

Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

March 8, 2007

Recommendations for Round 8

At our LEAG meeting in February we discussed the questions in the SRFB homework assignment. Much of the discussion focused on question 6 which asked if the SRFB should allow sponsors to make scope or cost changes in November and early December 2007, if needed to fit regional allocations. It was pointed out that there would be a need for that allowance if the SRFB Review Panel makes a conditioned Project Of Concern (POC) designation that requests changes in a project. Changing the project would change the cost, thus changing the amount requested and making it necessary for the lead entity to work with other project sponsors on the list to adjust their costs in order to meet the target allocation. This can result in a headache and a bunch of last minute project scope and cost changes that is confusing to all involved.

It was recommended by the LEAG meeting participants that one helpful solution would be to do more at the beginning of the SRFB round to try to avoid POC designations. Some ideas discussed to achieve this included:

- Giving lead entities and project sponsors at the beginning of the round a specific list of what information the Review Panel would need to make a clear Potential POC designation during the summer, before lead entity's lists are due.
- Continue the practice of having one or two Review Panel members visit projects in the early summer to evaluate whether a project is a Potential POC.
- Include one full meeting of the Review Panel after visits have been made and before lead entity lists are completed to give all Review Panel members an opportunity to flag a Potential POC.
- Make a clearer schedule and process for POC designations after lead entity lists are submitted.
- Make a designated point at which a project is no longer subject to additional POC reviews.

Being able to resolve POC issues earlier in the round and avoiding last minute scope and cost changes as a result of POC designations would also help to streamline the 2007 grant round process.

LEAG organization and structure

LEAG continued our discussion about reorganizing our structure and decision making process. A new draft LEAG Policy and Procedures proposal was sent to the LEAG email list for review prior to our February meeting. The structure would allow for each lead entity to have one membership seat on LEAG and an Executive Committee structure for nine of the LEAG members that would be similar to the current LEAG membership model. Also LEAG would move to a fully consensus based decision making process using the consensus model (1-5) currently used by the Puget Sound Recovery Council.

We received comments by email and had a good discussion at the meeting. People at the meeting were generally supportive of the proposal with some helpful suggestions for modifications. We will revise the draft based on comments received and make a final decision at our next LEAG meeting.

Project updates

LEAG would like to thank Brian Abbott, Scott Chapman, and Erik Neatherlin for giving us updates at our last meeting about the SRFB Project conference, updates to the PRISM system, and the Habitat Work Schedule project, respectively. It was a very helpful exchange of information.