

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

January 3, 2017

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

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Vice-Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Ruth Richards, Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson (WebEx), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Ed Adams, Lori Clark, Florian Graner, Jill Johnson, Tim Lawrence, Anthony Turpin, Frances Wood, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Jennifer Riedmayer (Island County DNR), Caitlin Budd (Island County DNR), Dick Toft (former MRC member), Lenny Corin (Northwest Straits Foundation, former MRC member), Dawn Pucci (Island County DNR, presenter), Maribeth Crandell (Island County Environmental Health), Jim Somers (seining project lead), Debra Paros (volunteer)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Halloran seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Farrington moved to approve the minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on December 6, 2016. Tautvydas seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Toledo shared a notice from the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) regarding a public disclosure request that MRC members may have received. Further questions can be directed to PSP's Communications Lead, Cathy Cochrane: catherine.cochrane@psp.wa.gov. Toledo reminded members that all correspondence with County staff is public record.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGE MAPS

Dawn Pucci, Island County Department of Natural Resources, Lead Entity Coordinator for Salmon Recovery presented on maps of predicted levels of sea level rise and storm surge that were developed for WRIA 6 Lead Entity. Presentation available online:

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/1736/2017-0103-sea-level-rise-storm-surge.pdf>

Discussion points included:

- The focus of the map development was for restoration planning purposes.
- The maps are based on a "business as usual" projection of relative sea level, which assumes emission levels and environmental impacts continue at current rates.
- The project did not explore how sea level rise might affect drainage upstream, but that would be a valuable topic to explore.
- The County is involved in a regional Washington Coastal Resilience Project led by Washington Sea Grant and Department of Ecology and involving several partners to better understand sea level rise and storm surge in the region and prepare for future events.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of officers (Schwartz): Schwartz presented the nominations for officers: Schwartz for Chair, Bennett for Vice-Chair. No further nominations were made.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Tautvydas moved to elect Schwartz as Chair and Bennett as Vice-Chair. Farrington seconded.** The motion passed unanimously.

Schwartz presented her recommendation for the Executive Committee: Chair (Schwartz), Vice-Chair (Bennett), Representative to the Northwest Straits Commission (Adams), and Past Chair (Wood).

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Tautvydas moved to accept the Executive Committee as presented: Chair, Vice-Chair, NWSC Rep, and Past Chair. Halloran seconded.** The motion passed unanimously.

2017-2018 project planning (Toledo): Toledo invited members to share ideas for the 2017-2018 work plan, which will run from October 2017 through September 2018. Typically the NWSC distributes a request for proposals in March with proposals due end of May.

Ideas included:

- Seining: For this year, Pucci identified an intern, Barney Boyer, with NOAA who is interested in analyzing the data at Cornet Bay. For Dugualla, the plan is to borrow a fyke net from NOAA, and test the fyke net method while also conducting beach seines to see what works best and how to plan for permit limits in the following year. Initial sampling will begin in February, and will give a better sense of the upcoming project needs. It might be beneficial to pursue funding opportunities to contract the work if the project turns out to be out of the scope of volunteers.
- Green crab: Whatcom MRC is exploring green crab monitoring. Tautvydas explained that Sound Water Stewards (SWS) are currently involved in green crab monitoring in Island County.
- Explore how monitoring might be useful to Island County departments, for critical areas, or for nearshore planning
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring plan: The MRC could serve as the coordinating group to develop a marine resources monitoring plan for Island County, noting existing monitoring projects and identifying any gaps. The MRC is strategically placed as an advisory committee to the County Commissioners, and also a good liaison to the public.
- Develop concept of aquatic critical areas and explore how the MRC can assist with next Shoreline Master Program update.
- Storm surge: Tautvydas shared SWS is interested in having the storm surge monitoring project listed as an SWS project. SWS is able to provide liability insurance for volunteers and USGS leads the volunteer training, data analysis, and provides equipment. Tautvydas can continue to update the MRC on project progress as needed.

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ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **All MRC members** are asked to bring ideas for new projects and feedback on continuing projects to the January 17th meeting.

Sound Waters University (Toledo): Registration is open for Sound Waters: <http://soundwaterstewards.org/sw/2017/>. The MRC has been invited to have a table.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Bennett** offered to help at MRC table at Sound Waters.
- **Any MRC member** interested in helping at Sound Waters is welcome to stop by the table throughout the day to help answer questions and interact with attendees.
- **Any MRC member** who would like to have information on the display should coordinate with Toledo.

