

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

July 2, 2019

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

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, **Barbara Bennett, Randy Berthold, Scott Chase, Jodi Crimmins, Ed Halloran, Gwendolyn Hannam, Hannah Liss, Linda Rhodes, Kes Tautvydas, Kelly Zupich, Janet St. Clair**, Board of Island County Commissioners (non-voting), **Tim Lawrence**, WSU Extension (non-voting), **Anna Toledo** MRC Coordinator (staff)
ABSENT: **Michael Bianchi** (un-notified absence), **Lori Clark** (notified absence), **Matt Kukuk** (notified absence)

VISITORS: Gregg Ridder (presenter), Linda Ridder (SWS), Nan Maysen (SWS), Vernon Brisley (MRC volunteer), Alan Breen (Homeowner Hidden Beach), Birdie Davenport (WA DNR - WebEx)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Berthold seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Zupich moved to approve the June 4, 2019 minutes. Tautvydas seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME: The MRC welcomed two new members: Hannah Liss and Scott Chase. Liss has a background in environmental education, and currently works in the Island County Planning Department. Chase is retired from WSU Extension, and has participated in several MRC activities in the past.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: 2018 EELGRASS REPORT

Gregg Ridder, project lead for the eelgrass project, presented on information from both 2018 and 2019 surveys.

Discussion included:

- The underwater video team has monitored 90 sites over the survey period from 2009-2019.
- Ridder conducted aerial surveys covering Whidbey and Camano shorelines.
- Sonar was conducted in 2016-2018. It is a useful screening tool, but will not replace underwater video.
- Data are shared with the Northwest Straits Commission.
- Cornet Bay:
 - o The eelgrass decline seen over the past several years appears to have leveled out in 2018 and 2019. The decline doesn't represent a large loss, and may have been due to the Blob.
 - o Aerial photos from the 1990's show thick eelgrass. It appears eelgrass is being lost in shallow areas, perhaps due to warmer temperatures.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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- Damage from boating activity is present, but it appears to heal within a couple years.
- The team has not observed much effect on eelgrass after bulkhead removal. Large boat launches have also not shown an effect on eelgrass.
- Eelgrass wasting disease: Eelgrass in beds north of and including Penn Cove have brown patches on them, but there is no clear impact. It's possible the disease could reach a tipping point where it would be destructive.

Next steps:

- Gregg Ridder and Ken Urstad will be stepping down from the project. Ridder will continue to do an aerial survey. Satellite data may begin to replace aerial photography in the near future.
- It would be interesting to conduct continuous temperature monitoring at Cornet Bay.
- Anchor-out zones may help protect from boat damage. Cornet Bay would be the best spot to implement voluntary anchor-out zones.
- The MRC thanked Ridder and the eelgrass team for their many years and countless hours of volunteer work on this project.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Opportunity Fund projects (Toledo): The NWSF awarded the MRC funds for the following projects:

- Glass Quest: \$650 for 10 clue balls
 - The event happens in February 2020. We will need volunteers to help come up with clues in the preceding months.
 - Communications plan: \$9,350 to hire a consultant to help develop a communications plan
 - Big thanks to Rhodes who wrote the grant!
 - The proposed timeframe is:
 - Communications audit (Sep-Nov)
 - Plan development (Nov-May)
 - Plan and effectiveness survey (Jun-Aug 2020)
 - Boeing stormwater grant: \$5,000 to identify two demonstration rain garden sites, develop and install signage, and lead a field trip to the sites
 - Several possible sites were discussed, including:
 - Freeland Park
 - Envirotech site on Camano
 - Terry's Corner, by Camano Island Library
 - Dentist office on Camano
 - Bioswales by new Island County building on Camano
 - Crescent Harbor school in Oak Harbor
 - Greenbank Farm, in connection with WICD for Orca Recovery Day (October 19)
- ***Follow-up: Chase, Hannah, Liss, and Berthold will meet to discuss and identify the two demonstrate sites for signage and field trips. Crimmins is available to help with the school connection and further grant writing needs.***

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Membership engagement (Schwartz): The MRC reviewed a spreadsheet of membership engagement opportunities, including ongoing and upcoming projects and groups involving MRC representation. The updated spreadsheet is attached to these minutes.

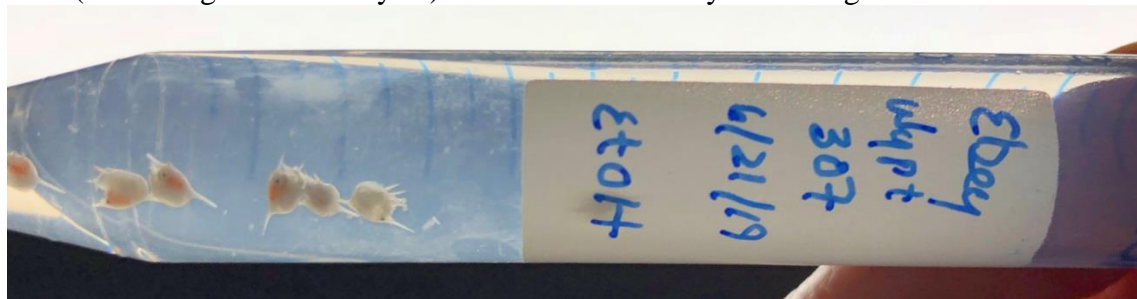
Coordinator's update (Toledo)

