

## Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes

### Meeting of the Board of Directors, SWC Office – August 8, 2019

(Underline indicates decision point; parentheses indicate attachment #; \***bold indicates action item**)

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Bill Blake, Brendan Brokes, Michael Kirshenbaum, John Stein, and Jon Vanderheyden. Staff include Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride, Andrea Reiter

Not in attendance: Jon-Paul Shannahan and Steve Hinton

#### 11:09 Call to Order

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1) – quorum present, Richard asked for Orca vs. Chinook funding to be added to the agenda, Michael motioned to approve, Jon Vanderheyden seconded, motion carried.
- Approve Board Notes: June 6 (#2), and July 11, 2019 (#3) – Bill motioned to approve, Jon Stein seconded, motion to approve notes as presented carried.

#### Executive Directors Report

- Approve May and June Financial Report (#4) – Richard informed of two categorization errors in financial reports that the bookkeeper hasn't yet fixed. Bottom line for fiscal year \$7,500 over budget; primarily due to unanticipated personnel costs. The \$7,500 came out of contingency fund, which continued to grow regardless. Approval of May and June Financial reports was tabled until September meeting.

#### Old Business

- Orcas vs. Puget Sound Chinook Funding – Richard shared the staff's view of orcas being in a crisis and funding should reflect this crisis and be responsive to people's concerns about Orcas. There is a technical consensus that rivers like the Skagit, Fraser, Columbia, and Sacramento Rivers are the most important for producing abundance and (spatial/temporal) diversity of Chinook salmon therefore staff believe funding should reflect the weight these rivers carry, if Orca are a priority. Board discussion that ESA and broad-sense delisting (i.e. ecosystem recovery) does not align with a triage approach to getting more food quickly to the orcas when/where they need it. Additionally, focusing on orca recovery can help fully fund the Skagit Watershed's needs. Currently the Skagit is not fully funded and project sponsors reduced projects and requests knowing that funding was going to be lean. Jon Vanderheyden also suggests to add weight to the situation by looking at the Wild and Scenic River and NW Forest Plan designations and

what the salmon numbers were at that time which would be a higher number of returns than ESA delisting might require. Richard suggests that by asking for technical assistance for prioritizing watersheds that produce higher abundances of Chinook, Orca would benefit plus Skagit may get more funding. Puget Sound Partnership currently divides money up to ensure all watersheds have funding to help recover salmon (i.e. no watershed left behind), which has been status quo for the entire existence of PSP. If the Skagit produces an order magnitude more wild Chinook than any other river in Puget Sound, why does it only get a few percentage points more funding than those rivers? Board discussion around tactics and best ways to push prioritizing Chinook recovery funding for the needs of orcas. **\*There was a consensus that it was our obligation to ask these technical questions and seek additional funding for Skagit River Chinook recovery. Staff should discuss with partners and advance the conversation in various forums.**

- Steelhead Recovery Plan – Brendan informed the Board that they are on version 4 of the recovery plan and **\*will keep the Board updated**. Steelhead was potentially on the agenda for the annual lunch and may not be ready to be discussed if version 4 can't be released in time.
- Lead Entity Program Debrief – no discussion.
- Integrated Watershed Plan
  - Update on Coordinated Culvert Strategy – Ken updated the board that Tribes and County are working on putting together a large request that would strategically address 80 or 90% of habitat isolation due to county road culverts.
  - There are many existing and moving pieces of what could become an integrated plan, but time and attention is needed to determine how this can move forward.
  - These opportunities can form the basis of the Annual Lunch agenda, including but not limited to 3FI/HDM, culvert package, steelhead, orcas, flow, temp, etc.

## **New Business**

- Approve Financial Re-investment from Checking to Certificates of Deposit – Richard presented financials including the lowest and highest amounts in the checking account for the last year. Looking at incomes and expenses per month and allowing for a safety cushion, there is roughly \$80,000 that could be invested in a Certificate of Deposit. This would diversify accounts, reduce risk of fraud, and increase income. Richard is proposing investing \$40,000 in a 12 month and \$40,000 in a 24 month CD. Board discussion around risks of locking money up for up to two years. John Stein motions to open either one \$80,000 12-month CD, or two \$40,000 12-month CDs to reduce potential penalty in case of early recall. Michael seconded motion, motion carried unanimously.

- SWC Officer Elections. John-Paul has officially submitted his officer resignation on the Board. John Stein has confirmed willingness to act as Vice Chair. Bill motioned to approve John Stein as Vice Chair, Michael seconded, Board approved unanimously.
- Approve Grant Agreement with NFF as Pass-Through to SRSC (#5) – While they were selected based on technical merit, SRSC was determined as not eligible to receive a ~\$25K National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant because they are not a nonprofit organization or government. To get this funding, SWC could act as the grant recipient and pass-through the funds to SRSC. Jon Vanderheyden motions to approve entering an agreement with NFF and a contract with SRSC, Michael Seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**For the Good of the Order. 12:27 Adjourn**

**Next SWC Board Meetings:**

- September 5, 2019, 9am to noon – SWC Conference Room
- October 3, 2019, 9am to noon – SWC Conference Room
- November 7, 2019, 9am to noon – SWC Conference Room
- December 5, 2019, 91m to noon – SWC Conference Room

**Next SWC Council of Members Meetings:**

- September 12, 1130am to 2pm – Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon