

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes

Board of Directors Phone Meeting – August 3, 2017

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

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Richard Brocksmitth, Brendan Brokes, Steve Hinton, John Stein, and Jon Vanderheyden.

Not in attendance: Colleen McShane, Michael Kirshenbaum, and Jon-Paul Shannahan.

Call to Order – 9:02 am

- Introductions, determined quorum present, and approved agenda
- Approve Board Notes for June 1, 2017. Brendan moved and Jon Stein seconded approval of the June 1, 2017 Board notes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

- Regarding financials, Richard indicated profit & loss was positive in May and negative for June. Overall the 2016-2017 fiscal year P & L was \$15,500. Richard noted that contractual services left a little on the table providing some cushion for the coming year. He noted that SWC closed out all the Skagit Capacity Grant Round sub-awards with all obligations fulfilled. He noted the Natural Systems Design contract is complete, but ***the final LWD M&AM framework product is awaiting subcommittee review.**

***Richard will likely extend the Kulshan Community Engagement contract to Kulshan Services to complete interviews. *He also will extend the SFEG Riparian contract to provide time for review and strategic support.**

He also noted efforts to renegotiate the indirect rate with RCO will result in a decrease from 22.3% to just 20.9%. They have a plan submitted to RCO with likely approval this week for a new future rate. Future indirect negotiations will occur in October each year.

Jon moved and Steve seconded approval of the May and June 2017 financial reports as written. Motion carried unanimously.

- SWC and WA Capital Budget Update – Richard updated the Board on the status of the Capital budget. He has been keeping the Board apprised of the status of this budget which has been contentious due to impacts from the Hirst decision affecting water rights. A resolution may not be achieved until fall or even next year. The SRFB is meeting August 23 and they will consider backfilling contracts with a different funding source to reduce risk of staff layoffs. ***Further discussion and updates will occur at the September Board meeting.** Patience is in order, and contingency planning may become important.
- Protection Strategy Update – Staff has completed the next version of the habitat, connectivity, and impairment assessments. The Technical Work Group received this information about a month ago. ***The 11-page summary document was revised and is**

being sent out to the TWG this week, who will meet in September to consider it further.

- Annual Lunch and 20th Anniversary Celebration is September 21, 2017 11:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Skagit City School on Fir Island. Several new ideas are being incorporated this year such as new venue, menu, and invite list. The event is one week later than usual as to get Senators and other federal, state, and local elected officials to the event. Menu is BBQ chicken and pulled pork. ***Richard will send out a draft agenda to the Board.** The agenda will include welcomes by several people and recognition of past leaders, new members, and Board elections, as well as several short presentations.

Committee Reports

- Lead Entity Program/Committees – Mostly wrapped up August 1 for 2017. Capital funding is the remaining issue for 2016 and 2017 proposed projects. ***Richard will send out an evaluation survey to all participants for their input on 2017.**
- Community Engagement Committee – ***Written CEC report in September.** We've had great outreach with school districts and great energy from the committee.
- Nomination Committee Update and Status of Officers – The committee has not met in the last month, but efforts are still in play with intention to add 1 or 2 people to the Board. Updates and decisions would be necessary at the September Board meeting. Steve and Ken both agreed to continue on the Board for another term should they be elected. Ken indicated he will continue as an officer and/or on the Board unless another would love to be the Chair. Brendan noted his appreciation for Ken's willingness to serve. Also Brendan is willing to consider serving as Treasurer! ***Richard to follow-up.** Ken expressed his appreciation for our member's service on the Board.

Old Business

- Quick Update on Comments Received and Next Steps on Resolution #2017-01 – Richard restated conclusions on draft resolution from the last Board meeting and that he hasn't had specific input since except from Brendan and Jenna on how WDFW sees SWC role with agriculture and Skagit Farms, Fish and Flood Initiative (3FI) moving forward. ***Board asked Richard to email a redraft of the resolution to them in the next week.**

New Business

- Amend Environmental Science Associates Contract for riparian project – The Board had an extensive discussion about whether to approve \$12,700 in additional funds to complete the project. In summary, while ESA has been working under this contract for a year, the scope has been refined, GIS data expanded, meeting time increased, and they have had to support SWC to host expanded web maps. Richard's memo outlined what was added to the scope resulting in the additional \$12,700.

While Steve appreciated Richards's efforts to outline the details, he felt uncomfortable approving an expansion of the contract without TWG discussion. Steve wants ESA to fulfill its commitments and honor the normal review and refinement process. He also

noted he would like to see the product before any scope expansion is considered. Steve did express support for moving money from existing line items to fund the most crucial contract additions and pull other things out of the scope and get TWG input.

Richard expressed concern about the resulting delays to project delivery which he'd hoped would be end of October. The TWG doesn't meet until mid-September, so then the Board couldn't review until early October, leaving no time for a later consideration of contract amendments. Richard also expressed that the TWG and an ad hoc riparian working group already has provided their review and input on seven different draft work products. He pointed out that it is not in ESA's scope to meet with SWC further, and that all of these topics led to the need to propose a scope amendment with funds available in our budget. The project has completed a great deal, but is in final compilation phase to bring final draft products forward.

Brendan didn't feel he had enough background on project to weigh in. Brendan agreed that the TWG should have this discussion as it is more in their purview. Jon felt the same way and stated that it comes down to the original contract and if they produced what was required. Contractually, Jon felt that SWC should consider adding the money if the needed information wasn't in the original scope. He wondered what the final product would reflect if it lacks important information.

It was suggested that if necessary the SWC Board could meet briefly at the September 21 meeting for approvals if that could be helpful. ***Staff will provide materials to TWG and bring it back to the Board in September. Recommendation is to take action at the September meeting. Richard will continue to work with ESA within the confines of the current contract.**

- Adopt 2017 Richelle Potter Contract for Community Arts & Nature Program – Richard would like to continue building this program, asking Richelle to continue to help us with multiple summer outreach events and curriculum development, and bridging to our new hire. The CEC didn't see this explicit scope at their last meeting, but it is built directly from the work plan and budget that CEC recommended and Board approved recently. Richard noted that Richelle will be retiring in the next couple of years. Steve moved and Brendan seconded approval of the Potter contract with attachment C. Motion carried unanimously. ***Richard will ask the CEC for their input on how these events and curriculum fit into our Community Engagement Framework.**
- ***Steve would like a discussion on the bold tribal actions proposed to PSP and Salmon Recovery Council. He would like further input and advice.**

Adjourn 10:10am.

Next SWC Board Meetings: September 7, 2017 and October 5, 2017

Other SWC Meetings: September 9 Salmon Festival and September 21 SWC Annual Lunch