

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

January 5, 2016

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

PRESENT: Linda Rhodes, Vice-Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett, Leal Dickson, Lois Farrington, Florian Graner, Ed Halloran, Ruth Richards, Elsa Schwartz, Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson, Anthony Turpin, Richard Hannold, Island County Commissioner (non-voting), Lori Clark County Lead – Island County Department of Natural Resources Manager (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Tim Lawrence, Stan Walsh, Frances Wood, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Tom Vos (Sound Water Stewards), Ken Urstad (Sound Water Stewards), Joe Hillers (presenter), Linda Meehan, Dawn Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery), Stephanie Croan (Island County Water Quality), Matt Zupich (Island County Department of Natural Resources), Brian Wood (Island County Department of Natural Resources), Keith Higman (Island County Public Health), Annika Fain (WebEx), Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission - WebEx)

CALL TO ORDER: Rhodes called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Prior to introductions, a certificate of appreciation and card were presented to Commissioner Helen Price-Johnson, as the outgoing ex officio representative of the Island County Board of Commissioners.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared.

AGENDA: Halloran moved to approve the agenda. Dickson seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Richards suggested an edit, that the NW Straits Foundation update should refer to the December 10th meeting in the past tense. Schwartz moved to approve the edited minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on December 15, 2015. Adams seconded. The edited minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rhodes invited new members to introduce themselves and share their interest in joining the MRC. Tautvydas introduced himself as a graduate of the 2011 class of Beach Watchers. He was on the Beach Watchers Advisory Council, and has been involved in several projects, including seining, pigeon guillemot surveys, and intertidal monitoring. He is the contact on Sound Water Stewards for new projects. His background is in molecular biology.

Thomson has a background in business and project management, and has been a recreational boater for several years. He has participated in the pigeon guillemot survey and has been part of the Coupeville Wharf Committee.

Turpin was assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey in the 1960s, where he served two years of active service, and continued to serve in the Naval Air Reserve before retiring with 30 years of

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

service. He served on the North Whidbey Watershed Advisory Committee, and is interested in serving on the MRC to be a point person for change.

Farrington brings an interest in science, with a background in molecular biology and clinical microbiology. She is on the Board of Sound Water Stewards, and she is involved on several projects, including Sound Waters University, green crab surveys, forage fish surveys, and pigeon guillemot surveys.

Bennett is interested in marine policy and adult education. She is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Environmental and Marine Affairs, and is interested in how citizen science can contribute to recovery of the Salish Sea.

Graner was appointed by the MRC as a non-voting technical advisor. He holds a PhD in marine biology, and founded Sealife Productions which produces wildlife documentaries and educational and outreach videos. He is interested in helping the MRC increase outreach opportunities through media.

Commissioner Hannold, Chair of the Board of Island County Commissioners, will be sitting on the MRC this year. He gave recognition to the MRC for the scientific input they provided regarding finfish net pens during the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update, and hopes to have more opportunities for the MRC to serve in this advisory capacity in the future.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: EFFECTIVENESS OF PHYTOREMEDIATION FOR REMOVING CONTAMINATES FROM WATER

PowerPoint presentation is available on the MRC website:

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/Phyto%20presentation.pdf>

Joe Hillers presented on a series of phytoremediation experiments conducting in partnerships with the MRC, Island County DNR, Town of Coupeville, and National Park Service. The results indicated that phytoremediation is effective in reducing nitrate, phosphate, copper, zinc, and fecal coliform.

Discussion points:

- The perlite-only boxes eventually stopped taking in water, which is why analysis was not conducted on the perlite-only boxes in 2014. This may be due to a biofilm layer forming around the perlite particles and interstitial spaces, eventually blocking water flow.
- These findings are similar to what other researchers have found on the effectiveness of phytoremediation.
- The Whidbey Island Conservation District is developing a project to collect storm water and store it in an existing lagoon to use the water for crop irrigation during drier periods.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Officers: Rhodes invited any nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair in 2016. Wood had offered to serve again as Chair at the December 15 meeting. Dickson seconded. Rhodes nominated Schwartz for Vice-Chair. Schwartz confirmed she would be willing to accept the

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

nomination. Adams seconded. Both nominations were approved unanimously. Schwartz invited Rhodes to preside for the remainder of this meeting.

Open lead positions: Rhodes reviewed a list of projects and topics that the MRC participates in, indicating areas in need of leadership. Toledo will send this list electronically for new and current members to indicate their interest. The list does not preclude further ideas on projects and topics to engage in. Multiple members can be listed as leads for a project, and members can also participate in multiple projects without being the lead.

Tautvydas offered to be the point of contact for seining. Farrington offered to be a co-lead on the forage fish project with Richards. Graner expressed an interest in education and outreach, working across all the projects to help prepare outreach pieces that show the wider public what the MRC does. Bennett also expressed interest in helping with outreach and education.

Sound Waters University: Toledo announced that Sound Waters University will be held on February 6th, 8am-4:15pm at South Whidbey High School. Registration is now open: <http://soundwaterstewards.org/sw/2016/?q=regis>. The MRC will have a display table. Anyone interested in updating the MRC trifold display should contact Toledo.

Retreat: Toledo reported that Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission, and Caroline Gibson, Executive Director of the Northwest Straits Foundation would be available to facilitate a retreat on March 15th. The MRC agreed that it would be beneficial to have both Broadhurst and Gibson present to facilitate and participate.

Schwartz encouraged members to consider holding the retreat on Camano. Since MRC meetings are held on Whidbey, Camano often gets overlooked. Holding the retreat on Camano would help bridge that connection and familiarize MRC members with the area. Toledo will send out an updated poll for the date and location.

Coordinator's Update: Toledo announced that she not be at the January 19 meeting, but Lori Clark will be present. Jessica Larson from Whidbey Camano Land Trust will be presenting on their work, and the potential for partnerships in the future. Cheryl Lowe and Al Bergstein from the Jefferson MRC will also be present to discuss potential project collaborations.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Eelgrass Monitoring: The eelgrass team is analyzing the 2015 data to present at the April MRC meeting.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey: Winter is a quiet time since most of the guillemots are gone from around Whidbey Island. However the committee has been busy with off-season work.

Two Pigeon Guillemot Survey presentations are planned for the next couple months. The first is a program for Whidbey Audubon Society on January 14 and the second is a presentation a Sound Waters University on February 6th. Govinda Rosling, Phyllis Kind and Ann Casey will make those presentations.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

The guillemot team heard back from the editors at Northwest Naturalist regarding submitting the paper for publication. Comments were generally good and the team is very encouraged. The editors are requiring some edits including some new data analysis, which the team is working on at this time. Emily Bishop will gather those requested edits together and submit them back to the journal.

Phytoremediation: No update.

OTHER REPORTS:

Northwest Straits Commission/Foundation: The next Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be held on January 29 at the Pacific Rim Institute in Coupeville. MRC members are welcome to attend.

WSU Extension: No update.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction: Toledo is preparing a grant proposal to continue the work of the Shore Friendly grant through September 2018. This grant would involve continued outreach to promote alternatives to hard armoring.

Port Susan MSA: No update.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Chair: No report.

County Lead: Clark reported that they are holding a kick-off meeting this Saturday from 1-4pm for the Iverson outreach project at Iverson Preserve on Camano. The goal is to hear and integrate homeowner questions and input to address concerns over the tide gate.

Clark reported that 18 projects were submitted through the Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) as Near-Term Actions (NTAs). Bennett offered to sit on the ILIO to represent the MRC.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: No comment.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.