

Skagit Watershed Council
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Final Notes
November 5, 2015 SWC Office, Mount Vernon, WA

(* indicates action item; indicates decision)

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Bob Everitt, Richard Brocksmith, Steve Hinton, Loren Everest, Carolyn Kelly and Colleen McShane. (Carolyn needs to leave at 10:45).

Not in attendance: Jon-Paul Shanahan, Margaret Fleek, Michael Kirschenbaum.

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 am with a quorum. Steve started the meeting; Ken took over once he arrived.

Draft Agenda and Notes Review (#1 and #2)

Carolyn moved and Loren seconded approval of the Agenda with no additions or corrections. Unanimously approved.

Carolyn moved, Colleen seconded approval of the October 1, 2015 notes with no corrections or additions. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report

- Richard made general comments about the September 2015 financials. (#3)
Richard explained the large negative number in the profit/loss statement: 1) 6 weeks of vacation time for Scottie and Chris (though Chris' will be shown mostly in October). There is no remaining vacation time banked now. 2) Program costs associated with Seattle City Light's contract deliverables from SWC were not offset this month but instead all at once in 2014 since it was a lump sum rather than reimbursement-basis. 3) Several larger, non-reimbursable expenses came in September associated with the Annual Lunch and gifts for committee volunteers. Richard added that Fidalgo Fly Fishers donated \$500 to SWC, to be credited in October.
Carolyn moved and Bob seconded the motion to approve the September 2015 financials as included in the board packet. Unanimous approval.
- Lead Entity Program Updates – All projects have cleared the final hurdles at the state level. All the required funds are in place except for an unmet gap of about \$4,500 for Presentin Park – an amount which can be cobbled together given it is such a large project. In the end, it was a great outcome and the program got more than anticipated. Regarding the POC on the Goodell Creek project, all concerns were addressed to the satisfaction of the review committee and the sponsor. Three conditions were imposed – two of which will be easily addressed – and one that needs to be worked out regarding fish survey funding and how they are conducted.
- Odds and ends: SWC authorized a contract for \$2,500 for SFEG similar to the one with SRC and SLT to start the riparian project. Of the five Skagit Capacity Fund awards, two have been contracted and is the rest are pending. 2) Regarding PSP and RCO funds, an

extra \$1,465 beyond the budget was contracted due to an error at the state level in SWC's favor, which will accrue toward the Skagit Capacity Fund awards.

- The 990 Tax Form is complete. Richard provided the documents for review by the board, with Carolyn as Treasurer taking a particularly close review of it. ***Richard will bring the issue of medical benefits and changes from Affordable Care Act forward to the Board in the near future.**
- Richard asked for feedback about the proposed 2016 calendar dates for the Board and Council of members meetings. Ken cannot make two of the Board meetings. The March 2016 meeting is good timing to present announcements to the membership regarding the SRFB Request for Proposals. June is a good time to present project information. November is good for presenting information on other programs, progress with M & AM work and Community Engagement.
- Note: Ken took over the Chair position at this time.
- Regarding the January Retreat, a suggestion surfaced to have a short Board meeting at the beginning of the Retreat in place of another day. ***Richard will refine the board meeting schedule and bring back to the Board, considering projected workload as we get closer to the beginning of the year.**
- Quarterly Council of Members' meetings feedback: They are well-attended and reports are the information is helpful. Not too much or too frequent. The networking time allowed is also helpful.
- Richard would like to send out the agenda for the next Council of Members meeting today. The Board provided input on the agenda.
- Richard noted recent media in the Skagit Valley Herald and the Argus about the Bull Trout Recovery Plan and the Skagit as a stronghold for native fish, and SWC's transition to also include steelhead. Richard also announced the new fish tools launched on the SWC website as a first wave of community engagement planning.

Committee Reports

Richard shared activities of each of the following subcommittees. The Board had no questions about the summary notes.

