

Community Engagement Committee

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

February 26, 2019, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

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

Present: Alex duPont, Chair (WSU Skagit Ext.), Richard Brocksmitth (SWC), Zena Gavin (SLT), Codi Hamblin (NCI), Cindy Pierce (SCD), Karen Summers (EcoNet), and Andrea Reiter (SWC); Allison Roberts (Kulshan Services)

Not Present: Kristi Carpenter (SCD), Stacy Dahl (SLT), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Kalena Walker (SFEG), Wayne Watne (WDFW).

Call to Order: 9:35am

1. Welcome – No new people were in attendance, so no introductions were done.
2. Approve January 2019 meeting notes – Approved with strikeouts as noted.
 - Corrections to the notes: Richard, not Andrea, will talk with Swinomish about their curriculum currently under development. Swinomish are doing their own program for 4th graders and may be working with LaConner SD. Richard will ascertain if they want to be included in the updated Resource Guide and No Child Left Inside grant.
 - Andrea did talk with the Downtown Association about the River Walk concerts. She learned that the Chamber of Commerce runs this event. Skagit River Brewery bought the rights to sell beer for \$2K and Andrea reports that they made \$10K at the River Walk events. **Richard knows the general manager for Skagit Brewery, so he could broach the subject of a partnership supporting community engagement. Committee members suggested we define a project or an event for the brewery to support.** Example in Whatcom County: WINN got proceeds from Schweinhaus sales for January 2019.
 - **Alex will speak with Storming the Sound planners about CEC involvement in planning efforts.**
 - SWC printed more Resource Guide brochures to advertise and distribute.
3. No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Grant (Richard/Andrea)
 - RCO's NCLI grant which opened January 2 and is due by April 1 with grants awarded in July. SWC and MVSD are writing the grant for \$25K and no match. Today's discussion updated members on CEC organizations that can offer support if the grant is funded. Last year's application water curriculum focus for 4th graders will be reflected in this year's application. A list provided at the meeting showed that programming could be provided by SFEG, Padilla Bay, SCD, Skagit PUD, and SWC. They will be finalizing the grant participants soon and getting it ready for submission over the next month.
 - Updates: NCI applied for the larger grant amount of \$75K (match?) for Mountain School to support their scholarship base. Codi mentioned that last year, other local organizations applied for Mountain School, so this year, they coordinated with other applicants more to ensure funding support. They reached out to other school districts (Mt. Vernon, Bellingham, and Darrington) to coordinate their applications; the school districts asked for either transportation support or substitute teacher pay support. If awarded, this grant will benefit about 3,000 kids. Codi clarified that Mountain School doesn't exclude any student that can't pay, but it's the

school district's responsibility to raise the necessary funds. Burlington Edison schools are applying for the grant as well.

- Richard met with Frank Atkinson from MVSD and will be meeting with him again tomorrow. Burlington Edison (BESD) is redoing their entire K-6 (science?) curriculum; Cindy and Lucy have been helping with curriculum alignment. While MVSD is bigger, they do not currently have a curriculum on board. In fact, due to challenges (budget and otherwise) they dropped a pilot curriculum for this year. Richard did note that, the pilot is being implemented somewhere else, just not in Mt. Vernon. The school district hopes to adopt and implement this curriculum next year. This delay has created a gap in STEM education in MVSD.
- MVSD water curriculum: Any of the educators could add elements of the MVSD water curriculum outcomes to their field trips. This could be paid for with NPDES funding.
- Plugging entities into the grant: If a program wants to be included, they can add a couple thousand to the grant. They are still looking for partners who could apply the money to their education efforts. The SLT can host any organization to use their land for field trips. These are more remote sites, so they would require busses. They also are able to work with teachers one on one to develop learning objectives or provide an Americorps volunteer or Stacy to be present onsite to assist. They've done education on birding, macroinvertebrate monitoring, invasive species education and removal, stewardship and service opportunities.
- Other field trips to include in the grant: Cindy spoke about their stormwater hopscotch game. SCD could offer invasive species education to 4th graders (bussing not provided). Andrea felt that field work with a tie in to water quality and macro-invertebrate training (NCI) could be included in the grant. Trumpeter Creek and Barney Lake are great sites to keep reinforcing concepts.

