. Provide NPS with a unified response to any and all LWCF Manual revisions. (Accomplished this as best we could, with Jennifer Girhing WI and Doug Beck ME coordinating a unified state response to the first two chapters available for review.)
- **6. Expand our State partnership coalition, to provide better advocacy for LWCF.** (We now have the LWCF and State Coalitions unified for full and permanent funding of LWCF!)
- 7. Work with NRPA to improve Park Champions and LWCF grassroots advocacy. (We delayed this effort until the Dingle Act was passed. We will report on the basic outline we have developed for implementation during 2020 at the annual meeting.)
- 8. Work with NPS and Congress to improve administration of LWCF
  - a. Seek up to 7 % of the state allocation for administration. (We are currently working with key House and Senate leaders to begin the process of addressing this issue. Language has been drafted and we are still working with staff to determine the best path forward. Note the Modernization Committee white paper is recommending 10%.)
  - b. Address 6 f conversion issues that have recently arisen. (The Modernization Committee is working on elements of this issue. See white paper on this subject in your conference materials)
  - c. <u>Increase SCORP from 5 to 10 years</u> ( Another Modernization priority. Discussions are beginning on this topic and we will work with NPS on defending our position on this and seeking this change.)

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## Conclusion:

We use this annual meeting to identify issues and provide the Board with input related to our 2020 and beyond issues and priorities. We will be involved in small groups and rating various ideas for the Board and Officers to consider when the develop the 2020 Priority list and Budget.

We had a good year, in fact it was an historic year, as we accomplished what your organization has been trying to do since 1976, restore a % for state grants and address equity for the states in the distribution of LWCF. We cannot be satisfied with this, however, as we need to ensure for the long term robust and permanent funding for the program and seek to better connect our elected officials with the needs, benefits, values and successes of this great partnership program.