- Protection Subcommittee – Richard spoke that two members will be leaving and the subcommittee feels that the value provided by liaisons with Skagit County, US Forest Service, and Skagit River System Cooperative need to be replaced. Colleen wrote a letter to Erin Uloth, USFS, strongly suggesting the importance of Phil's contribution to the SCL and SWC's work. Richard also spoke to the subcommittee members' strong recommendation for Bob Warinner to become the chair after Phil retires.
 - October Report & Acquisition Tally (#4a) – Very little land being purchased right now, with the tally showing 18 acres purchased in the last 8 months. 3 month extension on Protection Strategy provides time through March 2016.
 - Appoint a subcommittee Chair (#4b) - Strong support for Bob Warinner's appointment as chair. Carolyn moved and Steve seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Amendment to the Protection Subcommittee work. Change amends references to nearshore protection and removes them due to time and capacity constraints. The TWG recommended this. Attachment #6 – extensive amount of unforeseen work updating just the freshwater strategy due to the expansion to 14 tributaries and revamping of the model. Plus steelhead addition added more work. Money came from SRFB project planning dollars and grant from the County and other partners as match. An administrative waiver allowed the 3 month extension, but could an additional extension be requested that could also include a funding add-on? Get the marine piece done through a new proposal – a stand-alone project would have merit perhaps with isolated delta work. ***Better to scope it thoughtfully and put in an application in the next round.** Motion to approve the protection strategy scope change moved by Carolyn and seconded by Steve. Unanimously approved.
- Technical Work Group March Draft Notes (#5)

Old Business

- Community Engagement (#7) – Richard and David shared progress to date on the management plan framework goals, objectives, primary focus, strategies and actions. They also reviewed the process and outcomes for inventorying existing work going on via several processes in the watershed, including marine resources, water quality for fecals and stormwater, and habitat conservation and restoration. The Board generally was very supportive of the outcomes to date and is looking forward to continued partnering and content development. Lots of great concepts have been floated, but there is recognition there will be limited resources for this work and so there will need to be some priorities.
 - Hatcheries are mentioned, but where is harvest?
 - When and to what point do we reach out to other groups like Padilla Bay, Indian College, etc?
 - How much can we do with the capacity we have?
 - Real hope for future has to be for young ones; they are looking forward and to be inspired and directed. NCI does this well.
 - What is the positive message for them?
 - High school, boy/girl scouts, 4-H, FFA
 - Framing the messages, peer to peer
 - How do we balance long-term investment for engaging young ones with immediate needs to restore/protect habitat usually owned/managed by adults?
- Riparian Habitat Project (#8) – Richard provided an overview about project, funding situation, purpose, 4 primary tasks, work to date. SWC has banked 54% of the match and spent only about 3% of the award. The project will be used to prioritize and focus future actions in areas of the watershed and to communicate on a big picture level how much progress actions of the past and present are making to inform strategic funding initiatives and communicating the story to the community. The Board reiterated the importance of this project is in keeping it simple and avoid getting too much into the

details for old planting sites. If a simple synthesis of old planting sites goes well, we can entertain collecting expanded data at future planting sites..

- Unified watershed wide past planting site database. Who did what when and why? What was there before? Fully impaired, partially impaired, non-existent status should be a minimum of the data. Also, there's a desire to include remaining maintenance needs for future resource allocation.
- ***Next task is aligning work with M and AM to track status and trends of riparian areas.**

New Business

- Fish Barrier Removal Board – The FBRB met in September and decided not to use all of the criteria they asked lead entities to consider in nominating subwatersheds for further culvert assessments; this dropped SWC to the 4th place out of immediate contention in Puget Sound. Richard expressed concern about the change of criteria in the middle of the process. Dave Price, WDFW staff, acknowledged that it was unfortunate. However, the Board agreed there isn't a lot of merit in lobbying the FBRB at this point. Richard spoke about the need to get moving in a positive direction on the next nomination (the coordinated pathway) and referred to his conversation with Brian Abbot of SRFB about what the coordinated pathway was supposed to be and the most value to be gained.
***The TWG will discuss this at their Nov 19 meeting to identify "low-hanging fruit" to bring to the Board in December.**
 - We have the ability to do the technical work in the Skagit Watershed and spend our advocacy efforts to getting funding packages – from a common work plan - with a common message is the strength of the Skagit Watershed Council. Don't let the regional process drive the deadline.
 - ***The Board agreed that Richard should provide communication (in a draft letter from the Board) to FBRB that we make a case for the package we have now and let them know that local parties will have a comprehensive package by late spring of 2016.**

Note: Colleen may not be at the quarterly meeting nor will Ken.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.