

## Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) January 21, 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm

(decisions underlined, **action items in bold**)

**Attendees:** All participated by Zoom meeting. Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Doug Bruland (PSE), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Regina Wandler (Skagit Land Trust), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light), Emily Derenne (Skagit County),

**Absent:** Jeremy Gilman (USFS)

**Guests:** Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Erin Murray (PSP)

### Beginning Business

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#### Agenda review

- Added agenda topics to review if site visits were needed for site evaluation

#### Introductions and check-in

#### Approve October notes

- Discussed notes regarding if site visits were necessary for 2021, added to agenda
- Accepted as revised (moved by Aundrea, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug)

### Committee Reports

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#### Board of Directors (Richard)

- Sauk Habitat Plan -RFQQ, received 5 proposals. No set deadline for decision – few habitat tribal biologists will help review. Hope to schedule review in next few weeks.
  - Hope to approve contracts by the board in March
- Board reviewed status of estuary projects moving forward and timing of implementation
  - Ask to create an updated map and portfolio of projects with descriptions in order to develop better communication tools for estuary projects.
  - Richard and Aundrea will bring forward a more formal agenda topic on this next month
- Working on a legislative letter with Tribes to reinforce SRFB/PSAR/ESRP/Fish Barrier Removal Board as important funding sources

#### Protection subcommittee (Bob)

- Skagit MV (#4a)

- No hydroamidations, green lighted
- Dalles Rd. (#4b)
  - Adjacent parcel to Skagit County
  - Making sure there are no hydromodifications
  - Tabled pending information about County wanting to own
- Protected Lands Database
  - Shows all lands in protected status. With Josh Greenberg moving to Ecology, looking for others to steward this data. Likely SWC will take it up.

#### PSAR returned funds (Aundrea)

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- \$33,000 remaining from Martain Rd Project
- \$10,000 from Cascade Project
- Put out quick RFP to existing projects to see if any projects have budget overruns. Received 2: Cedar Grove/Ovenell project and Skagit Forks/Britt Slough wetland reconnection
  - Cedar Grove/Overnell
    - Budget shortfall due to COVID, labor and wood costs
    - Request of \$115,000
    - 2018 project, ranked #5/12, Tier 1
  - Skagit Forks Wetland Reconnection
    - Budget shortfall due to COVID, wood prices and labor increases
    - Request \$44,524, actual overrun unknown, waiting on bid
    - 2019 project, ranked #3/4, Tier 1
- Split the baby (?)
- TWiG not sure how to rank projects against each other. Both have legitimate need. More time will give more certainty as bids come in.
- Alternative Options:
  - Ask SRFB for more \$\$
  - Ask for PSAR for regional return funds (after legislative session is over)
  - Ask NFWF for more \$\$
- **TWiG will postpone decision until next meeting (February 18th) or until after bids come in to allow for more certainty in funding requests from both projects**

#### Approve 2021 Program Guide and RFP (attached)

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- Program Guide edits approval
  - Approved as presented except...
  - No list of individuals in M&AM subcommittee in Appendix (Not officially part of SRFB process, but review monitoring projects) **Aundrea will add.**
- Monitoring Projects set aside for RFP
  - \$300,000 set aside at state for monitoring, managed by regions

- SRFB does not rank, leaves to region to rank through Regional Monitoring Panel
  - Each watershed can use up to 10% of their SRFB allocation towards monitoring projects
  - **Ask M&AM to convene next month to discuss monitoring projects to determine type of monitoring to fund in this grant round.**
  - **Pending Decision: should 10% of allocation be used for monitoring? Wait to discuss after M&AM meets.**
- Riparian Set Aside in RFP
- This will be a stewardship year for SFEG (less cost than planting years)
  - Purpose of the set aside is to lump smaller projects together for efficiency
  - SWC staff recommends 10% set aside (\$100,000)
  - TWiG approves recommendation of \$100,000

#### Continue Discussion of Process for Addressing Adaptive Management

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Tabled until next meeting

#### Other Business/Updates

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- Sauk SOQs
- 5 were received
  - SWC is looking for volunteers for advisory cttee.. Emily will check at county. Bob will check at WDFW. Jeff and/or Denise are interested.
  - **Aundrea will send SOQs to TWiG members**

Adjourn 3:10

Adjourn meeting