

Unofficial Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) September 15th, 2022 1:00pm-3:00pm, Zoom Meeting

(decisions underlined, **action items in bold**)

Attendees: Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Colin Wahl (SRSC),

Absent: Jeremy Gilman (USFS), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Regina Wandler (Skagit Land Trust), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

Guests: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Taylor Studzinski (Conservation District)

Beginning Business

Introductions and check-in, **no quorum**

Agenda review—we will have an abbreviated agenda since we don't have a quorum.

Rescheduled Tim's talk.

Postponed approving the notes

Committee Updates

Board:

- 3 directors nominated by the Board to renew their terms (Andrew, Michael, and Brendan).
- Board structure and related topics were postponed. Annual lunch is next week, virtual.
- Fourth in the Salmon Science Series will be presented—Mike will cover Chapter 8 of the Salmon Recovery Plan, Eric and Greg will recap estuaries and cover questions for last time, Richard will present on what is going on with projects and plans in the estuary now.

TWiG:

- Doug Bruland has stepped away from this committee due to health issues. **Aundrea and Richard will contact PSE about a new representative for this committee.**
- **Aundrea will create an updated list in Word Document format (rather than as posted on our website) of who is currently in each of the Watershed Council committees and subcommittees.**

M&AM:

- Discussed the topic raised by the TWiG about ranking pocket estuaries in Whidbey Basin (because the recommendation to include pocket estuaries originally came from the M&AM). There is not currently enough data to rank them quantitatively. Language to rank them qualitatively by connectivity to the natal rivers and as stepping stones already exists in the Strategic Approach. M&AM would like clarification from the TWiG about what they want in terms of science to better support ranking pocket estuaries. Maybe this is a discussion the TWiG needs to have.
- Discussed focus metrics used by RCO for State of the Salmon report and if those could be useful for reporting on progress in the Skagit. Maybe we need a presentation on how

Salmon Recovery Portal works (this is where focus metrics are recorded or imported from PRISM)

Protection Subcommittee:

- Working on the Morgan Creek project that will be coming to the TWiG for review.
- Reviewing the 2022 Protection Strategy with Sauk updates.

Old Business

Updates

- North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon will be repaying their \$108k loan from us in the 2023 grant round.
- We continue to advocate for rolling over PSAR funds from this year as discussed at the TRC meeting. SWC wrote a letter to the Salmon Recovery Council to that effect.
- The riparian proviso (landowner incentives project) is humming along with meeting with landowners and practitioners. They expect to have results out mid October.
- We will do written updates from now on to save time on the agenda. Folks can just ask questions about updates as needed.

New Business

Legislative and Policy Advocacy

- Army Corps permits are taking a long time at SFEG. Are others having this problem? SREG would like a dedicated person at RCO to shepherd the process with ACOE. **SWC will follow up with RCO about a steward for the process.**
- SWC is advocating for eliminating match, bringing this up with regional and state lead entity groups. SWC will see where we can push levers.

We would like to meet in person. SFEG has a hybrid set up we can use.

Upcoming TWG Meetings:

October 20

November 17

December 15