

**Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom**  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:00am to noon**

(Underline indicates decision point; \***Bold indicates action item**)

**Attending:** John Stein (Chair), Bill Blake, Michael Kirshenbaum, Brian Lanouette, Andrew Bearlin, Peter Browning, Devin Smith, Holli Watne, Aundrea McBride, Richard Brocksmith

**Absent:** Brendan Brokes

**Call to Order** 10:02am

- Introductions, quorum achieved.
- Motion by Andrew, second by Peter to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously, Brian abstains.
- Approved Board Notes for September 1st, 2022 as presented. Motion by Bill, second by Michael. Approved unanimously, Brian abstains.

**Executive Director and Committee Reports**

Financials—In the black for August. Nothing to note. \***Richard will do a month over month, year over year comparison for next meeting.** Motion by Peter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill to approve August Financial Reports. Approved unanimously, Brian abstains.

Federal tax preparation are underway with BC Accounting. \***Taxes should be reviewed at next Board meeting. \*Looking for an auditor to review 2021/2022.**

**Committees**

- CEC—Finalized the K-12 resource pages for teachers and training for teachers on stormwater.
- Protection Subcommittee is still working on two properties with restoration needs. No greenlights since last meeting. \***In the process of reviewing the 2022 Protection Strategy update to incorporate restorable lands process and Sauk extension into Snohomish County.**
- M&AM Subcommittee did not meet.
- TWiG had a brief meeting due to lack of quorum. We discussed needing new members to replace WDFW and PSE representatives and creating juicier agendas.
- Riparian Work Group did not meet. Aundrea continues to work on preparing for the North Sound Riparian Conference in January.

Rose foundation grant was submitted for \$24,000. We will hear back in late November.

Skagit Salmon Science Series videos are published with presentations and the full Q and A that Greg prepared but did not get to finish presenting. Still determining how to promote the materials. Steering committee will meet to decide if a November presentation is a good idea. Otherwise, next one is in December. Still need to cover freshwater habitats and upland processes. All would like more 2-way conversation and Q and A. John advocates for a November meeting

### **Old Business**

PSAR rollover policy: SWC and it's Lead Entity Citizens Committee developed and advocated a policy change to allow PSAR to be held over from 2022 to 2023 rather than it being swept into the Puget Sound regional pot of funding. Salmon Recovery Council met recently and voted affirmatively on that policy to allow lead entities this opportunity. **\*SWC will roll over \$2.7M into the 2023 grant round.**

### **New Business**

Skagit Estuary Restoration Strategic Assessment, presented by Jenny Baker (WDFW) and Jenna Friebe (Skagit DIDC). Jenny and Jenna presented 22 slides overviewing the origins of this study from the Farms Fish and Flood Initiative and then how the ERSA framework evaluated restoration site alternatives in the context of benefits and impacts to those 3 sections.

### Comments and Questions:

- SWC advocated for funding, participated in the project, provided presentation opportunities to the TWiG and the Annual Lunch (all members meeting), and added feasibility for their identified 'green' projects to the SWC 4 year work plan.
- New staff and leaders at Skagit organizations need to be informed about this work so they can keep it alive hope to begin to use it for implementation.
- What was the process for reaching out to landowners in 'green' project areas that are shown on the map? Answer from presenters: The Chinook Plan had no buy in so there is no landowner support. Implementing ERSA was predicated on TFI but that has fallen apart.
- Common messages are important. As important was different groups representing and speaking for their own interests in the process that led to some common messages. This includes group learning from this equitable process. Jenna emphasized importance of learning as we go and feedback to the community on effectiveness of actions to date.
- What should we be doing differently for adaptive management?

- Fir Island Farm had a detailed adaptive management plan in advance, crossing all sectors, unlike Wiley Slough. Also ensure programmatic improvements such as funding infrastructure at the State level with salmon money if it is specified as an objective originally in the project. Landowner agreement with the Dike District for necessary operational milestones in advance of the project was a good idea.
- Be inclusive and transparent up front; have the right people involved and take concerns seriously.
- Recognize things will happen and we will have to learn and adapt.
- It is good having this update with the current SWC Board and parties responsible for drainage.
- Next steps?
  - Continue bringing interests together and hope to build common or at least supportable desires, actions and messages.
  - The lack of agreement on basic data is surprising. We should have a common agreement on the technical science.
  - Roles and responsibilities are not agreed upon. The DD is not responsible for meeting Chinook recovery goals. Relationships have been damaged.
  - There is a failure to agree on what 'we' are actually doing.
  - Adaptive management happens along a spectrum from single trial and error to sophisticated statistical analysis methods (Cadillac often cost prohibitive). We get lost along that spectrum. SWC has the opportunity to support these needs.
  - We are hopeful we can all sit at the same table someday.
- Most landowners in the community support salmon recovery and farming and want this to be resolved in the best public interest.
- A pragmatic approach is to put together a team and start to get to work.

SWC Organizational Structure: Brian reports that he and David Hawkins have agreed to work on draft bylaws for the SWC but aren't ready to share it yet. They will have it ready for the November Board meeting. SRSC notes that the more time they have in advance of that meeting the better equipped to respond they will be. Bylaws could be changed at the next Membership meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> if approved November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Adjourn 12:00**