4. Updating the STEAM Resource guide (how, when, and what group discussion)

- Andrea will send a hard copy of each organizations' information for them to do a hard-copy mark up. She noted that some programs in the guide have stopped completely, and many need updated contact information. She will continue to seek out other organizations. **Karen can include a call for an update through EcoNet. Andrea or Alex can reach out through Storming the Sound to see a call for updates is sent to their mailing list. Andrea will be facilitating the update. Andrea will also be changing the four lookup tables and each program(s) description and contact information.** The goal is to have it updated by June 2019 with the 2nd edition printed by August 2019.
- Once the Resource Guide is done, Andrea will send a link to all the teachers and school districts inviting them to access the PDF online. SWC will also mail the Resource Guide brochures to school districts to distribute to teachers.
- Suggestions:
 - Remove the contact person's name. Encourage use of the info@ emails that don't change.
 - At some point, consider the cost of manually updating the guide vs. the cost of building a simple website that can be updated more easily.
 - Consider reaching out to Salesforce.org for help. Salesforce.org connects nonprofits to pro bono assistance for help in using technology to increase engagement (Microsoft). Also, Salesforce.org offers free webinars to enhance cloud-based engagement for nonprofits. There is a webinar on March 4. <https://www.salesforce.org/nonprofit/collaborate/build-meaningful-engagement/>

- Salesforce has a downloadable ebook about how to 'Build Meaningful Engagement' and learn how nonprofit organizations are using social technologies to drive radical new changes to communicate, collaborate, and innovate in new ways to advance their missions.
 - Free Salesforce webinar March 4: 'Getting Started: Salesforce Fundamentals for Nonprofits' – March 4. Signup at <https://sfdc.co/GettingStarted1>
 - Regarding homeschoolers, SWC won't actively offer programs for them, although some CEC members programs do provide this when asked for it.
5. Orcas, Salmon, and Stormwater teacher training with clock hours (Andrea)
- Andrea noted a need for teacher training (for clock hours) on environmentally-focused areas of STEAM-based curriculum. She is looking into trying to determine a way to offer this clock-hour training. Are other Conservation Districts doing clock-hour training? To do this type of training, you must be certified to do clock-hour training. The Pacific Education Institute (PEI) will allow us to use their clock-hour training license for \$1/per teacher. The alternative is to publicize clock-hour training offered by others.
 - Committee members felt it makes sense to offer Train the Trainer types of events like Andrea is suggesting. Coordination is required and a need to work around teacher hours.
 - NSEA and ReSources partnered and received a mini-grant to offer a course about how to take kids outside confidently. This evolved to a bigger circle of educators with NCI and Common Threads coming on board. **Andrea will contact Pricilla and Annitra to learn more about their experience in doing this. She will look into whether this could be a part of the NCLI grant. Andrea will research the requirements regarding teacher training in the NCLI grant.** Some of these organizations are already members of SWC, so that removes a barrier to including them.
 - NCI offers clock hours for some of their adult trainings. **Andrea will learn whether SWC could potentially partner with NCI for this certification. Andrea will contact Kara Kaebler of Franklin Conservation District regarding her experience in this area.**
 - Andrea reached out to teachers who participated in the Luminary creation about this training. They are also offering \$250 and kits - teachers get paid to take it. The money is part of Climate Change Grant through Governor Inslee's office.
 - Look into whether SCEA could sponsor a teacher training.
 - April – SeaDocs is coming up and doing a 5th grade curriculum training using their new book.
March – Lessons in Reflection – bigger regional training with hours for different certifications.
6. Outreach opportunities with Skagit County Historical Museum - Jo Wolf is looking for presenters for 'Topics @ The School' this May and June in their new facility.
Skagit Topics has been done for 20 years and usually goes along with a museum exhibit. It's the museum's way to tie in history.
Keep it specific, but they don't have to be specifically about the environment.
***Cindy will let Kristi Carpenter know about this as she might have a desire to participate. *Alex will see if there are any interested speakers in the WSU speaker's bureau. *Andrea will send out Jo Wolfe's contact info (Topics at the School contact person) to CEC members.**
This Skagit Life is running in May, so a presentation could tie in during that time.
WSU Extension could reach out to their speakers.
Do a presentation related to Water Weeks in September with a water related focus.
7. Member updates and sharing

