



Final Notes
Lead Entity Citizen Committee (LECC) Project Workshop
July 21, 2022, 9:00am-12:00pm,
Virtual Meeting with public comment available at Skagit Watershed Council

(***bold items denote action items**; underline denotes decision points)

Attending: John Stein (Puget Sound Partnership, facilitating) Brandon Roozen (Western WA Agricultural Assn.), Heather Spore (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community), Rick Haley (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group), Brian Lanouette (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Michael Kirshenbaum (Skagit Land Trust), Richard Brocksmith (Skagit Watershed Council), Scott Morris (Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe)

Guests: Aundrea McBride (Skagit Watershed Council, TRC), Devin Smith (Skagit River System Cooperative, SWC Board), Bob Warinner (WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, TRC), Michael See (Skagit County).

Beginning Business:

- Introductions and agenda review
- Reviewed LECC role, decision making process, and ground rules.
- Reviewed conflict of interest policies and matrix.
 - Added SITC and SSIT as conflicted on Milltown.
 - Approved revised conflict of interest matrix. Approved by consensus, Brian abstains. USIT is abstaining from all SWC decisions until the structure of the SWC Board is finalized.

Public Comment-none, no general public in attendance

Technical Review Committee (TRC) findings:

- LECC reviewed the technical order from the TRC and discussed set asides.
- Discussed the agreed-upon process for considering the Cedar Grove cost increase. LECC is tasked with the decision, based on TRC review and recommendation, on a case-by-case basis for cost increases. The TRC recommended approving the Cedar Grove cost increase.
- Reviewed the funding situation and allocation of monies (see list from TRC, #5)
 - Milltown will likely be funded with PSAR Large Cap or supplemental funding, thus freeing up \$3.85 million in SRFB and regular PSAR funds for the projects on the list.

- As recommended by the TRC, with some projects that requested SRFB funding using all the SRFB funds, this leaves us with \$2.6 million extra PSAR funds unallocated. According to current policy these would have to be returned to the region if not spent.
 - \$1.5 million of the SRFB funds can be rolled over to 2023 since they are supplemental budget funds with a special roll-over approval.
 - SWC will explore creating a construction reserve to hold funds over for Island Unit, Smokehouse or Similk construction project proposal in 2023 or 2024. We have a funding bottleneck anticipated for larger estuary restoration projects.
 - SWC will advocate for PSAR to allow rolling over funds for this unique year.
 - We could increase the ask for the Acquisition projects as another method to preserve the extra funds.

State Review Panel brief: All projects were cleared for funding at state level.

Discuss each project:

- Collaborative Riparian-How did it work making one collaborative project out of the two forced by RCO and PRISM? Not well. No other comments or questions.
- Milltown-no questions or comments
- Acquisition-
 - If properties listed in the project proposal aren't ultimately purchased, are different properties available to use this grant on? Yes.
 - What is the public outreach process? Letters, phone calls, word of mouth, events.
- Alder Creek-no questions or comments
- Barnaby Riparian-This is an important project to SITC, completing a big effort. No other questions or comments.
- Davis Slough
 - How connected is the project site to the river and fish? Periodic flooding of the Skagit and regular standing water connected to the slough.
- Similk-This project is important to SITC and has full support of the County. No other comments or questions.
- SFEG Riparian
- Clark Creek
 - What is the landowner situation? Will be determined as part of the feasibility study.
 - Will the alluvial fan question be addressed? Feasibility will address, potentially by hiring a geomorphologist.
- EF Nookachamps-Agriculture is an existing land use not a degradation. Farmers are concerned about plant diseases in riparian plantings. No other questions or comments.
- Bowman Bay
 - Are culverts on public trails subject to the injunction? No.
 - This is a highly visible project. Public outreach potential/concern.
 - Feasibility study will determine if the wetland is too high, beach gravel too coarse, or outlet channel not sustainable.

Briefing on funding options:

- SWC will continue to work on options for not losing any of the allocated funds.
- The LECC brainstormed which projects on the SRFB funding list could be moved over to PSAR so that the \$1.5 million could be rolled over (some of Similk, the SCL portion of the Acquisition project, the SRSC portion of the Collaborative Riparian project)
- ***SWC should explore every avenue for keeping the full allocation in the Skagit; will work with above mentioned sponsors about switching some components to PSAR; and will report back at next meeting.**

LECC reflections and information sharing

- There are no outstanding questions for sponsors to address before next meeting.
- Happy to see strong integration of infrastructure and habitat in our projects such as Similk Bay.
- Great projects!

Public Comment-none

4 Year Work Plan and Planned Project Forecast List

- The funding bottleneck in 2025 was pointed out
- SLT was listed twice (instead of SCL once and SLT once) in 2023 for acquisition projects.
This will be corrected in the database.
- All projects were left on the list as presented.

Adjourned 11:00