

Skagit Watershed Council, Technical Work Group (TWG)
March 20, 2014, 1:00 – 4:00pm, SWC Conference Room
Final Notes

Noon

- Optional Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
 - Barnaby Slough Alternatives Analysis, Devin Smith, Skagit River System Cooperative
 - <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=09-1440> This is a link to the application materials from 2010.

1:00pm

Attendees: Bob Warinner, Doug Bruland, Rick Hartson, Devin Smith, Martha Bray, Jeff McGowan, Tom Slocum, Leah Kintner, Alison Studley, Bob Margulis (for most of the meeting)

- Introductions, approve agenda (#1) and approve February meeting notes (#2)

The Agenda was discussed and noted that items related to the SRFB were time sensitive and would be discussed as a priority.

February notes were shared and there were no objections.

- Short updates

- Board Update

Steve Hinton was present for this update and went over the talking points prepared by Richard from the March Board meeting. Highlights included that Margaret Fleek from city of Burlington is now on the Board. And that they will be advertising for a Watershed Coordinator position. Several items related to TWG business were reported: that the 3 year work plan was approved, the Similk Beach project was approved for SRFB submittal, and that the Board did not approve the Illabot Creek protection project that the TWG reviewed last month.

- Project Updates? No one offered any
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Protection subcommittee (#3)

Phil Kincare was unable to attend, so Martha came prepared with a verbal report. Martha reported on several recently purchased properties that are included on the list distributed with the TWG agenda (#3).

The question was asked if there was a map on the Watershed Council website with all the properties purchased with SRFB funds? The answer is no. ***There was some note that this would be nice.** The County has made a map of all protected properties in the past, but is no

longer up to date and includes more than just SRFB projects. ***Could HWS have a query to get this information?**

Martha reported that the Protection Strategy Update has not really been started yet.

- Adaptive Management & Monitoring subcommittee

The M&AM committee moved on from viability work in January and is now working on the results chains segment of the project. Results chains articulate theories of change associated with a specific action or suite of actions. We are preparing results chains to describe how the 2005 recovery plan strategies and updates are intended to affect pressures or ecosystem components and result in salmon recovery. Skagit already had 13 draft results chains from work on the pilot model, but we are now in the process of refining those 13 to fit the current framework and better align with the overall intent of monitoring and adaptive management. The first results chain - tidal delta restoration - has already been refined, and is now serving as a model for moving on to the other restoration and protection results chains. Hatchery and harvest will also be incorporated in their own results chains.

- SWC Organizational Structure Review

- Review draft discussion paper (#4) and provide input to Board and ED

It was noted that this document was distributed for review, but was not time sensitive.

Therefore we did not discuss in detail. However we did discuss the TWG membership a little and the TRC membership. Bob Margulis said he was happy to be considered as a possible TWG member, however he does not feel he has a technical background. He feels the meetings are informative and is willing to make the drive to attend regardless of whether he is a formal member or not. Leah Kintner was not listed in this document. She intends to attend meetings to share information etc, however she does not expect to have a decision making role.

- Recruit 2014 TRC membership

TRC membership was solicited from the present TWG members. It was noted that in order to participate on the TRC members needed to be available to attend meetings on April 23, 24 and 25 as well as June 19. In addition to scheduling their own time to review proposals and conduct technical scoring outside of these meetings. The following members agreed to serve on the TRC for 2014: Bob Warinner, Doug Bruland, Rick Hartson, Jeff McGowan, Alison Studley and Tom Slocum. ***Alison will follow up with Emails to Ed Connor and Phil Kincare to inquire if they would like to be on the TRC this year.** Devin expressed some reluctance to serving on the committee noting that SRSC has 4 proposals in so he has a conflict of interest on 1/3 of the proposals. He said he would be willing to serve if the group thought his contribution would be invaluable. It was noted that Devin provides insightful comments and review of proposals and that a lack of tribal participation from 2 tribes may reflect poorly on the process. ***We will ask Richard to have this conversation with Devin and SRSC.**

It was noted that there were a large number of additional members that have been contacted about participation in the 2014 TRC. While the group agrees that more unbiased reviewers is a good thing, there can also be issues with having lots of people on private property for site visits, etc. It was unclear if all the people listed as “interested and willing” were also available on the dates necessary.

