

KLICKITAT LEAD ENTITY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Hybrid Meeting at the Pioneer Center
501 NE Washington St, Bingen Room, White Salmon, WA 98672
and via Google Meet
June 13, 2024
Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Joe Zendt in person and via Google Meet at 9:05 A.M. and a quorum was established.

Roll Call & Introductions

Present: Ian Jezorek (Alternate), Amber Johnson, Gardner Johnston, Patrick Hayden, Margaret Neuman, Chairman Joe Zendt, David Ryan, Carly Lemon (Alternate)

Absent: Brady Allen, Adrienne Grimm, Sean Gross, Jill Hardiman, Rashawn Tama, Tova Tillinghast, Nate Ulrich

Guests: Kay Caromile (RCO), David Lindley (Yakama Nation Fisheries), Lindsay Cornelius (Columbia Land Trust)

Staff: Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice

Agenda Review and Approval

There were no issues with the agenda, and it was approved by consensus.

Review and Approval of April 11th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

There were no issues with the April 11th meeting minutes, and they were approved by consensus.

Administrative Items

Ranked List Preparation

Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice took this brief interval to see if the committee was familiar with our ranking and scoring process. The committee stated that they were, and forms were handed/emailed out to the committee.

Business Items

Funding Update

Lead Entity Coordinator Curtice told the committee that the SRFB was requiring Lead Entities to make a rough declaration of their funding decisions for their estimated funds and projects. The Klickitat Lead Entity is estimated to receive \$152,010 in traditional SRFB dollars, and \$150,000 in riparian dollars from the Lower Columbia Regional Entity. The Klickitat Lead Entity is also expected to receive \$790,734 in SRFB dollars and \$671,702 in riparian dollars from the Mid-Columbia Regional Entity. The Klickitat Lead Entity has 3 projects with a total SRFB dollars ask of \$732,214, and a riparian ask of \$223,357. The notable feature of the money we will be receiving, is that Mid-Columbia dollars can be used anywhere, while Lower Columbia dollars can only be used on projects benefiting Lower Columbia fish populations, which means only projects in WRIA 29b. However, after negotiations with Lower Columbia, they stated

that they would be ok with the Klickitat Lead Entity using their Lower Columbia riparian dollars for any project. Therefore, the Klickitat Lead Entity has roughly declared to use all of the LC riparian dollars toward the \$223,357, with the remaining \$73,357 to be funded by the MC riparian dollars. Secondly, the Klickitat Lead Entity will fully fund its \$790,734 SRFB request with its MC traditional SRFB dollars. The \$152,010 in LC traditional SRFB dollars will roll over to next year.

SRFB Panel Comments Discussion

Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice polled the committee to see if they would like to discuss the SRFB comments for the three projects, but due to the brevity of the comments, it was not deemed necessary to have an in-depth discussion. Kay Caromile of RCO briefly summarized the comments, simply stating that the SRFB found no issue or concern with the 3 projects.

2024 Grant Round Projects Ranking & Scoring

The first project to be ranked was the Howard Lake Rd/Upper Klickitat Floodplain Restoration sponsored by Yakama Nation Fisheries. There was little discussion on this project. While the committee members understand the importance and need of large-scale restoration on a relatively remote reach of floodplain, there were concerns over the total cost of the project, including this amendment. There were also concerns about

The second project ranked was the Snyder Creek Final Restoration Design sponsored by Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. There was also little discussion about this project. The committee had few questions, and they seemed to understand the project's goals and scope, which they then scored accordingly.

The third project to be ranked was the Klickitat River Acquisition sponsored by Columbia Land Trust. The only discussion and concern for this project was questions surrounding the cost and viability of fencing. It was stated that Columbia Land Trust budgeted for fencing without complete surety as to whether it would be needed or not. The second concern was that there was no concrete, signed form by the landowners guaranteeing that the parcel would go to the Land Trust. It was stated by Lindsay Cornelius that they had recently floated the parcel with the landowners, and they had further discussion with the landowners, reassuring them that they would still have access to the parcel, while also ensuring that the parcel would be conserved for future use.

Discussions about the ranking and scoring process was had, in that the committee seemed to prefer that the scoring reflect the sponsor's ability to complete/manage their projects, rather than the broad language in the scoring rubric. It was agreed that these things would be reevaluated in the future.

After ranking and scoring was completed, the ranked list is as follows:

1. Klickitat River Floodplain Acquisition - 91.2
2. Snyder Creek Final Restoration Design - 89.3
3. Howard Lake Rd/Upper Klickitat Floodplain Restoration - 88.4

The 2024 Klickitat Lead Entity Ranked Project List was approved by consensus.

Grant Round Wrap-Up & Future Meeting Dates

Final Dates

- Lead Entity Coordinator Keaton Curtice outlined the remaining dates of the grant round using the 2024 SRFB Grant Round Calendar. Final project applications are due July 26th, and Lead Entities will submit their final project lists and receive their funding in August-September.

Future Project Discussion

- There was no future project discussion

Future Meetings & Lead Entity Strategy Update

- Lead Entity Coordinator Curtice polled the committee about what they would like the strategy update process to look like. It was determined that while the strategy is not defunct, small updates could be made to reflect the progress that has been made since the strategy was last updated in 2021. Things such as academic references, fish stocks, and the importance of specific project areas will be up for discussion and consideration. It was also noted that perhaps it would be beneficial to make a “keystone” project list, which would be the x-most important projects that the Klickitat Lead Entity could do if they were forced to only choose a limited number of projects. It was determined that the committee thoroughly read the strategy, and meet again in December or January to begin preliminary discussions on updating the document.
- It was also noted that landowner willingness and participation is getting much more difficult, and this is something that perhaps could be integrated into the strategy, making the document more accessible to non-professionals, and conducting outreach to landowners and the community to create collaboration and confidence between the community/landowners and the project sponsors.

Committee Member Roundtable

There was no committee member roundtable.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

Rough date planned for strategy update discussion around December.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM.

TC Chairman

Date