

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council, July 28, 2020, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Present: Scott Bohling (DOE), Kristi Carpenter(SCD), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Pete Haase (SMRC), Beck Pittman (ACFL – Friends of the Forest), Cindy Pierce (SCD), Michelle Quast (ECY), Allison Roberts (Kulshan Services), Scottie Schneider (SWC), Karen Summers (SCEA and ECONet), Holli Watne (SWC)

1. Cindy made a motion to adopt the minutes from the June meeting and Holli seconded. Vote was unanimous.
2. Introducing Beck Pittman, the newly hired educator for Anacortes Community Forest Lands and will be running the Friends of the Forest program this school year. She has a Master of Environmental Education Degree and is new to Skagit County.
3. Member updates/ what are you working on?
 - a. Codi (not present because she was at a [BEETLES](#) meeting) – Mountain School has officially been cancelled this fall due to COVID-19 health concerns.
 - b. Cindy and Karen– Working together on a 3-day watershed lesson for the YMCA next week.
 - c. Stacy – They are keeping the trail at the Utopia area nice and mowed for people doing the Letterbox trail. They have been having troubles with elk removing some of the signs every week. Their book club is going strong. They will be discussing the book [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#) on 9/23
 - d. Scottie – The Skagit Salmon Festival is working with Skagit Publishing on coloring pages. They will be selling their poster from this year, even though the festival was canceled.
 - e. Holli – working on a story map about the Skagit River watershed. This is the first in series of story maps she will create this year. She may need help with some images to use.
 - f. Michelle – She has been on furlough once a week. On the video project she is looking into target audiences and examining assumptions about them prior to developing messaging. Michelle and Scott are working on an upcoming temperature study in one of the tributaries to the Skagit River. They are also planning to start bacteria monitoring in some of the South Skagit Bay tributaries, TBD.
 - g. Beck – she is not able to do the normal summer programs or lead hikes right now due to COVID. She is working on making packets of materials youngsters can interact with outside with an emphasis on social/emotional development and nature art. These will be used by participants of the Boys and Girls Club this summer. She is also working on educational videos for the ACFL page.
 - h. Lucy – volunteers are now active at their plant nursery once a week. They are working toward keeping volunteers engaged in a way that keeps everyone from getting sick.
4. Holli gave a presentation on Behavior Change theory and on compelling story-telling, based on webinars from the Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference (<https://beccconference.org/webinars/>). A copy of the presentation with her notes is shared to the CEC google file.
5. Continued discussion: Can we agree on some common, consistent, and really useful messages?

The group agreed that this will only be possible with a lots work. **Allison, Holli, and Michelle will meet next week to explore ways to narrow a list of messages down and ways to poll our Engagement Committee for top messages.**

6. K-12 Discussion:

Updates from school districts? Holli reported that while OSPI wants kids back in school, individual school districts are making their own decisions. With the uncertainty, districts are working still to provide answers and details as people embrace a new way of learning while ensuring student and staff safety. Some have already announced their plans, others may wait until mid-August. King County, for instance is going totally online. Holli's only heard back from Sedro-Woolley and Burlington who said yes, they'd like to work together, but they wanted to wait until they know more.

Here are the website announcements for the 8 school districts in Skagit County:

a. Sedro-Woolley: <https://www.swsd.k12.wa.us/domain/858>

b. Concrete: <https://www.concrete.k12.wa.us/>

c. Burlington-Edison: <https://www.be.wednet.edu/emergency-information/covid-19>

d. Mt. Vernon: <http://www.mountvernonschools.org/RemotePlus>

Mount Vernon's Remote PLUS Model for a Safe Start means opening schools on September 2nd with a remote learning model **PLUS** a level of "at-school" opportunities for specifically identified students. AS an example of the diversity of input from parents, this survey shows approximately: 20% of respondents indicated a preference for 100% remote learning; 30% indicated a preference for a combination of in-school and online learning; 50% indicated a preference of complete in-school return; "other" responses & comments included a wide variety of ideas.

e. Conway:

https://www.thecabin.net/news/conway-school-board-discusses-reopening/article_88cdfaa6-4876-5829-9914-dd5cbabfb3c7.html#comments and <https://www.smores.com/zsdqw-fall-opening-q-a>

f. LaConnor:

<https://www.lcsd.wednet.edu/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=327&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=10508&PageID=1>

g. Darrington:

<https://www.darringtonschools.org/home/2020/6/30/2020-2021-reopening-survey>

h. Anacortes: <https://sites.google.com/asd103.org/anacorteslearns/fall-2020>

7. Allison noted that the [Whatcom Environmental Educators Coalition](#) has developed a press-release which has been distributed to local media regarding how environmental educators can assist schools during this challenging time. It has resulted in good press from local news agencies and outlets.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M3_nB35sE3sE8SzX_y06djF3Hedzz1_SBSu47ecW6Rw/edit

Next Meeting: Aug 25th, 9:30-11:30 via Zoom