

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council July 18th, 2023, 1-2:30 pm

Draft Minutes

Present: Julie stone (GPI), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Cindy Peirce (SCD), Melissa Ciesielski (SITC), Jeff O.(SAS), Holli
Watne (SWC)

1. We approved the June 2023 minutes
2. Roundtable of updates (some emailed in)
 - a. Pete Haase - Tomorrow will be a forage fish survey with a Salish Sea School group at Fidalgo Bay RV Park and Thursday a demo at Bowman Bay in conjunction with plant maintenance volunteer work.
 - b. Cindy
 - i. Tabled a Concrete Youth Activity Day. Attendance down from last year. Good weather, but a bit windy.
 - ii. Did some outreach at Terramar brewery. Not a lot of response.
 - iii. Will be doing outreach at the Skagit County Fair with WSU extension, promoting their [farming equipment rental program](#).
 - c. Lucy
 - i. Looking forward to salmon in the classroom. 2 new schools joining: Samish in SW and Mount Erie in Anacortes. We're now up to 13 schools, grades 3-6. All 3rd grade in BESD are participating. The program started about a decade ago and is now at capacity.
 - ii. Will be hiring 2 new AmeriCorps interns in early Sept.
 - iii. Planning revisions to school program. Actively looking for grades 7-12 to join Kids in the Creek program. Looking ahead through spring for service projects that would work well with school groups.

- iv. Looking forward to the conference next week. Always fun and educational.
- d. Susan Wood – PBNERR and MoNA are partnering next week for their annual Art and Science camp this week.
- e. Julie stone
 - i. Summer program in full swing.
 - ii. Planning school-based programs this summer, then going back to Concrete elementary to do student teaching.
 - iii. Applied for RCO outdoor learning grant.
 - iv. Will be hiring a new Outdoor Education Manager.
- f. Jeff: programming mostly done for the season. Will be doing some planning for next school year. Still needing volunteers to work with school groups.
- g. Holli
 - i. Richard is now working part-time while the board seeks out a new Executive Director for the SWC.
 - ii. I will be making luminaries at the MV Youth Arts Festival on Aug 5th. Seeking volunteers through the Salish Sea Stewards program.
 - iii. I will be presenting at next week's NMEA conference. With help from PEI, I'll be offering free STEM Hours for teachers who take my workshop.
 - iv. I'm half-way through my programming with Boys and Girl Clubs this summer.
 - v. My luminary arts program has been well funded for the next two years through an ArtsWA grant I recently received. Additional funding for luminary kits this year has come through the Skagit Community Foundation.

3. There is a conflict with the October meeting. [*Please fill out this survey](#) to vote if the meeting should be rescheduled or canceled.

4. K-12 Discussion

a. TeachSkagit.org

i. Melissa said STIC is not ready to share their Between Two Worlds curriculum (or any other K-12 resources) on the webpage at this time.

This may change as the site is closer to being released to the public.

ii. Should we focus on programs/resources geared toward very specific schools/areas? For example, should programs that are only available at one school be included on this resource?

iii. Should we include programs that we don't want to promote because they have no room to grow? For example, Lucy would be hesitant to add Salmon in the Classroom to this resource because she'd have to turn down any new teachers who asked her about joining the program.

iv. We hope that there is the ability to filter by location/organization/topic/etc. We want to make it as easy as possible for teachers to find what they're looking for.

v. Would it be possible to know how many people use the site?

b. Holli shared some Social-Emotional Learning resources with the CEC.. Nobody at the meeting identified a need for more information at this time.

c. Do we want to do a [1-page STEM Resource flyer](#) again this year?

i. We have little evidence that this was used by teachers that we weren't working with anyway.

ii. If the website won't be ready by the time school starts, it's probably a good idea to have this resource available.

- d. We reviewed the STEAM Train proposals for S-W and B-E school districts. ***Holli will made some additions and resend them to both districts.**
 - e. ***Discussion tabled until next month:** How are we evaluating our programs?
How do we know if they're effective?
5. Julie Burgmeier will do a training on social media use and website optimization at the September CEC meeting.

Next meeting: Aug 29th, 1-3pm, online or at the SWC office

Upcoming events:

- Mount Vernon Youth Arts Festival (Holli may do a luminary activity), Aug 5, 11am-4pm
- Skagit County Fair, (Skagit County and Maybe SCD doing outreach) Aug 9-12th
- Fidalgo Bay Day, Aug 26th
- Skagit River Salmon Festival tabling @ MV Farmer's Market, Sept 9th
- Wild and Scenic Film Festival @ Lincoln Theater (SFEG), Oct 12th, 6-8pm