

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes
Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom
August 11th, 2022, following the LECC meeting

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

Attending: Bill Blake (temporary chair), Devin Smith, Michael Kirshenbaum, Brian Lanouette, Brendan Brokes, Peter Browning, Aundrea McBride, Richard Brocksmith

Absent: John Stein, Andrew Bearlin

Call to Order 10:51am

- Introductions, quorum achieved.
- Motion by Peter, second by Devin to approve the agenda with the addition of appointing Rick Hartson chair of the Protection Subcommittee. Approved unanimously; Brian abstains.
- Brian will be abstaining from all decisions until the SWC organizational structure and bylaws revisions are complete. ***These will be on the next meeting agenda.**
- Tabled July notes, ***putting on next meeting agenda.**

Executive Director and Committee Reports

End of Year Financial Reports

- SWC is well into the black for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, in part due to decreased discretionary spending during COVID. New indirect rate of 15% (down from 21%) has been approved by RCO for the upcoming year. This is probably artificially low due to COVID and may put us a bit in the red this year. ***Two next steps for the fiscal year completed include starting federal taxes and lining up an external financial audit.** Two \$40k CDs matured and were renegotiated for another year at 1.5%. Motion by Brendan and 2nd by Peter to approve June Financial Reports, approved unanimously, Brian abstains.
- WDFW and SRSC are working on a NOAA habitat grant proposed partnership to fund remaining final designs and construction of our large estuary restoration projects, including Milltown Phase 2 (for match purposes), Deepwater, Smokehouse, and Similk Bay.

Committees

- Protection Subcommittee approved (without quorum) the Approval Process for Acquiring Restorable Lands from TWG. The acquired lands report for January to June is in the packet.
- M&AM Subcommittee has not met this month.
- TWiG approved the Approval Process for Acquiring Restorable Lands. Also reviewed 4 year work plan and planned project list.
- No CEC report today.

Old Business

Communications

- Peter says County sees estuary restoration as important but should not be used for external compensatory mitigation. County still committed to estuary restoration for salmon.

New Business

Protection Subcommittee Appointments

- Motion by Peter, second by Michael to appoint Bengt Miller to the Protection Subcommittee. All in favor, Brian abstains.
- Motion by Michael, second by Devin to appoint Rick Hartson chair of Protection Subcommittee. All approve, Brian abstains.
- ***Staff will ask the Subcommittee if SRSC appointee is desired.**

Approval Process for Acquisition of Restorable Lands

- It's not 100% perfect, but we've been working on documenting this process for a year. We want to see how it works and amend later if needed. We hope this is a significant improvement to help us move forward on joint efforts to protect and restore habitat, incentivizing early, proactive planning across organizations.
- Conservation landowners need the new process not to slow down acquisitions.
- Motion by Peter, second by Devin to approve the Process. All approve, Brian abstains.

Letter to PSP and Salmon Recovery Council regarding PSAR roll over policy for 2022

- Motion by Peter, second by Brendan to approve the draft letter with some minor revisions to reflect LECC discussion. All approve, Brian abstains.

Vacation Hours

- See table in packet
- Chair and Treasurer agree it is a good idea to bring SWC up to par with other agencies and nonprofits.
- Motion by Brendan, second by Michael to approve vacation increases per the table provided. All approve, Brian abstains.

Good of the Order

- SCD has access to WSCC money for riparian projects and is looking at incentives.
- SRSC accounting department had lost two personnel so they have been slower on billing, but back on track with recent hires.

Adjourn 11:42am