

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) December 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), Doug Bruland (PSE), Colin Wahl (SRSC), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

Absent: Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), Jeremy Gilman (USFS)

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

Beginning Business

Introductions and check-in

Agenda review-added a revisit of the pocket estuary policy

Approved November notes as presented, motion by Doug, second by Bob, approved unanimously.

Barnaby Slough Presentation

Devin Smith of SRSC presented a summary of work this year at the Barnaby Slough project

- Barnaby Slough project is actually multiple projects over many years. This is a summary of work completed this year.
- The project is managed by a steering committee of conservation landowners at the site.
- They removed dikes and hatchery infrastructure.
- They made the Lucas Slough inlet slightly higher.
- Survey equipment on the shovel of the excavator made work easier.
- Installed a pedestrian bridge at community request.
- Secured funding for monitoring and communication.
- Saw coho spawning in the slough immediately after construction.
- Next steps are drainage projects along Martin Road and feasibility/design for Harrison Slough.
- November flooding didn't adversely impact the project.
- Ribbon cutting planned for April.

Committee Reports

Board

- Finalized the yearly meeting schedule for SWC (**see attached**)
- USIT appointed Brian Lanouette to replace Jon-Paul Shannahan on the SWC Board, with Scott Schuyler filling in sometimes (both in communications).

- Board also sent a letter to SFEG regarding Jon Vanderheyden's retirement from that and SWC boards.
- Discussed and tabled the county's resolution pending discussion between tribes and county.
- Discussed the "Science Series" and set first meeting for 2/2/22, with other meetings to follow at (5) quarterly SWC membership meetings.
 - Meetings will be recorded and distributed widely
 - Topics will include salmon recovery framework
 - Target audiences include SWC membership and landowners/stakeholders by engaging in dialogue with them at their meetings in addition to SWC meetings
 - First meeting will focus on species management at high level
 - Second meeting will likely focus on estuary restoration effectiveness

Riparian Work Group

- Have speakers set for Jan 19th conference

Adaptive Response Policy discussion/update

- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region has presented a proposal to SRFB for developing an adaptive response (AR) policy.
- Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) wrote a letter of support
- SWC policy will fit with Upper Columbia policy and will give sponsors flexibility in managing risk for projects

Program Guide/Strategic Approach Updates

Loan policy

- Approved as edited.

RFP

- Includes new riparian qualifying criteria that will be attached as Appendix J to Program Guide. Approved as edited to maintain current SWC minimum buffer of 40m, with rationale from Brenda, and adopt other criteria as specified in Manual 18 by SRFB.
- Approved \$300,000 set aside for riparian
- Approved \$50,000 set aside for monitoring
- Discussed potential of additional \$600,000 in grant round this year from infrastructure bill.

Above changes to the Program Guide along with changes approved to timeline last month approved for recommendation to the Board, motion by Emily, 2nd by Jeff, unanimous. See attached Program Guide.

Pocket estuaries proposal

- **Whidbey Basin map needs to go back to the M&AM Subcommittee for approval**

Announcements and Updates

- WSC has sent letters of support regarding adaptive response, targeted investment program, and fish-in/fish-out monitoring. **See attached.**

Adjourn 3:00