

## Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council March 29th, 2022, 9:30 am – 11:30 am [via Zoom](#)

### Draft Agenda

Holli Watne (SWC + SCEA), Amanda Colbert (TSSS + OAM), Carla Glassman + Cindy Pierce + Taylor Studzinski (SCD), Hannah Katz (SLT), Hannah Liss (PSP), Kat McNeill (HRE teacher, our special guest)

(\***Bold** means action item)

1. Approve Feb notes – approved.
2. Roundtable of updates
  - a. Skagit Watershed Council (SWC)
    - i. Scheduling lots of Drain Rangers programs, especially in SWSD.
    - ii. Planning on going to Concrete Youth Adventure Day on July 14<sup>th</sup>. They'd love more environmental groups tabling at this event. Email the coordinator ([marlena.white@unitedgeneral.org](mailto:marlena.white@unitedgeneral.org)) for more information.
    - iii. The second instalment of the Skagit Salmon Science Series (4S) is planned for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The third one will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Recording and resources from this series will be posted [here](#).
    - iv. Working with Pete on coordinated (but separate) SWW programs on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Pete will be teaching about forage fish surveying and Holli will be doing a Drain Rangers program at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. There will be an am and a pm session of each, at the same time but not using the same space.
  - b. Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA)
    - i. Christine London has been hired as the new Director.
    - ii. The deadline to participate in Skagit Water Weeks (SWW) has been extended. Please contact Christine ([info@skagitcleanwater.org](mailto:info@skagitcleanwater.org)) by April 5<sup>th</sup> if you have an event/resource to share

- iii. SCEA will be hosting an event at Pomona Grange in the afternoon of May 14<sup>th</sup> for Skagit Water Weeks. They are looking for folks to run stations/volunteer to help. Please contact Christine by April 5<sup>th</sup> if you're interested.
- c. Skagit Conservation District (SCD)
  - i. Carla is planning on running the poop toss game at the SWW evet at Pomona Grange. She has only 3 sessions of the Backyard Conservation class to go. She's updating documents on native plants and why they're important, for a presentation for a homeowner's association.
  - ii. Marine Biotoxin training starts soon. Tayler is trying to get volunteers from the community college to participate.
  - iii. For SWW, they're hosting a poster contest about the importance of picking up pet waste
  - iv. Cindy has been busy with classroom presentations and planning for Arbor Day, Earth Day and the Envirothon.
  - v. The deadline for the conservation poster contest is almost here.
  - vi. The native plant sale went well this year.
  - vii. Tayler is mostly working on updating logos and paperwork
- d. The Salish Sea School (TSSS)
  - i. Working on lots of programs. Evaluating which are working well and which ones are not popular enough. Looking forward to COVID restrictions lifting and doing more field work. Brainstorming more ways to get out in the community.
  - ii. Running both boat-based (middle-and high school) and shore-based (Elementary and middle school) summer camps
- e. Orca Action Month (OAM)
  - i. Amanda used to work for the whale museum and will be coordinating OAM this June.
  - ii. This year's theme is "Stream to Sea".

- iii. Folks can email her ([amanda@thesalishseaschool.org](mailto:amanda@thesalishseaschool.org)) if they'd like to participate. The sooner the better, Mid-May to the latest.
  - iv. All events or resources relating to the theme will be promoted at Orcamonth.com. This could be a great opportunity get out some videos/programs we invented in 2022.
- f. Skagit Land Trust (SLT)
  - i. Recent programs going well. Spring break event in ACFL next week. Then lots of school field trips in April and May.
  - ii. They need volunteers to run educational stations at an Earth Day event at the Utopia property on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - iii. They are doing a planting party for SWW. Re-doing a planting of ~3000 plants last year, many got damaged by flooding.
- g. Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)
  - i. No community engagement updates. PSP is currently doing a public reviewing their Action Agenda.
  - ii. Some of the CEC expressed interest in learning more about what PSP does. They identified a disconnect between folks working with community engagement and those doing boots-on-the-ground work. **\*Hannah Liss agreed to put a 10–15-minute presentation for the May 24<sup>th</sup> CEC meeting.** She will focus on what's worth sharing with our students/community about the work PSP does. Amanda requested (for the Guardians of the Sea program that incorporates letter writing on environmental issues), what issues with upcoming deadlines/particular relevance that could use student voices in making a positive change.
- h. Other
  - i. Pete (not present) is working on a Kids on the Beach program. There are two more schools participating this school year. He wants everyone to know that the Fidalgo Bay

Day will be happening on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date. He'll be reaching out for folks to sign up with activates soon.

3. STEAM Train discussion - What if we could offer some sort of environmental certificate to graduating seniors who have participated in some of our K-12 programs? Maybe letter writing could be as requirement. This could look nice on college applications.
4. Outreach Opportunity: outdoor summer school at Harriet Rowley Elementary ("HRE" – in Mount Vernon), with special guest Kat McNeill
  - a. Background:
    - i. MV schools offered every teacher the opportunity to run a summer enrichment program. These programs are offered to all students for free – including free breakfast and lunch. Only 13 teachers in MVSD accepted the offer. Kat is one of them.
    - ii. The program at HRE will be taught mostly outdoors (but classroom space is available). The school has a good forested area with some trails and a creek (Cindy thinks its Trumpeter Creek, which should run all year long).
  - b. Who: The student will all be in 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be 14-24 students, depending on if Kat can find a second teacher to run the program. Many of the students will fall into "underserved" demographics.
  - c. What: The focus for the program will be forest exploration and art inspired by nature. Kat is more comfortable with the art aspect than the science aspect. This program should be fun and student-lead. Looking for a much more comfortable atmosphere than in regular school. He'd love any of us to bring any of our expertise to this program. We could help for part of a day or multiple days, it's up to us.
  - d. When: There will be two independent programs.
    - i. June 21-30, Tues-Fri, 8am to noon
    - ii. August 8-18<sup>th</sup>, Mon-Thurs, 8am to noon

- e. Kat will be doing most of the coordination for these programs in early June. Please email her ([kmcneill@mvsd320.com](mailto:kmcneill@mvsd320.com)) by June 3<sup>rd</sup> if you're interested.
- 5. Continuation of map-making discussion: Maybe a map that shows where all the educational/environmental organizations that service the Skagit watershed are located would be a useful tool for us?
- 6. With many COVID restrictions being rolled back, some CECE members expressed interest in setting up in-person/hybrid CEC meetings. **\*Holli will send out a survey to the CEC group to see how interested they are in this and look into options for future meetings.**

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26th, 2022, (9:30 am – 11:30 am?)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84257863307?pwd=di9LU01nd3RDQkNtM2p1SVIzVXBkdz09>