

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

December 6, 2022

VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Barbara Bennett, Chair, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Kes Tautvydas, Andi Kopit, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff, Melanie Bacon, Ex-officio

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified - Ken Collins, (notified), Elsa Schwartz, (notified)

VISITORS: Dana Oster, NWSC, Kristine Vannoy, WSU Extension, Lauren Burch, IC Public Works, Joan Schrammeck, SWS, Kelly Webb, Public, Patrick Havel, Public

CALL TO ORDER: Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Kes moved to approve the agenda. Jill seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Jill moved to approve the November 1, 2022, minutes. Kes seconded. The minutes were approved.

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The MRC received two new MRC applications. Patrick Havel and Paul Ben McElwain. The committee discussed the candidates. Scott moved to recommend both candidates. Jill seconded.

IC CLIMATE RESOLUTION:

 Commissioner Melanie Bacon

- Was signed by all 3 commissioners in September 2022
- The BOICC decided is all policies, action, initiatives, will be handled with the lens of health, equity, and climate.
- The resolution states that "We commit to ensuring that the county's actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change."
- The county is beginning to start the Comprehensive Plan planning for next year. In previous years the Comprehensive Plan was more of a planning document for the Planning Department. Because of that the county was not qualified to receive certain funds from WASDOT because elements were not included in the Comprehensive Plan. The work on the current Comprehensive Plan will include information from every Department that reports to the BOICC. In addition, the Commissioners want the Climate

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Action Resolution to be embedded throughout the Comp. Plan and that will become the Climate Action Plan.

- If the MRC has ideas for climate goals to be shared with the BOICC please share those ideas with your staff member and they can send them directly to Commissioner Bacon.
- The county has a contractor looking at the county facilities to see where things can be more sustainably minded including electric vehicle charging stations and solar power.
- A big issue for EV is the infrastructure issues relating to electricity and roads. One big issue is the powerlines are not underground. Alternative energy sources may be a good way to go.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS: None

COORDINATOR UPDATE:

- Jan Holmes Coastal Volunteer of a Year Award is live. Application deadline is for December 31st, 2022. We need two members from our committee to serve on the winner selection committee. Barbara and Jill offered to serve on the selection committee.
- Hoypus Point Restoration planting took place on Nov 19th. 1,300 plants were successfully planted.
- Staff and volunteers from IC assisted with the Skagit kids on the Beach Program and it was a lot of fun. The kids were super engaged, and it was a beautiful crisp day.
- Kelly will be leading a Forage Fish class on Jan 12th for the SW Alternative Learning Experience Class which member Andi Kopit leads. Volunteers are needed.