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LEGACY AMENDMENT ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT

Veterans on the Lake Resort

Work Plan and Project Budget

2011-2012

Mission Statement: Veterans on the Lake Resort, a not-for-profit resort will provide a barrier-free setting for a memorable outdoor recreation experience for disabled persons, with priority to disabled veterans, veterans, their families, friends and supporters; designed "With Veterans in Mind" while recognizing what they have contributed to and sacrificed for our nation.

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Veterans on the Lake Resort

Work Plan

OUR MISSION

Veterans on the Lake Resort, a not-for-profit resort will provide a barrier-free setting for a memorable outdoor recreation experience for disabled persons, with priority to disabled veterans, veterans, their families, friends and supporters; designed “With Veterans in Mind”, recognizing what they have contributed to and sacrificed for our nation.

OUR VISION

Veterans on the Lake Resort will become a nationally recognized, year-round, financially sound, not-for-profit resort, for disabled veterans (their survivors and survivors of members deceased in service), disabled general public, service members and veterans and their families. Veterans on the Lake Resort emphasizes quality barrier-free, educational programs and experiences with emphasis on veterans' camaraderie in a wilderness setting.

PURPOSE AND BENEFIT

Veterans on the Lake Resort (VOTLR) was organized as a retreat to supplement and enhance the lives of disabled veterans and their families. While the Department of Veterans Affairs may spend millions of dollars to treat veterans, VOTLR believes more can be done to help veterans heal from the pain and suffering they endure.

This recreational and educational retreat, through wilderness surroundings and amenities geared for the disabled, promotes camaraderie, good memories and refreshment of mind and spirit. The independence of each person is strengthened; in the family setting, quality of life is enhanced. This recreational resort is remarkable; it is unique from any other in the nation.

HISTORY TO PRESENT

Disabled veterans Recreation, Inc. was founded on March 17, 1982. The first day of operation was May 13, 1983, with a grand opening celebration and the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener.

That year the resort was host to its first large group of veterans from the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. Since then, veterans and their guests from over 20 states have enjoyed the resort including groups from the Minnesota State Veterans Homes in Minneapolis, Hastings, Fergus Falls and Silver Bay and the VA Medical Centers in both St. Cloud, MN and Iowa City, IA.

In May of 2005, the Secretary of State gave official notification of the name change for the resort; the organization would from then on be known as Veterans on the Lake Resort. Also in that year, cabins were made available for winter use, allowing the resort to be open all year for the first time.

Veterans on the Lake Resort (VOTLR) is located on the wooded shores of Fall Lake, three miles east of Ely, on highway 169, (Fernberg Road, commonly referred to as "The end of the road"). The resort has 2,700 feet of beautiful shoreline on 25 acres situated on Superior National Forest land. VOTLR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides barrier-free recreational opportunities to disabled military veterans and their families. VOTLR does not receive assistance through federal, state or county funds. The support comes from monetary contributions, cabin rentals, in-kind donations and donations of time.

VOTLR accommodates those who have disabilities with the following: Wheelchairs accessible cabins, hospital beds, Hoyer lift systems to assist in getting veterans in the outdoor pool and onto fishing boats, electric wheelchairs, 4-wheeled scooters and golf carts-all for no extra charge.

Like other wilderness resorts in the Ely area, Veterans on the Lake Resort offers many desirable amenities: heated outdoor swimming pool, wood-fired sauna, campfire areas, volleyball, basketball, tennis, badminton, horseshoes, shuffleboard and other yard games. For lake activities, guests make good use of the sandy beaches, fishing docks, bait house, fish cleaning shack and the boathouse, where pontoons, boats and motors, paddle boats and canoes are managed.

The main lodge at the resort offers a conference room, dining room with seating for 65, business office, guest registration area, and a gift shop offering shirts, jackets, souvenirs, tackle and other merchandise. The property has accessible paved pathways, a maintenance workshop and storage buildings.

Cabins range from one room to six bedroom combination cabins. Nine of the cabins are wheelchair accessible. Guests can choose to dine in one of Ely's many restaurants or cook for themselves in their cabins. All of the modern wilderness cabins offer kitchenettes, microwaves, coffee pots, toasters, basic cooking pots, pans and utensils, dishes, bed linens, satellite TV, VCR, charcoal grills, bathrooms with showers and heat and AC units.

The tranquility of the splendid lake views, exquisite sunrises and sunsets, starry night skies and northern lights are some of the most memorable nature sights at VOTLR. On an average day, one may see eagles, loons, ducks, ravens and a variety of songbirds. Guests have also reported their observation of deer, moose, fox and black bears.

