

# SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting

Watershed Council Conference Room

October 6, 2011

## SUMMARY NOTES

In attendance: Carolyn Kelly, Bob Carey, Dave Pflug, Bob Everitt, Ken Dahlstedt, Steve Hinton and Shirley Solomon. Mary Raines joined the meeting for the Business section of the agenda.

**Review August 4 meeting summary.** Under the topic FINNCIAL changed the October 4 date to October 6. Under MEETING SCHEDULE reported that the Technical Work Group was consulted as requested. Noted that the HANSEN CREEK COST INCREASE was approved.

**FINANCIAL.** The Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Financial Report and the Bi-Monthly Budget Report for July and August were presented. Discussion involved a small number of clarifying questions together with the observation that the Budget to Actual Report did not provide much useful information so early in the fiscal year. Overall, the Board indicated general satisfaction with the reports and the established bi-monthly reporting schedule and again noted that they want to be informed immediately should anything untoward or unplanned-for occur with either expenditures or revenues.

### BUSINESS

**Board election results.** Ballots were sent out to the seventeen member organizations in early August with a return request date of September 5. Fourteen ballots were returned with unanimous approval of the slate of candidates. Congratulations, Bob Carey, Ken Dahlstedt and Steve Hinton on your election to a three-year term (Fall 2011 – Fall 2014). Terms for Solomon, Pflug, Everitt, and Kelly are up Fall 2012. Two Board seats are open. Board Development will be initiated in February as part of Strategic Planning.

**Annual Lunch: Review.** Eighty five people were in attendance. The sockeye were donated by USIT, filleted by Black Rock and barbequed by WDFW. The program consisted of a presentation by Mary on Middle Skagit Initiative; Awards to Lloyd Moody (RCO/GSRO), Marc Duboiski, Bob Warinner and Rebecca Ponzio; and the Keynote by Alison Studley, Ryan Walters and Amy Wilcox. There was a 11x17 flier listing and mapping SRFB projects from 2000 – 2011 on each place, as a handout.

**Status of approved cost increases.** RCO policy stated that the three cost increase requests – Fisher \$149,470; Fir Island Farms \$25,000 and Howard Miller \$18,000 – should be paid out of the Skagit 2011-2012 PSAR allocation which would be approved by the SRFB at the December meeting. This wait placed a hardship on the Fisher and Fir Island Farms project sponsors so the Council requested that RCO find a way to approve and process the requests more expeditiously. RCO, in consultation with PSP, will use unspent/returned 2009/2011 PSAR funds which can be released immediately, and has advised us that Director Cottingham has signed all three Skagit amendments (Fisher, Fir Island & Howard Miller), with payable with 2007 PSAR funds. They have been mailed to all three sponsors.

Written reports were provided for the **Three Year Work Plan**, the **Habitat Work Schedule**. Solomon asked that members call if they have questions about either of these work products.

A summary of the **2011 SRFB Funding Round** was presented and discussed. **Proposal for 2012 SRFB Funding Round.** As a context, 2012 is a SRFB-only funded year, with the anticipated allocation in the \$1M to \$1.3M range. The recommendation, agreed to by the Technical Work Group at its September 1 meeting, is to focus on those projects already in the pipeline and work together as a cooperative, collaborative team to decide what to move forward, based on readiness and importance. Those projects include: Gilligan, Cottonwood, Fir Island Farms, Davis Slough, Ilabot Phase 2, Hansen, Savage, McGlenn and Lower Day Creek Rip Rap Removal.

