

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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ISLAND COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

ISLAND COUNTY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER: 141 NE CAMANO DR, CAMANO ISLAND

Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

November 5, 2019

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

VISITORS: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery - WebEx), Jerilyn Ritzman (WSU Extension), Joan Schrammeck (Sound Water Stewards)

CALL TO ORDER: Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Berthold moved to approve the agenda. Tautvydas seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Tautvydas moved to approve the October 1, 2019 minutes. Berthold seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING (Rhodes): Rhodes developed a spreadsheet and led a discussion on existing MRC communications efforts. Discussion included:

- Include a column on if/how the MRC's information is used by other organizations. Does the work contribute to a larger project?
- Focus first on the target audience.
- One target audience might have several projects associated with it, and vice versa. There are pros and cons to organizing communications based on the target audience vs. the project.
- Develop a communications team of interested MRC members. Build regular use and review of the plan into regular MRC activity.
- The funding from the Opportunity Fund was awarded to have a consultant help the MRC develop a communications plan. There was some discussion about the best use of the funds and whether it might be more beneficial to have a consultant work on a specific project's communication needs.
- WSU Extension Everett campus has a communications program, and could be a good source for interns.
 - o *Follow-up: Rhodes will work with the communications planning team (Rhodes, Bennett, Berthold, and Crimmins) to revise and complete the communications matrix for further discussion at the December meeting.*

DEBRIEF OF PAST EVENTS AND NEXT STEPS:

Creosote workshops (Zupich): The creosote workshops went well. Five people attended the Camano workshop and twenty-two people attended the Coupeville workshop. Chris Robertson

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from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presented on the history of creosote in the region, its impact on the environment, DNR's creosote removal program, and techniques to identify creosote. The workshops included a field trip component to allow participants to practice their creosote identification skills and utilize the MyCoast app to report loose creosote-treated wood. Participants appreciated the practical workshop content, and a majority of them indicated they intend to utilize the MyCoast app to report creosote.

To continue to spread the word about creosote identification and the MyCoast app, Robertson will be presenting at Sound Waters University. He would also like to present at an upcoming MRC meeting.

Orca Recovery Day (Toledo/Hannam): The MRC partnered with Whidbey Island Conservation District and other partners on three events for Orca Recovery Day on October 19th. At Cornet Bay and Sunlight Shores, volunteers planted native vegetation and removed weeds at the two restoration sites. At Greenbank Farm, volunteers, including several Master Gardeners, rehabilitated the rain garden, which is the same site where the MRC sign will be placed.

The MRC still has the opportunity to partner with the Northwest Straits Foundation on an orca recovery workshop. The MRC discussed holding this in the wintertime, perhaps in conjunction with Orca Network's Way of Whales seminar, scheduled for January 25.

- **Follow-up: Rhodes** will explore workshop collaboration opportunities with Orca Network.

Restoration workshop (Toledo): Members who attended the workshop reported they were impressed with Lisa Kaufman's breadth of work and knowledge around nearshore restoration projects. The workshop was useful, and also highlighted how long it takes to get a restoration project to implementation. Kaufman covered all the steps of a restoration project, including: project identification, stakeholder engagement, funding, feasibility assessment, project design, permitting, implementation, monitoring, and stewardship. The MRC can be involved in every step of the process, depending on the level of interest. It was suggested the MRC could form a restoration team of members particularly interested in restoration work, who could collaborate on restoration projects.

Sea level rise workshops (Bennett): The sea level rise workshops were well-attended and received positive feedback. Forty-two people attended the Camano workshop and eighty-three people attended the Coupeville workshop. To continue spreading the message about sea level rise, the presenters will be offering similar content at Sound Waters University in February.

Film screenings (Zupich): Zupich hosted a screening at the Oak Harbor Library, which had thirty-two attendees. Toledo hosted a screening at the Coupeville Library, which had forty-five attendees. The audience at both screenings were primarily adults. There was very positive response, with several people interested in purchasing the film, and a teacher interested in bringing the film to her classroom.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

MRC engagement (Toledo): The MRC reviewed the MRC engagement spreadsheet.

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- **Follow-up: Hannam** offered to be the MRC lead for Oak Harbor Marina. **Berthold** offered to assist with ILIO representation, kelp monitoring, and restoration work.

