

## Community Engagement Committee + ECO Net

Skagit Watershed Council Nov 17th, 2020, 9:30 am – 11:30 am via Zoom

Present: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Kristi Carpenter (SCD), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Stacy de la O (Salish Sea School), Olivia Hubert (SFEG), Cindy Pierce (SCD), Scottie Schneider (SWC), Karen Summers (SCEA and ECONet), Sylvi Thorstenson (WSU Skagit Extension), Holli Watne (SWC), Allison Roberts (Kulshan Services)

Not Present: Scott Bohling (DOE), Danielle Gartenberg (SFEG), Pete Haase (SMRC), Codi Hamblin – on furlough (NCI), Jeff Giesen (NCI), Michelle Quast (ECY), Beck Pittman (ACFL), Kevin Tate (Skagit PUD), Wayne Watne (WDFW), Susan Wood (Padilla Bay)

11:15

1. Meeting Notes – We approved the October CEC meeting notes. Cindy made a motion to approve the notes without changes and Allison seconded. Approved unanimously.
2. ECO Net hosted a presentation by Cassie Cichorz of Washington State Department of Agriculture entitled “Asian Giant Hornets and Preserving the Nature of Washington.” For information about the Asian Giant Hornets:
  - a. <https://agr.wa.gov/hornets>
  - b. Hornet watch group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hornets>
3. ECO Net/member updates:
  - a. SCEA + ECO Net (Karen)
    - i. Next ECO Net meeting in February 2021
    - ii. Letterbox Trail has been budgeted for 2021, using same format as this year
    - iii. Skagit Water weeks in May (virtual).
    - iv. Offering mini-grants for teachers of K-12 \$500 to help get students outside
  - b. SCD (Kristi + Cindy)
    - i. SCD was recognized as the Northwest Area District of the Year in 2020!
    - ii. Working on “Poop Fairy” campaign
    - iii. Cindy has worked for SCD for 20 years!
    - iv. State-level Envirothon happening May 2021
    - v. Auction coming up. **\*Cindy will send a link and share it with Holli for the SWC Facebook.**
  - c. Friends of Skagit Beaches’ winter lecture series will be virtual this year
  - d. Padilla Bay
    - i. New high school project called “Nurdle Patrol” – study of plastic particles
    - ii. Storming the Sound will be held virtually on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>
      1. They are planning for an Open Space format with facilitated sessions on various topics. People who have a discussion topic will lead a 5-10-minute discussion with breakout sessions.
      2. There is space for planning volunteers
      3. There is space for presenters/facilitators
      4. Contact Chandler ([ccolahan@padillabay.gov](mailto:ccolahan@padillabay.gov)) if interested

- iii. Youth Earth Summit (high school program) will be held Wednesday, December 9. There is space for 20-minute presentations, contact Chandler
  - e. Skagit County Pollution Reduction (Karen DuBose)
    - i. Working on a social marketing campaign to reduce fertilizer use in Big Lake
    - ii. Bringing back the rebate program for septic systems - can pay most of septic inspector fee.
    - iii. Working with Craft3 to do loans for the septic program.
    - iv. Dog poop is an increasing focus for them as well.
  - f. SFEG
    - i. [Salmon Sighting Map](#) has been really effective!
    - ii. Given out 150 Salmon Discovery bags; it's been a popular engagement method.
    - iii. Working hard on virtual education
    - iv. 30/30 campaign coming up. This will focus on the work they do with partners.
  - g. Glacier Peak Institute (Oak)
    - i. Working hard on with outdoor STEM programs for youth for communities in Darrington and Concrete
    - ii. Seeking better interface between urban and rural youth relationships. Established a connection with Redmond students who share coding and computer and 3D printing interests.
    - iii. Currently involved in an environmental DNA sampling project with WDFW.
    - iv. In the summertime: workforce development for youth with trail building, forestry, recreation programming and stewardship, archery and foraging.
    - v. Oak did a [presentation](#) to Salmon Nation a panel out of Vancouver BC with indigenous tribes in Canada. How wants to see more invest in this work.
  - h. Salish Sea School (Stacy DeLa O) – Establishing a leadership team with a student stakeholder voice. She is working on a 6-month or year-long pilot program to define a research project to work with others in the area as mentors doing field research, careers. She expects it to launch this year. (See flyer included with this email)

4. Google Site show-and-tell:

- a. Olivia shared how SFEG is adapting Junior Stream Stewards to virtual classrooms using Google Sites.
  - i. They created a video (see right image) on how to use the site, to avoid misuse.
  - ii. The site uses a pre- and post-survey to evaluate what students learned.
  - iii. This site uses a Bitmoji Classroom, using a Bitmoji Chrome extension plugin (see image



on left). The students click on images in this virtual classroom to go to different pages. For example, clicking on the fish tank takes the students to a live stream of salmon.

- iv. Google has applications like calendar, maps, slides, sheets, forms, and charts. The app allows the user to link these documents to images such as a clock, computer screen, and bookcase.

- v. The badges on the top righthand corner of the site. Students can earn points as they work their way through the tasks.
  - b. Holli shared her STEAM luminary program (luminary globe building as part of Illuminight) [website](#). This is a work-in-progress that should be finished by 12/07. This Google Site is designed to teach 6<sup>th</sup> graders how to make a luminary, primarily through videos, broken up into “Day 1”, “Day 2”, and “Day 3” pages.
  - c. Both Holli and Olivia think that Google Sites is a useful tool for online education.
    - i. Pros: relatively easy and free
    - ii. Cons: limited in types of documents that can be included. For example, the only way to share a video is through YouTube. This is a concern because after the video, YouTube automatically makes individually-tailored recommendations for other videos to watch. This may be a huge distraction for many students.
5. Announcement: Skagit MRC (via Pete) was a little disappointed in the turnout of their virtual “[Fidalgo Bay Day](#)” scavenger hunt this summer. Planning has started for next summer’s event, which is also assumed to require social distancing. Pete wonders if we could pull together to make a single collaborated summer activity for the community that combines all our various interests and capacities and ideas— rather than several. We will discuss this at our **next** CEC meeting.
6. Jeff Giesen facilitated a discussion in October about working with school districts in Skagit County to get more public school students involved in nature-based programming. In attendance: Holli, Amy, Wendy Cole, Lucy, Richard, Annie England, Stacy, and Karen. The main outcome of the discussion was that Jeff planned to propose a pilot program with SWSD superintendent.
- QR codes have made a BIG come back! Lots of restaurants use QR codes for their menus and so people have gotten more comfortable using them. Also, they are standard on Android phones now which makes them easier to deploy without opening an app. This is important because they are great shortcuts for engaging people. You can also create custom QR codes that include your organization logo. Here's an [example](#).
7. Holli will be putting together a flyer of upcoming events to mail out with prizes for the luminary arts contest SWC is hosting. She will put on FOSB winter lecture series and SFEF Salmon Sighting Site map URL. She would love further suggestions.
8. **\*We decided to skip our December CEC meeting.** We suggested Holli schedule another Green Drinks again; people loved the idea but had conflicts which prevented their participation. Next meeting: January 26, 9:30-11:30.

Adjourn 11:50 am