

# Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council, SWC office at 815 Cleveland Ave, Suite 201

April 30, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm

(Underline indicates decision point; \***bold indicates action item**)

**Present:** Stacy Dahl (SLT), Karen Summers (SCEA, EcoNet), and Andrea Reiter (SWC); Allison Roberts (Kulshan Services), Wayne Watne (WDFW), and Kalena Walker (SFEG), Phoebe Jud (SLT), Vilina Sanburn-Bill (SFEG), Alison Studley (SFEG), and Susan Wood (Padilla Bay Foundation)

**Not Present:** Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Kristi Carpenter (SCD), Alex duPont, Chair (WSU Skagit Ext.), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), and Codi Hamblin (NCI), Zena Gavin (SLT), and Cindy Pierce (SCD),

## Call to Order: 12:05pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve February 2019 meeting notes – Members asked that the spelling of Callie Martin’s name and Jo Wolfe’s name be corrected.

**Karen made a motion to approve minutes with changes of name spellings and Stacy seconded. Motion passed.**

Check-in on action items from the last meeting:

- Richard will be speaking with the Brewery about planning a fundraising event. There is an upcoming event with a Trivia Night for SFEG. The group discussed looking for a different brewery if Skagit River Brewing gets too many solicitations for donations and support. SFEG does reach out to all of the breweries for their events including Farmstrong for the Salmon Festival), North Sound, and Skagit. Continue this discussion going forward.
  - Updates to the STEAM Resource Guide are in process with most updates having been received.
  - No one has contacted Jo Wolfe ([jowolfe@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:jowolfe@co.skagit.wa.us)) yet regarding her request for opportunities for folks to give up to 2-hour presentations at the Pioneer Museum. There is a 49-person capacity. The room would not have a cost, but it when people attend an event, suggested cost is seniors \$4, adults \$5, and families \$10. It is also available for community meetings on a donation basis.
  - Skagit Salmon Festival is still looking for a coordinator, but they have found an artist. Updates to come at the June meeting.
  - 1/2 day programs at the YMCA –\***Andrea will forward the YMCA contact information to CEC members.** Camps start a week after schools get out @June 21.
3. No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Grant (Andrea) –
    - MVSD applied, notification on whether they received it will occur in June. There were lots of applicants.
    - The grant also included teacher training. Funding is for transportation for every 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom to choose up to 2 field trips. If this funding doesn’t get awarded, CEC will seek other funding sources for transportation. MVSD has some current funding challenges. The programs in the grant are offered for free but meeting transportation costs can be difficult. SCEA has a mini-grant program with some funds for transportation and other needs - @\$4,000. \***Karen indicated she will be updating the grant process for SCEA grants.** SLT does offer some transportation help. PUD also offers buses, Padilla Bay offers bus transportation funding, SFEG offers transportation reimbursement, Swinomish does not, VIVA Farms has a grant for transportation.

- **\*Members suggested that before pursuing other transportation funds, reach out to the entities needing the funding to see what works best for them.**
- This led to a short discussion about potential funding sources: The Food Coop does 4% Friday and 1x monthly and quarterly jars for Tokens for the Future. Whole Foods has a shopping program that can net several 1000s of dollars. Some breweries brew beer with a nonprofit's name and part of the proceeds go to the nonprofit.

4. How's the BESD and SWSD STEAM Train working? – This is a more comprehensive grade-level approach designed for school districts to consider as a package with multiple programs for multiple grade levels. SWC is working to develop relationships with the districts. Teachers can be great proponents to get these started in their district. However, the district can try to mandate the programs, but the teachers don't like mandates; they want freedom to choose what and when they tap into these resources. It was suggested to draft a STEAM Train concept on how each program builds on one another and compliments the district's curriculum.

SWSD – Completed Programs: Conservation Classroom (SLT will start May 1 and has 5/7 school attending, is coordinating to have all seven next year), Watersheds & Stormwater (SCD), Salmon in the Classroom (Only in one school), Junior Stream Stewards (SFEG), State of Skagit River Salmon (SWC, will start May 13). SWSD is not doing Drain Rangers this year at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, possibly in 2019/2020. Sedro Woolley has teachers on special assignment who develop subject matter units that meet state learning standards. This is helping them move forward. MVSD is not that far in such a process. To make it work in BESD and SWSD, they started with programs that already existed and aligned the programs that work with the district curriculum. **\*Andrea to add SCD's Conservation Tours to SWSD list**

BESD – Completed programs: Watersheds & Stormwater (SCD), Salmon in the Classroom (SFEG), Drain Rangers (SWC 2 or schools), Mountain School (**\*Andrea to add NCI's Mountain School to BESD 5<sup>th</sup> grade**), Conservation Tours (begins in a week, **Andrea to add SCD's Conservation Tours to list**). The Principal at Burlington-Edison High School this year will be the curriculum coordinator for the district next year (Todd Sutherland). They have teachers working to develop K-5 curriculum and learning goals that seek to tie-in these programs.

