

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Jenn Johnson

January 4, 2022

ZOOM

PRESENT: Hannah Liss, Vice Chair, Barbara Bennett, Scott Chase, Ed Halloran, Andi Kopit, Jill Lipoti, Elsa Schwartz, Kes Tautvydas, Jerilyn Ritzman & Tim Lawrence (non-voting) WSU Extension (non-voting), Jenn Johnson, IC DNR Manager/ILIO Coordinator (non-voting), Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner (non-voting)

ABSENT: Alexandra Plumb (notified absence), Kelly Zupich, Ken Collins

VISITORS: Clea Barenburg, IC DNR, Jeff Whitty, NWSC, Gwendolyn Hannam, WICD

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

CALL TO ORDER: Hannah called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

QUORUM: A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Kes moved to approve the agenda. Ed seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Barbara moved to approve the amended December 7, 2021 minutes. Jill seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

ELECTIONS – CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Jill nominated Barbara Bennett for Chair of MRC 2022. No other nominations. Hannah moved to approve the nomination. Kes seconded. Barbara was confirmed as Chair.

Barbara Bennett nominated Jill Lipoti for Vice-Chair of MRC 2022. No other nominations. Hannah moved to approve the nomination. Scott seconded. Jill was confirmed as Vice-Chair.

RETREAT PLANNING AND SUBCOMMITTEES (Jenn)

Retreat

The strategic planning retreat is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 19 (dependent on hiring new MRC Coordinator), most likely at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center if in-person is possible or Camano as a back-up location. The time is to be determined. Jill, Kelly, and Barbara

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are helping with retreat planning. Please let them know if you are interested in helping. The retreat will focus on a new strategic plan (previous version 2010-2020).

Subcommittees

The committee reviewed the list of subcommittees and members. Subcommittee list:

Subcommittee	Description	Members	Notes
Change Committee	Focus on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Responsible for looking into ways we can do better and ensuring that we are being inclusive and not harming others in our decisions.	Kelly	Hannah?
Impact Subcommittee	Help identify our projects' impacts, measure if the projects are doing what we want them to do and dig into what our most impactful projects are.	Jill, Gwendolyn	Kelly?
Education and Outreach Subcommittee & Needs Assessment Subcommittee	Focuses on education and outreach aspects of MRC's mission, including county engagement & Will work closely with the Education and Outreach subcomm. to ensure that the data from the Needs Assessment will be incorporated into strategic planning.	Scott, Barbara, Andi, Jill, Elsa	Kelly?
Community Science Subcommittee	Focuses on the community science aspects of MRC's mission	Ken, Kes	

Barbara will reach out to subcommittee leads about next steps and upcoming meetings.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE (Jenn)

Coordinator Transition

Currently holding interviews this week for the MRC Coordinator position. Hope to confirm the individual next week and start the transition in two weeks.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Forage Fish

Update: While many thoughts center on the cool weather we are having, the thoughts of the Pacific Sand Lance have turned more amorous. This is the time of year when they reproduce along our beaches. Sampling ramps up a bit this time of year to ensure we can keep up with their love life.

There was a marvelous class in December, hosted by the WA DFW, on the forage fish sampling process. We covered life history, sampling process and tips, lots of hands on in the field, and (my favorite) using the microscope to identify fish eggs. It was well attended by MRC volunteers who exhibited collective spunk working in cold and rainy conditions.

In other news, there will be some simpler "site at a glance" reporting launched with the monthly report. I hope this helps with volunteer engagement.

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We expect to further optimize sites and surveys in response to increased volunteer interest on Camano and based on project type.

If ever you wish to get your boots wet and experience the beauty of low tide and sand you are more than welcome to join in!

Kelp Monitoring

Update: Off-season, no updates from Ron. Save the Date for annual MRC Kelp Kayak Updates – January 26th, 2022 3:30-5:00pm via Zoom. Reach out to Hannah for any specifics. Hannah will continue kelp monitoring moving forward with Ken.

OTHER REPORTS

NWSC

Update: Climate Change Symposium series currently occurring. All webinars are recorded. December was Ian Miller and Lisa Kaufman on sea level rise and climate resilience. January 20th at 3:30pm will be Dr. Terry Klinger on ocean acidification – former San Juan MRC member. Linked shared soon but contact Elsa for details.

Introduced Jeff Whitty started with NWSC in December and is working on the Green Crab monitoring and removal program, and also as the new Kelp Plan Coordinator.

SRTCC

Update: Hired a new Lead Entity Coordinator Alexandra Plumb who will begin in mid-January. The 2022 Grant round is now active, share timeline and grant round materials. Letter of Intent due January 15th.

WSU Extension

Update: WSU Extension will be looking for a new Shore Stewards Coordinator as Jerilyn will be moving to WSU Extension in Snohomish County to run the Sustainable Stewards program. Job is now posted, please share.

Master Naturalist program is now led by Patricia Townsend and is now known as the WA State Naturalist Program. Currently being piloted by 30 volunteers and will begin a secondary pilot program in the Fall. This program has been many years in the making with 7 current modules and also working with Tribes to develop a new module on Traditional Environmental Knowledge.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: None.

County Lead: New Ex-Officio member: Commissioner Melanie Bacon. Lots of hiring and transitions at the county.

County Commissioners: None.

COMMUNITY AND MEMBER COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:

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- Microplastics Project Update: Grant submission with Seattle Aquarium is no longer moving forward. MRC would like to continue to work with partners and find someone else to work with to move this work forward. Plan is to connect it with our Forage Fish sampling efforts and partner with a lab to complete the analysis. Do not know if there are any current connections between the Marine Debris program and microplastics work. Request for next steps – looking for a new partner/lab to help with analysis of samples with goal of identifying types of microplastics (shape, type, particle size). Possible connections with DFW Storm Action Monitoring program to look into.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:44pm.