

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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ISLAND COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

January 7, 2020

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

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

VISITORS: Lisa Kaufman (Northwest Straits Foundation), Melanie del Rosario (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jason Morgan (Northwest Straits Foundation), Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery)

CALL TO ORDER: Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Berthold seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Halloran moved to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes. Berthold seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Zupich and Liss had been nominated as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, at the December meeting, and had accepted the nominations. No further nominations were made.

➤ **ACTION: Bennett moved to elect Zupich as Chair and Liss as Vice-Chair. Tautvydas seconded. The motion passed.**

Zupich presented her recommendation for the Executive Committee makeup: Zupich, Liss, Schwartz, and Berthold.

➤ **ACTION: Halloran moved to accept the Executive Committee makeup as presented. Bennett seconded. The motion passed.**

CORNET BAY SEINING (Jason Morgan): Jason Morgan with the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) will be leading seining at Cornet Bay starting in late January. The goal is to gather two more years of post-restoration seining data. Morgan has availability to manage the project through March 2021. The MRC supported conducting two more years of seining at Cornet Bay. Morgan can provide a general summary report, though the MRC or NWSF would have to find additional funding to develop a more detailed analysis report.

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES (Lisa Kaufman):
Shore Friendly:

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Lisa Kaufman with the NWSF provided a summary of the Shore Friendly program, and solicited input on the program moving forward. Discussion included:

- Provide more targeted outreach (e.g. coffee chats with neighborhood associations)
- Ensure consistent messaging between NWSF and Island County Shore Friendly programs
- Include messaging with other outreach opportunities, such as a storm surge training
- **Follow-up:** *Liss, Chase, Hannam, Kukuk, and Halloran offered to assist Kaufman in developing Shore Friendly program ideas*

Orca workshop:

The NWSF has funding, available through the end of June, to conduct a workshop on orca recovery. They held a successful workshop in Snohomish County last October. The MRC affirmed interest in holding a workshop on both islands, if possible. Discussion included:

- Holding the workshop in March/April
- Include topics on: orca biology, regulations, current research, and actions people can take to support orca recovery
- **Follow-up:** *Zupich offered to assist. Hannam noted that Whidbey Island Conservation District may be able to partner (contact Shannon Bly).*

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Beach clean-up education (Zupich): A community member is leading a group from a local high school ROTC team on a beach cleanup at Keystone Spit on January 18th, and would like the MRC to provide a 5-10 minute talk about the importance of debris management and removal.

- **Follow-up:** *Zupich offered to provide the talk.*

SeaDoc Society grant (Toledo): The SeaDoc Society reached out to MRCs regarding a grant they are applying for that could include MRCs as sub-recipients. The grant would allow the SeaDoc Society to provide the book “Explore the Salish Sea” and accompanying curriculum to 5th grade classrooms in low-income schools in the 2020-2021 school year. Toledo submitted a sub-recipient application to have the MRC lead two beach clean-ups with 5th grade classrooms, and provide a kit of related activities for teachers.

- **Follow-up:** *Liss and Zupich offered to assist with planning if the grant is awarded.*

Camano 101 (Chase): Chase is working with Jerilyn Ritzman at WSU Extension to organize Camano 101. This is an event to allow Camano residents to learn about local organizations and volunteer opportunities. It will be held at the Camano Center on Sunday, March 1, 1-4pm.

- **Follow-up:** *Chase and Schwartz can represent the MRC.*

Communications planning (Bennett): The communications sub-committee met to discuss the Opportunity Fund funds awarded to assist the MRC in developing a communications plan. The sub-committee recommended utilizing a portion of the funds for a consultant to provide guidance, and the remaining portion to utilize staff time to complete the plan.

Coordinator’s Update (Toledo):

- Volunteer of the Year Award: Nominations are due January 17. The award will be presented at Sound Waters University.
- Open MRC seat: Applications will be accepted until January 20, or until filled.

