

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

# November 7, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

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

**ABSENT:** Note if notified or un-notified -

**VISITORS:** Clea Barenburg, SRTCC, Jen Schmitz, Natural Resource Manager, Carlie Miller, Surface Water Quality, Sage Ince, Surface Water Quality

**CALL TO ORDER:** Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** September 5, 2023, and October 4, 2023, minutes. The minutes were approved with an adjustment to the October minutes. Elsa Schwartz was not in attendance.

### 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.

### LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Commissioner Bacon explained that she intends to put forth some last-minute language changes to the SMP. She plans to recommend adding flooding due to tidal action as a qualifier for getting approved for armoring. There will be a public hearing to talk about this. The MRC will host an extra meeting to discuss this situation to come up with a plan to move forward.

### WHITE PAPER: Jill Lipoti

- The White Paper was talked about at the NWSC Conference.
- Other MRCs are interested in using the paper as a starting point for working towards something similar in their own counties.
- What is the MRC's ask? To use the White Paper as a tool for county staff. Basing regulations on past averages of rainfall, temperature, and sea level ignores the increasingly frequent extremes in these parameters. Predictive models should be essential tools in the development of planning policy and regulations (e.g. CP, SMP, and HMP) to ensure that homes, businesses, and infrastructure are located and constructed in

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areas that will remain viable for the expected asset lifetime and not release pollutants during extreme events.

## **COORDINATORS REPORT: Kelly Zupich**

- Derelict Vessels: The committee decided to wait to see if the NWSC will get an extension on the OTGP 23 grant to continue derelict removals into 2024. If this works out our MRC can lump our funds in with the NWSC for future removals.
- DEI: Our committee would like to discuss changing meeting times to later and maybe finding a way to include a youth member on our committee.

Meeting Adjourned 5:00pm