

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council June 28th, 2022, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

at the Padilla Bay upstairs conference room or [via Zoom](#)

Draft Minutes

Present: Michelle Quast (ECY), Susan Wood (PBERR), Carla Glassman + Taylor Studzinski (SCD), Christine Longdon (SCEA), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), and Holli Watne (SWC)

1. We approved the May notes with some minor edits
2. Roundtable of updates
 - a. Department of Ecology (ECY)
 - i. Michelle is working on a distribution plan for the video series to inform Skagitonians about warm water concerns in lower tributaries of the Skagit River. The videos are basically done, just waiting on approval from key partners. Originally the plan was to release the videos as part of Skagit Water Weeks, but Michelle was asked to push it back to July some thought the videos could influence some research that was not yet finished in May. Now she's being asked to push it back to August. She doesn't want to videos to go out any later than August. The videos need to go out while it's hot outside.
 - ii. Michelle had considered doing outreach at the Skagit County Fair. She asked if we ever did outreach at the fair.
 1. SCD will be at the fair this year.
 2. Lucy says she stopped tabling at the fair 15 years ago. She did not feel she got enough "bang for her buck" at this event. It's expensive in labor and booth fees. She said not a lot of folks approached their booth.
 3. It was suggested that the CEC members could share a booth at an even like this. This way we could split the fees and rotate staff each day as a way to make events like this more accessible for promoting our programs.

4. The fair overlaps with the [Youth Arts Festival](#) at Hillcrest park on August 15th.

Lucy has done outreach in the past by stopped doing it because they were not allowed to put out marketing materials for their organization. This may no longer be the case.

5. It was suggested that Fidalgo Bay Day may be a good opportunity for sharing the videos with Skagit families. Christine forwarded the email Pete sent with the info about this event.

b. Skagit Conservation District (SCD)

- i. Two events coming up on July 23rd: Stream Team Celebration (at Bayview State Park, for Stream Team volunteers) and Kids in Nature (at Pomona Grange Park – 11am-2pm, open to the public).
- ii. Taylor has been looking into Latino Community Action as a way to do outreach to families with Lantinx students.

1. There are several organizations that regularly work with these students after school. Taylor is planning on making a document explaining where locations are and what steps we can take to do outreach there. Most kids speak English but a lot of the parents only speak Spanish.
2. It was recommended that Taylor go in person to these groups rather than leave materials or asking students to come to her events.
3. She doesn't know if this goes on in the summer.

c. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)

- i. Having hard time filling education AmeriCorps position. Not many applicants who are eager to work with school children and have good reference. In general staff is hard to

find right now. If anyone knows anyone who would be a good fit, please sent them to our website. Christine will share with the EcoNet.

- ii. Last night, they hosted a great presentation on Killer Whales as the second installment of their speaker series. All presentations will be posted on their [YouTube page](#).
- iii. They are about half-way through their Bowman Bay restoration parties this summer. Two more coming up on July 13th and August 8th coming up. Watering and weeding are needed.
- iv. There is not a lot of volunteer stuff and outreach events going on over the summer. This is by design. July 15th is the end of current AmeriCorps term. This means there is a staff shortage in the summer for volunteer/outreach events.
- v. They will be at Fidalgo Bay Day. Holli suggested that maybe she and Lucy could share a booth together to teach youth about salmon.

d. Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA)

- i. Thursday will be the kickoff of the letterbox trail. The last two years have been unconventional “letterbox trails” that have used signs and QR codes rather than boxes and stamps. This year is a return to the traditional format. 5th graders from Bay View Elementary created letterboxes about topics relating the Skagit watershed and hid them in the Upland Trail at Padilla Bay. Someone moved flags and letterboxes. 2 boxes need to be replaced already! Clue sheet nearly done.
- ii. Planning for Concrete Youth Adventure Day (CYAD) next month. Going to do a fishing game where students throw pole over a towel, and someone puts a prize on the line.
- iii. Doing the same for Fidalgo Bay Day.
- iv. Will be at the Kids in Nature event doing a bug lesson.

- v. They will be hosting a Watershed Art and Discovery Day at Padilla Bay on October 22nd.
They'd love folks to join, bringing some sort of art project that connects to the Skagit Watershed.
 - vi. EcoNet next month with a presentation on giving effective presentations.
 - vii. Community Golf Event at Swinomish Golf Links on July 6th. Tabling on golf course as a way to raise money for local nonprofits. They usually have room for more tables, so this could be a good opportunity for some CEC members to make little money while doing outreach about their programs.
- e.** Skagit River Salmon Festival (update from Scottie, not present) – They will be tabling at the Mount Vernon Farmer's Market on September 10th. They need promotional materials/swag to stuff 100 give-away bags. Please contact Scottie by mid-August if you have something to offer.
Phone: 360-708-7031 | schneider@skagitwatershed.org
- f.** Skagit Watershed Council (SWC)
- i. Holli will be doing a fish printing activity for CYAD.
 - ii. Holli is looking forward to discussing sharing a table with Lucy for Fidalgo Bay Day.
 - iii. We recently finished the third installation of our Skagit Salmon Science Series (4S).
Video links and supplemental documents are being posted here:
<https://www.skagitwatershed.org/resources/skagit-watershed-workshops/>. The 4th presentation will be part of our upcoming annual lunch, which is still being scheduled. It is not clear if we will be doing this in-person or virtually again.
 - iv. Holli will be teaching high school Latinx students with the Salish Sea School in mid-July.
She did this last year and had a great time.

3. STEAM Train discussion

- a.** We reviewed data we collected about the programs we did this school year.
- b.** Discussion about the 2021/2022 STEAM Program flyer for K-12 teachers.

- i. We all agree that this was probably the easiest way to promote our school programs to teachers in a way that easy for them to see what options are.
- ii. No one got any direct teacher feedback from teachers about this document. It's not known how effective it was as telling new teachers about our programs.
- iii. Ideas for improving the document:
 - 1. Better coordinate efforts to get the documents out
 - a. Email documents to PTAs for each school
 - b. Different CEC members will send the documents to folks in the school districts they have relationships with.
 - c. Email and/or hand-deliver physical copies of documents that are tailored for specific grade levels (these will need to be tailor made since the hyperlinks won't be useful)
 - 2. Rather than listing the programs alphabetically by organization, list them in useful categories like "in-class" "hike based" "field trip" and "topic"
 - 3. Could we share these at resource fairs for teachers by the school districts?
Richard has relationships with SW and MV.

Next meeting: July 26th @ the Padilla Bay conference room or online at this link:

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