

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) October 21st, 2021, 1:00pm-3:30pm

(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), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

Absent: Doug Bruland (PSE), Jeremy Gilman (USFS),

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Hannah Liss (PSP ERC), Sean Higgins (NSD, 2:00), Colin Riordan (NSD, 2:00), Jen O'Neal (NSD, 2:00)

Beginning Business

Agenda review

Introductions and check-in: Hannah is our new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator with PSP.

Approved September notes with edit

Committee Reports

Board

- Discussed Skagit LIO. Laura Blackmore will give presentation/discussion.
- Updated on Sauk projects presented later in agenda.
- Jon-Paul resigned from the Board. SWC sent a letter inviting USIT to continue participation. Jon Vanderheyden will be resigning in February. Board will discuss his replacement with Alison.

Protection

- Reviewed one parcel. Field visit found no hydromod. Expected to greenlight.
- Focus group met and revised draft of the Approval Process for Degraded Lands. Now goes back to the subcommittee for approval then referral to TWiG.

Riparian Work Group

- Set January 19th for riparian conference.
- List serve is up and running.

M&AM

- Did not meet. Meets next week at new regular time, fourth Monday at 9.

Skagit Forks/Britt Slough Update

- Opened mid-September (made a new opening and closed off the pre-existing, excavated opening).
- Opening will maintain the wetland water level while improving fish access for more of the time.

- Found Chinook.

Cedar Grove Cost Increase Request

- Project went to bid and low bid came back \$390k over budget. This includes construction and a construction manager.
- The County can cover part and other funding can cover part, leaving the project \$300k short.
- This is a culvert replacement with a pedestrian bridge (60' span). New total cost is \$1,092,000.
- County has until October 28th to accept a bid or kill the project.
- Motion to approve support of Cedar Grove funding increase request of \$300,000 so that Emily can pursue other funding options, pending continued follow up and discussion with the TWG, by Aundrea, second by Jeff, approved by all, Emily abstained.

Sauk Habitat Plan Deliverables Thus Far

- The consultant's presentation was recorded.
- NSD completed a reach characterization following the example of the Middle Skagit Assessment for river miles 0-24 of the Sauk.
- They also have begun mapping the floodplain relative elevations and channels.
- SWC is looking for ideas from the TWG for projects in the Sauk. This may happen in a focus group that includes the original advisory group.
- The idea of stabilizing off channel habitats with ELJs was discussed

Sauk Habitat Plan Cost Increase

- SWC would like to request a 20% cost increase for NSD to continue to help with project development and further develop the idea/question of channel stability and ELJs
- Motion to approve \$21k cost increase for Sauk Habitat project to develop an implementation strategy based on the assessments NSD is doing, pending continued discussion in the TWG, by Rick, second by Jeff, all approve, Aundrea abstains.

Adjourn 3:39