

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) May 19th, 2022 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), Colin Wahl (SRSC), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), 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 March notes as revised, motion by Colin, second by Rick, approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Board: Hadn't met in 6 weeks.

- Approved Mike LeMoine and Rick Hartson as co-chairs of M&AM Subcommittee. Approved C.J. Jones to the Protection Subcommittee as County representative in place of Mike See. Asked if committees were fully staffed.
- Discussed organizational structure. It is still in flux
- Reviewed June 8th 4S agenda
- Discussed support letters. SWC is on good footing for salmon letters. Others are more difficult (i.e. BAFBRB)
- Reviewed last year's work plan, possible items for this year's work plan, and continued/approved work on Sauk Habitat Plan and Riparian Proviso.
- Discussed Cedar Grove cost increase. Board want some level of review, like a cost/benefit analysis and lost opportunity analysis.
- **Richard will forward the SITC letter regarding organizational structure to TWiG members.**

Protection Subcommittee:

- Site visit planned to Diobsud Creek parcel with restoration needs.
- Update on Cape Horn Rd. parcels-site visit happened, working on cost benefit analysis for removing hydromod. TWG offered that Cape Horn could be a candidate for a stand alone combination project rather than block grant because time is not an issue that we know of.
- Approval Process for Restorable Lands small group met and discussed issues around the scale of restoration needed and responsibilities.

M&AM Subcommittee: Reviewed 2 monitoring projects proposed for this grant round and approved them for the Regional process.

Grant Round Updates

All sponsors received their comments and are now working on revising their applications.

Brenda raised concerns about two critical comments on Davis Slough project-were they actually critical comments? Both comments were confirmed to be critical comments by the originators of the comments. Clarified that the request for evidence of fish connectivity was not an eligibility question but a benefit question.

Cedar Grove discussion-There needs to be some sort of analysis.

- What does a cost benefit analysis look like? It is evaluating the cost increase amount alone against lost opportunities for that same money. Would it get in the way of Milltown moving forward, for example? Consider how this decision may set precedent for future cost increase requests. How could TWG/TRC express to LECC if a request seems unreasonable?
- The fact that the project is ready to go is a factor. Timing is a critical consideration.
- How have other LEs scored cost increases? Where does it go relatively in the list? At the top? Before the last funded project? RCO does not require us to rank it.

4 Year Work Plan

We made several small edits to project costs on the list and added 3 projects to the list. See attached.

Announcements and Updates

\$75million has been appropriated by the legislature for salmon projects, \$25mil for projects costing less than \$5mil and \$50mil for projects costing more than \$5mil. **Richard and Aundrea will send out a memo explaining what we know and asking for feedback.**

Several letters of support have been written.

The 4S agenda for June 8th was reviewed.

Adjourn 3:00

Upcoming TWG Meetings:

June 8 Council Membership meeting, Science Series, and sponsor presentations

June 16 regular TWG meeting

July 14 TRC followed by TWG

Project Type	Primary Sponsor	Project Name	Project Status	Project Summary	Proposed Amt	Grant Round
Planning	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Cascade River Floodplain Reconnection Final Design	Planned	Advance preferred alternative to final designs for installing wood placements in the lower Cascade River above and below Rockport Cascade Road Bridge. This will reconnect side channels and improve instream conditions for rearing habitat which limits Chinook salmon productivity.	\$ 147,059	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Race Lagoon Culverts	Planned	Replace two fish barrier culverts under Race Road near Coupeville, WA. These two coastal streams drain to Race Lagoon which has been identified as important pocket estuary habitat for out-migrating salmon from the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish Rivers. Pocket estuaries and small coastal streams such as these provide important feeding, resting, and refuge habitat as juvenile salmon transition from freshwater to saltwater habitat.	\$ 250,000	Grant Round 2023
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Skiyou Island Floodplain Restoration Phase 2	Planned	Restore native vegetation on 25 additional acres along the Skagit River and Skiyou Slough.	\$ 320,000	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Tenas Creek Final Design	Planned	Final design of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap is underway; final design 2022; construct 2024?	\$ 350,000	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Department of Transportation	OBrian Reach FP Reconnection Preliminary Design	Planned	Design reconnection of side channels and abandoned meanders within a 3.7 mile reach. Engage stakeholders to develop a project concept.	\$ 500,000	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Debays Slough Design	Planned	Design preferred alternatives to restore hydraulic and fish passage connectivity into an abandoned oxbow.	\$ 300,000	Grant Round 2023

Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Milltown Revegetation Project	Planned	Replant 15 acres along constructed Channels 	\$ 240,000	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Skagit Watershed Council	Telegraph Slough Reconnection Feasibility	Planned	Create stakeholder process to analyze feasibility of reconnecting hydrology and select preferred alternative for restoring distributary channels between Swinomish Channel and Padilla Bay.	\$ 255,000	Grant Round 2023
Planning	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Island Unit Final Design	Planned	In the final design and permitting phase, WDFW will work with consultants, tribes, stakeholders and other community partners to finish and permit designs. Full restoration option was selected and is anticipated to provide 270 acres of emergent marsh, scrub-shrub and floodplain riparian habitat. An analysis by SRSC estimated full restoration will provide 10.31 acres of channel and room for 72,820 (predicted range = 59,377 - 86,035) additional Chinook smolts per year.	\$ 1,421,000	Grant Round 2023
Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2023 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VII	Planned	Acquisition of floodplain properties for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update; Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,300,000	Grant Round 2023
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2023 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting	Planned	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000	Grant Round 2023
				2023 Total	\$ 5,233,059	
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Milltown Revegetation Project Phase 2	Planned	Replant 20 acres along constructed Channels 	\$ 320,000	Grant Round 2024

Planning	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Bowman Bay Design	Planned	Design a connection between backbeach wetland and marine water.	\$ 81,000	Grant Round 2024
Planning	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Goodell Creek Floodplain Restoration Design	Planned	Restore natural hydrogeomorphology within the 400+ acre floodplain by addressing hydromodifications in the campground and SR20; alternative selection completed; design preferred phase 1 option.	\$ 700,000	Grant Round 2024
Planning	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Suiattle Confluence Channel Enhancements Feasibility	Planned	Feasibility of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap.	\$ 125,000	Grant Round 2024
Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Phase 2 Final Design	Planned	Final design and permitting to improve hydrology and fish access to isolated oxbows in Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River above Rockport. Likely removes fish barriers, creates new channels, and potential re-aligns lower Illabot Creek.	\$ 545,826	Grant Round 2024
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Hansen Vegetation Adaptive Management	Planned	Plant additional riparian areas along Hansen Creek. These were omitted during first phase or are newly created by dynamic hydrology.	\$ 150,000	Grant Round 2024
Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Cascade River Floodplain Reconnection Construction	Planned	Install wood placements in the lower Cascade River above and below Rockport Cascade Road Bridge. This will reconnect side channels and improve instream conditions for rearing habitat which limits Chinook salmon productivity.	\$ 340,000	Grant Round 2024
Planning & Acquisition	Skagit River System Cooperative	Gilligan Floodplain Restoration Design	Planned	Design restoration of side channel and floodplain habitat in the Skagit River downstream of Gilligan Creek by removing 550-1500 feet of flood control dike and associated riprap bank protection, restoring function to approximately 170 acres of floodplain, depending on landowner willingness.	\$ 350,000	Grant Round 2024

Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Skiyou Slough Ross Island Design	Planned	Design landscape-scale restoration in the Ross Island Reach.	\$ 500,000	Grant Round 2024
Monitoring & Research	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Milltown Island Post Project Monitoring	Planned	Monitor post-project effectiveness for BACI design fish monitoring and vegetation monitoring. The proposed project area covers approximately 216 acres of the middle and northern portions of the island.	\$ 150,000	Grant Round 2024
Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	Similk Beach Restoration Construction	Planned	Restore ~22 acres of intertidal pocket estuary by replacing road fill w/bridge.	\$ 6,500,000	Grant Round 2024
Planning	Skagit Watershed Council	Skagit HDM Project Scoping and Preliminary Design	Planned	Implement feasibility and preliminary designs for one or more of the Skagit estuary projects identified in the Hydrodynamic Modeling project where there are willing landowners.	\$ 500,000	Grant Round 2024
Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2024 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VIII	Planned	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 2,000,000	Grant Round 2024
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2024 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting	Planned	Partner with landowners to restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship. Includes 3-5 years of site maintenance to ensure plant survival. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 352,900	Grant Round 2024
				2024 Total	\$ 12,614,726	
Planning	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Suiattle Confluence Channel Enhancements Design	Planned	Design of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap; construct 2024?	\$ 125,000	Grant Round 2025

Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Tenas Creek Floodplain Restoration	Planned	construction of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap	\$ 6,500,000	Grant Round 2025
Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Debays Slough Construction	Planned	Restore hydraulic and fish passage connectivity into an abandoned oxbow.	\$ 1,200,000	Grant Round 2025
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Restoration Phase 2 Construction	Planned	Construct preferred alternatives from Phase 2 Design for improving hydrology and fish access to isolated oxbows in Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River above Rockport. Removes fish barriers, creates new channels, and potentially re-aligns lower Illabot Creek.	\$ 3,000,000	Grant Round 2025
Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Gilligan Floodplain Restoration Construction	Planned	Restore side channel and floodplain habitat in the Skagit River downstream of Gilligan Creek by removing ~560 feet of flood control dike and associated riprap bank protection, restoring function to approximately 170 acres of floodplain. Floodplain vegetation will be improved by removing non-native vegetation and planting native trees.	\$ 2,000,000	Grant Round 2025
Planning	Seattle City Light	Car Body Riprap Removal Feasibility	Planned	Complete feasibility study and select preferred alternative to remove 550 m of riprap and restore overbank flows and backwaters; begin preliminary designs.	\$ 239,500	Grant Round 2025
Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	IMW McGlinn Design	Planned	This project evaluates potential modifications to the McGlinn Island Jetty and/or Causeway to improve connectivity for fish between the Skagit River and the Swinomish Channel without creating unacceptable changes to sedimentation.	\$ 1,000,000	Grant Round 2025

Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Island Unit Construction	Planned	Full restoration option was selected and is anticipated to provide 270 acres of emergent marsh, scrub-shrub and floodplain riparian habitat. An analysis by SRSC estimated full restoration will provide 10.31 acres of channel and room for 72,820 (predicted range = 59,377 - 86,035) additional Chinook smolts per year.	\$ 11,800,000	Grant Round 2025
Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2025 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	Planned	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,000,000	Grant Round 2025
Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2025 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting	Planned	Partner with landowners to restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship. Includes 3-5 years of site maintenance to ensure plant survival. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000	Grant Round 2025
Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	Smokehouse Tidal Marsh Restoration Construction	Planned	Construct 5900' levee setback along Swinomish Channel, providing 120 acres of tidal wetland habitat.	\$ 10,000,000	Grant Round 2025
				2025 Total	\$ 37,014,500	
Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2026 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	Planned	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 2,000,000	Grant Round 2026
Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2026 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting	Planned	Partner with landowners to restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship. Includes 3-5 years of site maintenance to ensure plant survival. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 300,000	Grant Round 2026

Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Bowman Bay Construction	Planned	Connect a backbeach wetland to marine water and tidal influence.	\$ 236,000	
Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	Gilligan Creek Culvert Construction	Planned	Replace a culvert with a fish passable structure.	\$ 1,000,000	
Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Hart Slough Design	Planned	A design report was developed that evaluates the potential for restoring habitat functions in historic river channels that are now partially blocked off from the mainstem Skagit River. The second phase will be coordination with key stakeholders. Coordination efforts also lead to the third phase, production of the design report and project development. Based on the results of coordination, an alternative analyses will be conducted and a recommended action selected. A cost estimate, conceptual design, and proposed funding sources will be developed for the recommended action.	\$ 780,000	Grant Round 2026
				2026 Total	\$ 4,316,000	