White Paper on Voting Process

Background
When the Outdoor Heritage Fund was established in 2013 at the first round there were over 75 applications. In order to facilitate the voting process on that number of applications the Board established the process of having what we call the zero tally form. Rather than having to do a roll call vote on every application the board members were asked to state (in essence that member’s vote) a funding level on the tally sheet for each application. If the majority of the Board (at that time a simple majority of those present) indicated that zero funding be provided for a project, then a motion was made that all the majority zero funded projects not be forwarded to the Commission. Then one roll call vote could be taken on the motion not to move the zero funded projects forward. The Advisory Board did, however, state that any member of the Advisory Board could request that a majority zero project be pulled from that motion and a separate discussion and vote be taken on that project. This allowed a Board member to have one more opportunity to advocate for a project and, if they wished to do so, suggest amendments to the project funding.

That process was used for Grant Rounds 1 – 13. In the 2019 session the Legislature passed Senate Bill 2058 which required that grant applications forwarded to the Commission must receive a favorable recommendation from a majority of the Advisory Board members. This legislative action resulted in funding only be provided to projects that received an affirmative vote of 7 members of the Board for consideration by the Industrial Commission. It was no longer based on a majority of those Board present at the meeting.

October, 2021
There was considerable discussion about this voting process at the last meeting – whether we were following Robert’s Rules of Order, whether you can make a negative motion, was the tally sheet a vote, etc.
As requested by the Board we consulted with our Assistant Attorney General. The first question was, has the Board voted to follow the Robert’s Rules of Order. The answer to that question was no. Then we asked the question if we should do so and the response was that the Attorney General’s Office does not recommend that state boards do so. Actions of the board should be done on a simple majority basis. However, because there is a specific statute on what is required for funding a project, we must have 7 votes for funding. On all other votes it is a simple majority of those present.

The question before the Board today is do you want to vote up or down on each application or do you wish to continue using the tally scoring sheet.