



# SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL

*A Community Partnership for Salmon*

## **Technical Work Group Meeting** **March 20, 2025, 1:00-4:00pm** **815 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon 98273 and via Teams** **Meeting Minutes**

### **Join Teams Meeting**

**Members:** Colin Wahl (SRSC), Jess Lange (SLT), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Rick Hartson (USIT), Yuki Reiss (SFEG), Megan Corbiere (SWC), Jeff Fisher (SCL)

**Guests:** Keeley Mathis (SWC), Jenny Baker (WDFW)

Decisions underlined; attachment (#); **\*action items bold**

### **Beginning Business**

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- Convened at 1:06pm.
- Quorum achieved.
- Emily made a motion to approve the agenda for March. Colin seconded. None opposed and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Emily made a motion to approve February 2025 notes, Jess seconded, none were opposed, and the notes were approved.

### **Committee and Meeting Reports**

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- Verbal committee reports were given. Suggestion that they be provided in written form.

### **Review Letters of Intent**

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- Some projects won't get funded this year. We are about \$300k shy of funding all projects.
- We renamed McGlinn jetty to Dunlap per sponsor's LOI.

## Approve 4 Year Work Plan

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- The TWG went over each project that had not been approved in the last meeting.
- Some projects that are not yet added. If you have questions, reach out to the project sponsor.
- Tier listed as “none” means that the project is not geographically within a defined tier.
- Suggestion to add a new column in the 4ywp that indicates supported project or not for more clarity than the current indication using tier and pink highlighting.
- Suggestion to add projects 2, 4, 7 and 8 from 2025 proposal list.
- Megan will make the sort option have pink highlighting at the bottom for every view.
- Suggestion that we do the cross-walk exercise, a deep dive regarding future commitment. Possibly in the summer.
- Colin made a motion to approve the 4YWP, Jess seconded. None opposed and it was approved.

## TWG Description for Website

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- This is tabled.

## Project Update: Milltown and Island Unit

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- Jenny Baker gave update about WDFW projects.
- Milltown
  - WDFW lands located in the South Fork/Fir Island between Freshwater Slough, Steamboat Slough.
  - There had been restoration in 2004.
  - It is difficult to get to with soggy soils. Challenging site to work with. Contracted Trico. Fitted their excavators with wider tracks for lower ground pressure and they constructed new channels. Amphibious excavator was great and left basically no track on the land.
  - Drone sprayed herbicide to prevent overtake of reed canary grass.
  - Jenny doesn't seed in the estuary area because there are so many native grasses there that seed.
  - They planted willow and other native plant species: 31,000 6' cuttings. Unfortunately, the beaver found the situation easily accessible and are very active.
  - Funded by US Fish and Wildlife, Coastal, ESRP, SRFB, NOAA, PSAR,
- Island Unit
  - Between Deep Water Slough and Fresh Water Slough, popular hunting site.

- Priority is estuary restoration. Decision to restore in 2021
- Climate change increases management challenges
- Channels don't form on their own and must be constructed.
- Fill areas-50 acres of natural river levee analogs and forested riparian area.
- Construct 3 low angle landings for recreational access. Construct up to 19 mounds for recreational use. Keep the bridge.
- There is sedimentation due to flooding. Monitoring to look at flood elevations. Change in velocity.
- Concern about coastal storms, wind and waves. Modeling was done to understand how much higher the waves would be without the obstructions in the way. There has been a slight increase in waves.

### **Tier Layer Revisions/Clean Up**

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- TWG is in favor of updating the tier layer with newer imagery (lidar)
- Any updates to the tier layer would need to be brought to TWG for comparison. There needs to be a review process involved.
  - The initial making of tier layers involved looking at every boundary for the whole layer. FIMA layer was used.
- Suggestions for updating the tier 2 layer (which includes polishing the current polygons as well as making new polygons from tributary lines) include floodplain models from SRSC and SCL. However, hydraulic modeling won't be good for estuaries. Ecology has a tributary/floodplain layer to look into as well.
  - Finnea & Day might be good tributaries to start with to see how the layer looks.

### **Old Business**

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- Knotweed pamphlet-this is tabled.

### **Agenda Item Parking Lot**

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- Climate change criteria (2026 Grant Round).
- Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act (2026 grant round).
- What design standards for dikes can get SRFB\$?

### **New Business**

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- Discussion that it is hard to hear for remote attendees. Can we get a new microphone system? **\*Keeley will look into this.**

- Jeff is unable to make these meetings in person due to being located in Olympia. He suggests starting the meetings at 10:30 or 11:00. Everyone in attendance is amenable to this (might have to add it as a working lunch).
- Who will do the April project update? – Sue will, and Colin is in charge of confirming this. Follow up with Colin before next meeting.

**Adjourned at 3:45 pm**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 17<sup>th</sup>

May 15<sup>th</sup>

May 6, 7, and 8 LECC Project Site Visits for all applicants