

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

April 19, 2016

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

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

VISITORS: Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission – NWSC), Rick Baker (Whidbey Watershed Stewards)

CALL TO ORDER: Wood called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Schwartz moved to approve the agenda. Bennett seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Tautvydas moved to approve the minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on April 5, 2016. Schwartz seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Toledo presented a letter from the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC) expressing gratitude to MRC members in honor of National Volunteer Week.

Toledo announced that the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) has released a small grants request for proposals which specifically calls out MRCs in two ways:

1. As eligible project sponsors
2. Applicants must provide a Strategic Plan Review Form from their local MRC. This form acknowledges the MRC has received information about the proposed project, and that it meets the goals and objectives of the MRC.

Toledo will meet with Richards, Schwartz, Lisa Kaufman, Lori Clark, and Dawn Pucci to discuss project ideas to utilize this funding opportunity.

ADMIRALTY INLET GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE

Max Gordon with Department of Ecology presented on Geographic Response Plans (GRPs), and his work to update the Admiralty Inlet GRP. Powerpoint presentation available:

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/2016-0419%20ICMRCGRPPresentation.pdf>

Gordon reviewed the purpose, development, and implementation of GRPs. GRPs are designed for use at the very beginning stages of a spill. If the response is expected to last longer than 24

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hours, a unified command is formed, which may include up to 5 different partners, including a federal on-scene coordinator, state on-scene coordinator, local on-scene coordinator, tribal on-scene coordinator, and the responsible party incident commander.

Gordon is in the process of updating the Admiralty Inlet GRP, and requested feedback from the MRC on the identified response strategies and staging areas/boat launches, as well as any gaps. The map showing currently identified response strategies is available online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zWf9JFXeNQy0.kzlwNwQkU7sU>

Graner offered to follow-up with Gordon directly to assist. Clark will ensure Gordon is connected with Eric Brooks, Island County Department of Emergency Management.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Work Plan Project Prioritization (Toledo): Toledo presented the spreadsheet of proposed projects for 2016-2017, and invited any comments or questions about the projects. For education and outreach, in addition to videos, it would be helpful to have each monitoring project identify ways they would like to conduct outreach. Lucas Hart is available to help project leads refine the scientific aspects of each project.

The budget total for proposed projects is \$18,400. Toledo estimated the amount of funds available for projects to be between \$15,000 - \$20,000. Farrington noted that the forage fish budget could be reduced if needed, provided she is able to be trained to conduct the lab analysis. F. Wood noted that currently proposed projects could also utilize the Opportunity Fund through the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF).

Coordinator's Update (Toledo): Toledo reported that she, Schwartz, Bennett, Clark, Pucci, and Hart attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, and invited attendees to share highlights. Toledo noted that Encyclopedia of Puget Sound is a great online resource for myriad topics concerning Puget Sound, and has a series of articles highlighting a few conference sessions: <https://www.eopugetsound.org/magazine/ssec2016>.

Bennett shared that a group of citizen scientists in southern Puget Sound is conducting monitoring for a variety of indicators to develop a baseline of information to help determine whether "no net loss" is being achieved.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Forage Fish Monitoring (Farrington): Dan Matlock's team is continuing to sample at the Waterman Preserve in anticipation of the removal of about 700' of creosote bulkhead that is holding a long stretch of the bluff this summer. It is possible that once the feeder bluff is free to behave normally, the sediment characteristics may change enough to allow forage fish spawning to take place. Up to this point, no spawning has been found to occur there. Since shoreline restoration grants may be bolstered on the basis of improving forage fish spawning, it would be extremely useful to have an example of a situation in which the restoration activity resulted in more spawning.

Matlock is also likely to add Sandy Point, at the request of Phill Dionne at WDFW, and perhaps another site near Glendale once the required permissions to sample are obtained.

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The team is sampling the following WDFW index sites: Long Point and South Sandy Point on Whidbey, and Maple Grove Boat Launch on Camano. These are related to the legislature-mandated forage fish survey of the entire Puget Sound area that started this spring and will continue through most of 2017.

