

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, Hybrid Meeting at Skagit Watershed Council

October 5th, 2023

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

Attending Directors: John Stein (Chair), Devin Smith, Andrew Bearlin, Alison Studley, Emmett Wild, Peter Browning, Richard Brocksmith (Executive Director)

Guests: Jenn Johnson, Brian Lanouette, Aundrea McBride, Holli Watne, Will Honea, Clyde Halstead, David Hawkins, Mike See

Call to Order: 10:30

Quorum achieved.

Agenda revised to move the alluvial fan monitoring project discussion earlier in the agenda.

Question raised as to whether Brian is still a voting Board member. David Hawkins clarified that Brian has resigned from the Board. Skagit County and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe would like to add an additional agenda item to discuss: What is the relationship between the nonprofit Board of Directors and the Lead Entity Citizens Committee. ***A Legal Subcommittee will be formed by lawyers from the county, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and possibly others from SWC member organizations to further explore this topic.** It was clarified that each Board member joins as an individual, not as a 'vote' for their organization, but able to provide input from the perspective of their organization and act as a communication facilitator for their organization. The Board is the body that administers the operation of the nonprofit. The Lead Entity Citizens Committee is required by legislation and makes final decisions about voluntary habitat project lists and funding recommendations. The Watershed Council has insurance covering Board Directors and Officers liability. This functionality was clear to some but not others. ***The discussion will continue at a later date, with input from the Legal Subcommittee.**

September 7th notes tabled.

Executive Director's Report and Committee Reports

Executive Director's report tabled.

Committee reports provided in writing.

Old Business

Approved scope change for Alluvial Fan Monitoring Project. Motion by Emmett, seconded by Alison. Devin abstained.

Executive Director job description: Proposal to strike the words “and policy” from the job description. This is revised language to address County’s concern about the role of the Watershed Council. It’s not a policy-making body outside of the roles defined in its bylaws about voluntary habitat restoration. Skagit County also proposed to strike education and outreach from the job description. Education and outreach are fundamental parts of the nonprofit and lead entity by contract and since its inception. Question was raised about how to ensure communications do not claim to represent the opinions of Board members who do not agree with the science communicated. There is a detailed communication policy developed by the Board. A disclaimer can be used. Details of job duties will be worked out by the Board with the new hire. Motion by Alison, seconded by Peter. All approved SWC Executive Director Position Announcement including removal of the phrase “and policy”. ***Richard will launch the advertising campaign.**

New Business

Appointing Jenny Baker (WDFW) and Jenn Johnson (Skagit County) to M&AM Subcommittee and Jes Lange (SLT) and Alex Richard (WDFW) to Technical Work Group tabled.

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council member an alternate appointment tabled.

Providing direction on RCO Riparian Fund Policy options tabled.

Discussion of new riparian funding for 2023 SWC Lead Entity Project List tabled.

Adjourn 11:50pm.