

Skagit Watershed Council – Final Notes
Meeting of the Board of Directors, via Zoom
September 2nd, 2021, 10am to Noon

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

Attending: John Stein (Chair), Andrew Bearlin (10:50), Brendan Brokes (10:50), Bill Blake, Michael Kirshenbaum, Jon Vanderheyden, Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride (notes)

Not in attendance: Jon-Paul Shannahan (officially resigned from the Board effective end of August), Peter Browning, Devin Smith

Call to Order 10:00 am

- Introductions, quorum not achieved until 10:50am, at which time we revisited the agenda and notes.
- Approved Agenda. Motion by Michael, second by Bill, approved unanimously.
- Approved Board Notes for August 5, 2021. Motion by Bill, second by Brendan, approved as presented, unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Committee Reports:

- TWG and M&AM Subcommittee did not meet since the last Board meeting
- Protection Subcommittee is working on a draft Approval Process for Degraded Lands Purchase and they are reviewing the draft Sauk protection strategy model outputs.
- CEC is compiling resources for K-12 resource list and working on Illuminight.

Old Business

Lead Entity Program Update:

- Devin, Aundrea and Richard met with NFWF to discuss funding for the McGlenn project. This looks likely, so thanks to SRSC for doing extra legwork to apply for the new grant funding and establish that relationship. ***We may want to host NFWF staff for a site tour of the Skagit.** If approved in early November, we would not need to borrow that funding from Snohomish lead entity.

Annual Lunch Agenda:

- September 22nd, remote meeting due to COVID, 12-1 shortened meeting due to SCL Roundtable at 1pm, with maybe a virtual lounge before.

- Opening remarks by John Stein, tribes, County; Updates on SWC programs and big picture review of past, current, and future projects and themes in history. It'll be good to step back given context of changes over last few months.
- Address "How is restoration working?" since we have clear effectiveness numbers in many places. Address how climate and ocean are relevant to our work.

New Business

2021/2022 Work Plan Outline (see attached draft):

- Strategic Approach Updates:
 - Reviewed long list of potential edits. ***Staff will bin and then address these topics into those that are ripe and supported (e.g. increased pocket estuaries, riparian eligibility changes required by RCO), those that require only general policy statements (e.g. climate and monitoring), and those that require more in-depth policy discussion and likely more time (e.g. marine mammals, marine shorelines, floodplain priorities, steelhead).**
- Remaining work items are appropriate but questions about capacity to address all.

Director Transition Planning:

- Jon-Paul Shannahan has resigned from the Board and taken a new job in Whatcom County. We all wish him the best and will miss him.
- There was no clear succession proposal identified by USIT, ***but there is a desire to reach out to their leadership to explore how we best support and involve them next.** The Board will keep sharing information with Scott and Rick at USIT.
- Jon Vanderheyden's term expires in March and he will likely not renew. Brendan's and Michael's term expire as well.

Roundtable

- Presentin project is completed.
- Britt Slough and Barnaby projects going well.
- It was affirmed that we need to address the issue of a Skagit LIO.
- SLT has hired a new acquisition person (Jane Zillig's replacement), Jessica Lang.
- The new SCL habitat fund is \$2.5M for habitat projects in Skagit by license partners, increasing by \$0.5M/year until new license, meant to fill gaps.
- USFWS is doing a DNA study of lamprey in the Skagit. We may be able to tag on other species for added benefit.

Adjourn 12:00pm