

Community Engagement Committee Notes

Skagit Watershed Council, April 28, 2020, 9:30 am – 11:30 am (ZOOM)

Present: Richard Brocksmith, Scott (DOE), Michelle Quast (DOE), Stacy Dahl, Lucy DeGrace, Abby Weaver(SLT), Cindy Pierce(SCD), Scottie Schneider (SWC), Codi Hamblin(NCI), Wayne Watne(WDFW), Holli Watne(SWC), Susan Wood(PBERR), Karen Summers (SCEA and ECONet), Kristi Carpenter(SCD), Kim Simon(MoNA), Pete Haase(SMRC)

1. Welcome, approve March meeting notes

- a) Notes corrections/additions: Holli made the following corrections: SLT should say Stacy instead of Lucy on the brainstorm page, #7. Fix typo on page 4 on #5 on Washington.
- b) Wayne noted in follow up that he will try to locate the original file containing WDFW information cards he mentioned in the Feb meeting. These WDFW cards show info about native fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, and plants.

Motion: Wayne made a motion and Kristi seconded to approve the minutes with the two changes above.

2. Holli reports on SWC's actions that resulted from the March meeting.

- a) Holli shared the SWC webpage for Community with kids' activities: <https://www.skagitwatershed.org/news/educationalresourcesforourcommunityathome/> She wants to do one for adults, but hasn't had the time to pull that together and not sure how much it will be accessed and whether it's worth the time.
- b) Holli also created a Home Rain Drain Project. <https://www.skagitwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/Home-Rain-Drain-Project.pdf> She is awarding stickers for people who share their project based on this page. She shared this with some teachers and is working on a Spanish translation. ***Wayne has some stickers he can get to Holli if she needs them.**
- c) Regarding publicity for this resource, Holli reached out to the Skagit Valley Herald. **Allison will share a new environmental and community-based news outlet called Salish Current:** <https://salish-current.org/2020/04/27/san-juan-skagit-and-whatcom-nonprofits-refocus-to-meet-basic-needs-uncertain-future/>. The Educational Resource Guide could be shared with them as well.

3. Review of action items from previous meetings

- a) Nominations for a new CEC chair? Holli is happy to chair this but would like a member organization to take the lead eventually.

- b) Collaborative project (coloring book/summer camp/other)

Coloring book: For reference, Lucy shared a book that was never published (due to lack of funds) onto the group's shared google file (mentioned in 4a of March notes). Kaylani's (former Americorps) artwork is included.

Summer Camp 2021: Padilla Bay is very interested in participating in this Summer Camp.

***A subcommittee was formed to work on this idea and meet by Zoom next month:**

Susan, Kristi, Holli, Lucy, Karen, Pete, Codi. They will work on a timeline for a Summer Camp.

No deadlines were set on project(s) at this meeting, but subcommittees will likely work out details.

- c) Letterbox Trail at Padilla Bay was set to start June 13 and run through Festival of Family Farms weekend in October. *** While the trail at Padilla Bay is open, this year's 5th graders could not make the letterboxes, so SCEA is seeking organizations to help make it happen.** The Letterbox Trail (hosted by SCEA) has a tote with a journal, stamp, and stamp pad for families to follow nature clues to discover the letter box.

***We created a Letterbox Trail subcommittee: Holli, Lucy, Karen, Kristi, Abby, Wayne, and Susan.** They will solicit organizations to participate and how to do it with minimal COVID-19 risk. Everyone loves the idea of adapting this so it can be accessed following COVID risk guidelines. Brainstorm ideas:

- People search for a location and take a photo of it to document where they've been.
- People could bring their own journal instead of accessing the journal in the box.
- Holli suggested adapting the silent hike exercise used at NCI. Focus on having a nature experience.
- Enter to win a drawing at the end of summer.
- Have a site online where they can register letterbox participation.
- At each station, participants create their own stamp to document they have done that location.
- Other examples of adaptive engagement: Nanaimo Dinosaur trail – find the dinosaurs on the trail. Wenatchee find the fairies and gnomes trail. Download the clue sheet? Adams River Salute to the Sockeye Festival.
- We want to have kids spend less screen time. They can download a map to show where they went.

- d) Updates from school districts (8b): School programming has resumed. Teachers are getting in the groove of online work. What Outreach efforts are working best now? (8e):

- Bellingham SD and BESD are creating new online content every day.
- Some teachers have responded to Lucy's intern's packets with some modified and new content. Some teachers expressed a desire that they be printed.
- Holli will be creating an online presentation about Orcas for Sedro Woolley SD.
- Lucy is trying to keep Concrete SD updated but hasn't heard anything from Sasha. Lucy would have started macroinvertebrates unit next week. She is going to get some video of the process of how to collect macros, their habitat, where to look for them, how to sort and identify them. She is going to work with Clair to pair the video designed to go with worksheets that are printable.
- Rain Drain project: Holli had eight teachers email her with gratitude about the Rain Drain project which she shared. It was designed as user-friendly for kids to do themselves.

