

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) Subcommittee

February 1, 2021, 2:00pm – 3:30pm, Zoom Meeting

(Underline indicates decision point; parentheses indicate attachment #)

Attending: Richard Brocksmith (SWC, co-chair), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC, note taker), Greg Hood (SRSC co-chair), Jennifer O’Neal (Natural Systems Design), Eric Beamer (SRSC), Jeff Fisher (SCL)

Absent: Steve Hinton (Salish Alliance)

Guests:

Beginning Business

- Draft Agenda approved
- Approved March 2020 notes

2020 M&AM Report

- Eric is ok with finalizing the report without adding any comments as he had proposed last year.
- This subcommittee recommends the report be approved by this group and the TWiG and for use as a working document. It will be on next agenda for approval.

Monitoring Program Changes

Background: SRFB has only \$300,000 set aside for monitoring to be shared between 7 regions. We no longer have the option of setting aside 10% of our allocation. Monitoring proposals are vetted and approved for funding by the Regions and the Monitoring Panel. Their new/evolving criteria are to address ‘critical uncertainties’ and priority knowledge gaps, build a pilot program for scaled down floodplain effectiveness monitoring project using novel remote sensing techniques, and annually evaluate the ability to fund Regional monitoring projects.

- We would like to build a record of negative feedback for SRFB failing to fund local monitoring priorities or any monitoring adequately.
- We would like to enlist the Region in advocating for our priorities.
- We would like to poll other LEs about how they are getting monitoring done.
- We need an approach for this year and for ongoing funding of monitoring. Future will be discussed at next meeting. Proposal for this year must be reviewed before April 10th by this subcommittee (next meeting).

2021 Monitoring Set Aside

- This year we recommend a change to the Program Guide to allow effectiveness monitoring in addition to status and trends monitoring.
- Status and trends monitoring is better funded by EPA.
- IMW is likely going away in a few years.
- SRSC will put forward a proposal for effectiveness monitoring at South Fork and Britt Slough projects. Cost is about \$60,000 just for data collection.
- Other projects in the delta have full or partial funding for effectiveness monitoring already (Smokehouse, Deepwater2, Milltown)
- We recommend to TWiG and Board a nondiscretionary set aside of \$50,000 for monitoring be added to the RFP for 2021
- Part of the purpose of this set aside is to make a statement about the importance of monitoring to SWC. We would like a set aside every grant round.

Updates and Announcements

- Aundrea will circulate a Doodle Poll for our next meeting