

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

February 28th, 2022, 9:00am –10:30am, Zoom Meeting

(Underline indicates decision point; **bold** are action items)

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

Absent:

Guests: Mike LeMoine (SRSC), Hannah Liss (PSP)

Beginning Business

- Draft Agenda approved
- Approved January 2022 notes, moved by Rick, 2nd by Jen, all approved.

2022 Monitoring Project/s

- Hydromod update (\$150k): It is time to update the hydromod layer. This could be an assessment or maybe monitoring project, though Regional significance is weak.
 - USTI may not have capacity for this work right now.
 - This is timely with 2021 flooding. New riprap is going in.
 - Would need permit review as part of it.
 - Could use drone or side scan LiDAR rather than floating the whole river. LiDAR data could be used for other things as well.
- Barnaby monitoring (\$25k): BACI evaluation is happening. This would add to it by expanding Beechie and Beamer 2005 capacity across habitat types. Can be linked to 2D flow models to evaluate fish density insitu for adaptive management. Includes Presentin and Skiyou. Funding would be to synthesize data and determine fish benefits of restoration projects.
 - There is a new flow model at scale of mainstem.
 - This follows example from Trinity
- Cattail impact of food web (\$25k): what are the impacts of invasive cattail monoculture on CK food webs. This pairs with vegetation mapping already funded.
 - Plays into ongoing invasives control work by WDFW
 - May not be a high priority Regionally (PSP)
- Milltown channel monitoring (\$25k): sample tidal channel network intensively for fish density to determine how many channels and how big a network influences fish use. Do fish disperse throughout the channel network?
 - Must be done next year
 - Could possibly find other funding
- Barnaby, Cattail and Milltown leverage current projects at habitat scale.
- Jeff is most interested in Cattail
- Bob likes Cattail and Milltown because Barnaby is well covered at present by other sources

- Rick likes Barnaby because the questions it would answer come up again and again in ranking projects and will not be answered through FERC process. Cattail is Rick's second priority.
- Richard thinks Cattail is most immediately relevant to fish, but other two projects will have better Regional appeal.
- Cattail is a threat in Snohomish. Nisqually and Fraser too.
- Could the Cattail project include channel habitat components? Channels get choked with cattail wrack but don't seem to disappear or change (Greg)
- Could any of the SRSC projects be PSAR projects?
- **Aundrea will contact PSP and PSEMP folks for advice on monitoring project submittal.**
- **We will continue the discussion via email.**

Science Series (4S)

- March 16th is next in series focusing on Puget Sound and Skagit recovery plans, organizational structure
- Suggested we talk about population status including non-Chinook salmonids. The general story is we have stabilized the decline.
- **Mike will send out Ruckelshaus 2016 paper**

Subcommittee Structure

- Mike will be joining the subcommittee as co-chair (or chair), to be determined. Greg will be technical advisor.
- Several options to consider: Rick as co-chair, Bob as co-chair.
- Motion to propose to the Board that Mike be appointed to the M&AM Subcommittee by Bob, second by Rick, all approve. We will table the question of who will be chair/co-chairs.

Adjourn 10:30