Possession Point / Hoypus Point feasibility (Toledo): The MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation will be working on a request for qualifications for a consultant for the feasibility study which will look at the potential for armor removal and nearshore habitat improvement at Possession Point and Hoypus Point.

- **Follow-up: Hannam** offered to be the MRC lead for this project. *Post-meeting update: Kukuk* also offered to assist.

Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award (Toledo): The MRC will be partnering with Sound Water Stewards and WSU Extension to host the 2020 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award. Representatives from each organization review nominations and select the awardee.

- **Follow-up: Chase and Berthold** offered to serve on the committee.

MRC Conference (Toledo): The MRC Conference will be held November 15-16. The County will be able to cover lodging expenses. Toledo will reserve rooms for those who need them, and will resend the conference agenda to MRC members.

- **Follow-up: Hannam and Schwartz** will be participating in the OCTOPOD podcast at the conference.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE (Toledo):

- Surf smelt eggs were found again at the restoration site at Maylor Point.
- Island County Department of Natural Resources will be holding a restoration site tour for Island County Commissioners in December. They will be visiting Livingston Bay, Oak Harbor Marina, and Sunlight Shores.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): It appears from the results of the last few years that the decline in the extent of eelgrass beds in Cornet Bay noticed between 2010 and 2016 has stabilized. A final report of the results from 2018-2019 has been written by Gregg Ridder and has been submitted to Island County MRC and Northwest Straits Commission. Due to aging equipment, loss of personnel, especially Ken Urstad because of his health issues, and the fact that the eelgrass beds seem to be stable, no further underwater videography is planned at any sites in Island County. Gregg Ridder will continue to perform the aerial photography of eelgrass beds in Island County next year.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): The season ended on September 29th, with surveys conducted at the Possession Point & Ebey's Landing beds that day. We conducted 12 monthly surveys at 3 sites, & collected 24 additional water column temperature measurements in the Possession Point bed throughout the summer. This year, beds emerged earlier & were larger than in previous years. Numerous animals were observed in the bed, including large herring schools throughout the summer. This was one of the best years for bull kelp since we began surveys in 2015.

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School of herring feeding in the Ebey's Landing bed in August, 2019. (L. Rhodes)

Outreach – GlassQuest: Registration is open for the Great Northwest Glass Quest: <https://thegreatnwglassquest.com/>. MRC volunteers will be needed to help write clues and hide clue balls in community spaces on Camano.

➤ **Follow-up:** *Bennett offered to help write clues.*

OTHER REPORTS

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): The intertidal kelp coverage survey & kelp harvest surveys initiated in 2015 are continued in 2019. Because there is no longer a citizen stewardship committee for SMIAR, members of the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee have participated. Rhodes is able to continue to give updates after her MRC term.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee (Kukuk): Project site visits are scheduled for March 5th and 6th. The request for proposals will be issued in the next month, and full proposals will be due in February.

MRC members are invited to attend the next SRTCC meeting, where they will be discussing project planning. That meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 1:30pm-4:30pm at the Coupeville Library.

Sound Water Stewards (Chase): SWS Executive Director Nan Maysen left her position in September. That position will not be filled; the SWS coordinators for Whidbey (Allie Hudec) and Camano (Joan Schrammeck) will jointly take over the duties of that position, with assistance by SWS Board members. Kelly Zupich will provide administrative coordination and support on a part time basis.

The volunteers working on the book *Getting to the Water's Edge* are currently completing their "finishing touches", according to Sarah Schmidt. Sound Waters University is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 1st.

Joan Schrammeck shared that Camano SWS volunteers are considering organizing field trips to report creosote debris through the MyCoast app.

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WSU Extension (Lawrence): Funding has been secured to bring Loren Imes's position to an FTE, which will allow for Master Gardener training on Camano, as well as increase Jerilyn Ritzman's position to a .75 FTE. The Master Naturalist final module is in design, and the program will be piloted in the spring.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No updates.

County Lead: No updates.

County Commissioners: No updates.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Jerilyn Ritzman shared that Shore Stewards is planning a speaker series for 2020 with a geological focus. Any suggestions for speakers can be sent to Ritzman.

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