- Mountain School at Home: Codi and NCI put together videos and activities that kids of all ages can do. They sent it out to all of Skagit and Bellingham schools that would have been doing Mountain School.
- Padilla Bay: They continue posting a weekly newsletter featuring kid activities. Susan shared the Mountain School materials which teachers and families loved. They have been working from weekly themes. Link to this is on the SWC resource guide. These could be shared with neighborhood associations and/or their Facebooks and on Next Door.

4. Review of CEC community framework

- CEC History: Allison shared a PowerPoint showing the history of the community engagement work in the Skagit. The presentation has been posted on our shared Google file.
- Holli briefly discussed two-phased plan the CEC:

Phase 1: community engagement that focuses on kid-friendly education and why the Skagit watershed is special. This is to broaden the community of people who want to care for it so that later outreach is not just “preaching to the choir”.

Phase 2: start incorporating more adult-based education and targeted messages to encourage people to voluntarily change their behaviors for the benefit of the watershed. This will involve stickier issues where there is less agreement in the watershed. We will discuss how to approach Phase 2 next month.

5. Discussion with Ecology:

- a) Ecology is working on a project to reduce water temperatures in lower Skagit tributaries through riparian plantings. They are looking for feedback from the CEC members on how to engage homeowners to plant trees on their properties along warm tributaries. More info on the implementation strategy for this project can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/2010010.pdf>
 - b) They had open houses scheduled, but COVID intervened. Now they have a media package to work on messages and a framework for future outreach. Four key elements to their approach: education and outreach, restoration, additional data, science and research.
 - c) Scott (DOE) expressed goal of using Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) to inform how to engage our community in temperature monitoring in the lower Skagit River. They don't want to re-create a new group; rather, they want to work in partnership with CEC organizations.
 - d) Media Package: (Michelle Quast)
- DOE intends to create a series of videos focused on work being done in the Skagit in regard to education and outreach efforts, restoration projects that have happened, importance of data, science and research, and existing policies and their impact. Their focus on content for adults, not kids. Raising awareness campaign. Storyline about the unique place we call the Skagit and worth protecting and the role we play in keeping it

that way. Difficulties, they don't have existing footage and COVID 19 may make it difficult to obtain. What stories can they focus on? What photos could we share?

- Michelle shared a video on Floodplains by Design as an example of how these videos might look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVgM2PxXI-o> Each video will have a blog associated with it. This goes out to the press. They have Instagram and Facebook (not sure about Twitter). ***Michelle asked organizations if they would be able to share video or drone footage, they already have to supplement video DOE films.**
- They will create a story map, which would include videos, links, quotes, snippets, data. They are in the planning stage for that.
- Lucy has video footage (GoPro) from their Americorps volunteer several years back. Drone footage? Lucy has drone footage of Skagit County Park site (Presentin Park). Wildcat Steelhead Club did a flyover with a drone of a culvert removal on the Cascade River. With GoPro they also did some underwater footage. One of their board members did a video of this Little Cascade project. Kristi mentioned she'll check on video someone in their organization did.
- Holli will share the email addresses for Scott and Michelle so people can reach out to them about this project.

6. Event updates - new cancellations since last month?

- a) Skagit River Festival (Karen) is still being planned and there are deadlines they are working to address. Scottie said that they would make their decision and revise budgets in June.
- b) Skagit Water Weeks (Karen) is transitioning to an online format this May. It will be bigger and better in 2021. Focus: Why water is essential to Skagit County. Holli will make a Water Weeks presentation in the 2nd half of the month and will be posting daily facts of the day on the SWC's Facebook page in honor of Water Weeks.
- c) Lucy cancelled the workshop for monitoring. Monitoring will be done by their staff and Americorps.
- d) Skagit CD (Kristi) The Conservation District is still doing WaterSmart with a webinar.
- e) Skagit Garden Tour (Wayne) The tour was cancelled. They have a lot of garden plantings. The fish in the aquaponics died, but they'll be back.
- f) SWC (Holli) Site visits for projects by SWC partners were supposed to be next week; instead, they are going to do virtual site visits. Holli will make videos of these and post them on the SWC YouTube Channel.
- g) Salish Sea Stewards (Pete) Their class is transitioning to online training which has promising.
- h) WSU Shoreline Stewards Program (Silvi) They are gearing up toward making this program happen online.
- i) NCI – (Codi) They cancelled all the school programs. They are trying to brainstorm and get creative. She is working on a Mountain School rewrite. They are working with a consultant for a new framework. They are looking at fall Mountain School, she'll be reaching out to schools and teachers re: their thinking on this.

7. Any new upcoming events and member updates/ what are you working on?

- a) (Lucy) SFEG Earth Day photo contest ends 4/28/20! More info at www.skagitfisheries.org. Submit photos to outreach@skagitfisheries.org. They would love more submissions from under 18-year-olds.
- b) SLT (Abby) Crossword puzzles, bingo, Facebook content, Stacy has created a video about amphibian monitoring.
- c) Susan (Padilla Bay) is getting better at making online interactive and using tools to do polling and sessions with groups.
- d) SWC (Holli) putting together a presentation for SWSD 9th grade biology students on resident orcas. She asked for source material for her presentation. She'll be working on this next week. OrcaNet on San Juan Island and Langley resources. Holli has this info. Pete suggested she use their messages to guide what she speaks about.

Next Meeting: April 28th, 9:30-11:30 at Skagit Watershed Council