

**Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom**  
**July 7th, 2022, 10:00am to 11:00am**

(Underline indicates decision point; \***Bold indicates action item**)

**Attending:** John Stein (Chair), Bill Blake, Devin Smith, Michael Kirshenbaum, Brian Lanouette, Holli Watne, Aundrea McBride, Richard Brocksmith, Clyde Halstead (for introductions only)

**Absent:** Andrew Bearlin, Brendan Brokes, Peter Browning

**Call to Order 10:06am**

- Introductions, quorum achieved. Devin introduced Clyde Halstead, a new attorney at Swinomish who may attend SWC Board meetings when other legal counsel are present.
- Motion by Bill, second by Michael to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.
- Approved Board Notes for May 16, 2022. Motion by Michael, second by Brian, approved unanimously.

**Executive Director and Committee Reports**

Financials

- In the black for April and May. Richard is calculating an new indirect rate. The current rate is 21%. The new rate will be 15% due to COVID. This is probably less than we actually use as we are coming out of COVID. Motion by Devin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill to approve April and May Financial Reports, approved unanimously.

Committees

- Lead entity process is gearing up for TRC and LECC meetings this month and next.
- CEC is focusing on wrapping up school programs and evaluating those, looking at the big picture and planning for next year. **\*Item to come back to board for future discussion.**
- Protection Subcommittee is working on two properties with restoration needs that will probably be first test cases for new policy on Approval Process for Acquiring Restorable Lands. No greenlights since last meeting.
- M&AM Subcommittee has not met but Mike LeMoine has been shepherding our two monitoring projects through the state process, giving presentations.
- TWiG has been working on the Approval Process for Acquiring Restorable Lands. They also approved language to send to the Board regarding cost increases going through the grant round. See later in the agenda. Also reviewed 4 year work plan and planned project list.
- Riparian Work Group is soliciting speakers for the January conference and working on 2021 riparian data.

- Nominating Committee of the Board is in a holding pattern awaiting outcomes of organizational structure discussions.

### **Old Business**

#### Cost Increases Going Through the Grant Round:

- TWiG proposed language where cost increase requests that come through the grant round would be given a yes or no recommendation by the TRC to the LECC, but not ranked. The LECC would decide to fund the cost increase on a case-by-case basis based on weighing against current projects and past investment (cost/benefit/opportunity).
- No new grant application would be required. Instead, a cost increase request form with justification would be submitted.
- This will be an interim process until something can be adopted into the Program Guide.
- Previous methods for requesting a cost increase via RCO, PSAR, or returned funds remain the same.
- Motion by Devin, second by Brian, to approve interim language and process for cost increases going through the grant round as provided; all approve.

#### Work Plan and Budget

- A rough outline of work items includes the following:
  - Lead Entity process and capital project selection and funding
  - Sauk Habitat Plan
  - Riparian incentives
  - Riparian science and monitoring database
  - Community Engagement framework
  - Changes to bylaws and governance
  - SWC Protection Strategy update and implementation, including Sauk and EF Nookachamps
  - Protection and restoration integration
- **\*The Board generally very supportive of these work items but would also like more details than presented including dates**
- **\*Consider how new grant funding opportunities can build capacity for SWC and member organizations. Examples of unmet needs include integration of protection and restoration, new funding coordination, and process for letters of support beyond normal salmon habitat program.**
- Budget balances with \$9716 from reserves, which seems OK as we have built up reserves more than that above our goal of 6 months of operating expenses.

- County grant and SITC Impact fund are the uncertain income sources. If these don't come through, we could use more of reserves to cover the shortfall and/or continue to seek external grant funding. Timeframe for confirmation from the County is end of year.
- Motion by Bill, seconded by Devin to approve the budget, unanimously approved.

#### County Communication

- **\*Richard will send the Skagit Valley Herald article on greenwashing to Brian.**
- Fish passage at the Skagit River dams is a separate issue from estuary restoration. Estuary restoration is supported overwhelmingly by the science. Fish passage may also be necessary, TBD by co-managers and FERC. All the 'limiting factors' are important (estuary, floodplain, etc.).
- **\*Richard and John will contact County Commissioners informally to discuss the statement in the Herald and Will Honea's recent letter.**
- The Board would like to know if USIT continues to support estuary restoration. USIT voice is important. USIT supports upriver floodplain restoration. **\*Brian will continue to explore this and bring back info.**
- **\*Richard will update a draft letter written to the County and send around for comment with the goal of approval at next meeting.**

**Adjourn 11:30am**