

## Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council July 26th, 2022, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

(Meeting cut short due to participant availability)

Present: Pete Haase (Skagit MRC+), Cindy Pierce (SCD), Christine Longdon (SCEA), Susan Wood (BPNERR), Holli Watne (SWC)

(\***Bold** indicated action items)

1. Approval of June notes was tabled until next month's meeting
2. Roundtable of updates
  - a. Recent events
    - i. **Gear Up** (organized by The Salish Sea School). Holli and Pete both spent a week with this program teaching Latinx high school students at Fidalgo Bay Resort. It's a great program. Registration was less than half of what it was last year, though.
    - ii. **Stream Team** annual celebration. Attendance was low, but the event was great. Cindy and Susan will work together to make sure all volunteers get their awards.
    - iii. **Kids in Nature** event. This was a fun event and SCEA table with bug education (the Board present is a retired entomologist) was a huge hit. Fairly low attendance for this event too. This event was specifically geared toward the Latino community, but no Latino families showed up! Possible lesson learn: it's easier to go to minority groups than to get minority groups to come to you.
    - iv. **EcoNet** meeting had a great presentation by Cindy Tingley. 16 people registered to join the event in-person, but only 6 showed up. Others joined online, but not sure how many. Christine was disappointed by low attendance and wasted food for folks that didn't show up.
    - v. **Concrete Youth Adventure Day**. Many CEC organizations were present. Holli and Christine agreed that it was a fun event, though, as with the other events mentioned,

participation was a bit low. We were told to expect up to 400 participants (the historical high for this event), but we estimated there was about 150 visitors.

**b. Upcoming events:**

- i. Watershed Masters Program**, hosted by SCD - in the works for this fall.
- ii. Fidalgo Bay Day**, hosted by Skagit MRC – Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 11am-3pm. Many CEC groups will be there. Holli and Lucy will share a table doing a salmon trivia game.
- iii.** SRSF at the MV Farmer’s Market, Sept 10. Holli will be manning the booth. Many CEC groups will be contributing to “swag bags”
- iv. Watershed Art and Discovery Day**, hosted by SCEA – October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is more room for CEC organizations that would like to host a craft table.

**3. STEAM Train discussion**

- a.** Holli shared two drafts of documents she’s working on to communicate about our programs to teachers in September. One is based on the general program list that was sent out last year. This document lists organizations that offer K-12 programming/resources alphabetically with a brief description of programs offered. The other document lists just High School programs, listed in categories that are intended to be more useful for teachers: “classroom-based programs”, “field-based programs”, and “other resources”.

- i.** The group felt that both documents have their purpose. **\*Holli will continue working on both of these documents for further discussion next month.**
- ii.** These documents will not be sent out beyond the CEC group until as many CEC groups as possible have vetted the document. The intended release date of these documents in September.
- iii.** It was suggested that as many CEC groups as possible should share the document when it’s ready by posting it to social media and/or on their webpage.

iv. \*Holli will investigate the [Skagit STEM Network](#) as possible way to promote our programs.

b. Discussion: what do we want to do about the [2019 STEAM Educator Resource Guide](#)

i. There was a general feeling that documents like this are not worth the time and energy it takes to create them. They are often out of date by the time they are distributed. The 2019 guide is full of inaccuracies and currently has little value as a resource.

ii. It seems that few, if any, teachers discovered our programs through this (or the K-12 STEM program lists Holli created the last couple years). It seems that most teachers know about our programs from experience working with us or from word of mouth.

iii. There is little to no evidence that teachers have used the resource lists we've sent out. We believe that most teachers probably search online for local resources and our resource list does not come up on the front page when you search for Skagit-area STEM programs for K-12.

iv. What we need is a filterable/searchable website where teachers can easily look up programs and we can easily update changes to program information in real-time.

1. There are many benefits to this approach.

a. We can track how many people visit our webpage

b. We can easily update new programs

c. We can easily change information about individual programs

d. Users could easily find our program by filtering out programs that don't apply to them.

2. Holli said this idea has come up before. She's run it by Richard but he didn't think it was a priority. SWC does not have a project like this in its budget.

3. The idea came up that maybe each organization could pitch in a little to help fund this. Cindy said she didn't think her boss would go for that. She says we need a grant. Others agreed.
4. It was suggested that SCEA (perhaps under the EcoNet program) or SWC could be a good fit to lead the charge on this.
5. This is what we'll do for now:
  - a. **\*Cindy will investigate possible grant opportunities to fund a resource-finding website**
  - b. **\*Christine will look into [the Rose Foundation](#) as a possible grant source.**
  - c. **\*Christine will get an estimation on how much time and money it would take a web developer to create a website that fits our needs**  
(we will fill in the content, we just need to skeleton of the site built)
  - d. **\*Holli will search for an example of a website that we could use as a reference for our website.**

**Next meeting: August 30th at this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81992834861?pwd=UDFxcmlxSWFvRTczdlR6bWRnZ1pBUT09>