

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors – July 12, 2018

Attendance: Brendan Brokes (acting Chair), Richard Brocksmitth, Michael Kirshenbaum, John Stein, Jon Vanderheyden, Steve Hinton, and Colleen McShane.

Not in attendance: Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, Bill Blake, and Jon-Paul Shannahan

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

Call to Order: 11:00am

- Agenda (#1) - Agenda was approved as proposed.
- Board Notes: May 3, 2018 (#2) – Michael moved and Jon seconded approval of the June 2018 Board notes as written. Motion carried.

Executive Directors Report

- May Financial Report (#3) – It was noted that the actual insurance expenses exceeded estimated costs mostly due to the unanticipated need for an insurance rider to cover SWC’s sponsorship of the 4th annual Illuminight event. Steve moved and Jon seconded approval of the May Financial Report as written. Motion carried.
- Committee Reports – The Community Engagement Committee met in conjunction with the Skagit ECONet meeting on June 26. The CEC had a detailed conversation about the community interviews SWC staff and contractors have been conducting recently. Richard and Andrea followed-up and met with the staff at the Skagit County Historical Museum and have developed a proposal to jointly sponsor #ThisSkagitLife as a series of interviews and oral histories that would be shared across multiple platforms by the two organizations culminating in a physical exhibit at the museum in summer 2019. Staff and the SWC Board were excited about the opportunity to help document and develop a deeper understanding of what makes Skagit a special place worth preserving across many different perspectives.

New Business

- The Board engaged in a discussion about the upcoming Floodplains by Design final applications being submitted to Ecology the first week of August and the three project proponents request for a letter of support from SWC. Each proposal has different potential benefits to our mission and topics worthy of further consideration.
 - Barnaby floodplain culvert upgrades – This project is mostly highly consistent with our priority areas and objectives as it has been developed to date with salmon recovery funding and by several of our members working with the local community.
 - Colony Creek floodplain planning – This area has seen salmon funding in early grant rounds but the 2015 Strategic Approach does not show the area as a strategic priority.

- Hamilton floodplain acquisition, restoration, and planning – The Board discussed various perspectives on the many pieces of this complex area and set of on-going projects and planning. There was clear support for ensuring that planning for rural conversion to habitat in areas where people and infrastructure are in harm's way was a priority. There were still different perspectives about which culverts should be upgraded versus vacated and which lands should be acquired, both of which would benefit by more robust planning. SWC's letter should be sensitive to this situation.
- ***The Board requested that Richard submit the letters before their next meeting as discussed and share copies back to them for their next meeting.**

Adjourn: 12:00pm

Next SWC Board Meetings:

- August 9 (1-hour, following LECC meeting at SWC office)
- September 6, 9am
- (September 8 - Salmon Festival)
- (September 19 - Annual SWC lunch)