The team has put out a notice to recruit more volunteers to help with our surveys, and several Sound Water Stewards members have responded with interest.

Schwartz noted that the Snohomish MRC is interested in seeing how Island MRC uses the new blue-bowl sampling method.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): NWSF worked with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) to organize a planting event at Cornet Bay on March 19th, and have scheduled monthly weeding events through August. MRC members are highly encouraged to attend.

From SFEG: “The planting event at Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park on Saturday March 19, 2016 was a HUGE success. 76 volunteers planted hundreds of trees, shrubs, and native beach grasses! There was an extremely impressive improvement and a big thank you to all of our volunteer’s hard work. That being said, there is still more to do! Now that we have planted all of these amazing native plant species, we need to maintain a good habitat for them to grow. Skagit Fisheries will be hosting monthly weeding parties at Cornet bay now through the summer to help keep this site beautiful and make sure all of our hard work pays off.

Pull weeds and learn about some native beach plants with Shannon, SFEG Washington Conservation Corps IP, at Cornet bay from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm on every fourth Tuesday of the month. The weeding party dates are April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26 and August 23.”



Planting at Cornet Bay. Photo credit Pete Haase.

Phytoremediation (Adams): No update.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Adams/Corin):

Commission: See attached summary from March 25th NWSC meeting.

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Foundation: The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference was held April 13-15 in Vancouver, BC. All staff members of the Foundation participated, with Caroline and Joan hosting sessions.

Joan Drinkwin will be leaving the Foundation at the end of this month. She is looking to head out on her own, while continuing to focus on addressing the issue of derelict gear, worldwide. The Foundation has also been assessing where it, and the overall Initiative needs to go on the issue. In this regard the Foundation sponsored an internal Foundation/Commission meeting to discuss future derelict gear priorities for the Initiative. On March 31st the Foundation, with the support of the Commission, hosted a workshop in Mukilteo to discuss future priorities specific to the derelict crab pot program. Attending this gathering were representatives of the MRC's, the fishing industry, commercial crabbers, tribal representatives, government representatives, the tug boat industry, experts in derelict gear removal, scientists, etc. It was a very open discussion and addressed priorities for the future. There will be a follow up meeting in May to develop a plan of action. Joan will again lead that discussion, coming back under contract as she will no longer be a Foundation employee.

Regarding the MRC Opportunity Fund that Caroline and Lenny Corin discussed at the February 16th MRC meeting – the Foundation is looking for a minimum of \$70,000 for the coming fiscal year (\$10,000 available per MRC) and now have firm pledges for \$53,000. The next Foundation meeting will be on April 21st.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): Chris Robertson from Washington DNR will present to the MRC on May 3rd about their creosote removal program. Turpin continues to be in touch with Robertson and other contacts to develop a strategy for the MRC's potential involvement with identifying creosote for removal.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): Site visits as well as design assistance are available for shoreline homeowners interested in removing hard armor and/or installing soft shore protection at their properties. Interested homeowners should speak with Toledo.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): WSU Extension has hired a new Waste Wise Coordinator, Sarah Bergquist, who was previously the 4H Coordinator, and brings extension experience in education.

Port Susan MSA (Schwartz): Snohomish MRC is conducting outreach similar to Island County's Shore Friendly program to offer technical site visits to shoreline homeowners, to promote alternative strategies to hard armoring.

Port of South Whidbey (Halloran): The Port was asked a year ago to manage the Island County Fairgrounds for a year, which are owned by Island County. In March, the Port was asked to renew the lease, and in response asked the BICC to agree to criteria which would call for a vote to transfer ownership of the fairgrounds and allow the Port to raise its levy limit to properly support the fairgrounds management. The BICC signed off on the request today.

John Mishasek, Port of Coupeville Commissioner, met with the Port of South Whidbey, and both Ports are planning a joint meeting to enhance communication and collaboration.

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LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No report

County Lead: No report.

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 5:26 pm.