

## Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes

### Meeting of the Board of Directors – March 1, 2018

Attendance: Bill Blake, Richard Brocksmit, Acting Chair Steve Hinton, Michael Kirshenbaum, Colleen McShane (by phone), and John Stein.

Not in attendance: Brendan Brokes, Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Jon-Paul Shannahan, and Jon Vanderheyden.

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

#### Call to Order: 9:05 am

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1) - Bill moved and John seconded approval of the Board agenda as written. Motion carried.
- Approve Board Notes: February 1, 2018 (#2) - Bill moved and Michael seconded approval of the February 1, 2018 Board notes as written. Motion carried.

#### Executive Directors Report

- Approve January Financial Report (#3)  
January back in the black. Funding sources are flowing again and are again able to bill for reimbursements. We continue to close out contracts and limit spending for the time being. Impacts from the frozen capital budget will continue over the next couple months as multiple organizations regroup and recover. John moved and Bill seconded approval of the January Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.
- SWC Budget and Staff Update  
SWC is back on track with internal PSAR funding and will get all allocated funds on a contract for the biennium. Colleen reported that their 2019 funding is anticipated to be very tight due to revenue forecasts with revenues for 2020 possibly better only if a substantial rate increase occurs. These structural challenges will likely affect SCL's \$38,000 in future funding which could be zeroed out or significantly diminished. SCL's 2019-20 bi-annual budget discussions start this spring with budgets going to City Council for a vote in June/July 2018. This heads up gives the SWC Board a year to brainstorm ways for the Council to fill any potential gaps. Options include seeking grant funding or funding from capital projects. However, capital funding won't cover environmental education and monitoring. Steve indicated he could commit to approaching the Swinomish Tribe for funding if necessary.
- Staff update: Richard asked for the 1-year term-limited Community Outreach position to be released which the Board members supported.
- Committee Reports (#4) – There were no committee meetings in February, but multiple planned for March.

- Update: Illuminight Winter Walk in January was attended by about 500 people – a similar number as last year. It didn't rain, but it was cold which likely impacted attendance. On a positive note, a video of the event (made by Richard's son) made it to 60,000 people with 6,000 views and 100 new likes on the SWC Facebook page.

## Old Business

- Support Letter(s) for Skagit Chinook Near-Term Actions (NTA) (#5)

The Board discussed the document showing the SRSC-submitted pre-registrations for PSP Action Agenda. Since the Skagit doesn't have an LIO, local tribes are granted direct access to the PSP process. The SRSC is soliciting SWC letters of commitment on these projects which would have a direct or reinforcing impact on initiatives happening in the Skagit Watershed. Four projects are already on the 4YWP and five others are identified as SWC Work Plan items. Additionally, a couple regional proposals are also included on the list. Some may be a long-shot, but worth the effort to get on the NTA list. These projects would receive various levels of review and incorporation into SWC processes.

The Board felt a conversation regarding all the NTA's that affect the Skagit Watershed should be discussed as they will positively affect the Skagit. Final proposals are due end of March 2018. **\*Richard will review the NTA list brought forward by SRSC, seek any clarification necessary, and write letter(s) of commitment. Items on the SRSC list not already on the 4YWP will be addressed one-by-one. \*Richard will write an additional letter of commitment for the Long Live the Kings NTA to support watershed-scale M&AM.**

Richard and Steve outlined a joint proposal for the M&AM Subcommittee to implement another round of monitoring for wood and riparian recruitment processes and LIDAR showing canopy height data over time. Stay tuned for M&AM proposals addressing this.

In addition, regarding restoration and protection planning, a concept has emerged to extend the Middle Skagit Assessment up into the Sauk River assessing priorities for protection and restoration across a wider area of the watershed, as well as improving floodplain delineations where possible. **\*Richard will work with Steve to develop specifics regarding a partnership to gather and update floodplain data. The Board agreed there is value in adding a project that would coordinate efforts regarding who is doing what on floodplain data development and analyses to create a common understanding among the various stakeholders.**

- Protection Strategy Update Project Review/Close-out – Tabled
- Riparian Assessment Project Review/Close-out and Next Steps - Tabled

## New Business

- Approve Contract Amendment for Sound Bookkeeping Services, since Barbara is retiring. Richard is seeking input on acquiring a new bookkeeper. This entails a contract extension to June 30, 2018 for SBS and adding \$2000 not to exceed \$7,400 while the search is underway. (#6) Bill moved and Michael seconded approval of the Contract Amendment for Sound Bookkeeping Services. Motion carried unanimously.
- SWC Potential Letters of Intent to Lead Entity Grant Program - **\*The Board decided to discuss this at the short phone meeting in April or the meeting in May, depending on the need.**
- Council of Members agenda  
Instream Flow Enhancement Discussion - Bill is speaking with a contact this week regarding instream flow enhancement after speaking with DelBene's office. It could build what's already there and look at the tributaries. **\*Bill will keep the Board posted on this, including well withdrawal studies in the Skagit.** Richard has been in contact with WA Department of Ecology on the topic and are scoping out a presentation of information for the members as discussed by the Board last month. **\*Richard will approach Ria Berns to speak about the status of in-stream flow restoration initiatives.**

The Board discussed possible other agenda topics. They agreed to allocate some time to review ongoing watershed projects. We will include an update about the fisheries forecast, though maybe at a later date. **\*Richard will determine if there is information to share about status of orca protection and the Governor's EO. \*Richard will consider adding a community voice interview.**

- Strategic planning retreat, maybe facilitated? SWC did not hold a retreat last year, **\*but they felt it would be timely to have a strategic discussion prior to approving the budget.** For instance regional problems such as the plight of the orca impact how we address ecosystem protection and restoration when that system is out of balance.

**Adjourn – 11:30 am**

**Next SWC Board Meetings:** April 5, 2018 (9-10am phone call if needed), May 3, 2018 (9-11am)