

Lead Entity Advisory Group

Report to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
November 22, 2011

Lead Entities continued their work both individually and collectively advancing salmon restoration efforts in their respective local watersheds since the August 2011 meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). During this time period, many lead entities are working with the Review Panel and project sponsors to finalize the 2011 grant round.

We had a very strong turnout at the Friday, Sept. 30, 2011 meeting of the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) in Roslyn, WA. Agenda topics included a budget presentation by Lloyd Moody of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), including an overview of 2009-2011 Lead Entity Grant Expenditures. This was followed by a discussion of a collective LEAG response to the SRFB's requested 5% and 10% budget reduction exercise and subsequent work needed on this issue. LEAG issued its response to the GSRO as requested and encouraged individual lead entities to do the same.

We are in support of the RCO's recommendation to SRFB to approve a 5% set-aside to maintain lead entity program funding in order to these allow these local, collaborative efforts to continue advancing restoration in their watersheds.

Lead Entities were also briefed on what has been called "Lead Entity Issues in Need of Clarification" which has to do with lead entity composition, citizen committee representation, roles and responsibilities of the lead entity in respect to public outreach for particular projects, etc. This will be an ongoing topic of discussion and work during the next few months.

The meeting also included an update on Monitoring by Jennifer O'Neal of Tetra Tech and GSRO's Jennifer Johnson. The meeting also included a trip to the nearby Cle Elum River where sockeye were spawning and education was provided about local recovery efforts. LEAG is forming a committee which will work on the issue of whether monitoring can be used as match for SRFB projects with the hopes of bringing that back to SRFB for consideration.

A LEAG Training Committee is working on organizing a Lead Entity Training Retreat. It will be March 21 through March 23, 2012 at Alderbrook Resort along Hood Canal. The committee includes Darcy Batura of the Yakima Lead Entity, John Foltz of the Klickitat Lead Entity, Karen Bergeron of WRIA 9 Lead Entity, and LEAG Chair and Vice Chair Cheryl Baumann of North Olympic LE and Jennifer Goodridge of Chelan LE. Potential topics include: Avoiding and managing controversy, building community support through public outreach, large project coordination issues and exploring new funding strategies.

LEAG Members met by phone and Web-Ex on Nov. 9th. Topics included updates, proposed changes to Manual 18 by Brian Abbott of the Recreation and Conservation Organization (RCO), discussion with RCO's Susan Zemek on the handling of press releases involving the Dec. SRFB project awards, and responses to a LEAG Member Survey regarding potential Conflict of Interest issues.

LEAG Members decided to hold an in-person meeting on the afternoon of Wed. Dec. 7th, prior to the Dec. 8th SRFB Meeting in Olympia. More work will be done on the Lead Entity Issues in Need of Clarification, a presentation by the Aquatic Lands Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and other issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on the ongoing efforts of the Lead Entity Advisory Group.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cheryl Baumann, LEAG Chair