

Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council

FINAL NOTES - July 25, 2017, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Present: (alphabetical): Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Alex duPont (WSU Ext.), Codi Hamblin (NCI), Lisa Miller (SLT), Cindy Pierce (SCD), Scottie Schneider (SWC) and Wayne Watne (WDFW).

Meeting commenced at 9:35 am.

1. Welcome and Introductions - Alex welcomed the group and they introduced themselves.
2. Approval May 30 meeting notes - The meeting notes were reviewed and approved with two corrections. Codi's name is spelled with an "i" rather than a "y". Cindy's name should be removed from item 14.

Action items from the previous meeting notes were reviewed. There was a general discussion of liability and photo release forms for both attendees and volunteers at events. ***Scottie will work with the organizations present and other groups to gather some sample waivers to see what is commonly being used and if any improvements can be made and bring information back to the group. *Also, groups may want to explore liability and assignment of risk in complicated programs and partnering arrangements, for instance the Skagit River Salmon Festival.**

3. School District Outreach
 - Brief CEC on MVSD and other marketing meetings - Richard reported that he, Lucy, Hannah and Lisa met with Frank Atkinson at the Mount Vernon School District. They were well received again (like our meeting with Casey at Burlington-Edison School District). ***Mount Vernon agreed to put the Resource Guide on their website and to arrange meetings with high school and middle school science teachers for the CEC to make presentations and brainstorm long-term approaches to improved program delivery.** MVSD highlighted the problem of limited examples of using science to problem solve under current curriculum, something the CEC could help with.

Richard also contacted Shaun Doffing, coordinator of Skagit STEM Network and had a very productive conversation highlighting great opportunities to partner. They too are interested in marketing the Guide (e.g. will put on website) and were invited to the Resource Fair. Lucy met with Middle and High School Science Team.

- Resource Guide marketing and bi-fold - Richard reported that the final edits are complete on the first edition PDF of the Resource Guide. ***SWC will put it on our website. A draft bi-fold brochure was passed around the room.** Several constructive comments were made about the title and whether it is misleading as it could lead someone to believe it was the Resource Guide rather than an introduction to it. It could be called STEAM Educator Resources. ***It was generally agreed that it would be a good idea to have graphic designer Aaron Logue, polish it up.** It should serve as a year-long bi-fold.
 - Burlington Edison SD Resource Fair will be held on August 24 from 11:30 AM to 2:00PM. ***Members of the committee and other groups will plan to attend.**
4. Concrete Boys and Girls Club Opportunities
- Mentoring opportunity for 21st Century Grant – There was general agreement this was not quite the right opportunity for CEC and application of our programs as the Club is more specifically focused on long-term career development through dedicated mentoring. That said, any member can follow-up at their discretion.
 - Speaker’s Bureau – type program? Need a better label for us to use for this concept and the group liked STEAM Team or Train or some variation of that. ***Those present are willing to be involved in planning and implementation of a 5-10 week STEAM Train at some point in time that would be a vehicle for bringing a pathway of learning programs from our various members’ programs in the Guide. There would need to be someone willing to take the lead on it, so until more capacity is added this was put in the high priority parking lot.**
5. Review SWC Community Engagement Coordinator Position Announcement- Richard reviewed the Community Engagement position announcement with those present. It was generally agreed that the description and pay scale looked very adequate. Richard said that it is still in DRAFT form and that is why the date is not accurate for the closing of the position and it is not ready to circulate.
6. SWC Annual Lunch September 21 – Richard reviewed plans for the Annual Lunch and 20 year Anniversary Celebration. We will honor past Board members and significant contributors. Will also talk about building community engagement. Scottie asked from those present if they would consider volunteering to help at the event. ***Several people said they would help.**

7. Member information sharing and meeting wrap-up – Lucy and others present reported that they thought the social media presentation by Tony Salas at the Eco Net meeting was very informative and he had some good tips about Facebook communication.

Lucy stated that Sea-Bear is sponsoring a concert for their 60th anniversary at the Heart of Anacortes on Saturday, July 29th. Proceeds will go to Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Lisa stated that there is an excellent article about Trusts and Skagit Land Trust in the “Saving Land” magazine that features some of their educational projects.

Wayne Watne asked the group if they were aware of a good Canarygrass removal tool for a project he is working on.

Scottie announced that the Salmon Festival is September 9th this year.
Fidalgo Bay Day is August 12.

8. Meeting Adjourned.