**Skagit Watershed Council Community Engagement Committee**

**February 25, 2020 at SWC 9:30 – 11:30 am**

**Present:** Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Richard Brocksmith and Holli Watne (SWC), Codi Hamblin (NCI), Stacy Dahl and Abby Weaver (SLT) and Wayne Watne (WDFW)

**Not Present:** Claire Howell and Maddie Reid (SFEG), Karen Summers (SCEA, Skagit EcoNet), Allison Roberts (Kulshan Services), Kristi Carpenter and Cindy Pierce (SCD)

1. CEC organizational discussion:
   1. Alex has stepped down as the CEC chair. For the time being Holli will take the lead in agenda creation. Richard would like someone from a member organization to fill in as chair and “help us flesh out what we should be doing”.
   2. There are 44 member organizations in the Skagit Watershed Council, yet only a handful of organizations attend the CEC meetings. We will reach out to see if more members would like to be involved.
   3. Now that the STEAM Educator Resource Guide is complete, should we have a new goal/focus? Before our next meeting, we will share our Community Engagement Framework and Implementation Plan for review. We will discuss this question next month.
   4. The group likes the idea of putting on an event like the Teacher retreat that was hosted at NCI in 2017. Codi says Whatcom county is developing a “pilot pathway” to something similar. She will report more at the next meeting.
2. Storming the Sound debrief:
   1. A great event with good speakers, as usual.
   2. Thayne Yazzie was the keynote speaker. Thayne is the STEM education outreach coordinator for the Salish Sea Research Center (SSRC) located at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, WA. He explained his model of what complete education should include, which he calls “SMART2”:

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|  | **Academic side of education** | **Indigenous Knowledge side of education** |
| **S** | Science + Nature | Society + Culture |
| **M** | Math + Logic | Morality + Ethics |
| **A** | Art + Design | Awareness + Health |
| **R** | Reading + Writing | Reality + Spirituality |
| **T** | Technology + Engineering | Tomorrow + the Future |

* 1. Thayne created some beautiful playing cards featuring the scientific and native names/images of local wildlife. They can be purchased for $19 at <https://thayneyazzie.com/>. Wayne said he may have access to similar cards created years ago by the WDFW. There are different sets for native fish, plants, land mammals, etc. The group generally agreed that these could be good teaching tools.
  2. Holli got a copy of a 2019 book called “We are Puget Sound”. She will bring it next week for folks to check out. More info: <https://www.wearepugetsound.org/>
  3. It didn’t seem that Storming the Sound was well advertised this year. This may be due to limited space at the current venue. There is some concern that few new participants are coming to the event.
  4. A few years ago, Cathy Angell (then staff at Padilla Bay) gave a great presentation about communicating with audiences using PowerPoint. The group said they could benefit from trainings on topics like that. Holli is reaching out to Cathy to see if she’d be willing to give a similar presentation at a future CEC meeting.
  5. A similar event (yet much larger, with ~60 classes to choose from and ~600 people in attendance) is the Sound Waters University, put on by the Sound Water Stewards. This event is usually the first Saturday in February, at South Whidbey High School. Registration opens in late December and has a fee of about $60, with discounts for AmeriCorps members. Lucy said that they fill up quick and that it’s well worth the fee. This year she learned a lot about forage fish – a topic on which she already had a good basis of understanding. For more info: <https://soundwaterstewards.org/sw/about-sound-waters-university/>

1. Member updates/upcoming events:
   1. Skagit Watershed Council
      1. Illuminight Winter Walk is rescheduled for Friday 3/27. Holli will be working on a new outreach handout for the event.
      2. Holli is gearing up for doing Drain Rangers for 5th graders in BESD and 6th graders in SWSD. She could use some help April 14th, 16th, 28th and 30th. She will also be giving a lecture on hardships for the Southern Resident Orcas for 9th graders in SWSD.
   2. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
      1. 8 schools + the Children’s museum have participated in Salmon in the Classroom this year. Between March 26 and April 23, they will be releasing the young salmon into Hansen Creek.
      2. Upcoming planting and potting parties in March. Earth Day event on 4/18.
      3. AmeriCorps interns are coordinating a Green Drinks event from 5:30-7:30pm at 192 Taproom on Thursday 3/12. The intention is to get folk from many different stages in their Environmental careers to share ideas and inspire interns on their career path.
      4. SFEG will be participating in an upcoming webinar on how to use Instagram. Lucy will share the details with the group. Lucy finds that Instagram gets more responses than Face Book. The council generally agrees that Instagram is a more important tool for reaching a younger audience.
   3. Skagit Land Trust
      1. Abby is working on forest lessons for teachers to use on SLT property. She and Stacy are working with Hattie Osborne from Pacific Education Institute (PEI) to put together a teacher training in hope of getting more teachers to use SLT properties without the need for SLT staff to facilitate lessons. The training will be about 6 hours and cover PEI’s Project Learning Tree curriculum. PEI will provide clock hours.

They are thinking of regularly hosting trainings, maybe twice a year.

* + 1. In May, they will be doing field trips at the Utopia property for 2nd graders from 7 different schools. In this field trip, groups of students go through 6 different “investigation stations” that are 15 minute each. She needs volunteers to help.
    2. In April, they will be hosting High School interns with the Kulsian Creek program. NCI used to help with this program, but SLT is taking over their role.
    3. For Earth Day, they will be hosting a BioBlitz at the Johnson property on 4/25, which will be open to the public next year. This is a new type of event for the SLT. Volunteers will be using iNaturalist to ID species found on the property. They could use more ID experts for all sorts of different biota. Anyone is welcome to table at this event. This property is set to become open to the public next year.
  1. Other
     1. May will be Skagit Water Weeks. The deadline to apply to participate is this week. So far SCD, Padilla Bay, Skagit PUD and Skagit Farm to Pint Brew Tour are set. Many more activities are in the works.
     2. SCD Upcoming events: SCD: Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course (3/18-4/22), Native Plant Sale (4/4), Marine Biotoxin Volunteer Training (4/9-10), Water Smart Gardening workshop (5/13), Brewery Tour with education activities (5/24)
     3. Padilla Bay is putting on “Kids on the Beach” program this spring. They could use some more volunteers to work with 8th-graders and citizen scientists.