

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

January 3, 2023

VIA ZOOM

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

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

VISITORS: Sasha Horst, NWSC, Kristine Vannoy, WSU Extension, James Watson, WICD, Carlie Miller, Water Quality, Kelly Webb, Public, Patrick Havel, Public, Paul Ben McElwain, Public

CALL TO ORDER: Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Jill moved to approve the agenda. Scott seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Jill moved to approve the December 6, 2022, minutes. Scott 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:

- Salish sea Conservation Corps Internship available through the NWSF
 - Jill Lipoti would like to apply for an intern for the Water Quality Project
- Erica Bleke, DNR asking the MRC if we or another organization we know of would be a good fit for managing the Smith & Minor Island Aquatic Reserve.
 - Kelly will send an email stating we are open to potentially managing pieces, but we need a clearer definition of what that means. We will think about other options for other organizations that may be able to take this on.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Commissioner Bacon encourages the MRC to think creatively about actual actions the County can take regarding Climate change and Sea level rise.
- The recent King tides has spurred a lot of people to contact Melanie wanting help because their neighborhoods are under water.

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VOTING:

- Barbara Bennett for Chair: Kes moved to approve Barbara as Chair for 2023. Jill seconded. The motion was approved.
- Jill Lipoti for Vice Chair: Andi moved to approve Jill as Vice Chair for 2023. Scott seconded. The motion was approved.
- Kelly Webb for MRC membership: Scott moved to approve Kelly's application to go to the Commissioners for final consideration. Kes seconded. The motion was approved.

BOARD EXPECTATIONS DOCUMENT:

- Barb has asked all members to sign this document and send in to Kelly Z..
- Paul Ben mentioned that there is an edit needed. It states that the document refers to reading the "Articles of Incorporation" and it should state the "Commissioner Resolutions" Kelly Z. will update the document so it is ready for next year.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT:

- The Strategic Plan subcommittee will continue refining this document. Please send any comments to Kelly Z. or Barbara.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- The budget for 2023 was shown and explained to the committee.
- The projects for the year were summarized and shown to the committee. Bull kelp still needs a Co-lead. Most of the work takes place May-September.
- The Education plan for 2023 was shared with the committee.
- The committee decided to try quarterly meetings in person. Rotating back and forth between Whidbey and Camano.
- How many members are interested in the attending Sound Waters University? Barbara and Andi would like tickets.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55p