

KLICKITAT LEAD ENTITY CITIZENS REVIEW COMMITTEE
Hybrid Meeting at Klickitat County Services Building
115 W. Court Street, Room 100, Goldendale, WA
and via Google Meet
June 20, 2024
Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Keaton Curtice at 6:02 P.M.

Roll Call & Introductions

Present: Brian Beaulaurier, William Bowdish, Daniel McDonald, Todd Collins, Marc Harvey, John Jorgenson, William Muir, Don Starkin, Laurie Wilhite

Absent: Tim Thompson

Staff: Keaton Curtice

Guests: Joe Zendt (TC Chaire), Margaret Neuman (MCFEG), Patrick Hayden (Yakama Nation), Lindsay Cornelius (Columbia Land Trust), Loren Meagher (Public)

Agenda Review and Approval

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Administrative Items

Ranked List Preparation

Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice made sure that all CRC members in attendance understood the ranking and scoring procedure, that the questions on the Google Forms corresponded to how well the projects related to the Lead Entity Strategy and goals, and that the scores would be tallied and meshed together to rank the projects for funding.

Business Items

Funding Update

Keaton described the general outline of funding that had to be declared to the SRFB. The Klickitat Lead Entity will be attempting to fund 3 projects, for a total of \$732,214 of standard SRFB funds, and \$223,357 of riparian funds. The Klickitat Lead Entity is estimated to receive \$790,734 in standard SRFB funding and \$671,702 in riparian funding from the Mid-Columbia Regional Entity. Additionally, the Klickitat Lead Entity is estimated to receive \$152,010 in standard SRFB funding and \$150,000 in riparian funding from the Lower Columbia Regional Entity. The Lower Columbia SRFB funds can only be used on projects benefiting Lower Columbia stocks/WRIA 29b projects, while their allocated riparian funds can be used anywhere (after negotiation). The Mid-Columbia SRFB and riparian funds can be used anywhere in the Klickitat Lead Entity region. Taking these factors into consideration, the Klickitat Lead Entity declared to the SRFB that they would use \$732,214 of the Mid-Columbia SRFB allocation to fully fund their SRFB-dollar projects. The Klickitat Lead Entity would then use the \$150,000 of Lower Columbia riparian dollars, along with \$73,357 of the Mid-Columbia riparian dollars, to fully fund its \$223,357 riparian project. The non-allocated Lower Columbia SRFB dollars will be “rolled over” to the next grant

round, while the remaining Mid-Columbia riparian dollars will be negotiated at a further time. Lastly, it was noted that the riparian funds for future grant rounds are tied to the Climate Commitment Act, which might be legislatively overturned, which would eliminate riparian funding for future grant rounds.

SRFB Panel Comments Discussion

Keaton noted that all of the Klickitat Lead Entity projects were well thought of by the SRFB, and that there were no projects of concern, and that the SRFB in their comments found no flaws or errors in the projects up to that point.

2024 Grant Round Projects Ranking and Scoring

Before the ranking and scoring occurred, it was noted by the Lead Entity Coordinator that there would be no extra project presentations, and that complete presentations given earlier in the grant round were available to view for context, and that project sponsor representatives at the meeting would be able to answer any remaining questions. It was noted that while there were prior opportunities to view the presentations, it would be prudent in future meetings to have official and brief recaps of projects and events that occurred in prior meetings.

Howard Lake Rd/Upper Klickitat Floodplain Restoration - Yakama Nation

A brief project summary was given by sponsor representatives Patrick Hayden and Joe Zendt. The project was previously funded in the 2023 grant round, and now additional funding is being sought from a multitude of sources to complete the project. The project is currently under design, and is up in the headwaters of the Klickitat, at the confluence of Diamond Fork. The project constitutes floodplain reconnection through bridge removals, and instream restoration work that will benefit fish habitat and water-holding capability.

After scoring, the Howard Lake Rd Project finished with a 90.89

Upper Snyder Creek Final Restoration Design - Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

A brief project summary was given by sponsor representative Margaret Neuman and Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice. The project area is the upper portion of what used to be the Klickitat Paper Mill's former log-sorting yard and mill pond. The project is a final design on future restoration work to fix the incised and narrow channel that follows the edge of the valley above the mill. The design will focus on spreading the creek out along the floodplain, increasing and restoring fish habitat. The stream is an important body for steelhead production in the Klickitat watershed.

After scoring, the Snyder Creek Project finished with a 94.38

Klickitat River Floodplain Acquisition - Columbia Land Trust

A brief project summary was given by sponsor representative Lindsay Cornelius. This project is an acquisition of a 40-acre parcel in the heart of the Klickitat wildlife area, situated in the 8-mile "haul road" restoration project area. The project area is 98% floodplain and quality riparian habitat, with 1/3 of a mile of primary channel, and 2/10 of a mile of backwater channel. The project is prioritized within the Lead Entity Strategy to protect the most important and critical reaches of the Klickitat.

After scoring, the Klickitat Acquisition finished with a 91.89

After collating all of the scores, the ranked list is as follows:

1. Snyder Creek Final Restoration Design - 94.38
2. Klickitat River Floodplain Acquisition - 91.89

3. Howard Lake Rd/Upper Klickitat Floodplain Restoration - 90.89

The CRC ranked list passed unanimously

Grant Round Wrap-Up & Future Meetings

Final Dates

Keaton informed the committee about the final dates of concern of the grant round. Project sponsors must submit final applications by late-July, and the Lead Entity will know it's funding some time in August-September. There were no dates of concern that directly impacted the committee.

Future Project Discussion (Conceptual)

Future Project Discussion was not relevant to the CRC, and was therefore not discussed.

Future Meetings & LE Strategy Update

It was discussed that in the following months a rough date would be set for updating the Lead Entity Strategy, and that it is encouraged that the CRC is a part of the discussions. It was noted that while the strategy will be updated to include new research and data, and new prioritization/reevaluation of project areas, the Strategy will be updated, and not completely rewritten.

Committee Member Roundtable

Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice thanked the committee, and discussed potential changes to meetings for the upcoming grant rounds, such as food, meeting location, procedure, etc.

It was brought up to pass the 3/14/24 CRC meeting minutes. The minutes were passed unanimously, but upon review of the meeting by the Lead Entity Coordinator, this motion was defunct because passing the minutes was not on the agenda. The 3/14/24 CRC meeting minutes will have to be passed in a future meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

There is no set date for the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

CRC Member

Date