

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# February 6, 2018

CAMANO ISLAND LIBRARY, CAMANO ISLAND

**PRESENT:** Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Ed Halloran, Matt Kukuk, Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Ruth Richards, Kestutis Tautvydas, Frances Wood, Lori Clark - Island County DNR (non-voting), Tim Lawrence – WSU Extension (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Barbara Bennett, Jill Johnson

**VISITORS:** Ann Precup, Scott Chase, John Amell (Sound Water Stewards), Janet StClair (Sound Water Stewards), Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Lead Entity Salmon Recovery), Kelly Zupich (Sound Water Stewards), Mark Stamey, Marta Branch (San Juan County – WebEx)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Halloran seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Tautvydas moved to approve the January 2, 2018 minutes. Halloran seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**Oil Spill Consequence Near-Term Action (Marta Green):** Marta Green, Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator with San Juan County presented their work on oil spill prevention and proposed Near-Term Action (NTA). Phase 1 included an assessment of the environmental and economic consequences of an oil spill in San Juan County (SJC). The report is expected by the end of the year.

SJC is proposing an NTA to complete Phase 2 which would expand the geographic extent of the assessment and also include social and cultural impacts. Green does not need financial commitment from the MRC, but would like to include Island County in the assessment if the MRC is in agreement. The MRC agreed to collaborate with SJC on this NTA and provide input and feedback as the assessment is conducted.

Additional feedback from the MRC included:

- Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve would be the first area hit from a major oil spill. SJC should coordinate with WA DNR to leverage their existing knowledge.

**Outreach Plan (Toledo):** Toledo shared the 2017-2018 Outreach Plan. Feedback included:

- Utilize sandwich boards outside of MRC meeting spaces to point the public towards MRC meetings
- SJC MRC put together an attractive trifold brochure about the MRC and a newspaper article about being on the MRC. The IC MRC could consider similar strategies.
- In the Outreach Plan, include a column on who's responsible

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- The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) work group leads are interested in having more citizen science participation. The MRC might think about ways to help connect citizen scientists with scientific needs and opportunities.
- If the MRC or other organizations are looking for Sound Water Stewards (SWS) volunteers, they can contact SWS and fill out a form regarding the project and volunteer needs.

**Educational forums (Toledo):** The MRC is planning two forums on aging shoreline infrastructure – one on Whidbey and one on Camano on April 21 and April 28. Hugh Shipman is available to speak. Additional speakers will include County staff and representatives from community associations that have completed innovative solutions regarding aging shoreline infrastructure.

Additionally, Toledo is coordinating with the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) to organize two workshops through the Shore Friendly program on bulkhead removal, soft shore protection, and shoreline vegetation management. These workshops would be complementary to the MRC forums and are planned for the spring.

Feedback included:

- The Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) is interested in helping however they can
- Snohomish County MRC would like to be kept informed of the forum on Camano, and might be able to collaborate
- Consider ending the forum at 12:30pm instead of 1 to avoid cutting into the afternoon
- Camano venues: County blue building, yacht club, state parks
- For the Shore Friendly community chat on Camano, homeowners are more likely to be available in the summer
- April 28<sup>th</sup> is during the Holland Happening weekend in Oak Harbor
- April 21<sup>st</sup> is Earth Day weekend, which could be used to help promote the event, or might detract if there are other activities planned
- Outreach should include targeted outreach to HOAs and other community associations. Kukuk can help provide contacts for communities that might be interested.
- The forums can be advertised on promotional material for Whidbey Earth & Ocean month
- Port Susan Home & Garden Show will be held April 14<sup>th</sup> and would be a good place to advertise

**MRC Opportunity Fund (Toledo):** Toledo presented and the MRC discussed the three projects that have been proposed for consideration for the MRC Opportunity Fund:

- Educational video and school activity
  - o Snohomish MRC expressed interest in partnering on the video
  - o Strong support from the MRC
- Pigeon guillemot coordinator
  - o The NWSF indicated the focus of the application should be on producing something (e.g. educational materials, event, social media campaign)
  - o A social media campaign could tie in the importance of bluff management
  - o Whidbey Audubon and Olympic Peninsula Audubon would contribute at the same level as last year

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- Match for Seahorse Siesta restoration
  - o NWSF indicated funds can be used for match
  - o This is a ready-to-go, on-the-ground restoration project the MRC supports
  - o The support from MRC would help bring more awareness to the MRC's work within the local community
  - o This is not public property, but it is owned and used by the local neighborhood community

## Additional ideas:

- Marine debris
  - o No project proposal ready at this moment, but should be reconsidered next year as this is a high priority for the MRC.
  - o There will be a follow-up conference in May to continue to develop the Washington Marine Debris Action Plan. A subcommittee could be developed following the publication of the plan to determine which actions the MRC could focus on.
  - o The MRC's strengths would work well for education and prevention.
  - o Engage students on proposed projects
- The NWSC is encouraging MRCs to come up with a list of projects that can be completed as funding becomes available

### ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Halloran moved to put forward a proposal for the educational video and school activity with a budget of \$4,300. Tautvydas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Additional discussion:

- Q: Could we apply for all \$10,000 towards Seahorse Siesta and postpone the outreach work for future funding? A: Yes, that's an option.
- The Seahorse Siesta project is time-sensitive and the contribution of match would help leverage over \$400,000 of funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- The MRC has been looking to help move forward a restoration project.
- The implementation of the educational video would benefit from additional preparatory communication and collaboration with local schools.
- The educational video and any outreach around pigeon guillemots can be considered during the discussions for the 2018-2019 MRC workplan and NWSC grant application.

### ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Kukuk moved to supersede the previous motion and put forward a single proposal of the full \$10,000 towards Seahorse Siesta. Halloran seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2018-2019 Work Plan (Toledo):** The 2018-2019 work plan is due in April, and will be discussed in more depth at the March meeting. The MRC would like to consider the educational video and pigeon guillemot outreach in the work plan.

The City of Oak Harbor is interested in continuing to pursue the feasibility assessment to look at armoring reduction, storm water improvement, and shading reduction at the Oak Harbor Marina.

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This project could be submitted through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Letters of intent are due 2/14 and IC DNR staff can assist in completing the letter of intent and application, in conjunction with the NWSF. The City is interested in partnering with the MRC for monitoring and outreach. The MRC expressed support for this project and suggested the City could come to a future MRC meeting.

## BUSINESS ITEMS

**Executive Committee (Schwartz):** Schwartz proposed the makeup of the 2018 Executive Committee as: Schwartz (Chair), Bennett (Vice-Chair), Wood (Past President), and Richards (At-Large).

### ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Tautvydas moved to accept the makeup of Executive Committee as presented. Kukuk seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Toledo):** The NWSC can cover registration to the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference for one MRC member. The MRC has the budget to cover at least two registrations and potentially more, pending confirmation of budget and expenditure details. Rhodes, Bennett, and Schwartz have submitted abstracts to present on MRC work. The MRC agreed to send these three individuals. The MRC also agreed to send Tautvydas and Zupich if funds allow.

### Coordinator's Update (Toledo):

- The 2018 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Sandy Dubpernell and announced at Sound Waters University on February 3.
- The Northwest Straits Commission is hosting a webinar on Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) on February 7. Any MRC members who did not attend the previous webinar are encouraged to attend. NEI is a method to quantify the effects of MRC actions on ecosystem recovery.

### NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

*NWSC Grant Reports and Other Reports include information shared from written project updates submitted by project leads as well as any additional information shared during the meeting.*

**Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards):** We are now sending all Whidbey samples to WDFW for processing, as of October 2017. Our 11/28/17 sample from the Long Point index site had both surf smelt (7) and sand lance (13) eggs. That's a first since the start of this most recent MRC sampling effort in November 2015.

We are still looking for someone on Camano to continue the monthly sampling at Maple Grove and Camano Island State Park.

**Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood):** The guillemot survey is presenting a class at the Sound Water University at the beginning of February. Frances Wood and Govinda Rosling will be teaching.

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In December we recorded two radio shows with the program Nature Now on the community station in Port Townsend. Our hope is to encourage volunteers in that area to expand our guillemot survey.

A meeting was held with Sarah Converse from the University of Washington, who is looking to hire a grad student to dig into and analyze data from all three guillemot surveys (Island and Clallam Counties and South Sound). She would welcome any suggestions as to what direction that analysis might take.

We have already received an application for our summer intern position.

## **OTHER REPORTS:**

**NWSC/F:** January meeting highlights distributed 1/29.

**Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):** Toledo is partnering with NWSF to organize two Shore Friendly workshops – 1 on Whidbey, 1 on Camano. These workshops will focus on alternatives to hard shoreline armoring and utilizing native vegetation on shorelines and slopes. The workshops will be planned around areas identified to have armor removal sites that are both feasible and have moderate-high ecosystem benefit. The Whidbey workshop is planned for South Whidbey. The Camano workshop is planned as a less formal “community chat” on South Camano.

**ILIO (Bennett):** No report.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**Chair:** There is a public comment period open through March 9, 2018 on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Additional information available at: <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Comment/>

Schwartz distributed fliers of the Snohomish County MRC’s film series. Additional information available at: <http://www.snocomrc.org/projects/ocean-literacy-education-and-outreach/>

**County Lead:** Clark requested to receive a recap of Sound Waters University at the March meeting. Spilsbury Pucci shared that the proposed substitute bill to HB2957 is more positive towards finfish net pens than the original.

**County Commissioners:** No report.

**COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.