



Meeting Minutes

PURPOSE

SEEC Quarterly Business Meeting

DATE / TIME / LOCATION

October 29th, 2023

IN-PERSON Glacier Peaks, New Halem

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

USA		CANADA	
Leo Bodensteiner	Tim Reynon	Shannon Bentley	Sue Hammell
Lynn Best	Jon Riedel	Peter Chapman	Stephen Hui
Richard Brocksmith	Rob Smith	Karen Dunstan	Anna Sears Warwick
		Brodie Guy	
Administration Support Kate Engel Kiyomi Keckemet		Administration Support Ann Eastman Rudy Kehler	

Regrets: Matt Love (US), Diana Bob (US), Bob Chamberlin (Canada)

1. Call to Order and

- Call to order at roughly 11:05AM.

2. Co-Chair Updates

SEEC committees (Shannon)

- There are 6 standing committees, each with a minimum of 4 members, both countries represented, and a chair.
- Ad hoc committees (e.g., Relicensing committee and Retreat Planning committee) must have a set purpose.
- Discussion: Terms of reference are needed for all committees and ideally each include a member from the Communications committee.

Woodland Park Zoo funding application (Leo)

- Ecosystem Committee recommends the Commission approve funding.
- Proposal summarized, is part of a larger 3-year monitoring initiative to inform land managers on population status of carnivores.

- Discussion: Suggestions for an improved proposal funding/granting process that aligns with reconciliation, is fair and transparent.

Motion to approve funding Woodland Park Zoo proposal with communications to include meaningful outreach to other Skagit Tribes and First Nations.

Richard (Motion) Leo (Brodie)

Decision: Approved, Motion Carried

3. Finances and Budget Development (Peter)

- Need strategic plan to inform budget which must be approved by City of Seattle by end of March; Kate to distribute previous budget submission.
- Need to improve budget development process to include input from Tribes and First Nations; Outreach essential.
- Committees to identify capacity funding needed for partners for ongoing work and provide ballpark figures to inform the budget.
- Need for an improved well-communicated, transparent process for proposal submission with clear criteria.
- Joint scoping with SCL for SCL funding of projects of mutual interest with transboundary value (through MoA), e.g., comprehensive watershed map.

4. Information and Public Disclosure Requests (Leo)

- Request made to SCL related to the Commission.
- Matt and Leo spoke with a lawyer and are anticipating a letter stating the Commission not subject to requests but happy to cooperate.

5. Letter of Affirmation to Support Grizzly Bear Reintroduction (Rob)

- The Environmental Impact Assessment statement required under the National Environmental Policy Act is open for public review
- The Commission can support (and has provided funding in past)
- Government consultations extensive; Decision by government in 2024
- Question on Tribes and First Nations engagement; Swinomish, Upper Skagit, and Okanagan Alliance supportive; Sauk-Suaittle Tribes opposed

Motion to provide a letter of affirmation

Richard (Motion), Lynn (Second); Tim abstained.

Decision: Approved, Motion Carried

Next Meeting: January 19, 2024 (Blaine WA)

Adjourn

MEETING END around 12:09PM