Members present looked at the charts provided by hard copy at the meeting regarding the programs being offered in these two school districts and at what grade level.

5. Summer Community Outreach Opportunities –
- July 12 – SWC is reaching out with the Concrete Youth Activity Day **\*Andrea will send information about the Concrete event to the CEC members.**
  - September 7 – SWC is at the Skagit River Salmon Festival
  - August 24 – Fidalgo Bay Day
  - May 4 – Penn Cove Water Festival
  - June 13 – Skagit Academy Fair – fun carnival with a homeschooler-focus **\*Vilina will forward information about this event to CEC members**
  - August 24 – Back to School Fair – It may conflict with Fidalgo Bay Day. Well-attended event for outreach.
  - August 17 – Kids in Nature Day – (Conservation District) **\*Kristi will be sending out information to the CEC.**
  - September 7 – Skagit River Salmon Festival
  - May 7 – Conservation Tour – (BESD and SWSD do this in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and sometimes 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) **\*Andrea will add this to the document she shared at the meeting and connect with Kristi for information. Note:** In spite of Cindy Pierce's recent back injury, this program will still go on.

- Farmer's Market – Mt. Vernon (always a community group at this event) and Edison (Sundays – they are looking for people to offer activities) have these. Good opportunities, but attendance is hit and miss. Don't pay for booths.
- June 22 – SFEG – at Mt. Vernon Farmer's Market which is right on the river. Good location and venue. Labor Day is also a good weekend to do outreach at this Farmer's Market  
Andrea encouraged members to keep sending summer outreach opportunities for this summer.

6. Grant opportunities –

- Update on Aquaculture Penalties against Cooke net pen disaster - \$250K is being levied which will be applied to habitat restoration and salmon projects. Cooke is coming up with a project plan and beneficiaries which will be approved by Dept. of Ecology. Cooke may be doing net pens for Chinook as part of Orca plan (WDFW is working with other entities impacted by this.)
- Navy may have grant opportunities as well as Marathon (formerly Tesoro). Shell also has grants too. The spring round grant season is just about done. No other grants were discussed.

7. Orca Hero campaign – June 2019 is Orca Awareness Month and is sponsored and supported by the [Orca Network](#) and the members of the [Orca Salmon Alliance](#). Normally May is PSP Starts Here month, but this year the focus is Orca Health Starts Here.

Puget Sound Starts here adapted to #OrcaHeroes campaign. Tie in with work you are already doing. Use the hashtag in social media posts. There is a raffle and other opportunities as provided in the packet at this CEC meeting.

Alison noted that before the Orca Task Force, SFEG wrote a grant and are now creating a brochure for whale watching vessels that includes consistent messaging about how to help the Orcas. The idea is to create a template with base information that allows organizations to plug in information suitable for their particular and various audiences.

When posting about this month, make sure it's Skagit-focused. There is a whale watch association.  
**\*Andrea will send this plan by email and other organizations about whale watching.**

October – Conservation District's Orca Recovery Day

8. Member updates and sharing

- SLT - May 1, 10, 16, 20, 30 – Utopia Days with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders – SLT has stations to educate (stations: beaver, elk, amphibian, macro-invertebrates, plants and habitat, birds)
- SLT - May 4 – Cumberland Creek (SLT)
- SLT - Working with the Boys and Girls' Clubs
- SFEG – events happening all summer
- SFEG – Deception Pass maintenance most Fridays starting in May
- SFEG – June 8- Vegetation Monitoring project
- SFEG – May 20 – Fish Trivia 7pm at Skagit River Brewery (6 per team) They are donating a \$1 per pint.
- Green Drinks for May – Still do a Green Drinks to draw in more people and donations. Thursdays are a popular day for people to go out. Breweries often want to do Mondays – a lower count night. Katie Bunge was the Green Drinks organizer – now works for the County Kalena is currently organizing Skagit Green Drinks.
- Salmon Festival – still looking for a coordinator. They have secured an artist. Sponsors are already signing on. Entertainment is getting lined up. Cascadia Weekly the festival was given the favorite festival award this week. NOAA – has an inflatable life-size orca that can be rented, SWC will have Luminary orca to highlight the connection between Skagit River salmon and SRKW.

- Kulshan Services – Allison showed the Stormwater Discovery Tour website they created with Shew Design and the City of Bellingham. [www.Stormwater.cob.org](http://www.Stormwater.cob.org) Suitable for teachers to use to teach stormwater concepts with five tours in various locations around Bellingham.
- SCEA – still doing letter box trail and June 29 Watershed Art Discovery Day that is estuary They didn't get funding for the 5k or WaterWeeks. They will know if funding comes through by July. They will keep doing ECO Net.

Next CEC meeting June 25 – 9:30 – 11:30. No meeting in May.

Adjourn: 1:44 pm