December 1	Meeting to determine which “already in the pipeline” projects to move forward on the basis of importance and readiness	Technical Work Group, Board, Council Staff and member organizations
Mid January	Workshop (tailored to the needs of the projects moving forward and designed to provide resources that will strengthen proposals and sponsor partnerships )	Potential Sponsors, Technical Work Group, Board, Council Staff and member organizations
March 1	Sponsor presentation(s) of project proposal(s)	Technical Work Group, Board, staff, member organizations
April 27	Full SRFB application entered in PRISM due to the Council	
May 15	Watershed Council Technical Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project site visit(s) and office debrief</li> </ul>	Technical Reviewers, Watershed Coordinator. 2 SRFB Review Panel members and SRFB Project Manager will attend the field reviews only.
By May 21	Review Team comments forwarded to project sponsors who are required to address comments in their final applications	Watershed Coordinator
June 22	Revised FINAL applications due to Skagit Watershed Council via PRISM. Sponsors submit to the Watershed Coordinator the review comment table specifying how comments were addressed.	The applications need to be complete at this point
July 10	Technical reviewers meet to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine if comments were adequately addressed by the project sponsor;</li> <li>• determine if a project proceeds to prioritization; and</li> <li>• assign technical scores</li> </ul>	Technical Reviewers, Council staff
August 2	Reviewed projects prioritized.	Council Prioritization Committee (Board and one Local Project Review Group member whose organization is not a project sponsor)
August 10	Draft SWC funding list due to RCO and to PSP for consistency check with PS Recovery Plan	Council staff
August ?	Draft Skagit Project List publicized to sponsors, members and the community.	Council staff
August 24	RCO deadline for complete project applications submitted in PRISM	Project sponsors

The Board, after a robust discussion, agreed with the recommendation but several members did not want to preclude “other projects” from coming forward or forego new opportunities by focusing only on certain projects.

**This change will be discussed with the Technical Work Group at the lunch meeting following this meeting and changes will be made to so reflect.**

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Action Items.** These were quickly surveyed with attention paid to the topic of Strategic Planning, projected to be initiated in February. This exercise will address the changes in operating context brought about by the Puget Sound Partnership, the overall budget crisis, and the anticipated departure of the longtime chair – all fundamental issues with respect

to the future of the organization. The Board agreed that we should look for help with this task.

**Protection Committee Report.** Committee Chair Bob Carey, in a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview of the recent activities of the Protection Committee, in particular the land purchases that have been enabled by SRFB grants. All agreed that this presentation more than met the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board request that the Committee make more frequent reports to the Board and provide a list of proposed and completed acquisitions on a more regular basis.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. and moved into an **informal lunch meeting with the Council's Technical Work Group.**

In attendance: Technical Work Group members Doug Bruland, Phil Kincare, Alison Studley, Jeff McGowan, Devin Smith and Ed Connor. Board members Steve Hinton Carolyn Kelly, Bob Everitt, Bob Carey, Dave Pflug and Shirley Solomon. Watershed Coordinator Mary Raines.

The context of the informal round robin discussion was the 2012 SRFB Funding Round noted in the Board notes above. Highlights are notes below:

- This is about a more strategic approach to collectively develop a suite of priority projects
- In the face of reduced revenues and great need, how to best put our collective minds together?
- This is a way to cooperatively work together to move through some of the impediments, be they MOA between partners of the project management process
- Sponsors hold tight onto projects. Would like to see more open communication and a more open process generally – these are the ones we want to move forward and we will work together to get them moving.
- Keep it open. Don't want to miss a good opportunity
- Limited dollars and more complex, expensive projects. We need to work as a collective more effectively
- Supports moving older feasibility projects forward
- It's a question of time, money and energy. What is the one thing that we can do collectively? That must be done collectively in order to succeed.
- Partnerships will be needed to get some of those that have been in development for a while going. Encourages airing these things out.
- The County is ready to partner more and can do so with resources of all sorts

- Makes sense to think collectively about projects. But does not want to foreclose those that we have not yet seen.
- Must leave ourselves open to opportunity. Ask ourselves what we will be missing if we focus on just one or two.
- Need to focus in more precisely around the question of collective action. Blanket collective actions or more focused on certain steps in the process?
- Generally, how do we fund all these projects? How do we make those strategic decisions on what to move forward?
- Good to focus on primed and ready to go. Also good not to close the door on the new opportunity.
- There is also a short list of PSNERP projects that have merit.
- There is indeed a budget crisis and the future looks bleak. We will be forced to make strategic decisions re what to recommend for funding.
- We need to be flexible and adaptable and not try to impose a formulaic approach
- The devil is always in the details but with good will and forbearance we can move into a more open, sharing, cooperative mode of operation
- This shift needs to unfold in a somewhat organic way, with not too much specificity

The Board is scheduled to adopt an approach to the 2012 SRFB Funding Cycle at the November 3 Board meeting. The interests and concerns expressed in these notes will be incorporated into the draft that the Board will consider.