

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWG)

September 20, 2018, 1:00 – 4:00PM, SWC Office, Mount Vernon

(actions underlined, *bold action item)

Attendees: Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Doug Bruland (PSE), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Ed Connor (Seattle City Light), Kari Odden (Skagit Land Trust)

Absent: Eric Anderson (Aspect Consulting), Jeremey Gilman (USFS), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), and Devin Smith (Skagit River System Cooperative)

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Erin Murray (note taker, PSP), Steve Hinton (SRSC)

Review of Notes:

Richard has 2 corrections: replace “caveat” with “condition” and M&AM report includes LWD “framework” rather than “data”. Seeing no objections from meeting members, the group approved April, June and July TWG meeting notes as amended.

Protection Subcommittee Updates

- Bob reported out 5 parcels were greenlighted recently:
 - Diobsud 20 acre parcel above the bridge including only eastern 10 acres for purchase.
 - Frontage on the Skagit River & Diobsud approved for easement (4.1 of 7.7 acres)
 - Marblemount above bridge river right 1.1 acres
 - Boyd Creek confluence 2.3 acres
 - Boyd Creek 80 acre forestry parcel approved for match
 - Near savage slough. Not in the floodplain, fully forested
- Looking for new membership on the Protection Subcommittee
- TWG members started a discussion on how to track more systemically acquisition projects through time and phases in the process and how to report back to the TWG, particularly where restoration is needed.

M&AM Subcommittee Updates

- No major work on draft report since March 2018, including no formal comments received on the report from TWG presentation in April.
- Presentation to the Board, with questions TBA:
 - Is the Watershed Council the right place to take responsibility of M&AM of the Chinook Recovery Plan (ex: complexity of regulatory components)?
 - Governance - how?
- 2018 Regional Monitoring Proposals – Riparian Assessment may be withdrawn.

Review of 2018 Grant Round

- Reviewed weighting criteria changes made in 2018 in Appendix C

- Tier 2 Target Area - Single Chinook population (was 3 points, now 4 points)
- Watershed processes (was weighting of 3, now 4)
- Richard analyzed changes to target area scores and as anticipated average scores of Tenas and Similk Bay projects went down 4 points with and without the change in weighting. Tenas would have been in 8th place versus 3rd this year while Similk would have been 12th instead of 9th this year (all in terms of raw score as opposed to normalized).
- Richard also analyzed changes to watershed process weighting, which was more complicated. Some project rankings move up and some moved down, but always by only 1 place, and not consistently in score.
- TWG members generally seemed to like the changes this year.
- ***2018 end-of-year lead entity process survey to follow.**

Project Implementation Updates:

- ***First priority in coming weeks is to ask sponsors with projects that have conditions when would be best time for them to come present to the TWG on status. Next priority is to ask sponsors with projects that have critical steps (which aren't conditioned) if they would want to share with TWG prior to proceeding to the next phase. Finally, ask sponsors to report on lessons learned from recently completed projects as well.**
- SWC updates on the following completed projects:
 - Illabot
 - Went well. Road paving is still pending.
 - Illabot is closing under budget, at least \$500,000 PSAR funds will be returned and will need to be spent by 6/2019
 - Potential to hold an RFP for other active projects that need more money
 - Skagit Delta Hydro Model - November Council of Members Meeting
 - Goodell Restoration Feasibility – At TWG in 2 to 4 months
 - Kukutali
 - Road has been pulled out, rip rap out. Tombolo is open. Found clear line between native and imported sediment. Found lots of charcoaled material like rack had been burned. Also found seam or channel of non-native running across original surface.

Ongoing projects:

- Hansen Creek:
 - 2 months until bridge costs are re-estimated; design review and establishment of ILA with County happening now. Currently about \$700K short but hope to get down to much less.
 - Report out on ground and surface water monitoring was condition of project.
***Steve will share data with group in form of excel tables and graphs.** Stream

- temps are cold and baseline has been established. As expected water tables go dry in summer and then re-waters this time of year.
- 9 acres being planted this winter outside of construction corridor.
 - Milltown Design project:
 - Jenna has since left and WDFW waiting to fill position. Bob will be project manager until new person is hired.
 - Reviewing in ESA design alternatives report. ESA took a broad approach at 30% design. Project partners still debating preferred approach.
 - Alternative 1 “medium” restoration (no cost developed yet)
 - Alternative 2 “extensive” restoration (preferred by ESA, no cost developed yet)
 - There was much discussion about the feasibility of getting equipment to this site and how constructable the present alternatives are.
 - ***Next step is to set up stakeholder advisors’ team and meeting.**

SWC Priority Agenda Items for 2018/2019

- Strategic approach Type Questions
 1. Floodplain delineation and finer scale priorities (maybe in Oct 2019)
 - SRSC project with help from new SWC Coordinator
 2. Steelhead Recovery Plan
 - Stakeholder review is happening now
 - Release for broader audience in next month for first review
 3. Climate change and management implications
 4. Riparian Management
 5. Orca science and implications
 6. Discuss incorporating Samish watershed since Bob reported that weir will be coming out and possible importance for steelhead recovery plans
- Replicate model of Protection + TWG combo to pick-up where we left off. Do in July 2019 unless funding becomes available sooner. Or it has to be late 2019. Combo group could also be good to work on restoration on acquired lands questions.
- Opportunity for Fish Barrier Removal Board funding. 2nd RFP might open up a new Priority Watershed from FBRB.
- In sum group generally felt priorities included:
 1. Project review process described above
 2. Steelhead Recovery Plan
 3. Protection strategy procedures and joint combination planning
 4. LE grant process and LEAN study
 5. Floodplain priorities pushed out a year
- ***Richard will outline a timeline for each of the work plan’s pieces. Next version of this will have dates on priorities.**

Meeting ended: 4:03pm