

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors – August 9, 2018

Attendance: Brendan Brokes, Richard Brocksmith, Michael Kirshenbaum, John Stein, Ken Dahlstedt (Chair), Bill Blake, and Colleen McShane.

Not in attendance: Steve Hinton, Jon Vanderheyden, and Jon-Paul Shannahan

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

Call to Order: 10:15am

- Agenda (#1) was approved as proposed.
- Board Notes: July 12, 2018 (#2) – Michael moved and John Stein seconded approval of the July 2018 Board notes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

- June Financial Report (#3) – These reports summarized our end of the year financial status. Richard noted that one invoice came in later than expected for \$1,757.49 and thus wasn't represented in the report as presented. Colleen moved and John seconded approval of the June Financial Report as amended to include the \$1,757.49 expense. Motion carried unanimously.
- Several topics on the agenda were summarized and duly noted, including three recent SWC letters of support written for three Floodplains by Design grant applications in the watershed (#4); LEAN study being conducted by RCO to find efficiencies in the lead entity processes statewide; the transition from the online database called Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) to something new and hopefully more efficient; and recent conversations at the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council regarding the "Chinook refresh" process as well as the plight of Orca whales.

New Business

- Orca Whale Recovery
 - The Board engaged in a conversation about the responsibility we face given the steady declines to endangered status of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orcas) in Puget Sound, given their reliance on Chinook salmon and Skagit's prominence in their production.
 - The Board agreed that the main thing needs to remain the main thing, in other words, long-term Orca recovery depends on us meeting our mission to understand, protect, and restore habitat for sustainable fisheries. Keep our eye on the goal.
 - This will however appropriately bring pressure on every single aspect of Chinook salmon recovery, including habitat, hatcheries, harvest, hydro, including predation.

- The Board agreed that the organization needs to research causation, declare the challenges that we as a community need to face, and facilitate common understanding and common ground to the maximum degree possible. SWC is an appropriate, representative organization to support this conversation, though much of the necessary authority falls to government and the community and interest groups they represent.
- We see the problems coming our way and believe it will be more effective working amongst ourselves locally, with support from state and federal governments. Neighbors working together have the best chance to improve these conditions.
- Urgency is appropriate.
- The Board expressed intent to bring together community leaders for a dialogue, coming together as neighbors with shared responsibility, to facilitate an understanding of the science and the challenges we share that must be addressed if we are to move forward. And we must foster respect for each participants roles, cultural needs, and way of life. Thus, everything needs to be on the table to facilitate that understanding and respect.
- ***SWC will send invitations for a gathering from our Chairman to a small number of leaders who have the most relevance to the solutions ahead of us. Advance legwork will be necessary for success.**
- ***SWC and its members are encouraged to consider new, or expedite existing, large, “shovel-ready” projects that can be shown to provide substantive benefit to Chinook salmon and Orcas in case new funding streams become available or local leaders need ideas to consider.**
- ***For example, SWC will submit a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant request on August 20th that seeks to expand Orca/salmon/stormwater education and stormwater retrofit design & installation in area schools.**
- SWC Annual Lunch September 19th
 - The main topic for this year’s lunch will be the plight of the Orcas and our role in their recovery, and we will invite multiple speakers to share. We would like to share knowledge with our members on the current state of the science; what dials can be turned with ease and where it will be harder or impossible; short-term and long-term actions; and help people process the information they are hearing in the media. Given the timeline for the Governor’s Orca Task Force, we should be in a good position to hear the latest and educate people on how to engage in solutions.
- Bookkeeping Services Contract #2018-01 (#5)
 - John Stein moved and Michael seconded approval of the motion to enter into a contract with Renee Relin to provide independent bookkeeping services since our current bookkeeper Barbara Werner is decreasing her workload. Contract is not to exceed \$9,600 for two years. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: 12:00pm

Next SWC Board Meetings:

- September 6, 9am; September 8 - Salmon Festival; September 19 - Annual SWC lunch