Coordinators Update (Toledo):

- Volunteer hours: Please send October-December volunteer hours to Toledo by Friday, January 6.
- MRC Opportunity Fund: The Northwest Straits Foundation anticipates funding IC MRC's Opportunity Fund request for outreach work and coordination of the pigeon guillemot project. Toledo will pass along the final funding decision and timeline details as they are determined.
- Maternity leave: Toledo plans to be on maternity leave from mid-February through May. Dawn Pucci will be the primary MRC point of contact during that time. Caitlin Budd and Jennifer Riedmayer will also help provide administrative support. Due to staff capacity while Toledo is on leave, the MRC will meet only once per month on the first Tuesday of the month.
- Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC): Commissioner Johnson was selected as the Chair of the BICC for 2017 and will be sitting on the MRC in an ex-officio seat. She was unable to attend today's meeting, but plans to attend the following meeting.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington):

Below are recent results from forage fish sampling this fall. September seems to have been a relatively good month for Surf Smelt at our locations.

Restoration Sites:

- Ala Spit: Surf smelt at all three sites on 9/15 (that's a first for us)
- Camano Island State Park: Surf smelt at all three sites on 9/27 and again on 10/28 (also a first for us)
- Cornet Bay: In addition to the 9/15 surf smelt find at site #1, a few smelt eggs were found at site #1 on 9/30

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Index Sites:

- Long Point: Smelt on 9/15, 10/26, 11/25; Sand lance on 11/25
- Maple Grove: Smelt on 9/27, 10/28, 11/23
- Windjammer: There was one surf smelt egg found at Windjammer on 11/11, but since it was just one it doesn't get counted as presence

We are dropping Sandy Point as an index site due to access issues, and are beginning the process of adding Glendale.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): No update.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): We are awaiting word on funding for a coordinator through the MRC Opportunity Fund. With funding for our MRC and some additional funds for the Clallam County MRC plus funds from Whidbey Audubon we plan to create a position to help coordinate guillemot survey activities in both counties and to expand to Camano Island.

We are also waiting to hear if our poster abstract was accepted for the International Seabird Conference in February in Tacoma.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation:

Commission (Adams): Meeting highlights from 12/9/16 NWSC meeting were distributed electronically.

Foundation (Lenny Corin): The Foundation Board met on December 15th, in Port Townsend. On the agenda were the MRC applications for funding under the newly created MRC Opportunity Fund. Six of the MRC's applied for funding. There was \$53,500 available for projects. Several proposals were approved for funding, but several others raised questions. Caroline is following up with MRC staff and will report back to the Board. I expect that several additional proposals will receive funding approval at the February Board meeting.

We reviewed the latest budget information and it was good to see that the Foundation is healthy. Caroline has focused on raising funds for the Foundation's work, particularly those efforts in support of the MRC's. Our hope is that staff will have sufficient funding that is not tied to specific projects so that they can assist MRC's in their efforts to pursue projects.

The Board is adding one new member, Simon Geerlofs. Simon has been associated with the Initiative for many years. He was previously a member of the Snohomish MRC. He just moved to Port Townsend from Seattle. We are looking forward to Simon's involvement on the Board in the future.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): No update.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): Lisa Kaufman and Toledo will be going on site visits with Kevin Aiken and Rich Carlson from US Fish & Wildlife Service's Puget Sound Coastal Program to Oak Harbor Marina and two community armor removal sites identified through the

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SHARP and Shore Friendly programs on January 4 to determine if the projects would be a good fit for an application through their grant program.

WSU Extension: No update.

Membership update: Toledo brought the MRC membership vacancies to the BICC's work session. The three members requesting reappointment (Bennett, Rhodes, Wood) were reappointed for 3-year terms through 2019. The BICC expressed a desire to maintain tribal representation and recommended reaching out to the tribes for their recommendation. The Port of Coupeville has filled their vacant Commissioner seat. They are considering committee appointments, and may be able to provide a recommendation for the remaining MRC outstanding vacancy.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No report.

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Debra Paros shared that she has information on the bull kelp monitoring project that could be placed on the MRC display for Sound Waters.

Paros suggested two project ideas for the MRC to consider:

- Explore including a zooplankton study with the bull kelp monitoring project.
- Explore environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis; could be applied to habitat restoration. There will be two presenters (Ryan Kelly and Filipe Alberto) presenting about this at Sound Waters.

Lenny Corin mentioned that the Tulalip Tribes just hired a new chief wetland scientist.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.