



## Legislation Text

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File #: 20-0038, Version: 1

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### **ITEM TITLE:**

Approval of Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nicholas Farline, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director

### **FISCAL NOTES:**

Expenditure Required: \$44,105

Unencumbered Balance: \$93,500

Funding Source: 350-0202-55000 Council Contingency Reserve

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of the PRCS Director, Parks & Recreation Commission, Prince William Sound College staff and the Superintendent of Valdez City Schools for City Council to direct staff to move forward with the Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program.

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

- This agenda item requests Council approval for the proposed Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program ("VESP") and related internships, within the Parks and Recreation department.
- This program was originally presented to Council during the 2020 budget work sessions. Per Council request, the program was presented during a joint Council / Parks and Recreation Commission work session, during which time Council requested additional details regarding course syllabus, college credit earnings, and cost analysis.
- The additional requested items were presented to Recreation Commission on 1/14/2020 and the Recreation Commission voted 5 yays 0 nays with 2 absent to recommend City Council to direct PRCS staff to move forward with VESP.
- Staff is requesting funding in the 2020 Budget totaling \$50,057.
  - \$5,952 is already embedded in the approved budget (Dual Credit / CSO)
  - The remaining \$44,105 represents new funding, and is presented as a separate budget amendment resolution.
    - A detailed breakout of costs is attached to this agenda item VESP Costs.

### **BACKGROUND**

- VESP was modeled after a national award winning 4-H program from Washington State.  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/chelan->
  - PRCS Director Nicholas Farline co-authored the 4-H Program of Distinction national award for the above mentioned program.
- VESP is a six (6) week program with one (1) week dedicated to a PWSC college course.

- Please see attached Summer PWSC syllabus
  - The remaining five (5) weeks are a mix of Parks Maintenance projects, natural resource educational projects and community service projects.
    - Please see attached DRAFT VESP ITINERARY
- VESP will consist of eight (8) high school student participants.
  - Students will be chosen through an application process.
  - Request for applications will go out to Valdez High School, Valdez Homeschool and the Valdez Native Tribe
- Participants leaders will be two (2) college interns
  - See attached VESP PROGRAM STAFF CHART
  - See attached DRAFT 2020 Intern job description
- Participants will receive three (3) college credits upon successful completion of the six (6) night seven (7) day PWSC course
  - The class is a general elective. The credits can be used toward a degree in Associates of Arts in General Studies, or towards the Associates of Applied Science in Outdoor Leadership through University of Alaska system.
- Participants will receive one (1) High school elective credit upon successful completion of the six (6) week program
- Participants will receive a \$2,000 stipend upon successful completion of the six (6) week program

VESP is the first program in Valdez of its design.

Attachments included:

- VESP Costs
- DRAFT VESP Itinerary
- Summer PWSC Syllabus
- VESP PROGRAM STAFF CHART
- DRAFT 2020 Intern Job description