

SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL  
Technical Work Group, Oct 17, 2013, 1:30 – 4:30  
Watershed Council Conference Room

**Technical Work Group Notes - Final**

Attendees: Jeff McGowan, Rick Hartson, Doug Bruland, Ed Connor, Leah Kitner, Tom Slocum, Bob Warinner, Alison Studley, and Richard Brocksmith

- Introductions: Richard Brocksmith introduced himself and said he would start officially on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. The Group thanked him for taking the time to attend the TWiG before his official start date
- Board updates: no other Board updates other than hiring
- 2013 SRFB Round Update
  - Project Updates: SRFB Comment Forms and Similk NMI  
It was shared with the group that all projects on our list were “cleared” by the SRFB tech panel members assigned to Skagit, other than one request for additional information on the Similk proposal due to the significant landownership change. It was reported that Jeff and the County worked closely with the Swinomish Tribe and SRSC to work these details out which included modifying the proposal to better meet the needs of all parties involved. A revised proposal has been uploaded to PRISM which decreased the acquisition request by \$200K and increased the Feasibility Study request by \$200K. As a result the group requested that all original members of the SRFB Technical Review Committee be given the opportunity to review the revised proposals. There is a very tight turn around, as revised proposals are due today. Alison will send email requesting that any questions or comments on the revised proposal will need to be received by Tuesday.  
(Subsequent update: before the Skagit SRFB TRC could reach consensus, the full SRFB tech panel met on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> and made the Similk project a POC. As a result the County pulled the project from our list on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The F2 list will need to be revised and re-approved by the SWC Board on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. The County hopes to resubmit the proposal for consideration of PSAR funds in early 2014. )
  - Solicit Feedback on 2013 SRFB process for LE Guide updates
- Overall the group seemed pleased with the SRFB process for 2013. However, TWiG members did supply the following suggestions for improvement to consider for future rounds:
  - Separating Step 6 into two steps (final technical review AND scoring). It was cumbersome to do in one step this round. Also guidance and clarity on when sponsors can be present, invited to be present, asked to leave, etc
  - Consider whether there is value in the “stewardship” project type with a \$200,000 cap on it from last year’s RFP. This year one large proposal was submitted to avoid submitting small proposals to compete with one another.
  - The process needs clarity regarding the role of the LE Citizen’s Committee in early project review process.
  - Revisions need to be made by January 2014 Board meeting if RFP is to be released on a similar schedule as 2013
  - These suggestions just pertain to the SRFB review process included in the LE Guide, however, the entire LE Guide needs to be reviewed as it was written with the idea that the SWC would cease to exist June 30, 2013 and the LE program would be managed by another policy body.

- Subcommittee Updates
  - Protection Committee Updates: Bob was the only member present to provide update. The committee did review 4 small properties. No decisions were made. Discussed who is running the formula for them, Kate Ramsden? Discussed PSR capacity funds and undeveloped idea for landowner willingness assessment. No next meeting scheduled.
  - HWS Update: SFEG's work is in a holding pattern currently. Waiting for PRISM/HWS interface to be complete to continue finalizing HWS Guidance Manual. Richard shared that Hood Canal uses HWS to tell a very good story and that SWC may be able to improve how we use this tool. Richard may reinvigorate HWS committee.
- PSAR Capacity Funds
  - Discussion: Skagit Capacity Funds-Review Draft Scope of Work  
Continued discussion from last TWiG meeting with suggestions for Richard to consider on how these funds would help fill funding needs in the Skagit. Some ideas related to 1) Technical Assistance. Small but significant pieces that would help advance projects. Such as digitizing historic photos for middle Skagit. 2) SWC member support. Could funds be used to provide SWC member orgs to work with landowners to develop project concepts. SRSC submitted a list of potential ideas. Alison will send to TWiG. Discussed that there are a number of projects where some additional work may help to move them forward such as McGlenn, Middle Skagit priorities, Skagit Delta priorities, etc
  - Discussion: Project Implementation and Development Awards (PIDA) RFP  
The Final RFP was released by PSP and distributed to SWC members via Scottie. Richard will supply some additional guidance to members related to what needs to be included in the proposals due 10/31. Ad Hoc committee will meet to review proposals week of Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. Alison will follow up with Board to ensure the Board has discussed the Ad Hoc Committee with appointed members.
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management Update: Bob and Leah provide an update. Planning is taking place through June, then the implementation will begin. A core group has been established and is meeting with PSP. They are helping to define key indicators and attributes that need to be monitored and tracked in the Miradi database. Ultimately M&AM will replace 3 year Work Plan. There will be a presentation on M&AM at the November Board meeting.
- Additional Puget Sound Partnership/Watershed Leads Updates (Leah)  
RITT is still reviewing 3 YWP. Ed is our reviewer.  
Steelhead-PSP is reconstituting the committee at the Regional Recovery Council. Likely to be Regional recovery vs local watershed planning
- Dugualla Lagoon Update: The group was brought up to date with latest developments including that the sponsor has appealed to the SRFB at the Dec meeting the SRFB Tech Panel's decision to only fund the project if the tide gate is set at 8.5 ft or higher. The WRIA 6 lead entity coordinator has inquired with the SWC Board to see if they will support the project if there are no Skagit funds involved.
- Other Topics: informal roundtable from sponsors on construction projects completed over the summer.  
There was no time for this topic. Additional time was spent on topics above providing the new ED with background information

Discussed having presentations at future meetings

Next meeting date: Nov 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm. ( we discussed a possible regular meeting time of the third Thursday at 1:30 pm, however for this next meeting a Fir Island Farms meeting is scheduled for 1 pm that day)

Adjourned at 4:30 pm