

**Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors – Conference Call on July 7, 2016**

(\* indicates action item;      indicates decision)

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Richard Brocksmith, Michael Kirshenbaum, Brendan Brokes, and Jon Vanderheyden.

Not in attendance: Steve Hinton, Carolyn Kelly, Colleen McShane, Jon-Paul Shannahan.

**Call to Order**

- Introductions were made. No quorum today. The agenda was adequate for today's meeting (#1).
- Review Board Notes for June 2, 2016 (#2). Due to a lack of quorum, the Board will address approval of the June notes at the August meeting.

**Executive Directors Report**

- Approve May Financial Report (#3)
  - Richard made general comments about the May 2016 financials. Two one-time expenses negatively affected financials in May (\$2,500 for Skagit River Salmon Festival sponsorship and insurance for Directors and Officers \$1,499). However, the annual financial status is in the positive about \$37,000 (this partially reflects Seattle City Light funding that came in as lump sum recently but with remaining deliverables still). June is the last month of the fiscal year and they will close books for 2015-16 in mid-July.
  - Lead Entity program (SRFB) reductions are for this fiscal year – rather than \$80K grant award, the amount is closer to \$60,900. The Work Plan for 2016-17 addresses this income loss by proposing postponement of Skagit Capacity Fund Round 3 and a modest reduction in monitoring and adaptive management.
  - Sub-awards Summary –\***Richard will add start and finish dates to this information.**
  - Due to a lack of quorum, the Board will address approval of the May financials at the next meeting.

**Committee Reports**

- Summertime reflects a lull in some committee work, with only the Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting this last month. The TRC has scored and reviewed the nine projects as presented at the Council of Members meeting in mid-June. All projects were seen as technically strong and ready to proceed. Recommendations for conditioning two projects to make them even better are being forwarded by email to the LECC today. The LECC will meet next Thursday and again for a final decision making meeting at the end of July.
- The Technical Work Group's (TWG) next meeting is scheduled for mid-August to review the first, nearly complete draft outputs of the new, draft protection strategy update. This will likely be a joint Protection Subcommittee and TWG workshop to work out suggested improvements to the draft decision support framework. Their discussions will queue up further discussions among the Board in September.
- The first meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for August 2 from 9 am-12 pm.
- Board members had questions and comments regarding the SRFB review round this year. Those assembled felt that it has gone fairly smoothly so far with very informative discussions, but that

the process was more complex this year. The complexity resulted from the fact that some funding will come in December (about \$900,000) but an unknown, hopefully larger amount of funds would be released in June 2017. They grappled with how to allocate money to best effect in light of this uncertainty. The December allocations will authorize funds to some projects to keep them moving forward with such things as time-sensitive property acquisitions with the hope that money in June 2017 is enough to fully fund the remaining needs. **\*The LECC will further deliberate on how to manage the risk of partially funding projects all across the ranked list (with their varying degrees of fish benefits) while recognizing that risk of not getting enough funds for the whole list increases with each lower-ranked project.**

#### **Old Business**

- Update on Reduction to Lead Entity Operating Grant and resulting SWC Letter to SRFB (#4)
  - As a result of this SRFB deliberations for capacity reductions, Richard and Ken sent a letter to the SRFB to communicate that these reductions compromise the work in the watershed.
- SWC Work Plan & Budget (#5) and (#6)
  - Richard provided a summary of additions and adjustments made to the Work Plan per the Board's recommendations last month. Richard noted that a clean copy of the Plan was sent to the Board last week. He made sure each objective was cross referenced to the task and was more explicit with added tasks, FTE allocation, and detail. The work item to consider adjustments to our strategic approach in response to a new steelhead recovery plan was removed as a result of the recommendation of a tribal rep given the timeline was likely too aggressive.
  - The members present felt that this new version of the work plan benefited from these considered changes and added detail in terms of accountability and clarity.
  - Regarding use of the professional services line item, Richard is preparing RFPs or RFQs for Chinook monitoring and SRFB riparian project deliverables. There will be a much higher level of detail than is in the organizational work plan now. **\*Richard will share these RFP/QQs with the Board as they are ready, seeking committee input and Board authorization.**
  - The budget reflects a reduction in professional services from \$219,000 to \$200,000 and removes round 3 on capacity funds allocations. If capacity funds resurface, then reinstating round 3 capacity fund allocations could be considered.
  - The Board appreciated Richard allocating staff FTE's to tasks and recognize the hard work the staff is engaged in to meet the demands.
  - Due to a lack of quorum, the Board will address approval of the 2016-2017 Work Plan and Budget at the August meeting. **\*Those in attendance advised Richard to continue implementing the work plan as presented and sharing this approach with the Board by email.**

#### **New Business**

- August and September Agenda Planning.
  - August – Approve remaining business of budget/work plans as well as RFP/QQs for professional services. End of year financial statements. Annual Lunch agenda review.
  - September – Protection Strategy discussion.

**Adjourn at 9:50 am**

**Next SWC Board Meeting is August 4, 9am to ~10 PHONE CALL.**