

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) November 18th, 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), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

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

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Hannah Liss (PSP ERC)

Beginning Business

Introductions and check-in

Agenda review

Approved October notes with edits, Regina moved, Rick 2nd

Riparian Projects Presentation

Brenda Clifton of SRSC presented a summary of progress on SRFB riparian projects

- 6' willow stakes installed in Reed Canarygrass has been super successful at Nookachamps, 51 acres restored
- 93 acres of 103 restored at Hansen Creek
- 23.4 acres of 47 planted at Skiyou

Committee Reports

Board

- Puget Sound Partnership Executive Director Laura Blackmore was our guest with a simple goal of continuing to gather information about Local Integrating Organizations. She shared why Skagit should consider establishing an LIO. She shared what their role is and how that is growing in influence for how the Action Agenda is implemented and for how funding is distributed through the National Estuary Program. It was agreed that Director Blackmore would reach out to the Tribes and County to speak directly to their foundational governments about establishing an LIO.
- Skagit County presented a resolution for SWC's consideration related to relicensing of the Seattle City Light dams. There was a long discussion about with many facets. There were questions about whether SWC was the right venue for this regulatory matter, though some felt it was more about restoration and was relevant. There was discussion about whether a "regionally equitable investment" was appropriate in this context and if that was meant as a floor or ceiling for SCL's obligation. There was additional discussion about fish passage, with common agreement that it needs to be very

carefully analyzed. The resolution was tabled until Tribes and County can work on wording.

- Board supports having an on-going science and policy series at upcoming quarterly meetings until as many questions were answered as possible. More TBD, including an agenda for December 8th's meeting.

Protection

- Reviewed three parcels. All greenlighted.
- Finalized a draft of the Approval Process for Restorable Lands. Now referred to TWiG.
- Continued work on Sauk protection strategy

Riparian Work Group

- Did not meet

M&AM

- Finalized monitoring project additions to 4YWP for TWG review and approval.
- Discussed Science Series to start December 8th.

Program Guide/Strategic Approach Updates

Pocket estuaries proposal

- **Aundrea will add a map of Whidbey Basin pocket estuaries to the Strategic Approach**
- Motion to approve language as presented as edits to strategic approach, with map addition—motion by Bob, 2nd by Colin, all approve

Adaptive Response discussion

- A clear description of who is on the advisory group that develops the M&AM plan for the project is important.
- Having someone not involved in implementing the project on the advisory group may be a good idea.
- There may need to be different evaluation criteria for small vs large projects/responses.
- Difficult to tease out legal obligations from what is just the right thing to do.

Loan policy

- Modified language as attached. Aundrea will smooth out revisions and we will revisit next month.

Timeline

- Emily moves to approve timeline, Rick 2nds, all approve

Approval Process for Restorable Lands

- We will examine and discuss in December.
- Noted that the steps are in time order, but the subpoints under each step are not in any particular order.
- **Aundrea will compile a list of projects that have been referred to the TWG in the past and what the outcomes for those were**

Announcements and Updates

- 5 Legacy Projects have been/are being submitted to PSP (Smokehouse, McGlenn, Island Unit, HDM estuary project development, and Savage Slough (in prep)) for their list. Legacy Projects are those greater than \$10mil.

Adjourn 3:05