

**Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWG)
December 19, 2019, 1:00 – 3:30PM, Skagit Watershed Council, Mount Vernon**

decisions underlined, **action items bold**

Attendees: Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Devin Smith (Skagit River System Cooperative), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Jeremy Gilman (USFS), Kari Odden (Skagit Land Trust), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light),

Absent: Doug Bruland (PSE), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe)

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Erin Murray (ex-officio member PSP, by phone), David Walde (Skagit County)

Beginning Business

Notes: November edited (ED) notes were approved by TWG with minor edits.

Membership:

- Erin Lowery will stay on the committee membership list as an alternate for Jeff Fisher
- Erik Anderson has been removed from the committee membership

Committee Reports

Board of Directors—no meeting

Protection Subcommittee—no meeting

M&AM (Aundrea)

- SWC M&AM 2019 Report to be approved in February

Steelhead Culvert Assessment Discussion Part 2

Summary from Devin:

- ~25 known Chinook barrier culverts (BCs) with known fish presence.
- ~113 BCs in Tier 1 and ~9 in Tier 2 that are eligible, but no documented Chinook use
- SRSC looked at habitat area above BCs using GIS and the number of culverts below a given culvert
- In tributaries, BCs were only found in sub-tributaries (28 public, 48 private).
- BC streams overlap with TMDL streams (Hansen, Carpenter, Fisher, Nookachamps)

Discussion:

- USIT has reservations about expanding the SRFB-eligible box at this time to implementing culvert projects except on a case by case basis when evaluated for Chinook priorities (and are not represented except by their email at this meeting)
- We need a ***map of the 25 Chinook BCs (SRSC)**. Probably only a handful of those will be advanceable at this time through SRFB. Field check these and prioritize as a next step.
- The need for Steelhead and BC planning is an objective we agree on.
 - If \$ is available for planning, SRSC and partners would do more field surveys and update/maintain BC database as well as do some admin/capacity building work.
 - We could get projects set up for when \$ becomes available.
- ***This topic will go to the Board for policy considerations on Jan. 9th.**
- ***SFEG and the County would like the Board to make some kind of proclamation or official acknowledgement that removing BCs is important and part of our goals to help them in applying for non-SRFB funds.**

PSAR Return Funds

- ~\$600,000 available.
- 6 projects applied for funding for a total of \$363,019. Each has been previously reviewed, vetted, and approved via the SRFB and lead entity process.
- There are no concerns about these projects. Aundrea moved and Kari seconded that the package of 6 projects be recommended to the Board for funding. All in favor. We have a quorum. There is no need to rank the projects because all will be covered by the amount available.

Project Name	PRISM #	Type	Spons or	Status	SRFB Funds	Return Funds Request	Revised Total Cost
Skiyou Rock Removal Feasibility and Design	18-1487	Restoration Design	Skagit Co. PW	Active	\$108,500	\$20,000	\$108,500
Skagit Forks Wetland/Britt Slough Reconnection	19-1420	Restoration	SFEG	Funded	\$286,056	\$25,600	\$411,056
Barnaby Reach Restoration Phase 1	19-1421	Restoration	SRSC	Funded	\$750,000	\$224,950	\$1,147,000
Skagit Basin Ongoing Project Maintenance 2019	19-1422	Riparian Restoration	SRSC, SFEG	Funded	\$167,858	\$30,000	\$197,980
Cedar Grove Fish Passage Improvement	18-1490	Restoration	Skagit Co. PW	Active	\$564,892	\$19,969	\$688,072
Martin Ranch Road Fish Passage	17-1160	Restoration	Skagit Co. PW	Active	\$221,000	\$42,500	\$310,000
TOTAL					\$2,098,306	\$363,019	\$2,461,325

- We brainstormed options for the remaining funds.
 - Repay loan
 - Extend another RFP

- Culvert initiative
 - TMDL project
 - Acquisitions
 - Presentin project, and similar construction projects that need final bit of revenue
 - Wait until March to decide
- ***This topic will go to the Board for policy considerations on Jan. 9th.**

Lead Entity Program

- There was a quick lead entity program update covering 4 year work plan, Program Guide, and draft Request for Proposals.

Concrete Sauk Valley Road/Hobbits Corner Design Review

- Given lack of certainty of funding at this time, the county is not moving ahead with planning for implementing the preferred alternative of road setback. This was seen as disappointing news to the TWG members.
- They are however proposing to complete design for replacing the two Osterman Creek barrier culverts.
- The ***County will provide a new SOW ASAP. Change in budget will change how much returned PSAR funding will be available.**