

## Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes (#2)

### Meeting of the Board of Directors, SWC Office – October 3, 2019

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

Attendance: Chair Ken Dahlstedt, Bill Blake, Brendan Brokes, Michael Kirshenbaum, Steve Hinton, and John Stein. Staff include Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride

Not in attendance: Jon-Paul Shannahan, Andrew Bearlin and Jon Vanderheyden.

#### Call to Order 9:07 am

- Introductions, Determine Quorum, and Approve Agenda (#1) – Quorum present, revised agenda to include “Changes at SRSC” after “Approve New TWG Member”
- Approve Board Notes: October 4, 2019 (#2)—motion by Michael, second by Bill, approved.

#### Executive Directors Report

- Approved August Financial Report (#4)—Motion by Bill, second by John, approved. Information has gone to the tax accountant to start on for 2018 taxes. **\*2018 tax report should be available for review in November.**
- Personnel Update—**\*We will be advertising the Community Engagement position next week.** SWC may need to hire someone for small contracts to fill gaps between now and new hire. Staff are picking up slack on STEAM train and other work items for now.
- Committee Reports—Monitoring & Adaptive Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for the end of October. Protection Subcommittee passed a question to the TWG and Board regarding delta properties not historically included in the Protection Strategy. The Board agreed that revising the Protection Strategy was not a priority because these types of properties are rare, have lower threat and functioning at high potential already unless there can be a dike setback. Steve moved to greenlight the specific example parcel (adjacent to TNC) brought forward for acquisition as a special case, second by Bill, approved unanimously; Michael abstained. This does not need to go back to the TWG. Andrea also updated Board on other TWG topics.

#### New Business

- Approved New TWG Member – Jeff Fisher, Seattle City Light (#5)—Bill made the motion, Steve seconded, all approved.

- Changes at SRSC—Steve has resigned from SRSC, effective end of 2019. He will continue on the SWC Board until then. **\*SRSC’s member Tribes are considering how to replace him on the SWC Board** and at SRSC. He has started a new nonprofit called Salish Alliance to work on climate change and **\*would like to continue to be involved with SWC as a member in that capacity.**
- Steve also noted that SRSC’s RCO contracts from 2018 grant round are being held up because RCO inserted new language about waiving sovereignty and further transferring risk. Is a big road block for keeping momentum on chinook salmon habitat restoration. WDFW engaging with State RCO and Attorney General at request of Tribes. **\*SWC to raise issue in email to our regional recovery organization when time is right.**
- 2020 Lead Entity Program Timeline (#6)— Major changes this year from RCO, so a new schedule has been drafted. It was suggested that the Council of Members meeting be moved to occur before final applications are due so that we provide timely review and input opportunities. **\*Richard will make that change.**
- Discuss Inclusion of Lower River/Estuary in SWC Protection Strategy—see “Committee Reports” above.
- [Sauk River Tributary Culverts/Hobbit Corner Project Status](#)—tabled for now.
- [WDFW Capital Request for Wiley Slough Dike Repair](#)—request for funding is included in WDFW’s capital funds request. There’s an interest in receiving more design details for review. **\*Brendan said that can be provided as the project progresses.**
- Salmon Recovery Council – Ken, Bill and Richard attended and reported out to Board.
- Skagit Water Supply Task Force – Richard, Bill, Alison Studley, Eric Beamer asked to present, agenda details still TBD.
- WDFW Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and Island Unit Advisory Group— Richard designated to participate in both. Reports to follow in coming months.
- Lower Skagit Temperature TMDL – Just completed third meeting of stakeholders. Ecology will write a generic plan (with pick-list of tasks necessary for future action) by December deadline that will allow flexibility in funding future watershed-specific plans and action. Watershed plans will need to include info from practitioners about currently willing landowners and the status of existing plans. Also need to roll up sleeves in focused areas; there is plenty of current need.
  - **\*Very important to recognize that if this voluntary approach is to be successful then all involved need to work harder and smarter to listen to landowners so we can provide enhanced incentives that they will utilize.** For example, better land valuation approaches if easements/fee simple acquisition is to work for landowners.
  - Agreement that this is broader than just agricultural buffers, that there are many urban/suburban/forestry impacts as well for instance.

- WDFW's draft riparian guidelines recommend site potential tree height. Will be very tough to attain this everywhere but is that needed everywhere if we utilize performance-based criteria and more rigorous effectiveness monitoring for temperature reduction in the streams? With respect to how much is enough, there is some information that hedgerows in limited, non-fish areas reduce downstream temperatures, such as in Whatcom County, but more review is necessary and there is a need for replication of the science. Is this adequate assuming temperature is the primary issue to address first?
- Consider providing access for dredging where drainage requires it, but in a way that still meets fish needs.
- **\*Several efforts underway to align current and future funding with these tasks, including a new SFEG 319 water quality grant (for tree planting and outreach/education), an NEP grant for reach level planning, and existing SRFB acquisition assessments.**
  - Concern about issues with complex Ecology contracting, billing, and liability transfers. RCO is better, but still problematic for sponsors.

**Adjourn 10:45am**