

Progress Report for the Shoreline Master Program Update



Recipient Name: Benton County Grant No: G1200022

Project Title: COMPREHENSIVE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Reporting Period: From: January 1, 2013 To: March 31, 2013

Ecology's Project Officer: Jaime Short Progress Report #: 5

Reported by: Suzanne M. Walker Date: April 16, 2013
Recipient Signature

Ecology Review

Project Officer

Date

This report must accompany all requests for payment and, as appropriate, will be accompanied by deliverables per the scope of work.

Boxes below will expand to provide completion information; use F11 to get to the next field.

Compare actual accomplishments by task to the objectives established in the grant agreement. Also, list deliverables per the grant agreement due to Ecology by date of this progress report and their status.

Progress Report #5 ~ All Grant Deliverables, supporting information & PPP documentation, i.e. meeting and event notices, presentations, and SAC products, etc., regarding this Progress Report are available at the County's SMP website www.bentoncountysmpupdate.com and opening the SMP Ecology Grant Deliverables Link.

Task C: Implement Public Participation Plan. The Shoreline Master Program Update "Open House" Regional Forums were held in Prosser and Kennewick, on January 9th & 10th respectively. The Forum events were used to present the Benton County Shoreline Analysis Report to the public and to receive comments on the information provided within the document. The Forums were also used to update the public on the progress of the County's Shoreline Master Program Update process. The Forums were well attended by the public and those participating provided a variety of questions and contributed useful comments. The individual questions were recorded and addressed by the consultants, attending SAC members and County planning staff. Postcard notices were sent to: all property owners with parcels within the shoreline jurisdiction of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers; the SMP Public Participation email list; and the interested parties' mailing list. Several display ads were placed in the local newspapers, posters in the local libraries, and public gathering places. The Public Participation Plan was again highlighted to encourage and enlist future participation.

Shoreline Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings 4, 5, and 6 were held on January 17th, February 14th, and March 14th. Time is reserved at the end of all SAC meeting for members of the public to provide comments or ask questions regarding the materials presented, or issues relating to the Benton County Shorelines.

Phase 2, Shoreline Inventory & Shoreline Analysis & Characterization

Task 2.3 Prepare Shoreline Characterization and Analysis Report*

The Draft Benton County Shoreline Analysis Report document (dated November 30, 2012) was submitted to the Department of Ecology (ECY) in November. Public Comments on the Draft Shoreline Analysis Report were also taken at two public "Forums" held in January during a public participation process noted in Task C above. The public comments received on the Draft Analysis Report during the Forum process and formal comments from the Department of Ecology have been addressed in a ***Final Shoreline Analysis Report for Benton County**, dated April 17th, 2013. The Final SMP Shoreline Analysis Report can be found at the County's SMP website @ www.bentoncountysmpupdate.com, and opening the "SMP Ecology Grant Deliverables" link. *Due to size or content some documents may only be available via the dedicated FTP site: <ftp://mail.watershedco.com> user name: BentonCo Password: @B3N80n*

Phase 3: Shoreline Environment Designation, Policy and Regulations

Task 3.1 Conduct community visioning process

The visioning process for the SMP update was launched in March with an online rural "Community Questionnaire", using Survey Monkey available via the County's SMP Update website, and hard copy by request. The purpose of the questionnaire was to build a common local consensus for the desired future of the shorelines in Benton County in regard to current and future shoreline uses, public access, preservation and restoration ideas for the voluntary restoration plan, to identify topics where more information is needed, and to ensure the SMP reflects the long term desires of the community. We are currently preparing results of the survey for an Open House presentation in April.

Task 3.2 Develop general SMP goals, policies and regulations

A draft outline and preliminary shoreline goals were prepared, introduced, and reviewed by the SAC for their input.

Task 3.3 Environment designations

Consultants and staff developed a system of eight environment designations with purpose, criteria and policies, and developed an internal map of the environment designations.

Phase 4: Restoration Planning

Task 4.1

The Benton County Draft SMP Restoration Plan was prepared and reviewed by the SAC for content in February. The SAC will provide feedback in May on additions and possible edits.

***Deliverables**

Status of Project Schedule: We are on schedule with Shoreline program tasks, and required project deliverables. We are currently working with the SAC reviewing material related to Tasks 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.

Are you submitting a payment request with this progress report? **Yes** **No.**
If no, please explain:

Personnel changes: NONE

Any difficulties encountered during the quarter: Staff recognizes the importance of citizen representation and participation in a locally tailored shoreline master program update and strives to have open and meaningful communication with all stakeholders involved. These efforts are of utmost importance to the success of our shoreline update program. We are finding that with greater participation comes greater need to communicate. Although welcome, this is proving to take more staff time than could have been anticipated.

Anticipated (environmental, recreational, etc.) benefits of the project: