

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes
Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom
February 2nd, 2023, 11:00am to 12:00pm

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

Attending: John Stein (Chair), Bill Blake, Michael Kirshenbaum, Devin Smith, Brendan Brokes, Brian Lanouette, Richard Brocksmith (Executive Director)

Guests: Aundrea McBride, Holli Watne, Clyde Halstead, David Hawkins

Call to Order 11:07am

Introductions. Quorum achieved.

Motion by Bill, seconded by Brendan, to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Michael, seconded by Devin, to approve the January notes. Approved unanimously.

Executive Director and Committee Reports

November and December monthly net ordinary income still in the red, but in the black or positive income, for the year. Motion to approve the financial reports by Brendan, seconded by Devin. All approve except Brian abstains.

Brief Committee Reports due to shortened meeting:

Protection Subcommittee—Greenlighted 3 properties for purchase and 1 for match.

M&AM Subcommittee—Did not meet this month.

Riparian Work Group—Focused discussion on improvements that could be made to SWC’s riparian action geodatabase, including adding new practitioner data (i.e. CREP if possible), improving functionality, and feeding a public dashboard of riparian actions (while preserving data integrity and privacy). Heard information describing database accuracy prior to 2008 and gave feedback on improvements to data entry. Conference was a huge success!

TWiG—Considered and approved language on adaptive management for Program Guide with one change: deleted “more impactful projects”. Reviewed the 2023 Protection Strategy and raised question about how match policy interacts with Approval Process for Restorable Lands. Discussed response to SRSC letter about smolt benefits error and decided to write a review response memo to share with Board for their consideration.

CEC—Illuminight was a huge success. 1,200+ people there. Organizations working tables said they contacted lots of new people. City has offered to take over logistics in 2024 and that allows SWC and other partners to focus their time on mission.

Request from the county for SWC to write a letter of support for Sorenson Creek project. This is not a SRFB project but was identified through the tribal/county process. May not be a Chinook culvert but culvert group and county have prioritized it as having large amount of high quality habitat. ***SWC will write the support letter and submit it.**

Richard, Bill and Alison Halpern met with the county to discuss the voluntary riparian proviso project. ***They are working on incorporating comments and next steps for new riparian planning.**

New Business

The Board reviewed the adaptive management clause recommended by TWG for insertion in to the 2023 Lead Entity Program Guide. Hearing no objections, the language was approved by consensus. Additional policies being developed for adaptive response of projects is pending further dialogue with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

SRSC Smolt Production Error

Discussion following review of TWG draft review letter:

- Commend SRSC for their transparency.
- No review process is perfect.
- ***David Hawkins would like all 2020 written review comments for this project.**
- TWG was unsure who they should be writing their findings to.
- We are documenting a self assessment. ESRP, SWC, TRC and RCO are groups effected. RCO will care what SWC thinks about the error.
- This is a healthy environment where errors can be brought forward.
- Cover letter should come from the Board and LECC members to RCO and ESRP with TWG memo attached.
- Audience would be the sponsor (SRSC), RCO, and ESRP.
- ***Richard and John will author letter and send draft package to Board for final review. Richard will touch bases with other LECC members.**

New Director Nomination

The Nominating Committee would like to nominate Alison Studley from SFEG for a position on the Board. Pat Stevenson would take over SFEG's position on the TWG for the interim until a staff person can be appointed. The process spelled out in the bylaws is that the Board puts forward a slate of candidates at the General Membership meeting and the membership votes.

Board will consider the issue of a TWG chair separately. Motion by Bill to nominate Alison to the Board, seconded by Michael. All in favor except Brian abstains.

Scheduling

Trying to reschedule this meeting due to schedule conflicts with relicensing process. 1st Thursday of the month 11:00-1:00 seems like the best time so far. ***Richard will adjust calendar invites.**

Should we have a half day, in person, Board retreat March 2nd?

- Later in the year sounds better (Alison could be there) once we've developed retreat topics.
- Bill's house on Whidbey Island or SLT house on Samish are possible locations.

March 15th is the next Membership meeting. ***4S is scheduled to continue with Mike LeMoine speaking about floodplains, but Richard needs to confirm.** An evening meeting might be better for reaching more non-member people, but that would be an additional meeting.

Adjourn 12:00