

## Community Engagement Committee

### Skagit Watershed Council April 26th, 2022, Draft Notes

Present: Pete Haase (SMRC +), Stacy Dahl and Hannah Katz (SLT), Amy Eber (TSSS), Carla Glassman and Taylor Studzinski (SCD), Christine Londgon (SCEA), and Holli Watne (SWC)

(Underlined means decision point; \***Bold** means action item)

1. We approved the March 2022 notes

2. Roundtable of updates

a. Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA)

- i. Cristine is starting to settle into her new Director role. There is still a lot to learn
- ii. The 20+ Skagit Water Weeks (SWW) events and resources are going up on the [SWW webpage](#) and will be share on the [SWW Facebook page](#). Posters and advertisements through Skagit Kids Insider will be going up soon.
- iii. SCEA will be hosting a SWW event called “Nature Discovery Day at Pomona Grange” on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- iv. They are talking to Bayview Elementary teachers about working with students to create a Letterbox trail at the Padilla Bay upland trail this June, in a similar fashion to what was done before COVID. There may be other touchless “letterbox trails” at other locations, as has been done the last couple of years too. TBD.
- v. SCEA will be tabling at an event called “Healthy Kids Day” at the Mount Vernon YMCA this weekend. Christine learned about it through [Skagit Kids Insider](#). This might be a great way to reach families without the usual problem of “preaching to the choir” about conservation issues.

b. Skagit Land Trust (SLT)

- i. The Earth Day event last Saturday that wasn’t as big as they hoped. SLT, SFEG and Padilla Bay all had Earth Day events that started at 10 last Saturday. Maybe next year we

can do a better job at staggering our Earth Day events, so they don't compete with each other?

- ii. 3 cameras have been installed in the Great Blue Heron rookery on the March Point property next to the Shell oil refinery, overlooking Padilla Bay. Soon, these videos will to be streamed on the website. More info [here](#). There will be a sneak peek presentation about the Heron cams this evening. Email Stacy for the Zoom link.
- iii. Lots of work parties and other events coming up in May. Check out the [SLT event page](#) for more info. More events will be posted soon.

**c. Skagit Conservation District (SCD)**

- i. Carla will be running a poop toss game at SCEA's SWW event on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She may add a craft project too.
- ii. She's starting to plan a "Kids in Nature" event in mid-July. Taylor (who has some skill in writing and speaking in Spanish) is helping with translations to make bilingual materials for this event. See #4 for a discussion on this event.

**d. The Salish Sea School (TSSS)**

- i. There are lots of programs going on and coming up. These serve youth, adults, naturalists, families, and teachers. Visit [TSSS's website](#) for more information.
- ii. High school students will soon be getting back to having a community service requirement for graduation. TSSS will be updating a list of volunteer opportunities for our youth to improve our local ecosystem.

**e. Skagit Marine Resource Science Committee (SMRC), plus**

- i. SMRC will be hosting a Fidalgo Bay Day in Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 11am-3pm. They are looking for tabling/display/activity for youth.
- ii. A group of advanced Environmental Studies students from Anacortes will be joining the SMRC for intertidal monitoring at the Fidalgo RV Park on May 19th.

iii. The “Kids on the Beach” program will be wrapping up. Students from Sedro-Wooley, Conway, and Concrete will participate. Hopefully, the program will start again next October. Not much forage fish spawning in April, but very active in October.

iv. Padilla Bay in need of volunteers to help docent in the new touch tank area.

3. Multiple groups have had success using Skagit Kids Insider to advertise for public events/activities that are geared toward youth. This group is the “best bang for your advertising buck” for family/youth events. A whole month of advertisement for SWW was only \$300 for SCEA. The organization gives special pricing for free events.
4. SCD’s “Kids in Nature” event will be planned to coincide with Latino Conservation week (July 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>). The location is Pomona Grange Park. Time TBD
  - a. It is likely to take place on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, but may happen the previous Saturday.
  - b. **\*Contact Carla if you organization would like to participate.** They are looking for groups to host educational stations/short activities that relate to some aspect of “nature”.
  - c. The event is geared toward families with lower elementary-level children.
5. We are planning on hosting our next meeting as a hybrid meeting. Feel free to join in-person in the upstairs conference room at Padilla Bay.
6. STEAM Train discussion
  - a. We created a [STEAM Education Resource Guide](#) in 2019, which was primarily intended to let teachers know about Skagit-area resources for K-12 classes and beyond. This resource is out of date, but it is unlikely that we will have the resources (time and money) to update it for next school year. The CEC worked to create a two-sided document for teachers to communicate school programs in an easy-to-use fashion ([example from this school year](#)). Holli will probably start getting started on the document for next school year this June. She’d like to have a document to send out near the beginning (ideally a bit before) of the school year.

- b. If we want more teachers to participate in our programs, we may need to have a clear idea of what [science learning standards](#) they need to fulfill and target our programs to help teachers meet these criteria.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 24th, 2022, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, featuring a presentation by Hannah of Puget Sound Partnership

**Meet at Conference Room (upstairs) at Padilla Bay, or join online at**

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