

Skagit Watershed Council Final Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom, February 4, 2021

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

Attending: John Stein, Bill Blake, Jon-Paul Shannahan, Michael Kirshenbaum, Jon Vanderheyden, Brendan Brokes, Andrew Bearlin, Devin Smith, Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride (notes)

12:06 am Call to Order

- Introductions, Determined Quorum, and Approved Agenda.
- January Board Notes as revised. Motion by Bill, second by Michael, approved unanimously.

Lead Entity Program

- Program Guide ready for approval
 - Made changes to align with RCO Manual 18 changes and changes to HWS/SRP.
 - Added the M&AM Subcommittee to organizational structure.
 - Revised monitoring funding policy to include a broader range of monitoring types, particularly effectiveness, in addition to status and trends monitoring.
 - Board heard M&AM Subcommittee concerns about changes in SRFB policies limiting funding available for monitoring at local/regional scale. ***Board support for this concern and agreement to advocate for strengthening local monitoring efforts.**
- Request for Proposals
 - Proposed \$100,000 set aside for riparian projects as recommended by TWG.
 - Proposed \$50,000 set aside for monitoring projects as newly defined in the revised Program Guide, as recommended by M&AM and TWG
- Adaptive Management policy and procedures write-up has been circulated a couple of times, but is still a working draft. ***Needs more discussion and looking at how well it would handle hypothetical projects. *We need to continue pressing this issue with PS Salmon Recovery Council and SRFB, follow up on letter we already sent.**
 - Do we need a funds cap? ***Scale of eligible projects is a topic for discussion.**

Motion to approve the Program Guide as revised (excluding an adaptive management policy at this time) and the RFP as presented by Michael, second by Jon, all approve.

Executive Director's Report

- Financials:
 - December Financial Reports not yet available.
- Committees:

- Illuminight went well, with some technical difficulties, hundreds of participants.
- Riparian conference went well, over 150 participants.
- Nice job Holli, Aundrea, and Scottie!
- Nominating Committee, see below.

Old Business

➤ 2020 PSAR Returned Funds

- Britt and Ovenell Slough projects both applied for ~\$44K from recent SWC RFP. TWG recommended that both would be important investments, but also waiting on more certainty for Britt Slough cost increases since they will be opening contractor bids very soon.
- If sponsors want, SWC could send letter to NFWF co-signed by John Stein on behalf of sponsors requesting more money or extensions for both proposed projects.
- Important that both projects are treated fairly. Goal is to see that both projects are constructed.
- Motion to defer to TWG to make decision how returned funds are spent since it is mostly a technical decision. Michael, second by Devin, all approve. JV abstained.

➤ Sauk Habitat Plan

- 5 SOQs came back, with what appears to be one particularly well placed to help us.
- Shared SOQs with Advisory Group, TWG, Skagit County Public Works and others who may have helpful input on choosing a contractor.
- Pending no disagreement from reviewers, ***Richard will write a selection memo to file and then work with the selected contractor to draft a scope of work for Board.**

➤ Estuary projects recap:

- New map presented. ***Board would like to see another map of high priority conceptual projects from the Skagit HDM Study.**
- ***SRSC would like another opportunity to review project description language. Offer same to others. *Add project sponsors where known.**
- ***We wish we had a ground-based inventory of off-channel habitats.**

New Business

- Nominating Committee reported unanimous nomination for asking Council of Members to elect Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to SWC Board. Bill moved and Michael seconded the nomination of Peter Browning, and motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Order and Adjourn 1:20pm. *March retreat is in the works.