

Final Meeting Notes
Skagit Watershed Council, Technical Work Group (TWiG)
December 19, 2013, 1:30 – 4:30, SWC Conference Room

***Note that bold means action items.**

- Introductions. Meeting attendees included: Bob Warinner, Jeff McGowan, Alison Studley, Leah Kintner, Phil Kincare, Rick Hartson, Martha Bray, Doug Bruland, Richard Brocksmith, Ed Connor, Tom Slocum, Bob Margulis, and Devin Smith
- Approved October meeting notes as modified to correctly show that it was the “WRIA 6 lead entity coordinator” who inquired if the SWC Board will support the Dugualla project without Skagit funding involved, NOT the “project sponsor”. This discussion suggested that there was concern among some partners that relationships were frayed over the local decision.
- Updates
 - Project updates:
 - Similk Beach is being transitioned to SRSC as the primary sponsor, with County support.
 - Barnaby Slough PIDA proposal was partially successful, receiving enough funding to expand hydraulic modeling and gain community and stakeholder input on the project’s preferred alternative, but not enough yet for preliminary design. It will be difficult to have this project ready for some of the larger grant funding timelines in 2014.
 - Sauk Riparian cost increase request of \$18,700 was formally approved in December using unallocated Skagit 2013 PSAR funding
 - Davis Slough is also being transitioned from the current primary sponsor of SFEG to County sponsorship given their ownership of the road. SFEG will continue to support and implement parts of the effort.
 - Also, discussed one media strategy of **working with sponsors to lay out dates for upcoming project news-worthy events**. The group discussed messaging.
 - Subcommittee Reports:
 - Protection subcommittee notes were provided. It was noted that 2009 and 2010 SRFB grants were now closed out. 2009 yielded 8 properties for 217 acres and 2010 yielded 10 properties for 227 acres, together averaging less than \$6,000/acre.
 - Monitoring and adaptive management subcommittee provided a verbal report from the core team who continues to translate the 2005 Skagit

Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan into the Puget Sound Common Framework. More information will be forthcoming as draft products firm up. Please contact Richard if folks would like more detail now or to be involved.

- HWS subcommittee provided a verbal report that Richard, Bob, and Michelle Murphy met recently to review status of HWS database, draft HWS user's manual to be released for review soon (likely requesting that sponsors ensure their projects are up-to-date), and the relationship to monitoring and adaptive management. It could and likely should be a great resource in helping tell our Skagit story of progress in implementation. To tell the most effective story, it would be an improvement to incorporate more of our partner's successes, even if they weren't funded by SRFB. That is a growth opportunity for us to consider.
- Reviewed draft SWC committee structure proposal. The committee provided significant input on this topic, with several important points of agreement:
 - The structure may be less important than the agreed-upon roles of each committee by its members and the SWC Board of Directors.
 - What is the role of TWiG for instance? Richard relayed his concept that it could be the main source of technical advice to the Board that rolled up smaller working group efforts of protection, adaptive management and monitoring, HWS, among other needs (e.g. restoration projects). He also hoped it could serve to improve communication and coordination.
 - The size and make-up of committees was important, with some suggesting the goal of broader participation could be met while keeping decision-making manageable by having formal voting members as well as ex-officio members.
 - **Be clear on decision-making process.**
 - **The executive director needs to be shown in the organizational chart.**
 - **General agreement that the lead entity project review technical subcommittee (made up of some TWiG members but not all, as well as external members) should have a direct report function to the Board as well.**
- Reviewed draft 2014 SWC meeting schedule.
 - Protection subcommittee dates were reduced down to 6 annually. This is more than the quarterly they have done in the past so that the group can have more time to provide oversight of the protection strategy update grant awarded to SWC.
 - TWiG will drop at least one summer date to respect project calendar.
 - There may be more meetings than needed scheduled, but they can be cancelled easily if the agendas aren't full or imminent.
- Reviewed draft SWC biennium work plan. No significant requests for change.

- Reviewed SRFB and PSAR updates, including available 2014 funding of ~\$1.24M and \$2,288,365 respectively.
 - PSP is considering proposing a change in how PSAR projects are developed and proposed, specifically moving away from forwarding a “representative” list of projects to the legislature (ours is the only process like that in the state) to a more fully vetted list of actual proposed projects. Given agency budgets are due in August/September timeframe, is it even possible for Skagit to tee up projects at that level of detail and certainty in that timeframe? It would likely require running parallel and/or integrated vetting processes with the typical SRFB process. Members felt like there were at least a couple larger scale projects that were close to being teed up.
 - The group also discussed timeframes and process for large capital PSAR projects likely to be middle of 2014 and Floodplains by Design project proposals likely to be due in May 2014 (above and beyond \$11M currently available with open RFP).
- 3 Year Work Plan (3ywp) Update
 - At this point, it was clear the meeting was running late and we would not be able to finish the agenda as planned. There was a quick overview of the need to update the 3 year work plan in next couple of months and the group agreed on a couple next steps:
 - **Richard to dig in further with 2013 3ywp and begin to clean it up and update old projects for 2014.**
 - **Richard to sit down with partners individually in coming weeks to look at both 3ywp project updates and to begin to scope out a full review of progress or lack thereof for the Middle Skagit reach.**
 - **Develop an agenda and bring resources into a full work session at the next TWiG meeting focused on the Middle Skagit reach.**
 - **Given limited time, we did not discuss RITT review and what aspects can and should be addressed this year or the 3ywp in detail.**
- Adjourned until the next meeting on January 16, 2014 at 1pm at SWC office.