- 2014 Grant Cycle and Important Dates
 - Review Letters of Intent and confirm eligibility (#5, provided on 3/20)

The list of 12 projects with LOI’s submitted was shared. It was noted that our process indicates that the technical coordinator determines eligibility as per the LE guide, except where there were any questions. There were 2 projects with questions as they were not specifically cited on the 3YWP: Martin Slough Fish Passage and Kukutali Preserve Tombolo Restoration Design. Our process says the projects need to be on or consistent with the 3YWP. Martin Slough Fish Passage is in a Tier 1 floodplain area of the Skagit and has documented Chinook use and is being studied as part of the Barnaby Slough Feasibility Study. Therefore it was determined to be consistent. The Kukutali Preserve project is listed in the Chinook Recovery Plan as one of 12 pocket estuaries which are identified as Tier 2 in the 2010 Strategic Approach. It was discussed that committee members did not have an opportunity to thoroughly read the LOI (since there was not time to distribute LOI’s prior to the meeting) therefore they weren’t 100% sure how well the project was addressing the restoration actions identified in the Chinook Recovery Plan, however the committee did determine that the project was consistent with the RFP based on its location and preliminary review. ***However the TWG does recommend that the TRC ensure during its review that the restoration actions in the proposal are consistent with the actions identified in the Chinook Recovery Plan. *Alison will share the LOI folder on the Cloud with the TWG members.**

After confirming that all 12 projects were consistent with the RFP, there was discussion about amount of funds available. Alison reported that to the committee that based on the \$4.2 million of PSAR allocated last year and that \$2.3 million was allocated last year that there was roughly \$1.9 million of remaining PSAR funds and a likely \$1.2 million from SRFB for a total available of \$3.1 million (however Since Similk was funded for \$300K there could be more like \$2.8 million). These are ROUGH figures. [Richard noted after the meeting that there is about \$3.25M still available this year.]

The committee had several other items of note:

- 1) in future years we should attempt to have LOI’s due several days before the TWG review in order to allow for distribution of the LOI’s with questions to the group for review before the meeting.

- 2) There was some discussion related to Large Capital Projects and how the application process was going to proceed? ***Again Leah was going to do some investigation. Devin was asked to follow up with Marc D and Richard as to how to propose the Illabot project**, as he would like to carve off a distinct item to get SRFB funds separate from the Large Cap process, but that it may be best to write the application for the whole project and prepare a budget like this as an attachment.
- 3) There was discussion about how the \$200K of riparian funds would be handled. There are 3 projects totaling about \$300K. Will 2 get funded through this pot and 1 compete with the rest of the list? Who makes this decision? Should it be the bottom project or the top project? If we create 2 lists, how do we make 1 list? Who makes it? TWG would like to stay in the loop about how this is going to be handled. ***Richard will need to follow-up on this topic.**

- Quickly review final timeline, RFP, and 3ywp list

***Bob Warinner will be preparing PRISM “application shells” to all project applicants by Friday afternoon so that applicants can get started on their PRISM applications. These emails will be sent to the sponsors with their assigned PRISM numbers**

***Leah is going to send information related to what exactly needs to be complete in the PRISM application in order to be sufficiently considered a draft for the April 2 deadline to have SRFB technical reviewers review our projects. Richard may follow up as well with additional information.**

It was discussed that all projects need to be submitted by JULY 31 (not Aug 1). This will allow for early distribution of funds in September.

Important dates: April 2 –draft complete applications (clarification coming about what is complete)

April 23, 24, 25 and June 19 for TRC and sponsors

May not be a May TWG??

July 17 TWG is needed for Fir Island Farms review and other functions.

- Review Draft Lead Entity Program Guide and potential changes summary sheet (#6)
 - Determine which additional changes are needed in 2014 guide update
 - Remaining changes to be put into fall 2014 parking lot for consideration for 2015

The group reviewed the list and recommends that any changes to the guide be tabled until after the current round. However the group does recommend some “exceptions” to the current guide be made for the 2014 round:

- 1) (related to item #3) giving any of the approved TRC members voting authority therefore allowing two NOAA representatives to vote if needed
- 2) (related to item #4 second bullet) clarifying the guidance that those with potential conflicts can remain in the room for scoring and not participate

Several updates were given:

Martha: The Bishop property on Utopia Rd that is being purchased will likely be the substitute property for the Cumberland overflow easement. There may be a need for the TWG to review this to approve it for this substitution at a later date. The Group thanked Martha for her work on this issue

Leah:

The Salmon Recovery Council will be hearing Steelhead pilot project updates. ON March 27 from the Nisqually and in May from Hood Canal
LOIs for the Floodplains by Design are due May 23

Adjourned: 3:47 pm