

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council May 24th

Draft Minutes

In attendance: Amanda Colbert (TSSS), Susan Wood (PBNERR), Holli (SWC), Carla Glassman + Cindy Pierce + Taylor Studzinski (SCD), Christine Longdon (SCEA), Pete Hasse (SMRC +), Sam Mackin + Lucy DeGrace (SFEG),
Cindy Eliser (PacMam)

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

1. We approved the March 2020 CEC minutes
2. Roundtable of updates
 - a. Skagit Conservation District (SCD)
 - i. Carla is finishing up the “we scoop” contest, ends on may 31st. She’s working on a on-line quiz about why folks do/don’t pick up their dogs’ poop, accessible through their [website](#). Getting lots of responses. Not yet sure if she’ll share/publish the data, but SCD will use it to help them figure out where to focus efforts and dollars.
 - ii. SCD will be getting their own copy of the “poop toss” game. This is always a bit hit at public events.
 - iii. Taylor is focusing on reaching the Latinx community better. She is trying to see if the Community in Action program would work well. ***She will report on this next month.**
 - iv. Cindy recently did a little water quality program with Clear Lake Elementary. Some parents are interested in joining Stream Team as a result. The kids found it fascinating.
 - v. Cindy is working on stream team celebration. Also looking to upgrading some equipment.

- vi. The Skagit Water Weeks event at Children's Museum went really well. Not a ton of people, but a lot of fun. 61 participants. Seemed like a lot of them just coming to the museum anyway.
- vii. Will be hosting a Kids in Nature event on July 23rd.

b. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)

- i. Lots of [events](#) over last few weeks, including being at the MV farmers market for world fish migration day. Sam had "fun" walking around in the "Sammie the Salmon" costume. Nearly 150 folks at their booth last Saturday. Wonderful weather and a great group of people. They used cornhole as a way to explain fish passage.
- ii. Starting summer work parties. One per month through August.
- iii. Wrapping up school programs. All salmon have been released, about 2,000 coho fry! The Children's Museum will be releasing some, but not all. New eggs usually come the first week of January. One more fieldtrip. Moving into evaluation and reporting mode after that.
- iv. Ribbon cutting ceremony at Pressentine Park on 1pm June 10th, Orca recovery month event. Partially funded by Sea World.
- v. Helping add programming to "Unleash the Brilliance " Summer Camp for middle and high school kids from King County. Funded through No Kid Left Inside bill. They're thinking about doing snorkeling at Pressentine Park to do a surveys of fish. ***Lucy will share info about this opportunity with the CEC group**, they are looking for more programs this summer.

c. The Salish Sea School (TSSS)

- i. Had a fundraiser event last Friday: "Welcome to the puffins". They counted 16-18 individual puffins. Doing a "Farewell to the Puffins" event in early fall or late Summer. Events like this have been popular.

- ii. They will be doing outreach and selling merc at the Anacortes Famers market this summer
 - iii. This summer they are doing camps for K-5 and a Jr Marine Naturalist program for middle schoolers.
- d. Pacific Mammal Research (PacMam)
 - i. Cindy has been working with students on research throughout the school year.
 - ii. Will be at the [Anacortes Waterfront Festival](#).
 - iii. Working with the Jefferson summer school.
 - iv. Running virtual workshops that offer STEM clock hours to teachers. One recently with 8-10 teachers. Susan says that it seems universal that teacher engagement is down this school year.
- e. Padilla Bay Nation Estuarine Research Reserve (PBNERR)
 - i. The education staff is spending every minute with school groups. Schedule was empty, then in April, it completely filled up. Really busy.
 - ii. Working with MoNA on a summer camp for art and science.
 - iii. There is a NAME ([Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators](#)) conference in Oregon this summer. It will be hosted here in Bellingham summer 2023. Susan encourages all CEC members to check it out. PBNERR and PacMam are both members. There small [minigrant](#) for members.
 - iv. Storming the Sound planning team is seeking new membership. Planning will state late summer. Susan is assuming that will be in Maple Hall (not virtual) next year. Shooting for late January on a Thursday.
 - v. They have a lot of funding to do climate change and ocean acidification workshops for teachers.
- f. Skagit Marine Resource Committee, and beyond (SMRC +)

- i. Pete did a couple of forage fish demonstration on the 21st for Skagit Water Weeks. Only a few people came, but found eggs and were able to look at them on a big screen.
 - ii. There have been some intertidal monitoring events, sponsored by the aquatic reserve. One in conjunction with Anacortes Green Club (about 15 kids where were very active and enthusiastic – though not dressed well for the weather).
 - iii. The SMRC continues to plan Fidalgo Bay Day. Will send email asking for details in June. Still a little up in the air because of COVID. The driver will be if the tribe will allow a group inside their big space.
 - g. Skagit Watershed Council
 - i. Holli is very busy with Drain Rangers programs in schools.
 - ii. She canceled her Skagit Water Weeks event due to nobody registering.
 - iii. She will be doing fish painting at the Concrete Youth Adventure Day.
 - h. Skagit Conservation Education Alliance
 - i. Christine thinks that Skagit Water Weeks is going well, especially given that she came on board at the last minute. There are twice the events as last year. Advertising is being done primarily through Facebook and Skagit Kid insider, with help from partner organizations.
 - ii. SCEA did an event on the 15th at Pomona Grange with SCD and Skagit Land Trust. Even though it was rainy, about 50 people showed up and had fun. The Skagit Valley Herald did a nice article about it.
 - iii. They will be helping Bayview Elementary School set up a letterbox trail at the Upland Trail at Padilla Bay in June. This may be the only letterbox trail this year.
 - iv. Watershed Art and Discovery Day is being planned for October. Would love help.
 - v. SCEA is offering a [minigrant](#) to schools or nonprofits to help get youth learning outside.
 - vi. Looking at doing some in-classroom pollinator programs.

vii. EcoNet

1. In the past this group was a lot more active. It used to be a PSP program with a full-time EcoNet coordinator. A few years back, the program was adopted by SCEA with a very limited budget.
2. Christine is planning a July meeting with a presentation about giving good PowerPoints. Might combine it with the July CEC meeting.
3. In the past EcoNet meetings have been combined with CEC meeting. There is a lot of overlap, but these are two distinct groups with different missions. The EcoNet is open to anyone who's interested in environmental education issues, but the CEC is more selective. The idea of combining the Econet absorbed the SWC. Different focuses.

3. STEAM Train discussion

- a. Some feel that we need a better strategy to organize our K-12 programs.
 - i. There is some overlap of programs with similar themes being offered to the same grade levels. We'd like to avoid this competition. Perhaps having stronger boundaries about what grades we serve will help? Since we're all a bit overstretched, it would be nice to direct teachers from a certain grade level to one person rather than adapting our programs to fit their needs.
 - ii. There is also some confusion among teachers about our different organizations and who does what.
 - iii. Some teachers do multiple CEC program every year while others may not even know these programs exist. Is this a problem?
- b. ***We will create a Google doc to share what programs we're doing and for what grades/schools.** This will help identify where needs are not being met and overlap.

- c. Perhaps SCEA could apply for a grant to hire a consultant to help restructure our programs to maximize our efficiency and make our programs more accessible for teachers.
- d. We'd like to work more with Jr High and High school classes. Programs for these grades need to be more focused on science standards and need to work with more schedule constraints than elementary school programs.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 28th, 2022, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

At Padilla Bay or at this link:

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