

Skagit Watershed Council
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Final Notes
November 6, 2014, SWC Office, Mount Vernon, WA

(* indicates action item; indicates decision)

Attendance: Dave Pflug, Brenda Cunningham, Margaret Fleek, and Richard Brocksmith were present in the SWC office while Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Loren Everest, Bob Everitt and Carolyn Kelly participated via teleconference. Steve Hinton was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am, with quorum. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

Margaret moved and Bob seconded approval of the notes as written, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board.

Executive Director's Report

Carolyn moved and Brenda seconded adoption of the financial report as provided, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board.

The 2015 Board meeting dates were reviewed and it was noted that Bob wouldn't be available for the January 8th meeting, but otherwise these seemed fine. Carolyn moved and Loren seconded adoption of the 2015 Board of Directors' meeting dates as proposed, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board. There was a question about the frequency of Council of Member meeting dates and if they should stay quarterly. ***Richard was asked to frame the frequency of Council meetings up for discussion at the December retreat, including the current thinking on their strategic need.**

Federal tax forms are due soon, so ***the 990-EZ form is ready and available for all Directors to review as they see fit.** It was noted this is an important financial responsibility of the Directors. Several Directors did review the documents in the meeting.

Richard relayed the status of the hiring process, including receiving 25 applications by October 29, reviewing them for minimum and preferred qualifications to narrow them down to 3-5 highly qualified applicants, and now working with Steve and Carolyn to confirm those 3-5 before arranging interviews in mid to late November. There was some quality applications submitted. ***Richard will share with any interested Director, which included Dave and Margaret.**

Richard noted that the status of the habitat projects in the lead entity program in 2014 was fully briefed out by email on November 3, with the upshot being that all projects have cleared final review hurdles though some have additional conditions placed on them. Dave observed that there seemed to be a higher level of scrutiny by the state Review Panel this year. There's been a stated desire for larger projects, though the way these are being reviewed and commented on may not be particularly helpful at what was at least historically a cursory level. Barnaby reach preliminary design was an example where they seemed to be prematurely asking design questions during the end of the feasibility phase, quite far into the weeds. It was also noted that we have a need to be proactive in getting comments in locally in a timely fashion. ***Richard will have the responsibility for working with the appropriate bodies to implement improvements in the local and state process to address these and other recently identified topics in 2015.**

Committee Reports

Draft notes were provided in advance from both the Technical Work Group and Protection Subcommittee.

Old Business

Richard reviewed the RFQQ process for administrative support and responses received, as outlined in the briefing materials. Richard outlined the initial tasks to be completed, including basic committee support such as note-taking as well as managing new committees for the steelhead/bull trout strategic approach and riparian project. Carolyn moved and Dave seconded a motion to authorize a new, professional services agreement not to exceed \$25,000 structured as a task order contract with Kulshan Services for administrative support, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board.

Richard summarized the need for legislative priorities for habitat projects to continue to relay the importance of operating and capital funds to legislative and congressional representatives, and that this would likely be done through specific letters and meetings. With these in hand, he hoped that each of our members would also be able to use these legislative priorities in their communications (though it was recognized by all that certain agency representatives are notably barred from doing more than information sharing with elected). The group reached several conclusions that should be incorporated into the draft packet, including:

- Maintaining the current operating funds we use now is our highest priority, given how few there are. Maintaining capital funds we already have was also very important.
- Being prescriptive with a specific, large increased funding amount was difficult given limited information on how those funds would be spent and the reality of the current fiscal climate and state obligations. It should be noted here that at least a couple of the

Board members preferred to use the specific, increased agency budget numbers, but conceded to the sensitivity of the other Board members.

- There was consensus at this stage of the budget process to list capital programs we support, to maintain what we have already, and to note that the agency requested increases would allow us to be more effective in our mission.
- More detail should be added specifically to relay why increasing state capital funding for the salmon recovery account would make us more competitive at the federal level.

***Richard will edit the legislative priorities letter and table to reflect these changes, confirming the language with Carolyn and Bob, and then distributing the package as proposed. Carolyn moved and Dave seconded a motion to adopt these priorities as amended above and to authorize Richard to send the letter to the Governor as amended above, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board. Bob Everitt and Loren Everest abstained from decision-making.**

The letter of support for the Farm, Fish, and Flood Initiative Hydrodynamic Modeling project was reviewed by the Board. Bob moved and Dave seconded a motion to approve the letter as drafted and authorize Richard to send the letter on the Board's behalf, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board.

The Board reviewed the final draft purpose, membership, review team, and schedule for a new, temporary Steelhead and Bull Trout Strategic Approach Subcommittee (SBTSAS). Dave noted that the purpose statement needed more fleshing out, and SBTSAS should do that; it should note more explicitly working with TWG and Board in the development process; and requiring the recommendation of intermediary actions with low risk that can be taken in 2015 for these species. Two Board members noted that their governments would possibly be able to help implement these intermediary actions, so the list should not necessarily limit itself to just the lead entity process for grant funds. ***Richard will make those edits and confirm the language with Dave. Dave moved to form this new subcommittee as amended above and Bob seconded, with that motion then approved by consensus of the Board.**

New Business

New business included finding a successor to Dave Pflug, who notified the organization of his imminent resignation from the Board effective November 30, 2014. It was noted that he couldn't ever be replaced per se, but Seattle City Light's involvement was absolutely essential for meeting our mission. Dave relayed previously by email and again today that SCL wants to maintain their current commitment and participation on the Board and our committees. He believes that Colleen Mc Shane has all the tools required to participate at the Board level, though admittedly not as a trained fish biologist (she has a wildlife background). Given the

resignation and the Bylaws section 5.5 allowing the Board to fill the vacated seat through the remainder of the term without a formal nominations committee, and the solid candidacy of Colleen and commitment of SCL to the watershed and organization, it was felt the Board should proceed. Carolyn moved and Brenda seconded a motion to nominate Colleen McShane for Council of Member consideration of election to the Board of Directors, with that motion approved by consensus of the Board.

It was noted that we were within the two week notification requirement for Director elections and that the full Council of Members would need to agree to temporarily suspend this requirement. ***Richard will immediately distribute Colleen's personal statement and request for suspension of the two week notification rule.**

Bob and Loren had to leave the meeting at this point, with 5 Board members remaining. The Board discussed the Skagit Capacity Fund, and recognized the previous supporting conversations and the value of putting capital funds to good projects. The Board also recognized that there could be lost opportunities if we proceeded as proposed, and that the December retreat provided a particularly well-timed opportunity to ensure that we didn't have higher priorities at the moment. ***This should be worked into the retreat agenda.**

Ken and all ended the meeting with a HUGE thanks to Mr. Dave Pflug for his years of support and dedication, and the significant, positive impact he as an individual has had on the mission we are trying to achieve. He will be so sorely missed in so many ways.

Carolyn moved and Dave seconded, for the last time, a motion to adjourn, with that motion approved by consensus of the Board.

The meeting adjourned around 9:15 am.