

Skagit Watershed Council
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Final Notes
August 4, 2016 - Phone meeting

(* indicates action item; indicates decision)

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Richard Brocksmitth, Brendan Brokes, Steve Hinton, Carolyn Kelly, Colleen McShane, Jon-Paul Shannahan, and Jon Vanderheyden.

Not in attendance: Michael Kirshenbaum

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am with a quorum.

Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1)

Board Notes for June 2 and July 7, 2016 (#2 and #3)

Carolyn moved, Steve seconded approval of the June 2 and July 7 notes as presented. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report

- Richard made general comments about the May and June financials (#4). Both June and the full fiscal year (July 2015 to June 2016) had positive bottom lines. SWC did need to buy a new desktop file server to replace their in-house server in June.
- Carolyn moved and Jon seconded the motion to approve the May and June financials as included in the board packet. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Richard shared activities of each of the following subcommittees:

- **Lead Entity Citizen Committee** met twice on July 14 and 28. A draft summary of rankings was sent to the Board, while notes are still in progress. The committee has authorized the projects, and a few additional conditions are being communicated to the sponsors. There will be more discussion at the September 1 Board meeting.
- **Community Engagement Committee** had their inaugural meeting on August 2. This fun and productive group is excited to work together to help develop and implement a compelling and community-focused engagement plan. Members shared their hopes, dreams, and challenges in the watershed. Kulshan Services reviewed key messages and themes for a coordinated campaign with focus on reaching out to a broader community in a new and exciting way around encompassing themes of community resilience, sustainability, and common challenges. Details are being developed for how to implement this over the next 6-12 months, with initial products rolling out in September. The board will have the opportunity to review a more detailed draft plan at

the September meeting before major efforts are launched. The committee will be meeting monthly for awhile. Their next meeting is September 6 (first Tuesdays).

Old Business

SWC 2016-2017 Updated Work Plan (#5) & Updated Budget (#6)

Richard provided an overview. The budget has been modified since first reviewed in May, including to address the budget reduction in the lead entity program (by removing Task 8B), and then subsequently since the last meeting to reduce indirect expenses and increase contracting support. Richard proposed the latter (\$12K) be unallocated until later in 2016 when there will be more clarity on progress of other contractual items. The board agreed with the suggestion though also requested that Task 8B (Skagit Capacity Fund) be left as a discretionary item to be determined at a later date. No other concerns expressed on the work plan.

Jon moved and Carolyn seconded approval of the SWC Work Plan & Budget with the one change to Task 8B. The motion passed unanimously.

Riparian Strategy Project Update (#7) Prepping for September Work Session

Richard provided an overview of progress and next steps to complete this project. He also asked if any board members had questions, ideas, or concerns to share in preparation for a more robust work session in September.

Richard has drafted an RFP to release in the next couple weeks for consultant assistance drafting current and historic conditions assessment tied to the 2005 Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan, as well as meeting facilitation and document preparation. Proposals will be brought back to the board.

One concern expressed was it being difficult to connect the dots between the original SRFB proposal and what was currently being proposed. How much is being committed to and how were some elements added. Also, to what degree has there been enough discussion by the TWG. The expectation is that TWG will begin to address these concerns in August. Another board member asked how steelhead planning will or should alter the geographic area of the analyses. Richard and Steve confirmed that we are consistent with our Interim Steelhead Strategy but that it was just too early to know what geographic priorities might be adjusted via co-manager recovery planning efforts. This is a changing environment. ***Richard will follow up with Steve on his concerns and with the TWG committee.**

New Business

- Annual Lunch Agenda Review (#8) September 14 at the Maple Hall in LaConner. Upper Skagit Indian Tribe has agreed to donate sockeye salmon for the meal. The prior cooking crew appears to be stepping down and so Kiwanians will be cooking this year, including an Upper Skagit tribal member.
- Staff have contacted a few leaders to welcome us and speak: Mayor Ramon Hayes, Swinomish and Upper Skagit tribal electeds, and Commissioner Dahlstedt.
- Regarding the draft agenda Richard sent out before the meeting, there were positive comments expressed by the board with respect to ideas for sharing progress in the face

of challenges and rolling out community engagement themes. SWC will not be electing any new board members. There are new members considering joining, however their final membership applications have not been confirmed.

- ***Richard will send out a final draft agenda for the Annual Lunch for board input at the September meeting.** A detailed final agenda won't go out to the SWC members until after the September 1 board meeting.
- The program will highlight evidence of progress over the years in habitat restoration, floodplain protection, estuarine areas, and nearshore pocket estuaries in Skagit Bay. A suggestion was made to not only portray where we started but to highlight what's left to be done and the challenges with salmon and steelhead returns and issues with Coho and Chum returns. The Chinook seem to be holding their own in our watershed while showing decreases in others.
- The program will also highlight the coordinated community engagement campaign with our 37 members. The plan is they will share common community-focused information in the venues they have access to and focus content that is relevant to them. While we are a salmon organization, the message is we need to work toward community sustainability and a healthy and functional ecosystem which is the key to fish sustainability.
- Richard asked if there are 2-3 board members to hear more details and champion the engagement process. ***Richard suggested an interim 2-hour work session in mid-August and Carolyn and Jon said they would assist. Colleen volunteered to help later in the fall.**

The meeting adjourned around at 9:41 pm.

Next SWC Board Meeting is September 1, 9am to noon, in person.

Next SWC Council of Members meeting is the September 14, 11:30am-2pm Annual Lunch.