



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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December 19, 2005

TO: SRFB Members and Designees
FROM: Laura E. Johnson, Director *nl*
PREPARED BY: Neil Aaland, Assistant Director *LEA*
SUBJECT: Preparations for 7th Grant Round – ITF2

Background

At the December 1-2 meeting, the Board continued its discussion on establishing the direction for the next grant round. This memo outlines the major discussion points from that meeting, and some possible direction on where to go from here. The Board expressed interest in using a process similar to the first Issues Task Force (ITF) in exploring options. Board Member Steve Tharinger, a veteran of the first ITF, offered to participate on behalf of the Board in this new ITF2. Doug Osterman, on behalf of LEAG, indicated LEAG is ready to start discussions at their January meeting.

Summary of Board discussion

The Board offered a number of topics to consider for inclusion in seventh round discussions:

- Lead Entity areas - Do we have the right geographic areas? Is this structure resulting in the correct projects?
- Citizens committees - are they working properly? Are there any changes in that structure needed – any additional support (such as training) needed?
- Regional structure – How do we continue to move toward implementing regional recovery plans?
- Other funding entities – how can we coordinate better with other entities in the northwest (e.g. NW Power and Conservation Council, Bonneville Power Administration) and ensure we are funding appropriate projects?¹
- Allocation of funding: Do we need a new formula? Is the structure of a first, second and third increment needing a fresh approach?
 - Should the SRFB look at other things in addition to strategy quality?

¹ This regional coordination on funding work would probably require a separate effort, other than this ITF2 process – the focus and interests needed are different than for the other issues on this list



- Timing of seventh round - Should we:
 - Operate on a similar timeframe, with grants awarded at the end of 2006?
 - Do a smaller, more focused grant round at the end of 2006, and reserve most funding for a larger eighth grant round in 2007?

Staff Recommendation

Staff has begun to work with Board Member Tharinger on the process and structure for an ITF2 process. In addition, contacts will be made with LEAG and the Council of Regions. Additional information may be provided at the January meeting as a result of these contacts.

There are two primary issues for discussion today by the Board. The first issue revolves around the potential timeline for the next grant round. If we are to continue on a similar timeline as the sixth round, policies and procedures need to be approved by the Board at its April meeting. That leaves less than three months to establish any new direction. The other primary issue is whether to use a group process for ITF2 similar to the first ITF – appointing a committee and the makeup of that committee.

Specific recommendations for Board action today:

1. *Funding timeline*: Provide some initial direction on these options:
 - a. Establish an 18-months timeline for the next grant round (release some portion of funding at end of 2006, e.g. first increment) – allow this ITF2 process to proceed
 - b. Stay with the present timeframe
 - c. Other timeline options?
2. *ITF2 Process*: Decide whether to use a group process similar to the first ITF, with similar membership (see Attachment for a list of members from the first ITF)
3. Provide any additional direction on topics for discussion..

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Attachment
2003 ITF Members

Steve Tharinger, Chair
Shirley Solomon (Skagit Watershed Council)
Craig Partridge (DNR)
Doug St. John (Pierce County)
Julie Dagnon (Okanogan County)
Jim Fox/Laura Johnson (IAC/SRFB Staff)
Jeff Breckel (LCFRB)
Jim Kramer (Puget Sound Shared Strategy)
Steve Martin (Snake River)
Tim Smith (WDFW)
Steve Leider (GSRO)
Dick Wallace (Ecology)
Paula Mackrow (Land Trust)