

Skagit Community Engagement Committee

Skagit Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

September 25, 2018 – 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Skagit Watershed Council

(Underline indicates decision point; ***bold indicates action item**)

Present: Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Lucy DeGrace (SFEG), Alex duPont, Chair (WSU Ext.), Scottie Schneider (SWC) Stacy Dahl (SLT), Zena Garin (SLT) Andrea Reiter (SWC), Kalena Walker (SFEG).

Call to Order: 9:31 am

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Around the table introductions including name, organization, and title to introduce AmeriCorps members to the CEC.
2. **Approve June meeting notes.** Review Action Items – Cindy motioned to approve meeting notes, Scottie Second; the committee approved the meeting notes from June 26, 2019 with no corrections.
3. **Update of Orcas, Salmon, & Stormwater education in schools** - Andrea updated the committee that progress has made in the Sedro Woolley School District and the Burlington Edison School District. For both districts there is a draft proposal for implementation of programs to all students within specific grade levels.

BESD proposal is ready to go back to administrative staff for approval followed by scheduling by the individual organizations.

Cindy is communicating with Franklin Conservation District and Snohomish Conservation District to organize a teacher training, with clock hours, for SWSD staff to help with understanding how to teach the Drain Rangers curriculum. Once we have more details, we will get back to SWSD with full proposal.

Stacy would like to consider SLT properties if at all feasible for any STEAM train programs. SLT wants their land to be used by these sorts of programs, SFEG will keep in mind SLT properties; they already utilize the Utopia property for Sedro Woolley School District. ***Andrea will add SLT's 2nd grade Conservation Classroom program onto SWSD proposal.**

The Committee discussed creating a similar implementation plan for both Mount Vernon School District and Anacortes School District. The Committee decided MVSD might be the next best district to tackle in the 2019/2020 school year. To look at creating a plan for Anacortes the SFEG and SCD would need more capacity (funding & staffing) Anacortes is also out of SFEG's focus area.

SWC has also applied for a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant to support LID retrofit analysis for multiple school districts' properties and fund the instillation of a raingarden at Jefferson Elementary (MVSD) and one in the Sedro Woolley School District. This is likely a very competitive grant, SWC is also looking for funding elsewhere to start doing LID retrofits paired with elements of the Drain Rangers curriculum in schools. Another project SWC is working on with MVSD is luminary making in 6th grade art classes at both LaVenture Middle School & Mount Baker Middle School.

To grow the STEAM Train proposal to other districts, funding will be needed. Specifically stipends for paid interns would be helpful. ***All CEC members will continue to look for funding opportunities.**

4. **This Skagit Life Update** – SWC has partnered with Skagit County Historical Museum on this Skagit Life which will end with an exhibit at the SCHM paired with the traveling exhibit “Who Are We”. SWC has rolled out 3 of the 4 interviews done by Kulshan Services with the 4th going out in about a week. Andrea has started to conduct interviews again and has completed the interview of Anne Schwartz and has an interview scheduled with Anita Mayer.

The CEC reviewed the updated interviewee list and identified people CEC members know and can share contacts ***All will email Andrea with contact information of people on the interviewee list they know. Stacy will email Andrea with a conservation easement landowner or two – ideal would be a landowner in the delta.**

CEC members should look for the interviews on social media and “like” or “share” content to help spread the word.

5. **Illuminight Update-** 5th Annual Illuminight Winter Walk will be Friday, January 25, 2019. Volunteers day of the event will be needed. SWC could also use volunteers during some of the luminary making workshops in school or at MoNA December 1.
6. **Social Media**– Alex & Andrea would like CEC members and member organizations to utilize networking on social media more. ***All content that is Skagit specific should have #ouraskagit in the message.**

Our message will be stronger if we cross market, share, and like each others' posts. You can share a post another organization has on Facebook and add your own organization's perspective. Zena suggested looking at the time of day when posting, evening can be more effective. Also, the more interaction a post gets the more likely more people will see (Facebook algorithms).

Post Newsletters is a good way to share what your organization is up to as well.

We should all explore Instagram Stories as well, stories are pinned to the top of the newsfeed for 24 hours and are more likely to be seen. Best for events.

Other Social Media strategies we can do are Fun Fact Friday (#funfactfriday & #funfactfridayskagit) and Where in Skagit Wednesday (#whereinskagit #skagitplaces)

7. Information Sharing:

Events:

- September 27th – SFEG – Baker River Sockeye Salmon Success Story
- October 5 – SLT Barney Lake Planting Party
- October 6 – SLT will be at Festival of Family Farms + work party at Cascadia Farms
- October 6– SFEG Spawner Survey Workshop
- October 26 – SFEG Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- October 27 – SFEG Make a Difference Day

Recruitment:

- SFEG is looking for interns
- WSU is recruiting for Master Gardeners, applications due at end of October for the 12-week course

Eco-Net: SCEA has funding from the County to host one more Eco Net meeting between now and end of year. They have applied for continued funding from the County but will not know if they receive it until December. CEC said Eco Net meeting would be best on the same day as a CEC meeting.

Next CEC Meeting: was scheduled for October 23, but SFEG is busy, Alex is double booked, and Andrea is out of town. November CEC meeting is scheduled for November 27, SFEG will not be able to attend. Alex suggests a doodle poll for a possible date to combine both CEC and Eco Net, possibly early November. ***Andrea will send out doodle poll to CEC members to get a date that could work for both CEC and Eco Net, then send that information to Karen at SCEA.**

8. Meeting wrap-up and Adjourn.

Next CEC meetings will be determined by doodle poll.