

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, SWC Office – February 6, 2020

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

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt (by phone at 9:30), Andrew Bearlin (by phone at 9:20), Bill Blake, Michael Kirshenbaum, John Stein, and Jon Vanderheyden. Staff included Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride, and Holli Watne

Not in attendance: Brendan Brokes, Jon-Paul Shannahan.

Call to Order 9:07 am

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1)
 - Added SRSC staffing letter to the agenda
 - Quorum present as of 9:15,
 - revised agenda approved-- Motion by Bill, second by Michael.
- Approved Board Notes: January 9, 2020 (#2)—Motion by Jon, second by Michael.

Executive Directors Report

- Approved January Financial Reports (#3)—Motion by Bill, second by Jon Vanderheyden.
- Committee Reports — ***Monitoring & Adaptive Management Subcommittee has a final M&AM Report and technical recommendations going to TWG this month for review and approval, to be briefed to Board soon.** TWG did not meet in January. CEC met in conjunction with ECONet. They worked on Illuminight and info sharing.
- SWC Board Recruitment –The Skagit River System Cooperative board met recently and forwarded a recommendation for board replacement for our consideration: Devin Smith. They also recommend SWC appoint Greg Hood co-chair of the M&AM subcommittee. If approved, Devin would find a suitable replacement for him at TWG.
***We will look for recommendations from the committees as to who they propose the Board consider by next month.**

Old Business

- Transfer of Skiyou-Ross Island Reach planning project (#4)
 - Steve Hinton joined the Board to discuss this item. This project was funded in 2018 via SRFB process. SRSC has declined to start the project in its current form. Steve, the main author on the project while working at SRSC, wants to take the project with him to his new agency, Salish Alliance (SA). The RCO has approved

this as a possibility (SA is eligible for SRFB funds). The SWC Board is to decide the fate of the funds.

- Steve proposed a resolution of endorsement for SA to take over the project. He presented his qualifications and his plan for implementing the project, as requested by the Board. His plan includes having a steering committee at SWC, either the TWG, M&AM, or special committee. He would personally either conduct or contract out all but the GIS work. That remains to be resolved.
- Steve suggested, and the Board agreed, that the project is important for salmon recovery and climate adaptation and should not be delayed any more than necessary. Steve excused himself from the room for Board deliberations.
- Board discussed correspondence from Swinomish Senate and Upper Skagit Tribe on this topic. They agreed with the necessity for Steve to:
 - garnering the support of the local tribes before we could consider awarding the project to Salish Alliance, and
 - securing a data sharing agreement from SRSC for data components needed from SRSC for the project to succeed.
- ***BOD would also like to check in with NEP and County to determine what other investments are at stake if the project is delayed.**
- This topic is tabled, with ***check-in next month to consider progress on these necessities.**
- 2020 Program Guide (#5)
 - This is basically unchanged except for:
 - Increase in riparian set aside (from \$200K to \$300K)
 - Timelines
 - Other set asides for monitoring and culverts remain (\$150K each)
 - 2020 Program Guide approved with Michael moving and Jon seconding.
- PSAR Returned Funds--Approximately \$300,000 left of these funds. Standard SRFB RFP will go out soon. Presentin side channel and culvert projects, which may need PSAR returned funds, are working on scoping their imminent needs now. Both are likely to need funds before SRFB awards again in September, so makes sense to assign returned funds if necessary.
- Legislator meetings set up to discuss water quality strategy and Wiley Slough as noted in our legislative priorities letter for 2020.

Adjourned at 10:40 am