Fall Lake is approximately seven miles long, five of which are in unrestricted waters. Two miles of the east end of Fall Lake is located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW); this section of the lake is restricted to 25 Hp motors, VOTLR boats are permitted in this area. The fish population consists of: Walleye, Northern Pike, Crappie, Sunfish and Smallmouth Bass.

Ely and the surrounding area offer exciting enticements. Minutes from VOTLR, guests can enjoy golf, hiking trails, shopping, dining, ethnic festivals, mine tours, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, International Wolf Center, North American Bear Center, Dorothy Molter Museum and other attractions.

VOLUNTEERING, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION

The exceptional volunteers at Veterans on the Lake Resort are truly appreciated. Their generous donation of time and knowledge help VOTLR achieve its mission and work toward accomplishing its vision.

Many veterans' organizations have hosted fundraisers to generate donations for the resort and to offer a venue for representatives from Veterans on the Lake Resort to make informative presentations to the public.

In 2010 the resort's website was redone and an online reservation function was included. The end result created a convenient way for the guests to make reservations when the office isn't open. This service is especially appreciated by the veterans who do the majority of their transactions online.

Project Descriptions

Well Drilling- This well is currently producing 5 G.P.M. (gallons per minute). When the cabins are full the demand is 20 G.P.M. This means the guests cannot shower or do dishes. Drilling the well will give us a larger reservoir of water to draw from and hydrofracking will open up the water veins to allow faster recovery to meet our demand at peak usage.

ADA Pool Lift- This lift is necessary to meet ADA standards. The current lift is old and outdated which could pose a risk to our guests in wheelchairs. The new lift has vastly improved safety features and is also easier to operate making the pool more accessible than it is currently.

Septic Tank and Drain Field Replacement- This project is essential to prevent possible contamination of drinking water and environmental damage. With the use of Legacy funds we will be able to replace and update our aging septic system which will allow it to function properly and safely when the resort is at capacity.

Cabin Restoration- We have a limited number of cabins that are available in the winter. The insulation in these cabins is not sufficient for this region. By increasing the insulation we can keep these cabins open and heated while being more energy efficient. Cost savings attributed to this can be used for continuing our mission of serving our veterans.

Mobility Aids- As a large 25 acre facility, getting around here can be a difficult task for anyone with a mobile disability. We offer these guests a variety of resources for this purpose. The golf carts we currently have are old and many are not reliable anymore. We hope to purchase gently used replacements so we can retire or repair the old ones.

New Air Conditioning Units- We serve guests of all ages and levels of ability. Since we are an accessible resort, we also have many guests with various health issues visiting us. These guests require a climate controlled environment to ensure their comfort. Some of our larger cabins are equipped with small window units which can't effectively cool them. The new units will be placed in a central location and will maintain the climate necessary for these guests.

Budget Summary

	<u>2011/2012</u>
Contracted Services	\$47,378.00
Equipment	\$22,833.00
Supplies	\$3,539.00
Travel	\$500.00
Total	\$74,250.00

Timeline

Project	Activity	Timeline	Person Responsible
Well Drilling	Drill and Hydrofrack Well	9/1/2011	Neil Weisinger
ADA Pool Lift	Purchase and Install New Pool Lift	4/1/2012	Neil Weisinger
Septic Tank & Drain Field Replacement	Replace Septic Tanks & Install New Drain Fields	9/1/2011	Neil Weisinger
Cabin Restoration	Add Insulation to Cabins	4/15/2012	Neil Weisinger
Golf Carts	Purchase Gently Used Golf Carts	10/1/2011	Neil Weisinger
Air Conditioning	Purchase & Install New Air Conditioners	10/1/2011	Neil Weisinger

Objectives

Veterans on the Lake Resort will use the funds received from the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant for the following projects:

Well Drilling

ADA approved Pool Lift

Septic Tank & Drain Field Replacement

Cabin Restoration

Mobility Aids

New Air Conditioning Units

Evaluation Plan

Project	Measurement	Respondent	Purpose
Well Drilling	Lake County Inspection	Guests	Increased water pressure by 15 G.P.M.
ADA Pool Lift	Lake County Inspection	Guests	Guest Safety
Septic Tank & Drain Field Replacement	Lake County Inspection	Environment	Septic Containment and Disposal Functioning Properly
Cabin Restoration	Head of Mainenance	Guests	Decreases Utility Costs In Cold Months
Golf Carts	Head of Mainenance Guest Survey	Guests	Ease of Navigation For Mobility Impaired Guests
Air Conditioning	Guest Survey	Guests	Guest Comfort