

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors – February 7, 2019

Attendance: Brendan Brokes, Richard Brocksmith, Jon-Paul Shannahan, Michael Kirshenbaum, John Stein, Ken Dahlstedt (Chair), Steve Hinton, Colleen McShane, Bill Blake (call in), Aundrea McBride and Andrea Reiter.

Not in attendance: Jon Vanderheyden

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

Call to Order 9:05

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1) – Quorum present. Colleen motioned to approve agenda, Brendan seconded, agenda approved as proposed.
- Approve Board Notes: January 3, 2018 (#2) – Michael motioned to approve, John Stein seconded, unanimously approved Board Meeting Notes.

Executive Directors Report

- Approve November and December Financial Reports (#3 & #4) –Michael asked why we had only reached 38% of projected income when we are 6-months into the year. Richard believes it is mostly due to staff vacancy, ***but he will look into this more and report back.** Question raised about an extra income of \$1000, Richard informed the Board that this was an unbudgeted grant to help support Illuminight, with more anticipated in next two months. John Stein motioned, Brendan seconded, unanimously approved November and December financial reports.
- Committee Reports –
 - TWG- Meeting was January 17, good conversations about culvert assessment and WDFW cascade floodplain project. Much of the remaining TWG meeting discussion is on Board meeting agenda for this month under old business.
 - CEC – January 29 meeting, discussed No Child Left Inside grant, Mount Vernon School District will apply for grant and SWC/CEC will support their efforts with existing programs that CEC members already offer. MVSD applied in the past but did not get it, however the NCLI grant requirements have changed. Likely request will be \$25,000 and help offset partner costs. ***SWC will be writing a support letter for the grant and providing staff time.** Andrea is working with BESD and SWSD in coordinating an equitable Orcas, Salmon, and Stormwater programming this spring. Next CEC meeting will discuss adult education and updating the Resource Guide.

- Outreach to WA Legislature – ***Ken and Richard are scheduling dates and times with legislative staff**, likely will go last Thursday of the month and will prioritize meeting with 5 of 9 legislators on capital committees. A signed letter with Board approved messages will be presented.
- Council of Members meeting scheduled for Feb 27, agenda items will be director nominations and committee reports, but unknown if steelhead recovery plan and coordinated culvert strategy will be ready in time.

Old Business

- Approve Allocation of PSAR Returned Funds - Illabot Creek project was completed \$1.05 million under budget and that funding will stay in the watershed. TWG's proposal is to split the money three ways between the three previously-approved projects that replied to our request for proposals: acquisition, Hansen, and Presentin. TWG questioned if there should be a written process on how to manage return funds in the future, but the Board agreed existing procedures work well most of the time and it's hard to plan for all contingencies. John Stein moved and Jon-Paul seconds, unanimously approved. Steve Hinton, Colleen McShane, Ken Dahlstedt and Michael Kirshenbaum abstain from vote.
- Approve 2019/2022 Four Year Work Program (#5) – Richard provided the Board with overview of the Work Plan which is required to be submitted to PSP. Steve motioned, Michael seconded to approve the Four Year Work Program. Unanimously approved.
- Approve 2019 Lead Entity Program Guide and 2019 RFP (#6) – Question raised on “request recusal” in the LECC section, so Board would like to clarify language. Steve moved to approve, John Stein seconded, unanimously approved 2019 Lead Entity Program Guide and 2019 RFP.
- Approve Slate of SWC Directors for February 27 Council of Members Mtg – Colleen McShane will be leaving SCL in 2019 and will be stepping down from the SWC Board, but SWC would like to retain a SCL connection. *Board will meet with interested individual over the next month. SWC Board Nomination Committee met February 4 and recommended Michael, Brendan, and Jon Vanderheyden for second terms. Colleen McShane moved, John-Paul seconded; unanimously approved Slate of SWC Directors for February 27 Council of Members Meeting.

New Business

- Skagit Steelhead Recovery Plan Status and Process for Review – Draft Puget Sound Regional Plan, Draft Skagit Chapter, and culverts are primary pieces of today's conversation.
 - Puget Sound Regional Plan – currently open for public commenting until March. Individual organizations within SWC will be submitting their comments on their own.

Aundrea and Richard have worked on a draft of comments to submit on the Puget Sound Regional Plan on behalf of the SWC staff (#7). The board ***suggested to share staff comments to SWC members for each member group to choose what they individually would like to submit and their comment. Also, request other members share comments with SWC if willing and common themes can be reinforced by SWC.**

- Skagit Chapter Review Process – Skagit Recovery Team (co-managers) is working to create the Skagit Chapter of Steelhead Recovery Plan, with 3rd version done soon. Discussion on what is the best way to get input from both the SWC members and members of the general public into the final Skagit Chapter of Steelhead Recovery Plan and timeline. Suggestion is to request member comments to be compiled by SWC staff and reviewed by TWG and Board for relevant topics, with these provided to co-managers to create 4th version. Then we would envision an even wider roll-out and presentation to broader stakeholders and citizens in creating a final 5th draft. ***Also questioned how Protection Subcommittee should be included? *A written outline of this process will be drafted by staff and brought forward to the next Board meeting for discussion.** We are prioritizing the Steelhead Recovery Plan for SWC staff time in 2019. ***Will an update of the SWC Strategic Approach be appropriate before the 2020 grant round?**
- Culverts – opening up isolated habitat will be a priority in Steelhead Recovery throughout Puget Sound. A database of public culverts in Skagit is close to being finished. Currently, private culverts will need a different approach due to access, funding, and willingness of land-owners. ***We should continue to coordinate with those at the legislature and Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board.**
- Upcoming SWC Council of Members Meeting – currently scheduled for February 27, suggested to move back another month to give time to get further along with Steelhead Recovery Plan and coordinated culvert strategy. Draft date of March 27, 2019. ***Richard will reschedule the SWC Council Members Meeting to March 27.**

Other News:

- Director of Puget Sound Partnership Sheida Sahandy is stepping down.

Adjourn 11:11