

**Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom**  
**October 7th, 2021, 10am to Noon**

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

**Attending:** John Stein (Chair), Andrew Bearlin, Brendan Brokes, Bill Blake, Peter Browning, Devin Smith, Aundrea McBride (notes), Holli Watne, Richard Brocksmith

**Not in attendance:** Michael Kirshenbaum, Jon Vanderheyden

**Call to Order** 10:06 am

- Introductions, quorum achieved.
- Approved Agenda. Motion by Bill, second by Brendan, approved unanimously.
- Approved Board Notes for September 2, 2021. Motion by Bill, second by Andrew, approved as presented, unanimously, Devin abstains.

**Executive Director's Report**

Financial Report:

- New bookkeeping and accountant team on board and prepared June and July financial reports. June is end of fiscal year, with both June and fiscal year in the black. BC Accounting prepared a memo to the Board documenting several yearend corrections for uncleared transactions following their detailed review upon on-boarding. Motion to approve June and July reports by Brendan, second by Peter, unanimously approved.
- Our accountant identified a difference in the actual employee paycheck retirement withholding starting 2020 and the amount disbursed to Ameriprise, shorting employees and reducing investment returns. SWC is correcting the error as shown in the accountant's memo ASAP by contributing the difference. **\*It was also directed by Board to return in October with a specific percentage of lost investment opportunity as accurately as can be determined to complete the reimbursement process.**
- Federal 990 tax form in progress and might be available at next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- M&AM Subcommittee did not meet since the last Board meeting.
- Protection Subcommittee (PS) continues work on the draft Approval Process for Degraded Lands Purchase and they are reviewing one parcel for purchase.
- TWG started their review of PS's Approval Process for Degraded Lands Purchase. They held a focus group on the topic today. Also began discussion of Strategic Approach and

Program Guide updates that need to occur this fall and winter, as discussed by Board last month.

- CEC is trying to figure out how to serve schools (in-person vs. virtual). May do afterschool programs. Luminary art exhibit at MONA October 23<sup>rd</sup>-mid Feb.

## Old Business

Local Integrating Organization (LIO):

- PSP and the National Estuary Program continue to strengthen the LIO's role in implementation, including likely providing dedicated \$100k/year for projects \$125k/year for facilitation, which is over \$1M over next 5 years. Skagit does not have an LIO in place and so will miss these resources if it doesn't act.
- Would like to invite PSP representative to talk about what LIO entails. More information is needed to move forward.
- **\*John and Bill will talk to Laura and others at PSP about presenting November 4.**

Cost Increase Request for Sauk Habitat Project:

- NSD consultants have made progress on reach and erosion/migration assessments. Patterned off Middle Skagit Plan, with improvements. **\*The products will go through TWG in a couple of weeks.**
- Next step is to develop restoration project concepts. Not a lot of bank armoring or isolated channels like in the Middle Skagit, but channel stability and bed stability are issues that have been identified in past reports by Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe (SSIT) and are projected to get worse.
- Would like to ask for 20% cost increase from PSAR to have consultants help examine related restoration strategies. ~\$21,000. Richard would like a approval from the Board contingent on TWG approval of cost increase and time extension.
- **\*Will continue coordinating with Snohomish County and SSIT.**
- Motion to approve cost increase request contingent on TWG approval by Devin, second by Peter, passed unanimously.

## New Business

Director transition planning

- Nominating Committee met. Recommends sending a letter from the Board asking the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe to rejoin the Board. Offer to meet to listen and discuss their needs at Upper Skagit. And asking for Board nomination from USIT. **\*Board asked Richard and John to send that letter.**
- **\*RB will have a conversation with Alison at SFEG about how that organization would like to be represented.**
- Hope that Brendan and Michael will renew their terms next year!

- Would still like representation from the ag community. **\*Will work on personal connections before sending a letter.**

#### County Communication

- A recent memo from Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney to the agricultural community has said county has no evidence that estuary restoration is working and that it should be put on hold until Seattle City Light agrees to implement fish passage at their dams. The County welcomes corrections to misstatements, so **\*Board would like to ensure they get more accurate information related to the clear success of estuary restoration.**
- Email request came from Commissioners asking who funds us. **\*It is public information so we will respond.**

**Adjourn 12:18pm**