

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

October 4, 2016

COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

PRESENT: Frances Wood, Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Ruth Richards, Elsa Schwartz (WebEx), Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson (WebEx), Lori Clark County Lead – Island County Department of Natural Resources Manager (non-voting), Jill Wood representing Richard Hannold, Island County Commissioner (non-voting, WebEx), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Florian Graner, Tim Lawrence, Anthony Turpin, Stan Walsh, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Emily Terao (Pigeon guillemot research intern, presenter), Penny Harger (Sound Water Stewards), Govinda Rosling (Pigeon Guillemot Research Group)

CALL TO ORDER: Wood called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Bennett moved to approve the agenda. Tautvydas seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Tautvydas moved to approve the minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on September 20, 2016. Halloran seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: 2016 PIGEON GUILLEMOT REPORT

Emily Terao, Pigeon Guillemot research intern, presented on the 2016 pigeon guillemot survey. Presentation available online: <http://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/1611/2016-1004-pigeon-guillemot.pdf>

Discussion points included:

- Pratt's Bluff showed 7 fledging events and 2 possible fledging events, for a 54% fledging success rate. Mutiny Sands showed 7 fledging events and 1 possible fledging event, for a 64% fledging success rate.
- For prey selection, there was a slight preference for gunnels over sculpin. Over the past 4 years, there has been a slight increase in selection of sculpin, and a slight decrease in selection of gunnels.
- For the future of the study, there is interest in getting a study started on Camano, and expanding the survey to other parts of Puget Sound
- Bald eagles are the most apparent disturbance. They both prey on guillemots and keep the adults from delivering fish to their burrows
- The summer research intern is able to gather enough data to estimate fledging success, something that is not accomplished through the volunteer data.
- Terao received questions from beach walkers while conducting the study, and would hand out copies of the educational brochure that was updated last year. Having a sandwich board indicating she is conducting research would be helpful to avoid added disturbance and still inform the public of the research project.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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- The impact of ocean acidification on guillemots is not being studied directly. Analyzing the data on their prey selection (gunnels and sculpin) might provide indications of changing ocean conditions that could be studied further.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Outreach Update (Bennett): Bennett covered outreach needs in the discussion on the MRC Opportunity Fund. She will provide a more extensive update at the October 18th meeting.

MRC Opportunity Fund (Toledo): Prior to the meeting, a spreadsheet of project ideas discussed at the previous meeting was distributed. These ideas were discussed in greater detail, and are documented on the attached Excel spreadsheet.

Discussion points included:

- The Commissioners have expressed interest in having a video similar to the Kitsap Clean Water video developed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccgfiIreA-4>. The MRC could engage local citizens with questions about local marine resource issues.
- The intern's work could be focused primarily on helping to develop the video.
- An intern may not be needed for outreach work on the beach (e.g. standing with a forage fish display during monitoring), though developing outreach materials (display, brochures) would be helpful.
- The pigeon guillemot intern's work would be focused primarily on data management and outreach. Clallam is interested in partnering, and is putting \$2000 toward a guillemot intern in their project proposal.
- Storm surge monitoring is an important project, but the MRC would prefer to see how things go with Snohomish MRC's storm surge app development before proposing funding towards the development of an app for Island County. App development may be more appropriate from a regional entity.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Adams moved to approve the spreadsheet of MRC Opportunity Fund project ideas as an outline for Toledo to develop the application. Bennett seconded.** The motion passed unanimously.
- **ACTION: Adams moved to have the Chair approve the final iteration of MRC Opportunity Fund project ideas if there is not a quorum at the October 18th meeting. Richards seconded.** The motion passed unanimously.

2017 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award (Wood): The MRC needs an additional representative for the award committee. In the interest of time, Wood requested tabling further discussion for the October 18th meeting.

Coordinator's Update (Toledo): The Coupeville-Port Townsend ferry will not be running on Saturday, November 5th or Sunday, November 6th. Toledo is working with Northwest Straits to develop alternative travel solutions. Toledo will send out a survey to gauge the travel and lodging needs of the MRC. MRC members are still highly encouraged to attend the conference.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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In the interest of time, members were directed to the written project updates, included below.

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington): No update in the interest of time.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): From Lisa Kaufman:

“I'm waiting for the end of season report on the planting survival rates for Cornet Bay from SFEG. I was there yesterday and it looks like there has been a bunch of deer browse at the Phase 2 (Area 1) site. The dune grass is looking great, but the other plants appear challenged. I just ordered more plants for a fall planting that SFEG will coordinate to fill in where plants have not survived. I'll let you know as soon as I hear of the dates they are planning for fall planting and weeding.

Otherwise, regarding other bulkhead removal projects, we're waiting on permits for Seahorse Siesta (received the Island County exemption) and will start applying for Sunlight Shores as soon as I receive the biological assessment from the bio we hired. No news on Maylors - waiting to hear from the Navy on the status of the federal side of the permitting.

Jim Johannessen and I cruised the west side of Camano and east side of Whidbey last week by boat to ground truth information on potential armor removal sites. A few promising locations, but lots of bluff properties with lots of armoring and limited setbacks, especially on Camano. More details later once the data is compiled. If we have some possible target areas, I would like to bring the MRC into the fold to assist with outreach to landowners, especially if we have community associations to approach. Anna and I can discuss this further and see what it could look like.

I attached a few pics from Cornet Bay. Other than the shrubs needing some love, I think the rest of it looks awesome!”



ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): No further updates.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Adams/Lenny Corin):

Commission: The Commission met on September 30. Meeting summary will be sent when ready.

Foundation: The Foundation Board retreat is scheduled for October 8th on Camano.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): Turpin sent an update after distribution of the written project updates that he has spoken with Matt Klope about the creosote removal program and connections with NAS Whidbey, and suggested working with the Navy to get a piling removal machine.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): The Shore Friendly grant is planned for extension through November 30, 2016, which will allow for Shore Friendly permit subsidies through the end of November. Island County and Northwest Straits Foundation have both received additional funding to continue Shore Friendly work through 2018.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No update.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No report.

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: No comment.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.