

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

January 8, 2019

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

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Mike Bianchi, Ed Halloran, Matt Kukuk, Linda Rhodes, Kes Tautvydas, William Bell (non-voting, technical advisor), Florian Graner (non-voting, technical advisor, WebEx), Lori Clark, Island County DNR (non-voting), Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension – Island County (non-voting), Janet St. Clair, Board of Island County Commissioners (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)

ABSENT: Mark Stamey, Kelly Zupich

VISITORS: Bill Howard (Beachcombers), Randy Berthold, Mel Trenor (Island Beach Access), Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Schwartz suggested the election of officers be moved to the start of the agenda. Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda as revised. Halloran seconded. The revised agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the December 4, 2018 minutes. Tautvydas seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

Election of officers (Schwartz): Schwartz has been nominated for Chair and Bennett for Vice-Chair. No further nominations were given.

➤ **ACTION:** Halloran moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Kukuk seconded. The motion passed.

Project Review and Planning (Schwartz): The MRC reviewed the projects listed in the 2018-2019 work plan:

Forage fish:

- This is a priority for the MRC, and the current focus should be on developing a new project lead and additional volunteers.
- Consider adding Utsalady as a sample site.
 - **Follow-up: Bennett** will work with Richards to understand the role of the project lead.
 - **Follow-up: Bianchi** will share data from forage fish survey sites on the base.

Bull kelp:

- Will likely be dropping Cornet Bay/Hoypus Point due to volunteer capacity.
- Will keep Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point.
- Looking ahead, aerial surveys are likely the best way to go. There are volunteer pilot organizations that could assist with the surveys. Drones have been less successful in the past, as it was difficult to develop a protocol, and they can't fly in certain areas.

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- This is Rhodes's last year on the MRC, so we will need a new project lead by next year.
Eelgrass:

- Gregg Ridder is willing to complete the aerial survey this year. The underwater videography and sonar monitoring will likely not happen unless a volunteer steps up to lead these portions.
- The ILIO uses eelgrass as an indicator to track nearshore health. It is helpful to understand if eelgrass is increasing or decreasing in Island County.
- Consider moving to occasional monitoring instead of annually.

For scoring and developing projects:

- Consider: Who is going to use the data? What do they need to know? Why are we gathering the data? How do we pick sites? Collaborate site selection across monitoring projects.

Outreach:

- Outreach plan: Add clarity on timing of activities and any expected deliverables.
- Forums:
 - o Continue with aging shoreline structures as topic.
 - o Timing: spring-summer
- Film screenings:
 - o Present at The Clyde, incorporate a beach walk afterwards.
 - o Navy Chief's Club could be a good venue.
 - o Consider coordinating with Skagit MRC to conduct a screening at Lincoln Theatre
 - o Incorporate with 20th anniversary and/or forums

➤ **ACTION: Rhodes moved to hold an additional MRC meeting on February 19 for further project planning. Kukuk seconded. The motion passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS

MyCoast app (Schwartz): The MRC reviewed photos gathered by members as potential sites to include in the MyCoast app. The Langley Marina was suggested as another potential site.

- **Follow-up: Schwartz will work with the NWSC to have sites added to the app.**

Pinto Abalone status review (Toledo): During Toledo's quarterly update to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC), the Commissioners expressed interest in learning more about the pinto abalone status review to consider listing them as a state endangered species. The Commissioners were interested in learning what impact a listing would have in Island County. The MRC discussed the issue and did not see this to be a significant issue within Island County.

Coordinator's Update (Toledo):

- Presentation to BICC: Toledo provided the MRC's first quarterly update to the BICC. The Commissioners appreciated the update, newsletter, and MRC film.
- Sound Waters University: The MRC will have a booth, with a poster and handout that encourage interested individuals to apply to join the MRC. Zupich will be tending to both the MRC and SWS booths.
 - **Follow-up: Bennett and Schwartz also offered to help throughout the day.**

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- NWSC meeting: The January 25th NWSC meeting will be held at Camano Island Library. We will be showing the MRC film and conducting a Q&A. Our BICC rep was invited to give a welcome.
- School partnership: Sarah Rubenstein with the Port Townsend School District has invited our MRC to participate in a grant to provide training and resources to teachers around ocean acidification. The MRC's role would be to serve as an advisory partner in the planning process for the teacher training and to present about the MRC at the training. The MRC showed support for this project.
 - **Follow-up: Bianchi and Bennett offered to assist.**

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 (Toledo): We are looking for volunteers interested in forage fish monitoring. Volunteers survey select beaches once per month using protocol developed by WDFW. The time commitment is typically 2-6 hours/month, depending on how many beaches the volunteer surveys. Once we have enough interested volunteers, we can schedule a training through WDFW.

Outreach (Bennett): King Tides have provided lots of public awareness of Whidbey communities' closeness to nature's forces. Photos of sites and damage for My Coast will provide important tools for future outreach.

Anna provided the first quarterly update to the Board of County Commissioners in December, including a summary of the annual report, presentation of the first newsletter, and invitation to view the newly produced MRC video.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Schwartz): The December 7 NWSC meeting highlights were forwarded to MRC members. The next NWSC meeting will be on January 25 in Island County.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Through the Shore Friendly grant, we are developing a cost-benefit analysis to compare different shore protection options: bulkhead replacement, bulkhead removal, soft shore protection, moving/raising a house, and leaving a beach natural. The report should be ready by the end of January.

Island Local Integrating Organization (Clark): The Puget Sound Partnership will be presenting on the Human Health and Wellbeing vital sign on January 30. They will be extracting Island County data to look how Island residents think about our resources.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No further updates.

County Lead: No further updates.

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County Commissioners: The Commissioners will decide their committee assignments at the January 9th work session.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Pucci shared that the feasibility study at Camano Island State Park determined that an open tidal channel would not be feasible, due to the location of the boat ramp.

This will be Lawrence's last meeting for a few months.

Rhodes shared that 10 of the 17 net pens in Broughton Archipelago in Canada will be removed by 2022, largely due to push from First Nations.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.