

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Meeting Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, SWC Office – March 7, 2019

Attendance: Richard Brocksmith, Michael Kirshenbaum, Ken Dahlstedt (Chair), Steve Hinton, Bill Blake, Aundrea McBride (staff), and Andrea Reiter (staff).

Not in attendance: Jon Vanderheyden, Colleen McShane, Jon-Paul Shannahan, John Stein, Brendan Brokes

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

Call to Order 9:06

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1) – Quorum not present – all approval items tabled for next Board of Directors meeting.
- Approve Board Notes: February 7, 2019 (#2) - tabled

Executive Directors Report

- Approve January Financial Report (#3) - tabled
- Committee Reports - tabled
- Hamilton Support Letter (#4) – Letter to support \$1.6 million in funding to relocate Town of Hamilton. ***Suggestion to be upfront and proactive with why SWC is supportive of the relocation of Hamilton** – how will this help restore salmon runs, reach our priorities, and feed orcas, while benefitting Skagit’s economy and communities. Visuals would be helpful. Forterra will be providing visuals and PR, building on the vision from 10 years ago for relocation.
- Legislative influence – Richard and Ken met with legislators a couple weeks back. ***It is suggested to also meet with legislators in down season with tours and photo ops that can help educate and share the message.** Draft budget should be out in a few weeks.
- Culvert Removal – ***Board would like to see a package deal of number of specific culverts removed that would restore a specific percentage of wild Chinook and other runs that can be handed off for funding.** SRSC and partners are working on producing a list of culverts that could have the biggest impact towards restoration.
- Ecology’s Water Supply Studies and TMDL Implementation Briefing – Two different programs and staff meeting with SWC TWG: Ecology has earmarked funding to collecting data on water quality and a habitat study to better understand water supply impacts in the watershed. Also, eight tributaries in the lower Skagit that are listed for temperature, and a

new TMDL implementation strategy will be developed by the end of the year by Ecology. The implementation strategy could be hard to put into play if there is not new funding and tools, and improved support for local organizations. Voluntary Stewardship Program could help address temperature TMDL along these tributaries. The Board supports addressing riparian plantings, habitat acquisition, stream complexity and floodplain reconnection among other strategies to reduce temperature in the tributaries. A tour might help inform Ecology & others of where members see opportunities. For Nookachamps, a longitudinal study of temperature would be good to augment knowledge. ***TWG should work with Ecology and others to align and support these efforts.**

Old Business

- Slate of SWC Directors – Without a quorum, voting on nominating new board members will be tabled.
- Skagit Steelhead Recovery Plan Process for Review (#5) – Discussion on how to do a methodical, distributed review process. Likely there will not be a federal register review process for each watershed chapter unless there is conflict with goals and criteria with the Puget Sound Recovery Plan. ***Steve will add comments on the written review process.**
- March 27 Council of Members Agenda (#6) – The February Council of Members Meeting was delayed a month to include more steelhead recovery information sharing. Dave Price from NOAA will present on the Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan. Board would like a broad sharing of background, how steelhead recovery differs from Chinook, reason for decline, and how to restore native populations presented at the meeting and avoiding plan areas still under development. ***Richard will amend the draft agenda to include an announcement that Sedro-Woolley City Council has joined the Skagit Watershed Council.**

New Business

- Wiley Slough Briefing – Letter of intent has been submitted to address flooding on adjacent farms at Wiley Slough. Dike District will not take over ownership from WDFW of dikes on this property until they meet Army Corps of Engineer standards. Apparent problems with the dikes are overtopping and seepage of saltwater, but questions about impact exist. There was concern about a letter of intent being submitted before due diligence and communication as it might be difficult to manage this discussion in a project review context. ***Talks of SWC passing a “good neighbor” resolution to include adaptive management on salmon projects; SWC agrees we need to stand behind our projects. Further communications were identified.**
- ***Pinniped Predation Briefing – tabled for future meeting.**

Adjourn 10:49