

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

February 6, 2024

ONLINE MEETING

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

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified – Ken Collins, notified,

VISITORS: Clea Barenburg, SRTCC, Jessica Reed, IC Watershed Planner, James Watson, WICD, Allie Feidt, NASWI, Linda Rhodes, Public

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** November 22, 2023, minutes 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:

Innerspace Exploration Team - a Puget Sound-based non profit that works to remove derelict gear from local waterways and provide educational experiences through ROV research and more. IET is currently working on an application for the 2024 Marine Debris Program Grant and has received approval from NOAA on the LOI for proposed project work. They requested a Letter of Support. Our MRC will review their information and give approval if they are in support.

TEAM LEADS:

- We will be asking Team Leads to provide a bulleted list of updates each month. If you do not have anything to share just let the coordinator know.

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM & COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES:

- The MRC made public comment in person and provided a letter with information about why bulkheads are an issue for our local shoreline habitats.
- Comp Plan Workshops are taking place over the next month. MRC members are trying to attend Comp Plan meetings and workshops.

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- MRC will have an opportunity to give comments on the Goal & Policies in the Comp Plan. The subcommittee meeting will work to develop comments by the due dates provided.

NWSC REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES:

- We will have a regular spot on the meeting agendas for Ken Collins to report out what he learns at the NWSC meetings.
- The NWSC is looking for volunteers to help organize the NWSC Conference.
- NWSC is needing volunteers to assist on a Green Crab Committee.

Meeting Adjourned 5:48 pm