

# Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council April 25th, 2023

## Minutes

Present: Holli Watne (SWC), Holly Henderson + Kenzie Kesling (SFEG), Cindy Pierce + Carla Glassman (SCD), Melissa Ciesielski (SITC), Kevin Tate (Skagit PUD), Jeff Osmundson (SAS), Allison Roberts (Peak sustainability group), Gabby Jacunski (SLT)

1. We approved the March 2023 notes
2. Roundtable of updates (some sent in via email)
  - a. From Jeff O (Skagit Audubon Society)
    - i. Tabled at the MV HS science night. It was a great event.
    - ii. Looking for volunteers.
    - iii. Working on after school programs with Children on the Valley.
    - iv. Will be working with about 40 5<sup>th</sup> graders this June, in partnership with a program by the Salish Sea School.
  - b. From Jessica Ostfeld (DFW) – We launched [Molt Search](#), a new community science program through Washington Sea Grant and WSU Extension. In this program, volunteers search for European green crab molts along inland shorelines.
  - c. From Anna Thomas (Skagit County)
    - i. We attended Mount Vernon High School Science Night and got to interact with lots of kids who were really interested in our clean water display.
    - ii. We attended an Earth Day event at Hillcrest Park and interacted with a lot of dog owners and families with children. We were able to provide a lot of dog bag carriers and teach a lot of kids about the importance of picking up after pets.

- iii. We have been tabling at breweries, once for our Big Lake fertilizer campaign and once for general PIC outreach. We will have four more of these events over spring and summer.
  - iv. We have several other outreach events coming up including Bark in the Park and Berry Dairy Days, the County Fair, Kulshan Street Fair, and Fidalgo Bay Day.
- d. From Gabby Jacunski (Skagit Land Trust)
- i. SLT and SFEG held an Earth Day event at Utopia Conservation Area April 22nd.
  - ii. SLT will be at SCD Youth Conservation Tour
  - iii. Our Summer Social tickets just went up on our [website](#) for June 15th.
  - iv. We have a walk with the Mount Vernon Parks Department at Little Mountain on May 27th.
- e. From Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- i. SFEG also attended the MVHS science night and spoke with over 300 folks!
  - ii. We will be doing our "salmon game" at the Youth Conservation tour.
  - iii. Our Earth Day event w/ Skagit Land Trust was also a huge success, around 65 volunteers came, and we planted 600 trees in less than two hours!
- f. Skagit PUD will be holding community tours on May 11 at Judy Reservoir. Was at MV HS science night. Very big event. Thirst-buster water dispenser available for events.
- g. From Melissa Ciesielski (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community),
- i. we participated in the MVHS science night and had a great time!
  - ii. we will be presenting on the Between Two Worlds program at the NMEA conference in July
  - iii. we are planning to participate in Fidalgo Bay Day!

- iv. Between Two Worlds is working on a traditional garden at the La Conner High School - there were some public comments supporting this project in past nights meeting but if you are in the La Conner School District, it could use continued support from the community!
- h. From Holli Watne (Skagit Watershed Council)
  - i. I will be running Drain Rangers workshop at the NMEA conference this July. PEI is providing me with thumb drives that have the curriculum.
  - ii. I am half-way through doing mini-Drain Rangers programs for each of the Children of the Valley locations.
  - iii. Talking to the Salish Sea School about maybe taking over EcoNet. Padilla Bay has also shown some interest in this.
- i. From Ellie Cross (MoNA) - I want the whole CEC to know about our [Art Box Lending Library](#) with art supplies they can check out for no cost. We just added Leaf Prints and Fish Prints, which might be fun for the CEC!
- j. From Pete Haase (Skagit MRC+)
  - i. Finishing up Salish Sea Stewards training
  - ii. May 19 (Friday) will be an Intertidal Monitoring in Fidalgo Bay. Anacortes High School's Environmental Science class will participate. Organized by Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee and ReSources. Several Fidalgo Bay sites are part of long-term monitoring program. I think next meet is May 30.
  - iii. Great times at MVSci Night and the SLT/SFEG Earth Day event.
- k. From Cindy Pierce (Skagit Conservation District.)
  - i. Skagit Youth Tour will serve a whole bunch of 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders on May 9 and 10.

- ii. Gave out 500 seedlings to students for Arbor Day.
- iii. MV Science Night was successful.
- iv. Just had the Poster Contest awards with the Skagit County Commissioners today.
- v. Have been doing a LOT of classroom presentations about stormwater runoff.

I. From Julie Stone (Glacier Peak Institute)

- i. We are running programming with the Concrete Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, and Head Start classes starting next week through June 8.
- ii. 6th grade classes are interested in a field trip on May 24 and GPI will provide staffing and pay expenses. If CEC members are interested in hosting they can email me.
- iii. We are working on summer programming for kids 10+ in Darrington and Concrete. If you are interested in hosting a day trip, please let me know.

3. Discussion about Youth Conservation Tours, May 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

- a. This event was established in the 80's as a forestry tour and has evolved over time.
- b. What it currently looks like
  - i. held at Pomona Grange over 2 days.
  - ii. For ~700 5/6<sup>th</sup> graders. A new busload of students comes through every 1.5-2 hours throughout the whole school day.
  - iii. Each student goes through 6-7 educational stations (15-minutes each) that are run by different organizations.

- iv. Students usually eat lunch at the park after doing the rotations. This is a Zero Waste event. About 700 kids between two days. 1.5 hours to finish the whole. First time.
  - v. Let Cindy Pierce know if you'd be interested in running an activity for this program next year.
4. STEAM Train Update: Holli continues to work with BESD and SWSD on developing a proposal for next school year. She presented her work-in-progress at development meeting for Science Teachers for grades 6-8 in BESD. It is her goal is to have the documents finished by the end of the school year.
5. Updates on resource website development:
- a. We have purchased teachskagit.org and secured funding to keep this site up for at least the next 3 year.
  - b. This site will have its own email address. It is not yet clear how that will be managed.
  - c. Next steps:
    - i. Holli/Kevin will send out a form to CEC members to collect information about K-12 programs for CEC members.
    - ii. Kevin will start populating teachskagit.org with the program info we sent
    - iii. The CEC and/or district planners will be invited to look over the website to make sure that it doesn't have any significant problems.
    - iv. After fine tuning, the website will be released to the public. The goal is to have this achieved before September.

Next meeting: May 30th, 1-3pm, hybrid – please join at the SWC office if you are able!