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- MRC retreat: Hold the date Tuesday, February 18. The Executive Committee will be working on details, and will share as they are finalized.
- Kelp recovery plan: Comment period is open through January 22.
- Northwest Straits Commission meeting: The January 31st meeting will be held at Coupeville Library. All are welcome to attend.
- Admin position: Island County Department of Natural Resources will be hiring a part-time administrative position, which will support the MRC, Salmon Recovery Program, Island Local Integrating Organization, and other IC DNR programs.
- Navy proposal for operational training: Linda Rhodes informed the MRC that State Parks staff will be making a recommendation to the State Parks Commission on the Navy's proposal to use WA State Parks for operational training. Toledo will seek guidance on whether the Board of Island County Commissioners would like the MRC to provide comment.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Kelp Monitoring (Liss/Berthold):

1. The full bull kelp report for 2019 has been completed and submitted. The full report includes data that was collected too late in the season to be included in the short fiscal year report (due Sept 30th) and appendices with cumulative measurements and animal observations since 2015.
2. The project webpage has been updated and is available here:
<https://www.islandcountymrc.org/projects/bull-kelp-monitoring/>

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Feasibility (Toledo/Hannam): A Request for Qualifications was issued in December to solicit a consultant to conduct a feasibility study at Hoypus Point and Possession Point, and bring one of the sites to conceptual design. Toledo and Hannam are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Washington State Parks on the consultant selection process, and anticipate a consultant will be selected in January.

Spilsbury Pucci recommended the NWSF submit a proposal for permitting and design at Hoypus Point through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, due in February. While this deadline occurs before the feasibility study will be completed, submitting the application for this grant round would allow the project to continue moving forward. If, after the initial feasibility study, the MRC and project partners decide not to move forward with design at Hoypus Point, the application could be withdrawn. The MRC supported this recommendation.

OTHER REPORTS

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Island County Department of Natural Resources hosted a tour of restoration projects for Island County Commissioners. The Commissioners joined Island County staff, project partners, and community members at three sites on Camano and Whidbey Islands, that told the story of taking a restoration project from concept through feasibility and design to implementation and stewardship. The tour included stops at Livingston Bay on Camano, Oak Harbor Marina on north Whidbey, and Sunlight Shores on south Whidbey. There was also a brief stop at Leque Island to see this completed restoration project between Camano and Stanwood.

The NWSF was awarded funding for the proposed restoration project at Hidden Beach. Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the lead organization on this project, and

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is in the process of developing a final design. A second public meeting will be held to present the final proposed design.

Sound Water Stewards (Chase):

1. Both islands will be recruiting for volunteer training for the 2020 class.
2. Registration for Sound Waters University is currently open. The event takes place on Saturday, February 1st, at South Whidbey High School in Langley. The Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at this event.
3. A new part-time position will open for an Education and Outreach Coordinator. The Whidbey SWS coordinator has been doing most of this work until now, but could not do both jobs in the allotted time. Allie Hudec, current Whidbey Coordinator, will shift to this position, and we are seeking a new Whidbey Coordinator, effective immediately. Kelly Zupich and Joan Schrammeck will continue in their unchanged positions.
4. The 2020 SWS Board has 3 new members: Trent Lowe (C), Jeannie McElwain (W), and Kelly Webb (W). 2020 Officers are: Linda Ade Ridder (back as President), Kelly Webb (VP and President in waiting), John Welsch and Sue Salvesson continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.
5. Getting to the Water's Edge, Third Edition (208 pages) will be out around February 1. It is a completely new revision (\$20 retail); last one was 2006. This edition was completely created by volunteers, including raising more than \$33,000 to pay the printing and advertising costs. It is a field guide for all of Island County, including 69 beach access sites, kayaking spots, dog parks, hiking locations, and short essays about issues of importance (e.g., climate emergency, etc.). It will be available at local book sellers and eventually from our website.
6. January 22nd will be the first Camano SWS Speaker Series presentation at the Camano Library in 2020. Loren Brokaw from WDFW will talk about the completion of restoration of Leque Island, between Camano and Stanwood. Chris Robertson from DNR, who presented at the MRC creosote workshops, will talk about removal of boats and large beach debris on February 26th. These talks begin at 7:00 pm and are open to the public.
7. Volunteers are getting ready to educate school groups at Central Whidbey State Parks in 2020.
8. Linda Ade Ridder had a question for the MRC: how can SWS partner in ways that help sustain SWS, in addition to providing significant volunteer help for MRC projects?

WSU Extension: No updates.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No updates.

County Lead: No updates.

County Commissioners: No updates.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Spilsbury Pucci shared that Penn Cove Mussels will be moving their mussels from Quilcene Bay to Penn Cove, which will expand their existing operation in Penn Cove by about 50%. They will remain within the footprint of their lease.

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The NWSF is applying for funding to utilize Sunlight Shores as a demonstration site for living shorelines, and for a proposed armor removal site in Penn Cove, and requested a letter of support from the MRC.

➤ **ACTION: Hannam moved for the Chair and Vice-Chair to review, and for the Chair to sign a letter of support for the NWSF's grant application on living shorelines. Kukuk seconded. The motion passed.**

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