

SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Skagit Watershed Council Conference Room February 2, 2012

The meeting began at 8:40 a.m. with Steve Hinton, Dave Pflug, Bob Carey, Ken Dahlstedt, Bob Everitt and Shirley Solomon in attendance.

The meeting notes of January 5 were acknowledged.

FINANCIAL. There was no Budget Report this month.

2012 SRFB FUNDING ROUND. The Watershed Coordinator's Report, which provided details of the RFP and the Sponsor Workshop, was reviewed. Board members were advised of two upcoming dates: March 1 Sponsor presentations of 2012 project proposals and June 28 Project Prioritization. They were further advised that attendance on March 1 is a requirement for participating in project prioritization on June 28. "If you are not familiar with project details you have not the information necessary to determine prioritization."

REVISED COST INCREASE POLICY. This topic was inadvertently skipped and will be dealt with electronically.

PROTECTION COMMITTEE REPORT. Protection Committee Chair Bob Carey reviewed his memo to the Board on the Cumberland Bar parcel, which was approved for acquisition through an existing SRFB "block" grant. The parcel did not meet the bar set by the cost effectiveness formula but was considered by all but one of the Committee members to be a worthy acquisition because it represents the final "puzzle piece" to completing the protection of the Cumberland peninsula. Steve Hinton indicated that SRSC would be providing a minority opinion shortly, expressing their disapproval of the decision on the grounds that the property does not represent the functioning habitat that was supposed to be targeting through acquisition block grants. Rather, it represents an excellent example of a property that should more appropriately be evaluated as a combination project, with acquisition as a component of restoration. The shortcomings of the formula and the nexus between protection and restoration are ongoing difficult issues for the Council and it was agreed that we should use this example to engage in a broader conversation on how to tackle the matter in the future. We will plan on how to do so once the SRSC letter has been received.

TRANSITIONAL PLANNING. The Board interviewed Jay Watson as a potential consultant to assist the Council in preparing for the future and heard from him his experience and thoughts on how he would undertake this work. Following the interview the Board to a person agreed that Jay's credentials were impressive and that he would bring a wide range of pertinent expertise to the task. The Board agreed to retain his services and instructed Shirley to begin the process of developing a scope of work, with a schedule start date of May 1. The draft scope will be reviewed at the March 1 Board meeting, with anticipated decision on the final scope, budget and source of funding at the April 5 meeting.

The Board then had a wide-ranging conversation about opportunities, possibilities and the array of options open to us. There was a brief review of the LIO development meeting held on January 25. Rebecca Ponzio is in the process of writing up the summary of that meeting together with a set of questions as part of the next steps. Rebecca has been made aware that the Council is in the process of hiring a consultant to assist the Council better prepare for the future and that it was important that there not be confusion between these efforts. Now that we have agreed to retain Jay we will convey this to her and let her know the schedule we are working under. We agreed that we would need to stay in close

contact with PSP and shape this opportunity in a way that best meets local objectives. This will succeed only to the extent that it is locally accepted, locally-driven process with a locally-shaped agenda.

Others discussion points:

- Both the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe want to be part of the Watershed Council's conversation, in the Council's venue. Steve will offer guidance on how and when that should occur. It was suggested that Shirley visit with Doreen and this she will do.
- Suggestions: Regarding the interviews that Jay would conduct (using the chain referral method of interview, I must add) they should include any organization or entity that has resources dedicated to elements of the recovery plan, or is receiving such resources.
- Suggestion re possible structure: Political Branch(local and tribal government electeds/Functional Branch (staff and other organizations/Council of Governments Intergovernmental Interlocal Agreement/Enhanced 501(3) c)
- Comment: LIOs are what Lead Entities were 15 years ago. It's an organizing structure, which can be built in a way that best meets local objectives.
- We can select those elements on which to work. Our centerpiece is the Recovery Plan and we still have a way to go with implementation. Why not tackle that first?

The meeting ended at 11:50 a.m. in a state of optimism and enthusiasm.