

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

March 21, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00PM, SWC Office, Mount Vernon

decisions underlined, **action items bold**

**Attendees:** Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC, note taker), Kari Odden (Skagit Land Trust), Devin Smith (Skagit River System Cooperative), Erin Lowery (Seattle City Light), Doug Bruland (PSE)

**Absent:** Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Tom Slocum (Skagit Conservation District), Erik Anderson (Aspect Consulting), Jeremy Gilman (USFS)

**Guests:** Leah Kitner (ex-officio member PSP), Catey Ritchie (SRSC), Scott Bohling (DOE), Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Sue Madsen (SFEG)

## Beginning Business

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### Approved February TWG Meeting Notes

## Committee Reports

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Board of Directors met 3/7/19: no quorum, no decisions

(Richard Brocksmith)

Protection Subcommittee did not meet but we have the following news:

(Bob Warinner)

- County owned parcels discussion has been scheduled for the May PS meeting.
- SCL has a signed letter of intent with large, middle Skagit property
- We continue side conversations about how to improve communication about TWiG reviewed properties between PS and TWiG.
- Kelsey from SFEG may participate as a guest at PS meetings.

## Review of Letters of Intent

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### Discussion

- There were 7 proposals totaling \$2.5 million for a pot of money of \$1.1 million. There will be competition and some projects will not get funded this round. See attached summary list of projects. All projects except maybe Wiley Slough meet the requirements in the Program Guide.
- Barnaby Slough and Skagit Forks/Britt Slough are construction projects, following design phases that SRFB paid for.
- Lower Day Slough has willing landowners for a culvert replacement. This project is not on the 4YWP but is consistent with other projects on the list and with goals of the Chinook Plan (2005) and Strategic Approach (2015). Aundrea moved and Emily seconded that the Day Slough project be added to the 4YWP.
- There were two acquisition projects, one with an additional habitat classification component to prioritize purchases.

- Wiley Slough is an odd duck. WDFW needs the farmers/diking district to take over maintenance of the dike. They say the dike is broken and it doesn't meet COE standards either. WDFW is asking for SRFB funds to design and make repairs to the dike.
  - Various Comments and Questions: Does the liability lie with the engineer? One of our goals for our restoration projects is to do no harm. Is this project 'warranty work'. If shown to be a shortcoming of the original project, should the repair be funded outside the competitive process? Is the LE process the right place for this project and discussion? Did 'we' break it? If you break it, you bought it? Was the dike designed to COE standards originally? Is the issue due to errors/omissions from design? Is this maintenance? Is sea level rise part of the problem that wasn't accounted for initially?
  - SRFB has said they will fund it as a design project if it passes SWC process. There is precedent for this type of project.
  - TWiG doesn't know whether 'we' broke the dike; we can't answer this question with the information presently provided.
  - The ultimate fix may be millions of dollars and is unknown. Approximately \$3.5 million has already been spent on various fixes (non-SRFB\$)?
  - The Wiley Slough example suggests a need for a larger discussion about situations like this (you broke it you bought it, funding method for 'repairs/failures', adaptive management).

#### Decision

- TWiG approved the following projects to proceed to the Draft Application:
  - SRSC Barnaby Reach Restoration Phase 1,
  - SFEG Skagit Forks/Britt Slough Wetland Reconnection,
  - SCL Skagit Basin Acquisition III,
  - SRSC Class A Floodplain Acquisition,
  - SRSC Skagit Basin Ongoing Project Maintenance,
  - SFEG Lower Day Slough Fish Passage
- TWiG tasked Richard with writing a response to WDFW stating that we don't know if the WDFW Wiley Slough project is eligible for SRFB funds according to SWC LE process and information provided, but WDFW can proceed to Draft Application so we can continue to gather knowledge.
- \*TWiG also asked Richard to bring the broader questions of process around adaptive managements for all projects to the Board.

#### Report on the SRFB Process

(Aundrea)

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- Next Steps: see attached schedule. Planning for the field trips on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>:
    - Some sponsors may want A/V presentation time inside before going into the field. **\*Sponsors will consider and get back with Aundrea about presentation needs.** All will be offered the option, but it will take away from field time.
    - **\*Sponsors need to bring enough maps for all participants on the field trips.**
    - FYI: the LEAN process at the State level has made some major changes to the grant round schedule for next year such that FINAL project applications will be due before the field trips.

There will be no Draft Application step. **\*Aundrea will send out more information as soon as she has it.**

- TRC: See the attached list for confirmed TRC members at this point.

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#### Skagit Water Supply Task Force

(Richard)

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- See attached summary from Jennifer
  - **\*Ecology would value SWC comment on the habitat portion of her study, and eventually support it.**

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#### TMDL Presentation

(Scott Bohling)

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- There has been a resolution at PSP to develop a strategy for dealing with the Lower Skagit temperature TMDLs. There is a push for an implementation plan to get funds for a more effective approach. Scott is looking for advice from the TWiG regarding cold water refuge identified for protection and enhancement. This will be an update on Sally Lawrence's work.
  - **\*DOE will compile existing temp data and analyze for the tributaries.**
  - **\*TWiG member orgs. will talk with field staff about putting out temp probes.**
  - TWiG suggested:
    - Scott should be working with Western Washington Agriculture Association, other interests.
    - Hansen Creek work by USIT, SRSC, and the County will be informative.

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#### Other Updates

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- We are still waiting to hear back from PS committee if **there is funding available for a summary assessment at the Alder Creek site and if SWC staff will need to write up coarse-level habitat benefits and impacts and possible costs of removal. Tom may also help.**

**Letters of Intent Submitted to Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity  
Program March 8, 2019**

Project Name	Contact	Sponsor	Partners	Project Type	Tier	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
SRSC Class A Floodplain Acquisition	Steve Hinton	SRSC	SST, SITC	Acquisition	1	\$ 225,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 300,000
Wiley Slough Dike Repair	Jenny Baker	WDFW		Design	1	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition III	Denise Krownbell	SCL	SLT	Acquisition	multiple	\$ 625,000	\$ 110,294	\$ 735,294
Lower Day Slough Fish Passage	Susan Madsen	SFEG		Restoration	1	\$ 119,850	\$ 21,150	\$ 141,000
Skagit Forks Wetlands Reconnection	Susan Madsen	SFEG	SCD	Restoration	1	\$ 425,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 500,000
Barnaby Reach Restoration Phase 1	Devin Smith	SRSC		Restoration/ Non-Capitol	1	\$ 750,000	\$ 397,000	\$ 1,147,000
Skagit Basin Ongoing Project Maintenance	Devin Smith	SRSC	SFEG	Restoration	1	\$ 200,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 230,000
<b>Totals:</b>						<b>\$ 2,544,850</b>	<b>\$ 678,444</b>	<b>\$ 3,253,294</b>

<b>Technical Review Committee 2019</b>	
<i>Invited</i>	<i>Response</i>
Alison Studley	yes
Devin Smith (w/Catey as observer)	yes
Jeremy Gilman	yes
Micah Wait	yes
Rick Hartson	yes
Kevin Aitkin	no
Tom Slocum	no
Bob Warinner	
Doug Bruland	
Emily Derenne	
Erik Anderson	
Erin Lowery	
Janet Curran	
Kari Odden	
Pat Stevens	
Polly Hicks	