

Skagit Watershed Council - Final Notes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, Zoom Call – August 11, 2020

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

Attending: Jon Vanderheyden, Michael Kirshenbaum, Bill Blake, John Stein, Devin Smith, Richard Brocksmith, Aundrea McBride, Ken Dahlstedt, Jon Paul Shannahan, and Brendan Brokes

Not in attendance: Andrew Bearlin

Called to order 12:35 pm

- Introductions, Quorum present
- Reviewed Agenda-approved
- Approve Board Notes: June 4, 2020 (#2). Michael moved, Bill seconded, carries unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- May and June Financial Report: John moved approval, Brendan seconded, carries unanimously. In the black for last fiscal year!

Old Business

- LE Process: With the timeline and process changes at the state level, Salmon Recovery Portal database changes, major increase in project needs, and COVID all together it has been a very difficult year. But most feel it was an opportunity we seized to come together on some difficult topics. ***This fall we will be working on project-level adaptive management and better guidelines around set-asides, among other topics.**
- Salmon Recovery Barriers: We are not making fast enough progress. The issues have been the same for 20 years. As requested by the Salmon Recovery Council, SRSC made a draft list of 4 barriers and related projects, mostly around temporal and spatial pace of restoration. To that the Board would consider adding invasive species; scientific validation and support of it by the community; tributary flows and water temperature; and hydrology process impacts of the dams. Ideally salmon recovery needs to be part of the GMA, such as science-informed regulations and critical areas enforcement, though these topics are more sensitive. ***Richard will draft a list for email and discussion at next Board meeting, including project examples.**
- Local Integrating Organizations (LIO) under the Puget Sound Partnership: Skagit is missing out on financial resources and planning opportunities by not having an LIO. SWC may submit to become an LIO. Next steps are:

- ***Check with tribal and local governments, with specific focus on concerns brought forward when this was first considered several years ago.**
- This is a 3-9 month process, so for implementation next year if this progresses.
***Needs a process timeline drafted.**
- ***Each Director will continue to seek policy guidance on this topic. We can broaden the circle from there.**
- ***Need to determine what freedom we have to create our own process and not get bogged down in the bureaucracy.**

New Business

- What will the County's role be in SWC with Ken leaving government? We will need at least a link to them, and hopefully another advocate to forward priorities and keep different interests working together. ***SWC staff to reach out to county commissioner candidates to share our work.**

Adjourn 1:05 pm