

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

February 7, 2023

VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Barbara Bennett, Chair, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Kes Tautvydas, Andi Kopit, Paul Ben McElwain, Patrick Havel, Ken Collins, Kelly Webb, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff, Melanie Bacon, Ex-officio

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified -

VISITORS: Sasha Horst, NWSC, Kristine Vannoy, WSU Extension, Carlie Miller, Water Quality, Paul Belanger, SWS, Gary Piazzon, Public, Linda Rhodes, Technical advisor, Richard Gammon, 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. Kes seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Jill moved to approve the January 3, 2023, 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION:

- Commissioner Bacon is pleased with the documents (see attached) that Barbara Bennett and other MRC members did to produce for the climate change discussion.
- The MRC could assist with educating the public about storm surges, king tides, trends etc.
- The MRC may be able to help to define strategies to reduce risk and resilience in Island County.
- Customize discussions for specific communities to help bridge the gap between the public and the county
- The MRC might be able to help down the road to provide workshops for the public covering these topics. We will be working with Shore Friendly to put on 1-2 workshops.
- It was mentioned that homes are being built in areas that are now flooding. What can we do to prevent further permits going into areas that will flood soon during these storm events?

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- Home Insurance companies do not cover flooding from Storm surge events. That is a good point to share with the public.
- On the East Coast there are areas that have gotten incentives in place to provide homeowners a discount on insurance if they do not put in hard armoring. The homeowners will pay more on insurance premiums if they put hard armoring in.
- The current Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is missing important information regarding Sea level rise, climate change, etc. The MRC encourages that the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) have a crosswalk added to tie in info from the SMP and CMP and to also include some of those missing subjects.
- The MRC will come up with a list of project ideas to share with the Commissioners regarding sea level rise and climate change.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- Kelly Z. is heading out on medical leave for 6-8weeks. She has worked hard to get things prepped.
- Proposed list of projects for the NWSC. The MRC agreed on the preliminary list to share.
- We reviewed the MRC Workplan which was turned in to the NWSC
- The MRC Annual Report and Strategic Plan were approved for distribution.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50p