

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-003612****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Fairbanks North Star Borough - Big Dipper PA and Sound System Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$250,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (1-5)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Address problems with the PA and sound system in the Big Dipper

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$250,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$250,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

N/A

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Big Dipper Ice arena is a multi-purpose arena, located on the Hez Ray Recreation Complex. The building was originally constructed as an airplane hangar for the Lend-Lease program in Tanacross, southeast of Fairbanks, the building was dismantled, transported to Fairbanks and reassembled in 1968.

With renovations through the years, the facility has provided enhanced recreational opportunities within the Borough by providing a quality 200' x 85' indoor ice-skating rink, an indoor running track, concession stands, seating for approximately 2,000 patrons, party room rental, meeting rooms as well as public restrooms, locker rooms and shower facilities. In addition, the site provides an outdoor football field, an outdoor running track, and three outdoor skating rinks.

Each year, the Big Dipper receives nearly 200,000 visitors, and fulfills an ideal niche in Fairbanks as it provides one of the few year-round indoor recreational opportunities. The Big Dipper is the home ice of the Fairbanks Ice Dogs, a Junior A competitive hockey team. The Fairbanks Ice Dogs host approximately 35 home games a season at the Big Dipper. Furthermore, the Big Dipper Ice Arena will host the Arctic Winter Games in 2014, as well as the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN).

This appropriation will replace an outdated sound and Nevco video board system. This is a much needed update to deal with an increase in spectators and events at the Big Dipper Ice Arena. The purpose is to provide spectators and athletes an opportunity to enjoy events at the facility in a clear and visual way. This appropriation will not only support the Ice Dogs, but also the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, 2013 AFN Convention, and numerous youth and adult activities.

Project Timeline:

This project will be initiated upon receipt of funding.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Fairbanks North Star Borough

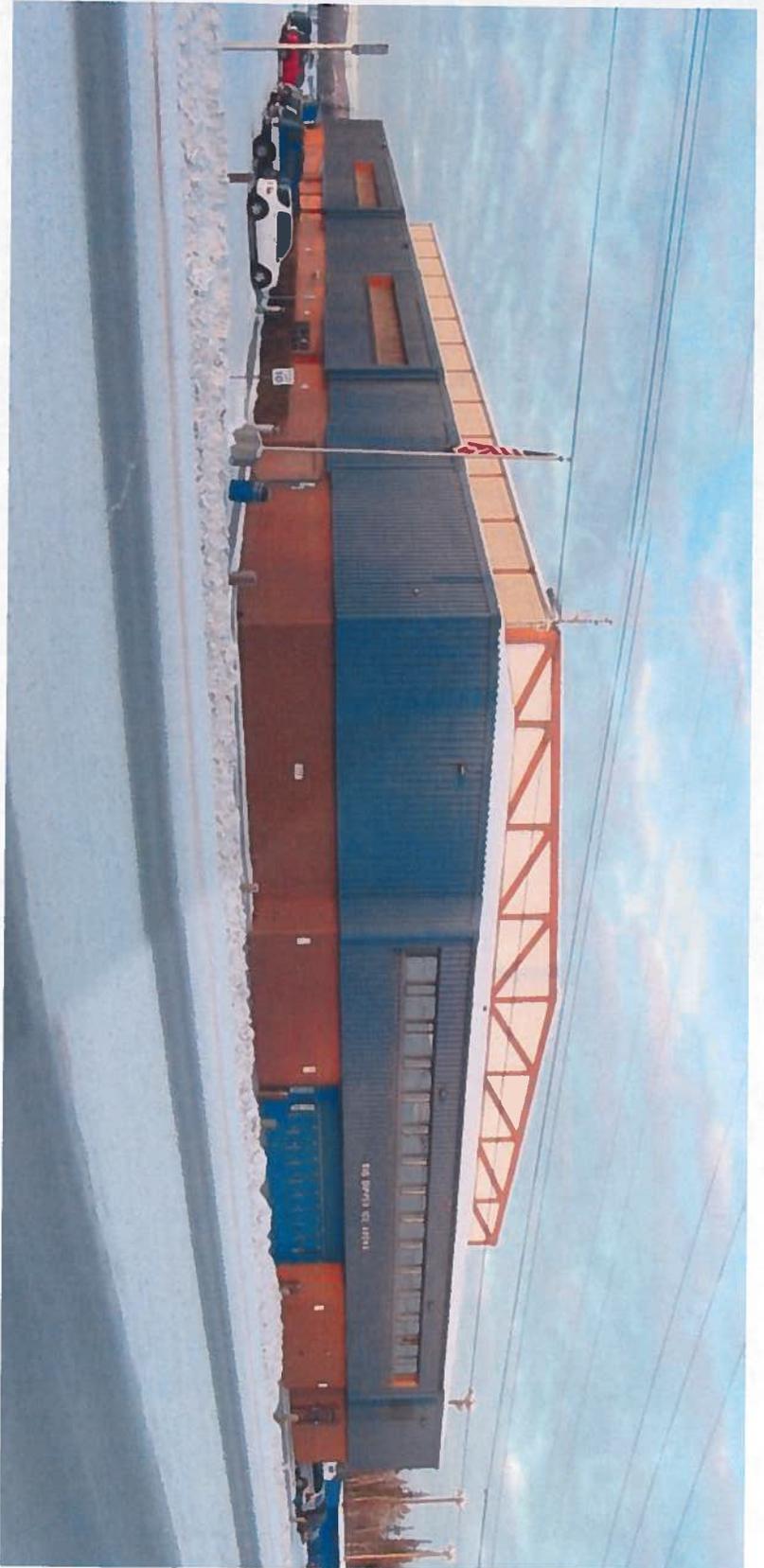
Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Luke T. Hopkins
Title: FNSB Mayor
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone Number: (907)459-1300
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

2:01 PM 5/9/2013





Organizational Mission: Provide opportunities for young Alaskan Hockey Players the opportunity to earn a college scholarship playing the game they love.

