

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) **June 17th, 2021, 1:00pm-4:00pm**

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

Attendees: Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Regina Wandler (Skagit Land Trust), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Doug Bruland (PSE)

Absent: Jeremy Gilman (USFS), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District)

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Colin Wahl (SRSC), David Walde (Skagit County), Nic Truscott (Natural Systems Design)

Beginning Business

Agenda review

Introductions and check-in

Approved March notes (no meeting in April and May was site visits)

Committee Reports

Board of Directors (Richard)

- Salmon Recovery Council update: PSAR allocation formula will remain the same for future years unless they determine at some point it needs to change. PSAR is creating a 'mega projects' list. They are also working on a 10 year business plan. In the interim they will designate a focus for PSAR projects.
- SRFB update: increased state allocation to \$20,000,000, with \$125k extra coming to Skagit for this year (2021) and likely next year and set aside \$3.7 mil for targeted investment which will be orca recovery for 2022.
- SWC budget was adopted.
- Draft SWC Workplan includes desire for moving ahead on steelhead plan/projects in fall.
- Copper mine letter and resolutions went out.

Protection subcommittee (Bob)

- Birdsvew conservation easement greenlighted.
- Discussed \$10k/acre as a planning estimate for riparian restoration when considering protection purchases
- A new tracking form and narrative are forthcoming.

M&AM Subcommittee (Aundrea)

- Did not meet.

- Monitoring project has been certified by the region and will be funded at \$50,000 because Monitoring Panel has been able to secure enough monitoring dollars for all proposed projects. This comes out of our Skagit allocation.

Community Engagement: Holli has created a new storymap about the Skagit.

Link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3f2b734b9b5e4f4ea8290e8c1c438264>

This is a living document—feedback welcome. (Richard)

Council of Members is next Wednesday, with project presentations and an update on the lower Skagit project from Dept. of Ecology and WSCC. (Richard)

Old Business

Lead Entity Update

- We have three options for covering the funding gap to get all 4 restoration and acquisition projects funded: borrow from Snohomish County, borrow/gift from Island County, and the rapid response fund for acquisition. We will see how things evolve.
- The TWiG meeting following the TRC will be scheduled at 1:00 because the TRC will not take past noon to complete and 1:00 is the regular time so people already have it scheduled.

Sauk Plan

- Consultants will have products for review mid July. We will schedule a special TWiG meeting to hear presentations (possibly).
- They will be working on relative elevation mapping and erosion mapping.

Legislative and Budget Updates

- See the budget buddy for state allocations to programs.
- \$250k was allocated to DOE for work on the Lower Skagit project, incentivizing riparian restoration for addressing TMDL temperature issues.
- Another \$300k was allocated to WSCC for collaboration on the same project.

4 Year Work Plan

- This is in the process of being updated with sponsors.
- It currently includes two projects from Island County. TWiG needs to decide if these should stay on the list (Race Lagoon—documented Skagit Chinook use, and Penn Cove). They are pocket estuaries in Whidbey basin, not ranked, but determined to be important after the Chinook Plan was written (Beamer et al 2006).
- Bowman Bay is currently on the list, though not ranked and outside the pocket estuaries listed in the Chinook Plan.

- It also includes some Samish projects that are steelhead but not Chinook projects. Should these be eligible on the 4 Year Work Plan?
- We will discuss and approve this at July meeting.

Osterman Creek

- The road continues to fail at this site while design is ongoing and trying to keep up with changing conditions.
- Preferred design alternative will relocate the road, add wood to the Sauk, and fix two culverts.
- Migration from the Sauk is an on-going risk but not something included in this scope.
- The County has met with WDFW and federal regulators to discuss permitting.
- County presented restoration approach to TWG and would like any feedback members may have. Trying to flush out red-flags and approach concerns now so that they don't come out during funding requests – too late to address versus addressing them now.

New Business

Science Panel

- Possibly part of the December Members' Meeting.
- Intended for non-science audience, so maybe should be called a "progress report" instead of science symposium.
- An actual science symposium would also be a good idea.

Climate Change Taskforce (CAT)

- Formed by PSP.
- They have developed some near-, mid-, and long-term goals including supporting lead entities in developing climate related project evaluation criteria. Stay tuned.

Other Announcements/Updates

none

Adjourn 4:00