- Crabber outreach: Four volunteers on Whidbey and five volunteers on Camano conducted crabber outreach at Captain Coupe and Camano Island State Park boat launches.
- Seahorse Siesta restoration project: The Northwest Straits Foundation held the pre-bid conference last week. Construction is expected to be completed by October.
- NWSC meeting: Gwendolyn presented at the June NWSC meeting on the MRC's proposed creosote identification workshops.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): Ken Urstad, Gregg Ridder, and Kes completed underwater videography at Cornet Bay on June 21.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): Survey season is in full swing in June. This year 3 sites are monitored: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, & Polnell Point. Electronic temperature loggers are being tested to improve accuracy & extent of temperature measurements. Check out the crab zoea (larval stage of its life cycle) we found in the Ebey's Landing last week!



OTHER REPORTS

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve: Birdie Davenport shared that they are continuing work on sustainable kelp harvest outreach.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee (Pucci/Kukuk): No updates.

Sound Water Stewards (Zupich): The SWS Executive Director met with Salish Sea Stewards and North Sound Stewards to help with ideas for funding and program structure. Bennett is on the planning committee for Sound Waters University. If anyone has a proposed program to offer, contact Bennett.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): Interviews for the Camano Coordinator position will be held next week. The Master Naturalist program development is progressing well, and will be piloted in Kitsap and Spokane Counties.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Chair: Schwartz distributed save-the-dates for the MRC Conference: November 15-16 in Everett.

County Lead: No updates.

County Commissioners: Commissioner St. Clair expressed excitement about the Oak Harbor Marina project. The Board of County Commissioners is moving into budget season and finalizing their mission and vision statement. One of the goals is for safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible communities.

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

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

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Category	Project/Group	Current MRC Lead/ Representative	New Lead/Interest	Description/Activities
Group	Executive Committee	Elsa (Chair), Barb (Vice-Chair), Kelly, Linda		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair meetings (Chair or Vice-Chair) - Work with Coordinator on meeting prep - Meet ~every other month
	Northwest Straits Commission	Elsa, Barb (Alternate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend NWSC 1x/month (alternates between in-person and WebEx meetings)
	Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)	Barb	Gwendolyn (if okay to rep MRC & WICD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend Technical Committee meetings ~1x/month - Participate in discussions on Near-Term Action project proposals
	Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee	Matt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend meetings 1x/month - Participate in discussion and ranking of salmon recovery project proposals
	Shoreline Master Program update - Technical Advisory Group	Linda, Barb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group in development - Participate in discussions on SMP update
Monitoring	Kelp monitoring	Linda	Hannah, Randy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly kayak surveys (May-Sept) - Coordinate with NWSC on kelp recovery plan - Linda to continue with project after terming off MRC
	Forage fish monitoring	Matt, Barb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teams of 2-3 volunteers conduct monthly forage fish spawn surveys
	Eelgrass monitoring	Kes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Underwater videography at Cornet Bay - Aerial photography by Gregg Ridder
Outreach	Sea level rise forums	Barb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forums planned for Sept 2019
	Creosote identification forums	Kelly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forums planned for Oct 2019
	Crabber outreach	Kelly, Scott		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach planned for Jul 6, 2019 in Coupeville and Camano
	Family Outdoor Discovery Day	Gwendolyn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aug 3, 2019. Children's activity: watershed feltboard/model

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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	"Discover Our Island Shores" film screenings	Anna		- Screenings scheduled for Sep 14 (Coupeville) and Sep 28 (OH)
	Communications plan	Linda, Randy, Mike, Barb		- Communications audit (Sep-Nov) - Plan development (Nov 2019-May 2020) - Plan rollout, effectiveness survey (Aug 2020)
	Orca recovery outreach	Linda		- WICD leading Orca Recovery Day (Oct 19). Potential to collaborate: Sunlight Shores planting, Port of Coupeville rain garden rehab/signage
	Glass Quest	Elsa		- Develop clues (Oct-Nov)
	20th anniversary	Elsa, Kelly		- Tie in 20th anniversary with existing event?
	Boeing stormwater grant	Gwendolyn, Mike, Hannah, Randy, Scott		- Identify two demonstration rain garden sites (Jul) - Develop and produce signage (Jul-Aug) - Install signage (Sep-Oct) - Field trips (Oct)
Restoration	Oak Harbor Marina			- Consultant selection (Jul) - Stakeholder outreach (Sep) - Feasibility study review (Dec)
	Hidden Beach		Randy	- Community meeting to present project design (Aug)
	Possession Point and Hoypus Point Feasibility		Gwendolyn	- Feasibility study, funded by NWSF (Fall 2019) - MRC to review study feasibility and bring one site to conceptual design (Spring 2020)
	Restoration team		Elsa, Hannah, Ed, Kes	- NWSF to lead workshop with interested MRC members in how to conduct restoration project from start to finish