FY '14 Capital Budget Request

\$1.5 Million - Big Dipper Ice Arena Audio & Visual Modernization through the Fairbanks North Star Borough

History

- * Established in 1997, the Fairbanks Ice Dogs are a USA Hockey Junior Level Hockey Team located in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- * The Ice Dogs compete in the North American Hockey League (NAHL) and carry numerous young Alaskan on their roster preparing them to become college student athletes.
- * The Fairbanks Ice Dogs are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- * Federal Tax ID: 91-1846739
- * The Ice Dogs and their opponents use the Big Dipper Arena for all practices and games during the season.
- * Average attendance for Ice Dog Games is 2,000 spectators
- * Ice Dogs have proudly qualified for 9 National Championships in the 14 years of existence
- * Fairbanks Ice Dogs were the NAHL Robertson Cup National Champions in 2011
- * Fairbanks Ice Dogs have lead the NAHL in college scholarships over the last 7 years
- * Fairbanks Ice Dogs have averaged 10 scholarships a year to Division I schools

Purpose

- * The Big Dipper Ice Arena not only hosts the Fairbanks Ice Dogs, it also provides recreational opportunities for thousands of Interior Alaskans.
- * The Big Dipper Ice Arena will host the Arctic Winter Games in March 2014 as well as the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN).

- * USA Hockey is under consideration of hosting a national tournament at the Big Dipper within the next five years.
- * The Fairbanks Ice Dogs host approximately 35 home games a season at the Big Dipper Ice Arena.
- * Over 300,000 people a year utilize the Big Dipper Ice Arena.
- * The current scoreboard is outdated and needs replacement to absorb capacity crowds at the Arena.
- * This regional issue would provide the interior community a desirable facility to entertain bringing high level athletic events to Fairbanks.
- * Improvements to the facility include support of the Interior Legislative Delegation, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, and Fairbanks Economic Development Council (see attachments)



Background

The Big Dipper Sports Arena in Fairbanks, Alaska was a conversion project of dramatic proportions. In 1968 a crew of volunteers disassembled and moved a World War II airplane hangar from Tanacross to Fairbanks (200 miles) where the structure was to become a covered skating rink. The project was headed by the dedicated high school coach, Hez Rey, and a crew of enthusiastic high school students and volunteers from unions with equipment loaned by construction firms. The building, when reassembled, was as it had been before the move, a crude, unheated shell. After more than a decade (1981), a major renovation project was undertaken for a cost of \$6.9 million. The structural framework and roof of the original building was retained, saving approximately one million dollars, while the remainder was demolished.

The Arctic Winter Games were held in Fairbanks for the first time in March 1982. Design and construction schedules were accelerated so the Big Dipper would be ready for use and Fairbanks could provide excellent facilities for this event.

The Big Dipper has an oil-fired heating system. A heat recovery system captures heat from the ice rink refrigeration system, heat which would normally be wasted to the atmosphere and uses the captured heat to temper toilet, locker room and shop exhaust make-up air; to heat the arena space; to heat the soil under the ice rink and prevent it from freezing; and to melt ice machine surfacing shavings. Ventilation and cooling are provided by an economizer cycle fan system.

Refrigeration for the ice sheet is provided by a direct refrigeration system. The facility is fully sprinklered and handicapped accessible.

Today, the Big Dipper Sports Arena houses the ice rink, seating for 2000 spectators, a running track, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department offices and maintenance shops including a Zamboni room. It is part of a sports complex that includes outdoor hockey rinks, tennis courts, football, softball and soccer fields.

Goal

The appropriation would provide an outdated sound and Nevco video board system a much needed update to deal with an increase in spectators and events at the Big Dipper Ice Arena. The purpose is to provide spectators and athletes of the interior an opportunity to enjoy events at the facility in a clear and visual way. This appropriation would not only support Ice Dog Hockey, the the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, 2013 AFN Convention, and numerous youth and adult activities creating a great entertainment venue for interior Alaska.

In no circumstances, is it the intention of the Fairbanks Ice Dogs to bypass the local process. The organization is 100% supportive of the FNSB legislative agenda in terms of Big Dipper Arena maintenance and upgrades. We believe our non-profit organization can make the strongest argument for the audio and visual enhancements to an aging facility.

There is no CAPSIS request as the funding should go through the FNSB and their procurement process.

**Any questions can be directed to Rob Proffitt, General Manager of the Fairbanks Ice Dogs Hockey Team. Rob can be reached on his cell at (907) 460-4799 or via email at coachproffitt@fairbanksicedogs.com