

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

May 17, 2016

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

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Vice-Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ruth Richards, David Thomson (WebEx), Anthony Turpin, Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)
ABSENT: Ed Adams, Lori Clark, Leal Dickson, Florian Graner, Ed Halloran, Richard Hannold, Tim Lawrence, Linda Rhodes, Kestutis Tautvydas, Stan Walsh, Frances Wood, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Rick Baker (Whidbey Watershed Stewards), Dick Toft (Sportsman, former MRC member), Mike Bianchi (presenter, NAS Whidbey Island)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was not declared. **AGENDA, MINUTES:** The agenda and minutes were not approved as a quorum was not declared. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

NAS WHIDBEY CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

Mike Bianchi with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) presented on their natural resources program, including completed and proposed restoration work. Presentation available online: http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/2016-0517%20NASWI%20NR%20Program%20Presentation_compressed.pdf

Discussion points included:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) have found juvenile salmon at Crescent Harbor after restoration.
- WDFW will be conducting pre- and post-construction monitoring of sediment movement at Maylor Point.
- Bianchi is open to having MRC conduct monitoring work on base, pending approval of the monitoring project and specific access needs. MRC can contact Bianchi or John Phillips to coordinate access, and data gathered on base would be shared with NASWI.
- NASWI would be a great place to conduct outreach, such as installing signage regarding restoration and marine resources, as the community includes transient military personnel, as well as retirees returning to the area.

ESRP SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Toledo reminded MRC members that the Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) released a request for proposals last month that specifically calls out MRCs in two ways:

1. As eligible project sponsors

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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.

The proposals should be between \$50,000 - \$100,000 for work to be completed in 2017-2019. Proposals are due July 31, and pre-application site visits will be scheduled for mid-late June.

Toledo held a call with Schwartz, Clark, Dawn Pucci, and Lisa Kaufman to discuss proposal ideas. The recommendation from that phone call was to pursue a feasibility study for a multi-benefit project at the Oak Harbor Marina, based on 3 Near-Term Actions submitted by the City of Oak Harbor. The project would include:

- Shoreline armoring removal: Remove approximately 1,100 feet of shoreline armoring and replace with soft shore protection, which may include native plants, gravel sand, logs, and root masses.
- Stormwater improvement: Remove approximately 700 feet of storm drain flowing directly into the bay and replace with a natural filtering system, and increase the angle of the boat launch ramp to reduce pollutants from vehicles that have to be submerged to launch a vessel.
- Shading reduction: Remove approximately 30,000 square feet of shading, including covered moorage, dock fingers, and creosote piles.

City of Oak Harbor has expressed interest in collaborating with the MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) to pursue a feasibility study for the project. There is also great opportunity for outreach at this site.

MRC members shared a desire to move toward submitting a proposal, and noted the potential for multi-agency partnership on this project. Toledo has requested a pre-application site visit date.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Coordinator's Update (Toledo): Toledo reminded members of the MRC Opportunity Fund. NWSF is offering up to \$10,000/year per MRC to fund MRC projects. Toledo encouraged members to be thinking of ideas for the funds. Uses could include equipment for monitoring, educational signage, hosting outreach events or trainings, partnering with other MRCs, among other ideas.

Toledo will be initiating a grant amendment to move the funds from the phytoremediation task to the operations task to be used towards an MRC website upgrade, as the funding in the phytoremediation task is no longer needed for monitoring as originally scoped. Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) will be increasing the total grant amount to contribute to the website upgrade as well.

Toledo has added summary boxes of action items, decisions, and follow-up to the meeting minutes to help summarize decisions and tasks following each meeting.

Meetings in June through August will be held just on the first Tuesday of the month. At next month's meeting Blain Reeves from Washington State Department of Natural Resources will be giving an update on the ghost shrimp harvest in Whidbey Basin.

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NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington): With the addition of nine new volunteers, the forage fish team is beginning on-site training in the survey protocol, and the volunteers have received Island County volunteer training, as well. Elevation sampling is expected to begin soon, in addition to the regular horizontal transect sampling. A large batch of samples was delivered to Dan Penttila at the end of April, with the following results:

Restoration sites:

4/26/16, CISP, 1-1: 2 decayed surf smelt eggs

4/27/16, Ala Spit, 4-1: 1 unknown egg, suspected to be a planktonic flatfish egg washed ashore

WDFW index sites:

3/24/16, Maple Grove, 1-1: 24 surf smelt eggs of 2 broods

4/26/16, Maple Grove, 1-1: 37 surf smelt eggs of several young broods

A sample from the Long Point index site was spawnless.

Farrington expressed concern that the battery used for the forage fish survey equipment is overly cumbersome to carry around at survey sites. The Skagit group uses a motorcycle battery, which is much easier to transport.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Farrington** and **Richards** will explore the cost of a motorcycle battery for the forage fish survey equipment kit, and having that purchased through NWSC or MRC funds.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): In coordination with NWSF, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) is leading monthly weeding parties at Cornet Bay to help pull weeds and maintain the beautiful shoreline restoration area on the following dates from 10:00am – 1:00pm: May 24, June 28, July 26 and August 23. MRC members are encouraged to participate.

NWSF has applied for funding through Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) / Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for ongoing planting stewardship starting in 2017, and would like to have the MRC involved in ongoing stewardship. Bennett suggested the MRC could help connect with other groups, such as Master Gardeners, to facilitate regular plant stewardship.

NWSF has applied for ESRP and PSAR/SRFB funding for armor removal at Maylor Point and Seahorse Siesta. Both sites will be monitored this summer for pre-construction monitoring, led by Hannah Faulkner through WDFW's armor removal monitoring project.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Richards** will connect with Lisa Kaufman about MRC's involvement in ongoing planting stewardship at Cornet Bay.
- **Toledo** will connect with Hannah Faulkner to determine if there are monitoring needs where the MRC can help.

Phytoremediation (Adams): No further updates.

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OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Adams/Corin):

Commission: See attached summary from April 29th NWSC meeting.

Foundation: The MRC Citizen Science Opportunity Fund established by the NWSF will allow MRCs to apply for up to \$10,000/year, as funding is available. A request for proposals will be available in July.

Joan Drinkwin left the Foundation as of April 30 but continues to work on the Derelict Crab Pot Strategy with Jason Morgan. She is under contract for the second workshop which will be conducted later this month, and for the development of a report and recommendations following the workshop.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): Turpin developed a draft outline for the MRC's engagement in identifying and reporting creosote and marine debris, which will be distributed to the MRC for feedback.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): Postcards have been mailed promoting site visits that are available to shoreline landowners interested in exploring soft shore protection options. Several homeowners have expressed interest. Toledo distributed hard copies of "Your Marine Waterfront," which is available online: <http://www.shorefriendly.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Your-Marine-Waterfront-web-version.pdf>. Additional hard copies are available in Toledo's office.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No update.

Port Susan MSA (Schwartz): No update.

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 5:11 pm.