

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, Zoom Call – September 3, 2020

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

Attending: Jon Vanderheyden, Bill Blake, John Stein, Ken Dahlstedt, Jon Paul Shannahan, and Brendan Brokes, Andrew Bearlin (~930am), Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride, and Holli Watne

Not in attendance: Michael Kirshenbaum, Devin Smith

Called to order 9:02am

- Introductions, quorum present
- Reviewed Agenda-approved with additions: 1) Returned PSAR funds and 2) County Comp Plan Amendments re: Hearing Examiner
- Approve Board Notes for August 2020. John S. moved, Brendan seconded, carries unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- No committee reports, as no committees met in August. ***Richard will be talking with committee chairs soon about goals for the next year.**
- July Financial Report: In the black. CD rolled over into a new CD, and interest deposited in bank account. Negotiating a new indirect rate of 21.9% with RCO. Brendan moved to approve financial report, Bill seconded, carries unanimously.

Old Business

- LE Process: Wiley adaptive management letter was finished and sent to SRFB. Thanks to the team effort.
- Salmon Recovery Barriers, Request from PS Partnership: Discussed latest draft. We are not making fast enough progress on recovery. Other systemic issues are restoration on private lands and incentives (we are running out of public lands to restore), regulatory alignment with recovery goals and science (FERC, GMA), and more funding including private sources and land donations needed. These issues are top of the list, and the remaining items on the list are also important (specific actions and projects highlighted). Getting Wiley across the finish line, and other community engagement, is important for continued collaboration with private landowners. Avoid mixed messages, such as recognizing there has been work on private land. ***Richard will update the list with these comments and re-circulate with draft notes.**

- Community Engagement Implementation Plan: Staff updated. Holli is working on story maps, blogs such as “where the salmon are” and Steam Train in the schools with partners. ***Suggestions to dovetail messages with TMDL videos, consider audience of potential funders, and include cultural resources/history in outreach materials. *WDFW staff can support.** Good stories facilitate partnerships and new funding.

New Business

- Approved contract amendment for bookkeeping services. Bill moved, Andrew seconded, unanimous consent.
- Annual Lunch (virtual): supported the proposed agenda. ***Work projects into Annual Report if possible.**
- Directors Nominations: Nominating committee proposes Devin and Bill be presented for second terms and that Ken’s spot remain vacant ***until new county commissioners come into office and can consider their involvement. *Committee continues to recruit new Directors focusing on missing diversity and interest components.** Motion to approve Bill’s and Devin’s nominations by Brendan, seconded by John S., unanimous consent, Bill abstained.
- PSAR Return Funds: \$1.4 to 1.6 mil is being returned from Hansen Creek Minkler Road bridge. That old money “expires” in June of 2021. Unanimous support for prioritizing repayment of \$625k debt owed by the Watershed Council to PSAR and then likely fund down the approved project list with remainder. ***Richard will speak with sponsors and consider implications and options of this approach and get back to the Board very soon.**
- Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP): Aundrea presented a summary of changes to SRP, formerly known as the Habitat Work Schedule, and future potential uses of the improved database. It produces our 2 and 4 year work plans and will be linked to future blog posts and reporting.

Good of the Order

Thanks to Ken (who is leaving the board in September as he prepares to leave county commissioner role 12/31/2020) and thanks from Ken for a great, long run of getting good work done. It’s been a good run!

Adjourn 11:00 am