

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

November 22, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

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

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified -

VISITORS: Clea Barenburg, SRTCC, Carlie Miller, Surface Water Quality, Sage Ince, Surface Water Quality, Lisa Kaufman, NWSF, James Watson, WICD, Sarah Bergquist, WSU Extension

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.

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.

ARMORING DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Bacon let us know at our previous meeting that she intended to work towards making last minute changes to the language in the SMP. The intention of the language change would make permitting bulkheads easier for shoreline homeowners that can prove tidal flooding is an imminent threat to their home. The Commissioners were planning a special meeting around this on Dec 20th. Our MRC wanted to respond before the meeting, so we planned an extra meeting in November. It turns out the Commissioners do not plan to meet on this subject until after January 2024.

- The MRC will work together to write a letter/paper to the Commissioners to explain the importance of tightening up our codes regarding hard armoring in Island County. Additionally, sharing the science behind why hard armoring does not protect against tidal flooding and in many cases makes it worse.
- Our plan is to get this letter/paper to them before they meet to discuss the SMP.
- We are still waiting for a current copy of the SMP draft and Melanie's intended language changes. As soon as we get this information, we can finalize our draft letter/paper.

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Meeting Adjourned 4:30pm