

SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting

Skagit Watershed Council Conference Room

June 7, 2012

The meeting began at 8:40 a.m. with Ken Dahlstedt, Steve Hinton, Dave Pflug, Bob Carey, Carolyn Kelly and Shirley Solomon in attendance.

FINANCIAL. Shirley presented the May Budget Report and informed the Board that spending was proceeding as envisioned in the adopted budget, with no unforeseen expenditures occurring. The proposed 2012-2013 Budget was presented and discussed, with no changes made. Adoption will take place at the June 28 Board meeting.

The Board approved a financial audit for 2011-2012 to be undertaken by Hoekstra Associates for an estimated amount of \$5,500 which would include the 990 return.

UPDATES. Shirley provided a brief update of the various happenings over the course of the past several months:

- RCO/SRFB: Lead entity consolidation options being considered to facilitate efficiencies in the face of declining funding; further decline in federal appropriations anticipated
- PSP: Status of Implementation Conference in mid-October; Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program needs to be implemented; Three Year Work Plan Review underway
- PSNERP: Deepwater 2, Milltown Island and Telegraph 1 & 2 moving forward; McGlinn and North Fork Levee Setback not moving forward at this time
- Envision 2060: Through SCOG GMA Committee the focus is now on the need for additional industrial lands and a revenue sharing mechanism
- FCZD: The Corps of Engineers has resumed work on the Skagit GI and is under mandate to have a plan by 2014. The Advisory Committee has resumed monthly meeting.
- Outreach Activities. This item was not discussed
- Watershed Coordinator Report and the Three Year Work Program was referenced as being in the Board packet but not discussed
- The June – December 2012 calendar below was noted and approved, with the removal of the July 12 meeting.

TRANSITION PLANNING: Jay Watson, hired to investigate options for the Council's future, joined the Board at 10:05 a.m.

Jay described the work that he had planned to do, gave an update on where the work was to date and described what he was proposing to do through the end of June. He had planned to conduct approximately 30 interviews and update the Board on the results of those interviews at the June 7th Board meeting. At this point in time, Jay said he had been able to conduct 20 interviews from what he believed was a representative sample of interests. He also decided to move the work forward faster and provide not only a report of results to date, but also some organizational options for the Board to begin considering now, as opposed to waiting until the June 28 Board meeting. He said that he believes that events are presenting some opportunities now, but also eliminating some of options the longer that this process goes on.

He presented some of his findings from the interviews. A summary of those findings to date is attached as a separate document to these minutes.

Lastly, Jay described three relatively discrete "pathways" that the Council could take in the future. Those three pathways included:

- Transferring the Lead Entity Program (winding the SWC down towards dissolution);
- Mergers/Alliances with other group(s) (as near to a status quo option as is available - with some possible substantive mission growth); and

- Growing beyond the Lead Entity Program (other Puget Sound recovery issues/LIO-Local Integrating Org. work; advancing a community vision, e.g. Envision 2060, etc.)

There was extensive Board member discussion of each of these possible future pathways. The Board rejected transferring the Lead Entity work to another organization. Board members were unconvinced that this would not be of any benefit to the community and saw it as defeatist, based on all the past good work that has been accomplished under the auspices of the Council.

The Board discussed options for mergers or administrative alignments with other NGOs working on associated issues or with overlapping concerns. That option was also characterized as not gaining any ground. Mergers would take extensive time and effort but essentially would not yield anything new – this option was viewed as mostly a survival option that should only be exercised as a last resort.

Lastly, the Board debated the idea of “growing” the Council to address additional issues, such as water quality, water quantity, habitat/land use, etc. That discussion was made in the context of the Puget Sound Partnership’s Local Integrating Organization option. And, while the Board members acknowledged that they, as an organization, were not in a position to form or even initiate the formation of an LIO (that being the purview of the County and Tribes in the Skagit), the Board did believe that they might be able to offer the Council (in whatever organizational form was needed) as a starting point for a home for a neutral core of support staff for an LIO. Jay said that from his extensive intergovernmental experience, much of which was between counties and tribes, he believed that any county/tribal consortium needed a core of staff that reported directly to a combined county/tribal board of directors, not just staff lent from individual governments. Those staff would have divided loyalties and conflicting direction. Staff from LIO member governments would certainly be needed to work on and advance their government’s agendas, individually and jointly, but staff leadership for any consortium should be accountable to that consortium as a whole, not to its individual constituent parts.

The Board urged the County and Tribes to convene jointly to discuss the formation of a County/Tribal LIO. They stated that they wanted to offer the Council as a possible organizational support for an LIO. And further suggested that they wanted to maintain the Council in a status quo mode until such time as an LIO was formed and discussions could be undertaken with the governments on how the Council could help support them.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO RESERVE

Given the transition process, meeting times may be extended and other dates may be added.

- **June 28: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** 2012 Project Prioritization followed by Board meeting to continue work with Jay Watson. At Council Office.
- **August 2: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** Board meeting. At Council Office.
- **September 12: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Annual Lunch at Maple Hall.
Followed by Board meeting if necessary
- **October 4: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** Board meeting. At Council Office.
- **November 1: 8:30– 11:30 a.m.** Board meeting. At Council Office.
- **December 6: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.** Board meeting. At Council Office.
- **December 13:** Holiday Open House