

Pacific Northwest Coast Paddling Club
Grant Committee Summary of Activities Nov 2024-Feb 11, 2025

(we do have meeting minutes, but more details than necessary)

Date: February 12, 2025

Purpose: Identify and apply for funding opportunities, prioritizing the purchase of a 20-paddler dragon boat.

Meeting Frequency: 1 meeting/month (2nd Tuesday, 4 pm zoom)

Meeting facilitator/notetaker: Margo L.

Committee Members: Juliet Hyams, Kristin Koptiuch (chair), Margo Lalich

Liaison from steering committee: Lynn Steinberg as of 2/3/25 (formerly Alesia F)

Activities & Key Learnings

- **Funding Research:** Developed a **Google spreadsheet** tracking 17 potential grant opportunities; prioritized viable options and initiated outreach to funding agencies.
- **Grant Application Log:** Created on **2/10/25** to track application history and respond to Steering Committee (SC) inquiries.
- **Challenges in Grant Eligibility:**
 - Public grants rarely fund capital purchases (e.g., boats) for clubs that primarily serve private members.
 - Many grants want to fund programs that are already established and showing results.
 - Most grants prioritize **community-focused** organizations addressing public needs (economic, educational, health, arts, DEI, tourism).
 - To qualify for broader funding, the club **must expand public-facing activities**, such as specialized paddling programs for diverse community groups or visitors.
 - No committee currently exists to develop or operationalize such programs beyond grant proposals.
 - Many grants require **matching funds** or demonstrated community support—highlighting the need for a **sponsorship program** or donor network.

GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED (most recent first)

Tillamook Public Utility District (PUD) Community Support Grant – \$10K (Pending)

- **1/28/25:** NCRD provided a signed support letter.
- **1/31/25:** Submitted grant; funds requested for a **20-paddler dragon boat**.
- **Results are expected in March; funding likelihood is uncertain.**

Tillamook Creamery Sponsorship Request (Denied, but invited to reapply)

- **12/4/24:** Sent sponsorship request letter.
- **1/8/25:** Response—no funds are available now, but we are open to discussing the next cycle. Awaiting follow-up.

Tillamook County Visitors Association Marketing Grant – \$5K (Awarded \$2.5K)

- **11/31/24:** Submitted grant;
- **1/16/25:** Awarded \$2.5K (50% of request).
- **1/28/25:** Accepted by Mary Gallagher.
- **2/3/25:** SC voted to hire **Short Story Marketing** for \$2.5K (\$500 less than budgeted).
- **2/11/25:** Initial virtual meeting with marketing team (Lynn, Kaleen, Karen) and website committee (Kristin; additional website volunteer needed).

Other Funding Considered

Ford Family Foundation Good Neighbor Grant – \$25K (Not Competitive at This Time)

- No deadline; allows 50% capital spending (boat) + 50% operations; requires 25% match.
- 2/6/25: Email exchange with a program officer confirmed we are **not yet competitive** due to limited community funding and lack of established public programming.
- Grant Committee determined we should defer the application until the club demonstrates broader community engagement and funding sources.

Next Steps & Recommendations

- **Grant Prospects:** Fall 2025 **Oregon Community Foundation grant** may allow small capital expenses (e.g., a boat). But that will come at the end of our paddling season.
- As the club develops, new grant opportunities will surely present themselves (e.g., A \$2500 off-season event grant from TCVA for environmental educational paddles for tourists). For now other options remain uncertain.
- **Strategic Planning Needed:**
 - The **Steering Committee must develop concrete public programs** (e.g., special paddling events and community outreach) to enhance grant eligibility.
 - The club **must actively pursue sponsorships and donor funding** to establish financial support beyond grants.
- **Shift in Focus:** Given limited grant opportunities, the club **should prioritize corporate sponsorships, fundraising, and community partnerships** to secure the necessary funding.

If anyone in the club wishes to have a **copy of any of the grant proposals submitted**, please let Kristin know and she'll send you them. They can be useful for getting ideas, pulling phrases about the club/team for other uses, etc.