

# SRRTTF Funding Work Group Meeting Notes

November 16, 2015

1. Urban Waters Small Grants application is being prepared by Lands Council (Amanda Parrish). A draft will be ready by Tuesday and Amanda will send to Adriane Borgias for review and comments. The SRRTTF draft letter of report has been prepared and is on the agenda for decision on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Grant application is due Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. EPA Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program

One \$120K cooperative agreement grant is offered per EPA region, so this is a highly competitive opportunity.

The reduction of toxics in the Spokane River (specifically PCB) is the environmental and public health issue of concern. Since its inception in 2012, Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force) has made significant progress on toxics reduction. A consistent barrier moving forward is the capacity to work together with the Spokane Tribe. Specifically, the Spokane Tribe has a small environmental organization. Lack of funding and insufficient staffing has hampered the ability of the Tribe to participate.

The Task Force will be completing its Comprehensive Plan for the management of toxics in the Spokane River by December 31, 2016. Effective participation by the Tribe can no longer be postponed. This critical funding enables timely engagement and moves implementation of the plan forward in a manner that is mutually beneficial.

Conversations are needed between the Task Force and Tribe to identify issues of common concern, identify the collective vision and work strategically towards implementing the Comprehensive Plan recommendations.

Implementation includes setting priorities, identifying actions to implement, developing partnerships, and leveraging resources.

The proposal addresses aspects of the Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act.

Program objectives that need to be addressed:

- Local environmental and/or health issues (PCBs, water quality standard, fish consumption)
- Utility of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model
  - Issue identification, visioning, and strategic goal setting
  - Community capacity-building and leadership development
  - Development of multi-stakeholder partnerships and leveraging resources
  - Consensus building and dispute resolution

- Constructive engagement with other stakeholders
- Sound management and implementation
- Evaluation
- Engage, educate, and empower
- Partner and collaborate

Funding would be requested to foster Tribal participation, including the Tribal environmental staff and a facilitator.

Here are the options for this opportunity (in no particular order):

- 1) Task Force ACE submits as non-profit
- 2) Other non-profit submits (Center for Justice?)
- 3) Tribe submits

*Funding Work Group recommends that this funding opportunity be pursued.*

#### ACTION ITEM

- APB to contact Spokane Tribe about opportunity
- MP to discuss with Center for Justice

#### 3. Five Star and Urban Waters program

This funding opportunity is aimed more at implementation funding. There are some tie-ins with respect to community involvement. This opportunity is timely in that it will help address implementation of the comprehensive plan.

With the completion of the Comprehensive Plan in December 2016, the question of “how do we do this” arises. One option is to request assistance with evaluating and implementing one or more BMPs from the Comprehensive Plan (The San Francisco Bay Estuary Toolbox contains example BMPs.)

The funding opportunity is complex and more information is needed about how it works.

*The Funding Work Group recommends further research.*

#### ACTION ITEM

- APB to research how this opportunity works, including past awards.
- Contact other resources (WDFW, awardees) and determine if this is a fit.

