

## Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) September 16th, 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm

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

**Attendees:** Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Regina Wandler (Skagit Land Trust), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), Colin Wahl (SRSC)

**Absent:** Doug Bruland (PSE), Jeremy Gilman (USFS), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

**Guests:** Richard Brocksmith (SWC)

### Beginning Business

---

Agenda review

Introductions and check-in

**Notes: Add Colin to TWiG Box users. Send Bob a recurring calendar invite to TWiG.**

Approved July notes, Aundrea moved, Colin seconded, approved

### Committee Reports

---

#### Board

- Discussed draft SWC work plan. TWiG suggested changing the name of the 'Science Summit' and adding a who to each task on the list. TWiG members can comment on the work plan via email.
- Legacy Projects: Request for additions to this Legacy Projects (>\$10mil) list will be coming soon.
- Large PSAR: RFP coming in December. Working toward 10 year business plan. For current RFP focus will be either a habitat target, limiting stocks, or stocks nearing recovery. Focus topic may be criteria or extra points/scoring criteria.
- Targeted Investments: project/s to be reviewed by SRFB, \$3.7mil, target is orca recovery/Chinook recovery for orcas. Milltown project will be proposed from SWC. SWC will discuss options for Targeted Investment process when Letters of Intent come in. These will be same track as Large Cap PSAR.
- Jon-Paul resigned from the Board. Jon Vanderheyden will be resigning in February.

#### Protection

- Reviewed one parcel, still have questions, but hoping to greenlight.
- Produced a review draft of the Approval Process for Degraded Lands for the TWiG. **Bob, Alison, and Aundrea will meet to discuss.** Needs more conversation about the letter of commitment and partner capacity to complete the mid- and long-range planning for degraded parcels and prioritizing parcels.

Riparian Work Group will be added to the Committee Reports in future.

#### M&AM

- Working on proposed monitoring projects for the 4 year work plan.

**Note: Anderson Creek should come off the 4YWP per Alison.**

#### Old Business

---

##### Lead Entity Update

- PSAR return funds are available at the Region. More information to come.

##### Sauk Project

- NSD has completed the reach assessment and is working on an erosion assessment task. Hopefully this will be done for presentation at the next TWiG meeting.
- Protection strategy piece is in progress, draft habitat scores done, working on connectivity for next Protection Subcommittee.
- Next step is brainstorming other assessments and a call for project concepts in October or November.

#### New Business

---

##### Scoping for possible revisions to the Strategic Approach in 2022

- Some topics definitely are ready to be addressed/drafted and discussed (ready), some others may require more work (more), others still are not ready (not ready)
- Riparian update to align with RCO Manual 18 updates (ready): This needs more discussion with land owners/partners. TWiG not in favor of decreasing our minimum buffer from 40 meters. Need to clarify what portion of CMZ should be set as minimum. **SWC will take TWiG input and draft a revision text.**
- Pocket Estuaries (ready): we need to update on science regarding the importance of Whidbey Basin pocket estuaries. Eric Beamer suggests prioritizing Whidbey Basin pocket estuaries as Tier 2, but not pocket estuaries north of Swinomish Channel. **SWC staff will draft language for discussion.**
- Policy statement on climate change (ready)-**Staff will draft**
- Policy statement on monitoring (ready)-**Staff will draft**
- Marine riparian/nearshore for forage fish (more)-tabled
- Floodplain priorities (more)-tabled
- Steelhead/Samish basin (not ready)-tabled

##### Lead Entity Program Guide

- We have a draft Adaptive Management policy to add. The remaining question is what level of pre-project planning should be required. **Staff will send out a draft for review via email.**

- Draft target area scoring method- **Staff will send out a draft for review via email.**
- Loan criteria draft- **Staff will send out a draft for review via email.**

#### Updates

---

- TWiG would like systematic updates on active projects. **Tom will start with Skagit Forks at next meeting.**
- Britt Slough: construction is done and planting starts soon.
- Pressentine: construction is done and planting starts soon.

Adjourn 3:09