

3rd Quarterly WWIN/ECONet Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: March 16, 2010

Attendees: Kaci Radcliffe, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Sue Blake, Ingrid Enschade, Gwen DuVall, Beth Chisholm, Cheryl Lovato-Niles, Nancy Olsen

Welcome and Introductions

- Some new participants were in attendance and a quick round of introductions were made.

ECO Net Update

- Sue Blake gave an update on the status of the Puget Sound Starts Here Grant and Block Grant. The general membership was notified again in February that both grants were still available. They were also notified that the block grant proposal the WWIN Steering Committee had been working on for the Water Festival/Water Week was not eligible because the event would not be held until past the grant due date.
- The ECONet liaisons met in early March. Nancy Olsen attended the meeting for Sue who was out-of-town. Agenda topics included an update from Kristen on grants, the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign, Partnernet, etc.. Updates from individual ECO Networks were provided along with events being done in other counties associated with PSSH and "Water Week"

Sub-Committee Reports

- Sue Blake provided an update on the upcoming NOAA Program Design and Evaluation training for Heather who was unable to attend. Both classes are completely full and final details on logistics and refreshments are being completed.
- Nancy Olsen provided an update on Whatcom Water Weeks. The date for the event has been set for September 18-25, 2010. Outreach material for "hosting" an event is being completed and we hope to have it out to everyone by early April. We have also had preliminary discussions with the Port of Bellingham (Mike Stoner) about becoming an event sponsor and having the final day celebration on the waterfront. Feedback was very positive – Mike will check with other Port staff and be back in touch with us.
- Speakers Series – The last meeting of the sub-committee was in combination with the Whatcom Marine Resource Education and Outreach Sub-committee. WWIN members in attendance felt that there may be an interest in simplifying the survey under discussion and getting the series underway without a lot more assessment work. A decision was made to hold another WWIN Speakers Series meeting together soon to talk about how to move forward more quickly.

Brainstorming New Activities

- There was limited time left to have much discussion about possible new activities. Sue mentioned that a grant with the Marine Resource Committee may offer a chance for WWIN to partner with them to produce a newsletter covering both marine and freshwater issues in the county. It could also include information on events and volunteer opportunities. There was interest in this possibility.

Next Meeting

- The next quarterly meeting will be in June.