

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes
Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom
December 2nd, 2021, 10am to Noon

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

Attending: John Stein (Chair), Andrew Bearlin, Brendan Brokes, Bill Blake, Peter Browning, Devin Smith, Michael Kirshenbaum, Holli Watne, Aundrea McBride, Richard Brocksmith

Guests: Jack Fiander (SSIT counsel), Brian Lanouette (USIT Board designee)

Call to Order 10:00 am

- Introductions, quorum achieved.
- Approved Agenda. Motion by Bill, second by Michael, approved unanimously with the County Resolution topic tabled because tribes have not had time to meet on resolution language.
- Approved Board Notes for November 4, 2021. Motion by Peter, second by Devin, approved unanimously with the addition of SCL letter. Notes were well done.

Executive Director's Report

- October Financial Report: Complete and in order with no issues to report. New accountant is up to speed. \$2800 surplus for the month. Brendan moved and Peter seconded approval. Passed unanimously.
- Nominations Committee: ***SWC will draft a letter to SFEG Board requesting a nomination to fill Jon's seat in early 2022, including that diversity is a priority.**
- Protection Subcommittee:
 - Greenlighted three properties
 - Finished another review of the Approval Process for Restorable Lands
 - Experimented with the Sauk protection strategy map being created
- M&AM Subcommittee:
 - Finalized a list of monitoring projects to add to the 4 Year Work Plan and sent those to the TWG for approval
 - Discussed the Science Series, goals, audience, topics and date (not prepped for 12/8)
- Technical Work Group:
 - Received a presentation from Brenda Clifton about the status of riparian projects in the basin
 - Approved revised language for the Strategic Approach regarding the target area for Whidbey Basin pocket estuaries.

- Approved Lead Entity grant round timeline and loan policy for 2022 LE Program Guide.
- Discussed adaptive response policy and Approval Process for Restorable Lands.
- Riparian Work Group
 - North Sound Riparian Conference will be on Jan 19th. We will host ~8 speakers.
 - ***Contract from SRSC to SWC for supporting this group's work coming soon to Board for approval,** as proposed in recent SRFB project.
- Community Engagement Committee
 - Working on Illuminate Skagit and Illuminight Winter Walk (Jan 28th). There is an exhibit at MONA in LaConner through mid February.
 - K-12 programs underway, hampered by COVID. Will revisit the STEAM Train in January (where many members offer coordinated in-class programs).
 - 10 members of the CE Committee, 6 member organizations and a few rotating outside organizations.
 - ***Board suggested using teacher trainings to reach out to k-12.**
 - Salmon Festival is looking for a home and a renewed direction. ***Item for future discussion.**
- Annual Calendar for SWC very similar to previous years.
 - Possible Board retreat in March (longer meeting)
 - 5 Membership meetings next year, with one in February replacing this December 8th, to be "Skagit Salmon Science Series" presentations. ***Calendar invites will go out soon.**

Old Business

- Skagit County-Proposed Resolution: tabled
- Skagit Salmon Science Series:
 - Objective is to share information more broadly and regularly via these meetings and recorded presentations. The first meeting will focus on foundational information including ESA recovery plans in the context of multi-species management.
 - Goals/questions/topics
 - The current list of goals and topics is very broad/all encompassing. ***The Board needs to prioritize these and key questions and better define outcomes. Is it working or not, and if not, what do we do about it?**
 - The timing of recovery/response needs to be part of the initial topic.
 - Set an agenda by responding to stakeholder/public questions and needs.
 - An update on the HDM process, showing it was adopted.
 - Focus on effectiveness monitoring and metrics.
 - Why isn't more fishing allowed?

- Discuss current hydropower license implementation and projects.
- Audience
 - A long discussion ensued on audience. Practitioners/SWC members, general public, and stakeholders/landowners are the three types of audiences.
 - Stakeholders are instrumental to accomplishing recovery and success of our mission, and it's been the biggest gap in communication.
 - Dialogue is crucial. How will we incorporate dialogue? Who's keeping notes/recordings? What is the product?
 - We may be 'training the trainers' with the SWC membership, which is an essential first step where we have a primary responsibility. Then need to follow up with developing communication to the general public and stakeholders.
 - ***We need to go to stakeholders with this information and establish that dialogue. Go meet them where they are.**
 - Is 3FI a separate outreach process? SRSC and state/federal scientists are responding to 3FI's questions separately. Consistent information is important. The dialogue part can't be in two different silos.
- Process and Format
 - ***Establishing a steering committee is a good idea.**
 - Do we add evening forum to reach wider audience, or just go where they are? ***Consider this as we move forward; consult.**
 - The February meeting could go ahead as planned, being foundational, while the Board and Steering Committee take more time to carefully plan the following sessions.
 - June 15 Eric Beamer is not available. May switch estuary topic to April or September to accommodate.
 - Other groups (WDFW, PSP) are working on outreach & communication. ***We should partner with them where possible;** Chase is new Region 4 person.
 - This should be an ongoing and iterative process.

New Business

- Board nominations
 - Brian has been identified by USIT as their chosen Board representative. Sometimes Scott Schuyler will also participate. ***At next meeting Board will consider Brian to finish Jon-Paul's term.**
- Guests and Executive Session Policy
 - ***We need a written policy regarding guests such that participation is open, but the elected Board can still get its business done, in executive session if necessary.**

- ***Board members would like advance notice if legal counsel is going to be present from any member organizations.**
- We want to honor tribal sovereignty while also treating every Board member equally.

Adjourn 12:05 pm