

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes
Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom
June 3, 2021

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

Attending: John Stein, Andrew Bearlin, Brendan Brokes, Michael Kirshenbaum, Peter Browning, Bill Blake, Devin Smith, Jon Vanderheyden, Richard Brocksmith, Holli Watne, Aundrea McBride (notes)

Not in attendance: Jon-Paul Shannahan

Call to Order 10:03 am

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approved Agenda
- Approved Board Notes for May 6, 2021. Motion by Bill, second by Peter, approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Financial Report:

- Spending on the Sauk project is behind schedule (as is the project) but will catch up.
- Motion to approve March and April financial reports by Jon, second by Peter. Approved unanimously.
- The SWC contract bookkeeper gave notice. ***We are looking to fill the gap soon.**

Committee and Staff Reports:

- TRC met for virtual site visits
- Protection Subcommittee greenlighted one conservation easement
- CEC has been working on a storymap about Skagit Valley.

Giant Copper Wrap-up:

- ***We will put a cover letter on our resolution and bundle with 11-14 other resolutions from Skagit jurisdictions and send to BC Premier in next couple of days. Also working on getting some editorials and letters to editor written about topic.**
- The Canadian process from this point on is unknown. They have delayed a decision two years already. SEEC and Skagit Headwaters Coalition are heavily engaged as well.

Salmon Recovery Council and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Debrief:

- SRC affirmed the existing PSAR allocation formula; will be used indefinitely until there was need to reform it; that they would develop a 10 year business plan for PSAR; and that they would compile a list of 'mega-projects' like PSNERP (yet to be defined).

- SRFB raised the SRFB project allocation by about 10% (means an extra ~\$125K/yr) and set aside \$3.7 million for targeted investment in projects benefitting Orca whales.

Old Business

Lead Entity Program Updates – Options for Funding Advances, see attached spreadsheet.

- All of this year's projects are compelling and thus likely warrant borrowing funds.
- One option for borrowing is the PSAR Rapid Response Fund. ***Michael will check.**
- Funds requested will change when final applications are submitted.

TMDL Implementation Strategy Update

- SWC helped secure WSCC budget proviso of \$250,000 to improve incentives for streamside improvements related to Lower Skagit Tributary TMDL.
- Bill and Richard have been meeting with Allison Halpern of WSCC to plan. ***Next steps include broadening partner outreach.**
- WDOE has an additional \$300,000 to put toward the issue and has been meeting with the above to discuss messaging and outreach.
- Community and partner engagement is critical, and Ecology plans Community Based Social Marketing and WSCC plans Coordinated Resource Management at reach scale. This would focus on a reach of several landowners where we can demonstrate success.
- ***Can use the planting database and the protected lands database to look for options too.**

Communications with Skagit County

- Letter drafted as discussion starter looks good.
- An in-person meeting(s) is desirable next step.
- Programmatic and systemic issues need to be covered in broader discussion with the County.
- ***Follow-up at next meeting.**

New Business

Salmon Recovery Plan from Summit to Sea

- The Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan actions and our progress need to be constantly summarized for general public consumption/multiple audiences. There are many good actions underway, but most folks don't see the connectedness and broader plan. Upstream adults and downstream juvenile perspectives. Visual graphics help.
- A business plan format with costs and outcomes would be helpful. Big picture goal; main efforts; gaps and how to fill; cost; priorities; etc

- This would make a good storymap—selling the solutions we are creating for salmon.
- SWC is allocating resources according to our habitat priorities, but there are many broader actions (e.g. tire dust, escapement monitoring) happening regionally and nationally too.
- ***This should be outlined and brought back to Board. What is happening or needs to happen to solve the problems? We need to find ways to scale up community engagement and ensure messages are crafted effectively to explain pieces and expand literacy.**

2020/2021 Accomplishments and 2021/2022 Work Plan Review—tabled

2021/2022 Budget Review

- Steelhead task is still an unknown
- Motion by Michael, second by Brendan, unanimously approve the budget as presented and authorize Applicant Authorization Resolution.

Nominations Committee Report—tabled

For the Good of the Order

- SLT is hiring Jane's old position-land acquisition, please circulate.
- Construction starts on Barnaby Reach next week!
- The 2018 Illabot restoration project looks fantastic

Adjourn 12:00pm