

RESOLUTION NO. R18-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE CITY OF LAUREL'S BEHALF REGARDING THE DRAFT YELLOWSTONE RIVER RECREATION PROJECT PRIORITY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Damage Program is currently accepting comments regarding the Draft Yellowstone River Recreation Project Priority Plan which has been published for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel submitted proposed projects for consideration which are currently contained within the Project Plan with proposed funding for the plans; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City of Laurel's Mayor to prepare and submit comments on the Draft Yellowstone River Recreation Project Priority Plan on the City's behalf.

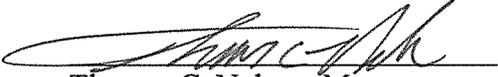
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, that the City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to submit comments on the City's behalf to the Natural Resource Damage Program regarding the Draft Yellowstone River Recreation Project Priority Plan.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on April 17, 2018, by Council Member Sparks.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel this 17th day of April, 2018.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 17th day of April, 2018.

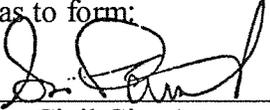
CITY OF LAUREL


Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bethany Langve, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to form:


Sam Painter, Civil City Attorney

CITY HALL

115 W. 1st. St.

PUB WORKS: 628-4796

PWD FAX: 628-2241

WATER OFFICE: 628-7431

WTR FAX: 628-2289

MAYOR: 628-8456

City of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044

April 17, 2018

DEPARTMENT

Natural Resource Damage Program
PO Box 201425
Helena, MT 59620-1425Re: City of Laurel's Comments regarding the Draft Yellowstone River Recreation Project
Priority Plan

To the Natural Resource Damage Program:

Please accept this letter as the City of Laurel's Comments regarding the Yellowstone River Draft Recreation Project Priority Plan. In addition to this letter, please find the enclosed City Council Resolution authorizing the submission of the same. Initially, I would like to express the City's gratitude for all the members' time, effort and work ranking the projects that had applied for funds derived from the settlement entered into by ExxonMobil for the 2011 oil spill that occurred in the Yellowstone River, near Laurel, Montana. The oil spill had a substantial negative impact on the City of Laurel and its residents, and I and the City Council, appreciate the sincere efforts to restore the recreation opportunities that were lost as a consequence of the oil spill in 2011.

In regard to the Committee's proposed rankings, the City of Laurel has no objection to them as provided on Table 3 of the Draft Yellowstone River Recreation Project Priority Plan. However, the City is disappointed that the Committee's recommendation is to reduce the Riverside Park Campground & Boat Ramp's \$400,000 request to \$350,000. While the City understands not all projects can be fully funded, it is unfortunate that the project the City considers the highest priority is the one project selected for a \$50,000 reduction.

On behalf of the City, I would suggest rather than reducing the City's Riverside Park Campground & Boat Ramp Project by \$50,000, the entire list of projects be reduced proportionately if the intention is to fund all the projects. That way, the City will not be left scrambling to come up with the \$50,000 to fully support the project. Frankly, the City of Laurel's financial condition has not improved since we are still recovering from the substantial damages caused by the 2011 Yellowstone River Flood. In the event that one or more of the City's supported projects are reduced by an amount or amounts equaling a total of \$50,000, the City would ask that it have these funds reimbursed should there be an amount up to the \$50,000 left unused at the term of project implementation.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Nelson
Mayor City of Laurel