

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: John J. Williams, Borough Mayor
Craig Chapman, Finance Director

FROM: Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

DATE: November 21, 2007

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 2007-19-34: Accepting and Appropriating a \$100,000 State grant for fishing opportunities for disabled veterans

Funding for recreational fishing activities for disabled veterans was included in Senate Bill 53, the State's capital budget, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in July 2007. The State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development has notified the Borough that \$100,000 is available to the Borough for recreational fishing activities for disabled veterans.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has encouraged public use of recreational opportunities on the Peninsula through support of economic development projects, specifically through funding the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council. A local business, The Last Frontiersman, has also supported and encouraged use of Peninsula recreational activities by making outdoor adventures accessible for all to enjoy, especially for those persons with special needs.

The Last Frontiersman has been providing recreational opportunities for disabled persons since 2001. Dan McDowell, the owner, is a lifetime Alaskan, a passionate patriot, and experienced guide. His services are designed around total access. He has modified his fishing boat to accommodate wheelchairs and anyone using a cane or walker, providing safe, easy access during loading and unloading. The Last Frontiersman has received numerous awards in recognition of its unique wheelchair accessible guide boat design and for providing outdoor fishing opportunities for disabled persons. The company has received awards from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Governor's Committee of Employment and Rehabilitation, Soldotna and Kenai Chambers of Commerce, and Industry Appreciation Day.

The attached ordinance accepts and appropriates the State \$100,000 grant. It also allows the Mayor to enter into a sole-source contract with The Last Frontiersman to fulfill the purposes of the grant. The Last Frontiersman is the only known local entity with the knowledge, expertise

and additional resources to perform these services, especially within the short timeframe of the grant performance period, which ends June 30, 2008. Therefore, with the enactment of the attached ordinance, it is the intent of the Administration to contract with The Last Frontiersman to perform the work to complete the requirements of the grant. Your consideration of the attached ordinance is appreciated.

Attachments: Ordinance, DCCED notification letter, news article, suggested budget