

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# August 7, 2018

CAMANO MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER (141 NE CAMANO DR)

**PRESENT:** Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Ed Halloran, Matt Kukuk (WebEx), Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Kelly Zupich, Florian Graner (non-voting, technical advisor), Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)  
**ABSENT:** Mike Bianchi, Lori Clark, Ruth Richards, Jill Johnson, Mark Stamey, Kestutis Tautvydas, Frances Wood

**VISITORS:** Dan van Hees (Northwest Straits Commission), Scott Chase (citizen), Ann Precup (WSU Extension Island County – Camano), Tom Eisenberg (Friends of Camano Island Parks), Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery – WebEx), Janet St. Clair (Sound Water Stewards), Tarrell Kullaway (Northwest Straits Foundation)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Zupich moved to approve the agenda. Bennett seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the June 5 and July 18, 2018 minutes. Halloran seconded. The minutes were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Toledo shared feedback received from the NWSF Opportunity Fund review committee regarding the educational video and curriculum proposal. Zupich, Bianchi, and Toledo will be meeting the following day to discuss video plans and can address the committee's questions.

### **Net Ecosystem Improvement Project (Dan van Hees, Northwest Straits Commission):**

Presentation available online: <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/18422/2018-0807-actions-to-impacts.pdf>. Van Hees presented on the Net Ecosystem Improvement Project, which has recently changed its name to Actions to Impacts. The project aims to measure the impact MRCs have on the ecosystem. Discussion included:

- Jefferson MRC is utilizing this tool to evaluate their anchor-out zone project. Whatcom MRC is using it with their Chuckanut Bay monitoring program.
- Island MRC could use it for outreach work: developing an impactful survey to evaluate impacts of outreach.
- The MRC should be trying to answer questions that Commissioners and Department Heads have. The MRC can bring concerns, issues, and paths forward to the Commissioners since they are not always aware of marine-related emerging issues.
- This tool could be helpful in developing new projects. Before beginning a project, we should understand who will utilize the data and how.
- The NWSC can help connect MRCs with individuals or entities who can conduct data analysis.

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**MRC video (Graner):** Graner presented the outreach video developed for the MRC. Feedback included:

- Impressive visuals, great story
- Add the MRC's purpose, logo, and website to the video
- The piece on Spartina could be included as a separate clip
- Outreach methods include: MRC website, video kiosk at the Public Health/Planning front desk, showing at outreach events.
- Bennett can arrange to have the film shown at the Coupeville Wharf Display

**Monitoring Inventory (Toledo/Bennett):** Toledo presented an outline of proposed information to gather from partners to create a monitoring inventory. Feedback included:

- Include parent organization and where the protocol and training come from
- Include the duration of the project
- Include research projects
- Contacts to reach out to: Drew Harvell (NOAA) on eelgrass wasting, SeaDoc Society
- Bennett offered to help reach out to organizations

## BUSINESS ITEMS

**Restoration projects (Toledo):**

- Hidden Beach: The MRC, NWSF, and WA DNR are hosting a community outreach meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Greenbank Farm about the potential restoration project here. Any interested MRC members are welcome to attend. Graner can provide aerial drone footage.
- Camano Country Club: Schwartz attended a site visit with Jim Johannessen, the NWSF, and the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) to assess the shoreline characteristics around the existing bulkhead. The SCD is currently working with the community on a proposed Salmon Recovery project to explore the feasibility of moving or removing the existing tidegate. The community may be interested in exploring the feasibility of removing the bulkhead as well.
- Shore Friendly testimonials: Toledo is developing a video of Shore Friendly testimonials and is looking for examples of shoreline homeowners who have taken "Shore Friendly" actions, such as: bulkhead removal, soft shore protection, leaving a beach natural, or moving a house.
- Shore Friendly signage: Toledo has some funding for signage regarding natural beach processes. They could be placed at Barnum Point or at other natural beach areas. If members have suggestions for areas, please contact Toledo.

**Coordinator's update (Toledo):**

- Budget update: We are on track to spend down the grant by the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2018).
- Conference: Save the Date for November 16-17 at Fort Worden. More details will be made available at <http://nwstraits.org/2018-mrc-conference>.
- Conference Ignite presentation: Each MRC has the opportunity to provide an Ignite presentation (a 5-minute, fast-paced presentation with mostly images) to tell about a single project or an overall theme. Any interested members should contact Toledo.

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- MyCoast app: The MyCoast phone app will be launched regionally in September. MRCs who want to participate should establish a point of contact to keep the MRC connected to the project. Any interested members should contact Toledo.

## 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.*

**Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas):** We completed the underwater videography, as intended, of Holmes Harbor, Cornet Bay, and Monroe Landing. There was a problem with the battery for the Minnkota motor in Holmes Harbor, but it was resolved with a new battery and the Holmes Harbor survey was completed. Gregg will evaluate the data later this year and will send the raw data to his contact in WA DNR. Gregg completed the aerial photography of all the sites again, nothing unusual jumped out. Albert Foster completed his sonar monitoring in Cornet Bay and will be analyzing the data. Also, it looks like Albert will no longer work with our group after this summer because he is moving to Canada.

**Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes):** Field season is in full swing, with teams on both Whidbey & Camano Islands surveying up to 6 kelp beds. Some beds were measurable in late May & June, while others did not show at the surface until July. Monthly surveys will continue into September, & data is being submitted to Suzanne Shull at NW Straits Commission as soon as it is quality checked. We are also planning to collect aerial images of the County's nearshore with Gregg Ridder in August or September to estimate the amount of shoreline with associated kelp beds.

## OTHER REPORTS:

**Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes):** There have been no updates from Dept. of Natural Resources since funding for the Citizen Stewardship Committees expired.

### Sound Water Stewards (Zupich):

- Volunteers helped WDFW (Jennifer Lanksbury w/ Mussel Watch) bag mussels in June for a small scale study. WDFW placed caged mussels in several eelgrass beds in Puget Sound to test the theory that eelgrass helps reduce bacterial loads (including antibiotic resistant bacteria) in our nearshore waters.
- Camano Island volunteers have received training to start the Sound Toxins monitoring on Camano Island year-round. This monitoring program is designed to provide early warning of harmful algal bloom events in order to minimize both human health risks and economic losses to Puget Sound fisheries.
- Family Outdoor Discovery Day at Fort Casey State Park - SWS/WA State Parks are inviting organizations from all over the area to provide an outdoor family friendly activity. August 25th, 11am-3pm.

**WSU Extension:** Ann Precup shared about upcoming WSU Extension events, including: a plastic plant pot exchange, Camano 101 class, Waste Wise training, and fall Shore Stewards newsletter.

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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:** Spilsbury Pucci announced that the Snohomish Conservation District is hosting an open house regarding the culverts at Kristoferson Creek on Thursday, August 9.

Tarrell Kullaway introduced herself as the Director of Philanthropy at the NWSF. She is visiting each MRC and is happy to talk with any members after the meeting.

Bennett highlighted the importance of keeping in contact with the County Commissioners about current issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.