

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

September 5, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Barbara Bennett, Chair, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Paul Ben McElwain, Greg Easton, Kirk Larsen, Patrick Havel, Kelly Webb, Elsa Schwartz, Ken Collins, Kes Tautvydas, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff,

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified - Melanie Bacon, Ex-officio, notified

VISITORS: John Lanier, Planning, Jennifer Schmitz, LIO, Lauren Burch, Public Works, Jessica Reed, IC DNR, Clea Barenburg, Salmon Recovery, Shawn Morris, Public Health Director, Carlie Miller, Surface Water Quality, Linda Rhodes, MRC Technical Advisor, Sage Ince, Surface Water Quality, Jessica Owens, NWSC,

CALL TO ORDER: Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** The August 1, 2023, minutes were approved.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE WHITE PAPER: Jill Lipoti

- We received input from MRC members, Island County Departments, and external scientists, and we have edited the paper to make it more clear and pointed.
- The extremes events are what is going to cause the biggest issue for our ecological systems.
- Impact of wetter winters with extreme rains. This will create issues with recharge, runoff, and bluff erosion, etc.
- Septic drain fields have a lot of health implications for humans and our ecosystems.
- The MRC hopes this paper will begin a conversation about Climate and continue to build from there.
- Begin defining ways to engage the public about these issues.
- Strategic use of enforcement it can be used to level the playing field. We recommend that compliancy assistance should be offered.
- Create a crosswalk between the Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Plan.

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- It was decided to write a letter of support for groups and departments to sign.
- Can we request the Commissioners to sign the paper as an endorsement of further effort?

COORDINATOR REPORT: Kelly Zupich

- Shore Friendly Workshop coming up on Oct 7th at the Oak Harbor Library. We need volunteer hosts. We also need help with putting together the realtor packets.
- Orca Recovery Day Event - volunteers needed. Oct 14th
- Camano 101 Event - volunteers needed for the MRC booth.
- Whidbey Weekly article ideas – Take parts from the white paper to expand on, stormwater flooding, Shore Friendly success story, Student Research Project,
- The MRC was featured on a national Podcast called American Shorelines. [ASPEN | Could The Marine Resource Committee Model Be America's Coastal Solution? \(coastalnewstoday.com\)](#)
- DEI Committee – We need volunteers to get the sub-committee started again.

Meeting Adjourned 5:00pm