

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council, October 27, 2020, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Present: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Stacy Dahl (SLT), 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)

1. September meeting notes were approved.
2. Member updates/ what are you working on?
 - a. Salish Sea School – Stacy de la O
 - Stacy will be representing the Salish Sea School on behalf of Amy Eberling
 - Their web page now has a free local ID guides for [Birds](#) and [Intertidal life](#). More to come.
 - They are holding monthly student gatherings with conservation lessons, including a recent [forage fish lesson and orca recovery day outing](#).
 - They are also working with students on virtual activities, like an orca recovery challenge.
 - They are seeking more grants
 - b. SFEG – Lucy deGrace and Olivia
 - Started planting parties with 25 volunteers in groups of – worked great! A few more events, including a Youth Engagement Planting with a scout group coming up.
 - distributing Salmon Discovery Bags for pickup and at planting parties: these are kits with coloring, stickers, and pamphlets and a map for salmon sighting self-guided tour.
 - Online classes – Olivia has been learning a lot about teaching with Google Sites. **She will give a short presentation on what she's working on at next month's meeting.**
 - c. SWC – Holli Watne
 - Building/promoting STEAM Luminary Arts program. This will prepare for [Illuminight 2021](#), with virtual happenings all month in January 2021, including a luminary contest.
 - d. Skagit Conservation District – Kristi Carpenter and Cindy Pierce
 - Kristi is working on Stream Team and the Marine Biotoxin volunteer program. They have had high hits of Biotoxins this summer.
 - They are also working on “There's no such thing as a poop fairy” campaign. 300+ signs have been distributed with help of parks depts. She's working on a survey of how many pet waste stations are out there as well.
 - This has been challenging for their programs. She misses the networking a lot.
 - Cindy is busy with Steam Team, communications, and fixing things. She wishes they had an AmeriCorps member this year to help with adjusting to new technologies.
 - She's super jealous of SFEG and their AmeriCorps support and their ability to adjust to new technologies; she would love some help with technology. She is ordering supplies to support technology like Bluetooth microphone and on-site camera.
 - ***Holli asked we should form a subgroup of educators who'd like to share knowledge and resources with regard to virtual education technologies. She will add this to next month's agenda.**
 - Lucy showed the [flexible selfie-stick for video production](#) her husband uses for video and as a document viewer.
 - e. Skagit Land Trust – Stacy Dahl

- Stacy is busy, but outreach is very limited right now. A couple teachers from SWSD expressed interest in a field trip at Utopia, but this may not be possible.
 - They are not holding any public work parties yet. Instead, vetted Land Steward Aides will be doing a lot of the work.
 - She is working on interpretive panels and a heron counting project for March Point; they will invite people who have done it in the past.
- f. WSU Skagit Extension - Sylvi Thorstenson
- Sylvi is on the planning committee for a virtual Storming the Sound.
 - WSU is looking at starting a Master Naturalist Curriculum.
 1. Sylvi asked there an untapped demographic for this program? Lucy said mostly retired folks have signed up for similar programs in this area.
 2. Several people in the meeting expressed interest in signing up for this program once it's available.
 3. Stacy D. went through such a program in Nevada; she thinks our community would really love this!
 4. There is something in Island County: <https://extension.wsu.edu/island/nrs/>
- g. SCEA and ECONet – Karen Summers or
- The Letterbox Trail ended with about 80+ QR codes tagged (maybe 20 were from her checking it) with 35 mailed-in clue sheets. Karen got great photos and stories from grandparents who participated with their kiddos. Participation was down from previous years where 120 turned in clue sheets in person – but last year it was very easy to turn the sheets in at Padilla Bay, and no stamp was required. Karen expects to be using the same format for the Letterbox Trail next year.
 - SCEA is reaching out to local oil change shops (AAA or AFA certified) for a “Don’t Drip and Drive” campaign in December to get cars checked. They get a discount on oil service for participating.

3. K-12 Discussion and Schools Update

Holli heard from Burlington-Edison which is doing K-2nd grade at school 2x/wk., but no visiting teachers are allowed at this time. Stacy reported there's no word from the schools she works with going forward. There were no other updates this month.

4. Virtual Adaptation of the Youth Conservation Tour (historically done at Pomona Grange) – May 2021

- We like the idea of putting together a series of short (5-10 minute) videos to teach about topics usually covered in this event. Cindy thinks 5-6 videos would be sufficient.
- Cindy hopes their new forester (coming soon) could do a video too
- DNR – could they do something on fire-fighting? Cindy said she is in process of hiring a new forester, so maybe that person could do a video. Mostly likely this will be virtual. Want salmon and invasive plants coverage.
- A sub-committee was formed to discuss options: Cindy, Holli, Stacy, Lucy, Stacy de LaO and Amy (Salish Sea School). ***Holli will send out a meeting doodle.**

5. Holli did a shout out for a meeting at 2 pm led today led by Jeff Giesen regarding strategies for working with schools for 2021 and next year. Holli shared the meeting link in this meeting package.

6. Goals for Winter/Spring 2020-21

- Pamona Grange Conservation Tour in May 2021
- Summer Camp – Holli will be checking back in with the subgroup this December
- Skagit School Outreach? – awaiting today’s meeting’s discussion with Jeff Giesen’s group

Adjourn 10:30 am

Next Meeting: November 17, 9:30-11:30 via Zoom. It has been pushed to a week earlier than usual and will start with an EcoNet presentation on the Asian Giant Hornets. Then we’ll reserve a ½ hour for CEC notes review and short updates as time allows. See Karen’s EcoNet email announcement and respond with RSVP; Karen will send a link.