




CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Stan Eliason, Harbormaster

Date: November 1, 2022

Subject: Resolution Supporting 100% Funding of the Harbor Matching Grant Program for FY24

Background

The Alaska Legislature established the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility 50/50 Grant Program in 2006 to provide financial assistance up to \$5,000,000.00 per project for municipally owned harbor facilities. The grant program is funded on an annual basis at the discretion of the Governor and Legislature. The Governor approved \$16,432,195 of the \$20,019,189 match that was requested for FY23 from 5 applicants. Sitka's Fishermen's Work Float and the Port of Alaska boat launch were not funded. Sitka and 2 other applicants applied for funding for the FY24 funding cycle in the amount of \$8,236,815 dollars in match funding.

Fisherman's Work Float was designed by Construction Engineering Services and Kennedy Engineering in 1987 and was constructed in 1988. The work float serves our valued commercial fishing industry.

Fisherman's Work Float was evaluated as a part of the Harbor System Master Plan in late 2011. At that time, it was concluded that the overall condition of the facility was good. The useful life at that time was 10 years. The facility is now 34 years old.

Over the years the dock has had considerable work done to it. The dock has been re-decked, bull rails replaced, structural hardware replaced. Currently fasteners are failing because of corrosion, fascia boards are nearly nonexistent because of rot, and failing floatation. Deck boards are splitting because of age, and the span between stringers cause the deck boards to flex.

Analysis

Given competing needs for the Harbor Fund's infrastructure, the fund is very reliant on state funding to be able to replace failing infrastructure. Should the state fully fund the program this year, Sitka's work float project would be included in that funding.

Fiscal Note

Sitka will receive \$2,077,775 if the Governor fully funds the program, or if Sitka scores high enough in the ranking process. TBD early November by AK/DOT. The grant program funds 50% of construction costs, but the CBS must fund the other 50% and must cover design. This will significantly lower available working capital in the fund but is much better than having to fully fund the project.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 2022-29.