- Skagit River Salmon Festival – looking for a new coordinator. Know anyone? ***Andrea will put the job description out and organizations are encouraged to share it.** All CEC members are invited to share the position on their social media outlets. It involves programming and event planning. The Board has in the past played a big role in planning as well such as music and food vendors. They are trying to find someone who can find new sponsors and do more of the planning. ***Cindy will reach out to someone she knows.** The description will be posted on the Salmon Festival website. SVC, BTC, and WWU may be good places to post the job description as well.
- Skagit River Salmon Festival – They are looking for an artist to do a Salmon Festival poster. Scottie can work with Andrea to help with outreach. The artists is not paid, but they get free booth space, exposure, and advertisement. They are encouraging art, not photography. No deadline at this time, but the need appears immediate. ***Alex will discuss this at the Festival planning meeting tomorrow.** Richard suggested they formalize a process for getting artwork submitted. ***Andrea will share the artist form she used for Illuminight.**
- SCD - Plant Sale (http://skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales). Pre-orders are being taken now. Open sale event is Saturday, April 13th from 9am–1 pm at 16564 Bradley Road in Bow.
- SCD – May 7, 8 2019 Skagit Youth Conservation Tour (needs volunteers) at Pomona Grange Park. (http://66.114.45.203/6th_grade_tour) Cindy indicated they are hoping the Skagit Land Trust might have people to help.
- SCD – poster contest watershed education program. K-12 focus with a March 29th deadline to turn in posters. Info about this is on the SCD website. She’s presenting to 2nd graders (haven’t heard from Big Lake and Clear Lake). 2nd graders can only handle 45 minutes.
- SCD – Kristi’s backyard conservation class is starting March 20. Pre-registration by March 18. (but class is almost full already).
<http://66.114.45.203/sites/default/files/Backyard%20Conservation%20Promotion%202019%20pdf-1.pdf>
- Eco-Net – applied for a grant for Water Weeks. They are still doing Letterbox Trail. ***SCEA will support an EcoNet meeting this spring and will align it with the April 30th CEC meeting. *Karen will check on use of the Padilla Bay meeting room. *Karen will approach Callie about speaking on recycling: Recycle, Compost, or Trash?**
- Everyone felt that the round table sharing at EcoNet is worth the time.
- NCI – They ran a pilot called Forest School with 3rd graders in Bellingham SD. In the spring, they’ll do this training in 5th grade classrooms on-site at Pioneer site. There is a \$25/day stipend. Master Gardeners in Bellingham are volunteer educators for this program. Make a request through WINN. It’s. They are having conversations about this in Skagit. This Pioneer site is almost closer to Sedro Woolley, than Bellingham.
- SWC – SWC is rolling out the Steelhead Recovery Plan with a Skagit watershed version. They are doing a review in-house. Presentations and local input will occur on the local plan this summer and fall about what is being proposed.
While the Skagit Steelhead plan doesn’t include the Samish, there may be an opportunity for WSU and SWC to coordinate messaging to ag-oriented folks. WSU will be talking to farmers in the Samish watershed.
- SWC – YMCA contacted SWC and they are looking for ½ day and full day programs for their summer camps. The YMCA can provide transportation to a site. If looking for engaging a summer-time audience, **Andrea will provide the YMCA contact info to the committee members.**
- SLT – Could do a 2nd grade presentation at Utopia. ***Andrea will connect with SLT.**

- SLT – Annual Auction and Dinner. They are looking for volunteers to help out throughout the day to set up, help with silent auction, greet, table interactions. Tickets almost sold out - \$70-75. March 16 at Swinomish.
- The lifesized orca luminary used at Illuminight is currently in Olympia and will be used in the Procession of the Species parade there.
- NOAA has a blowup orca. Organizations can contact Northwest Fisheries Center for free use. This orca is not suitable for a rainy day.
- ***Andrea and Alex will discuss changing the March meeting date.**

Adjourn: 11:35 am