

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) January 20th, 2022 1:00pm-2:30pm

(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), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District)

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

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

Beginning Business

Introductions and check-in

Agenda review-no additions

Approved December notes as presented, motion by Regina, second by Bob, approved unanimously.

Presentin Park Presentation

Kristin Murray presented final outcomes at the Presentin Park restoration project

- Planning started in 2012 at 40 acre park with two side channels, one connected and one historic.
- 2.3 acres or 2500ft of off channel habitat was created/reconnected.
- 12 acres of riparian buffer along channels planted
- 3 pedestrian bridges, lots of LWD installed, and salmon viewing station.
- Some damage from flooding, lost plants, lost salmon viewing station

Committee Reports

Board

- Approved SRSC contract for Riparian Work Group and conference
- Approved moving forward with Riparian Incentives project

Riparian Work Group

- Conference was great
- Getting 2021 planting data in database is next project

Pocket Estuary changes to Strategic Approach

- Motion by Bob, 2nd by Colin to "Pre-accept" the boundaries for the Whidbey Basin map to accompany written language for the Strategic Approach changes approved at last meeting (see map below). The recommended boundaries for the Whidbey Basin as verbally described by Colin are from West Point on Whidbey Island to Rosario Head west of Sharpe Cove. All approved. A map representing this verbal description is attached, created after the TWG

meeting. This approval is in advance of the M&AM Subcommittee approving a map, but it is assumed the same map will be proposed and approved at the upcoming M&AM meeting. Changes to the Strategic Approach go to the Board for final approval.

- These are soft boundaries, rather than a rigid straight line. It was discussed that drawn boundaries in a fluid ecosystem are flawed, but at the same time it's sensible to place some kind of limit on eligible geography for funding purposes. Potential project sites should be evaluated on their individual merit (habitat quality and use by Skagit fish). Such an evaluation doesn't need to be based on a discrete geography. If a site has appreciable habitat and use by Skagit Chinook, it should be eligible to have its merits evaluated by the committee.

Grant Round updates

Timeline: Changed Watershed Council Membership meeting from June 15th to June 8th, including sponsor presentations of grant proposals

Site Visits: Will attempt in person field visits as well as virtual. May not get to all sites in the field.

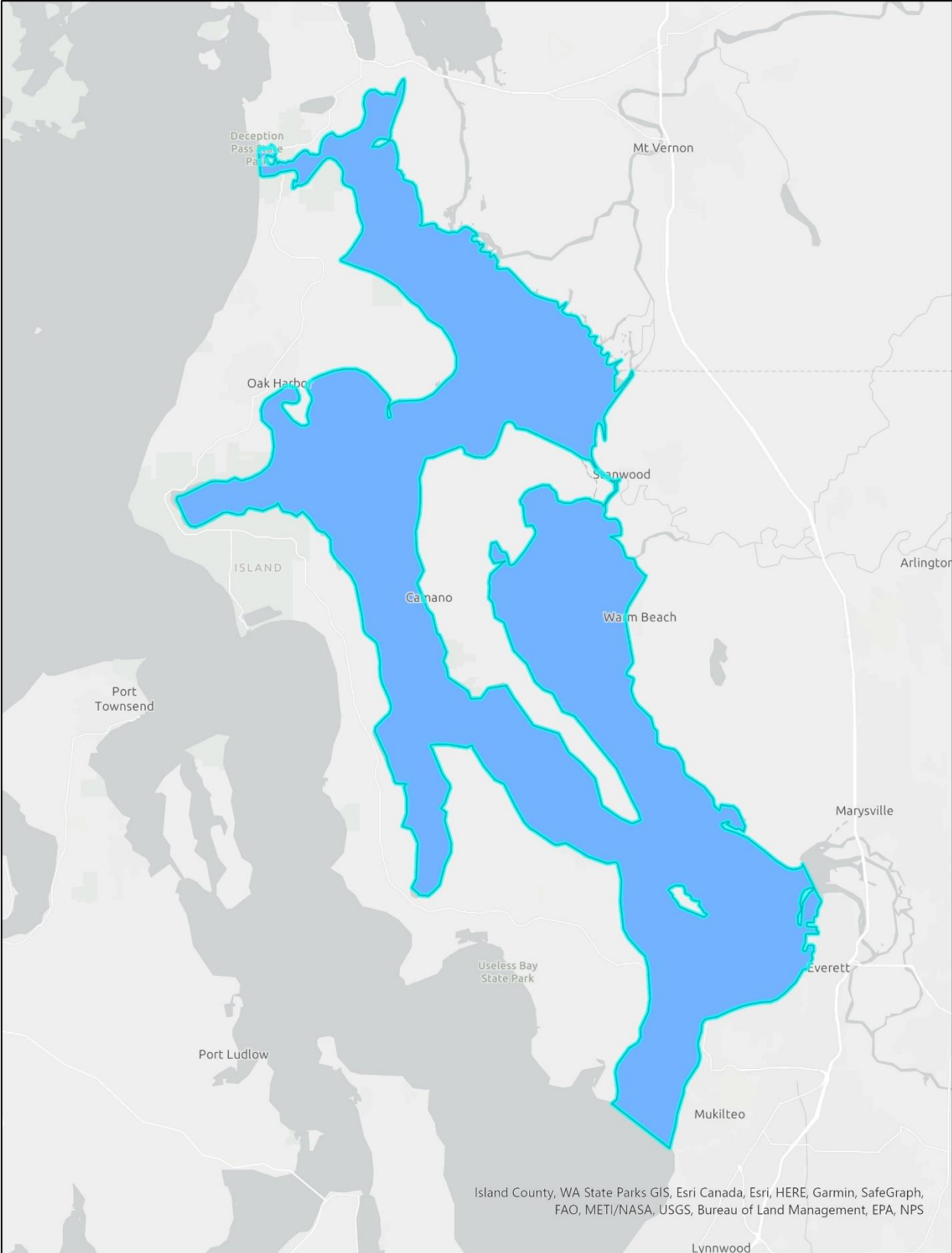
4S (Skagit Salmon Science Series)

- Casey Ruff and Bob McClure will be presenting with someone from NOAA and maybe WDFW on Feb 2nd.
- Talks will be recorded for distribution to public and landowners later.
- All questions raised will be answered either at the talk or after.

Announcements and Updates

- Skagit headwaters protected

Adjourn 2:36



Whidbey Basin, proposed boundaries for pocket estuary eligibility.