

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# December 5, 2017

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

**PRESENT:** Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett (WebEx), Florian Graner (non-voting technical advisor), Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Kestutis Tautvydas, Frances Wood, Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)

**ABSENT:** Lori Clark, Jill Johnson, Tim Lawrence, Ruth Richards

**VISITORS:** Jamie Hartley, Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Lead Entity Salmon Recovery), Caitlin Budd (Island County Water Quality), Jenny Schofield (Island County Water Quality)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:44pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Adams moved to approve the agenda. Wood seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Adams moved to approve the October 3, 2017 minutes. Tautvydas seconded. The minutes were approved. Adams moved to approve the November 17, 2017 retreat summary. Bennett seconded. The summary was approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**Recognition of Outgoing Members (Schwartz):** Schwartz, on behalf of the whole MRC, thanked Adams for his three years of service. Members signed cards for Ed Adams, Dave Thomson, and Lois Farrington.

**Retreat Overview and Project Planning (Toledo):** MRC members reviewed the project ranking and discussions from the retreat.

The Northwest Straits Commission has been in contact with WA DNR regarding the potential for eelgrass monitoring. This could include monitoring for wasting disease as well as monitoring with an international protocol through Seagrass Net (<http://www.seagrassnet.org/>). The MRC expressed interest in how the project develops, but does not have a project champion at the moment.

Caitlin Budd and Jenny Schofield presented that they are working on a storm water outreach strategy. They are developing a Watershed Stewards program which would be a train-the-trainer model. The program would utilize a curriculum developed by WSU Extension. The MRC could be involved in helping to present some of the training. Additionally, if a project is identified in a watershed, the MRC could partner on that project, for example, to provide funds for rain garden supplies.

Discussion included:

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- General interest in continuing to hear how the program develops and how they might engage.
- Recommendation to contact Whidbey Watershed Stewards to ensure there isn't confusion over similar names.
- Recommendation to develop a job description for the Stewards to ensure volunteer expectations are clearly defined.
- Whidbey Island Conservation District is interested in developing an NTA around storm water outreach and may be interested in partnering with the MRC as well as other organizations. The MRC expressed interest partnering as appropriate on the NTA.

## **Outreach (Bennett):**

Net Pen White Paper: The Northwest Straits has decided not to hold a forum on net pen aquaculture as the legislature is considering modifying their existing regulations. The MRC agreed to move forward in developing a white paper about the current status of the issue specifically as it relates to Island County. Island County will be starting their SMP update process in 2019. Bennett will invite Tom Leschine to be a mentor in the process.

Educational forum: As part of the 2018 Outreach task, the MRC will hold an educational forum. Bennett reported that the topic that rose to the top from the outreach needs assessment was around aging shoreline infrastructure, such as armoring, tidegates, septic fields, and water systems. The MRC supported Bennett's proposal of a 4-hour forum in May that would include presentations from experts and a panel with community members who have piloted innovative solutions to aging infrastructure. Additionally a group of County representatives and experts would be available at the end of the meeting to address specific questions and concerns from attendees.

Monitoring inventory: Toledo will begin contacting organizations who conduct monitoring in marine areas in Island County to understand who is doing what. Suggested groups included: Sound Water Stewards, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Audubon, PSEMP, monitoring required by HPAs or other permits, SRSC, Tulalip Tribes, Salish Sea Marine Survival Project.

Videos: Graner presented the current draft of the MRC video. Some interviews will need to be recaptured for better audiovisual quality. Bennett, Graner, and Toledo are coordinating to gather the needed interviews.

Graner also presented a portion of his film "Discover The Olympic Coast," an educational film for K-5 designed for schools on the Olympic Coast. The MRC expressed interest in funding a similar film and accompanying curriculum for Island County schools.

Hats: The MRC reviewed the images of the stitched logos from Lands' End and suggested that the letters be made more prominent and the yellow stripe on the fish be more subdued. If funding is available, it was recommended to purchase 40 hats with the logo and website.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Membership (Schwartz):** Members reviewed the application from Matt Kukuk and agreed to recommend his appointment. The application will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners' December 20<sup>th</sup> work session.

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**Upcoming election of officers (Schwartz):** The 2018 election of officers will be held at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Nominations can be submitted up until the vote. Additional roles to be filled include a representative on the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) and a representative to the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). Schwartz offered to serve as the NWSC rep if there are not other interested members.

## ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- Tautvydas nominated **Schwartz for Chair**. Schwartz nominated **Bennett for Vice-Chair**.

**Meeting locations (Schwartz):** The MRC supported Schwartz's proposal to hold meetings once per quarter on Camano Island. If available, the meetings will be held at the Camano Library.

## ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **The February, May, August, and November 2018 MRC meetings** will be held on Camano.

**2018 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award (Toledo):** The award committee will be made up of 2 representatives from MRC, 2 from Sound Water Stewards, and 2 from WSU Extension. The committee will review and approve the nomination form, and will meet once in mid-January to select the awardee.

## ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Halloran and Tautvydas** volunteer to be on the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award committee.

**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Toledo):** The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC) will be held April 4-6, 2018 in Seattle. Rhodes is presenting on the bull kelp project, and MRC funds will be covering her registration. Lucas Hart (NWSC) invited an MRC representative to present on citizen science and how that can tie into policy decisions.

## ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Schwartz** is willing to present at the SSEC, and it was suggested to contact **Bennett** about her interest in presenting as well.

**Coordinator's Update (Toledo):** Toledo reminded members to submit conference reimbursement forms as soon as possible. An MRC representative was invited to attend the Puget Sound Citizen Science Summit. Either Toledo or Schwartz will attend.

## NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

*NWSC Grant Reports and Other Reports include information shared from written project updates submitted by project leads as well as any additional information shared during the meeting.*

**Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards):** We are scaling back our effort; sampling monthly year-round at six Whidbey sites. Dan Matlock is continuing with the sites on the south end. Sampling on Camano will resume once a lead is identified and trained.

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WDFW and NWS are both interested in long-term data. The attached map shows the survey results for July for the entire region. Note that the lion's share of positive locations is in Island County. The map reflects sampling by multiple entities.

**Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood):** The breeding season has ended, so the team is concentrating on outreach. A representative will be attending the Puget Sound Citizen Science Summit. They are also presenting at Sound Waters University.

## **OTHER REPORTS:**

**NW Straits Commission / Foundation:** NWSC meeting will be held on December 8th.

**Creosote Removal (Turpin):** No update.

**Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):** NWSF has secured funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for matching funds at the Sunlight Shores armor removal site.

**ILIO (Bennett):** No update.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**Chair:** No report

**County Lead:** No report.

**County Commissioners:** No report.

**COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.