

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

September 1, 2026

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Kelly Webb**, Chair, **Jill Lipoti**, **Ken Collins**, **Marena Salerno Collins**, **Josh Berkowitz**, **Brad Thompson**, **Greg Easton**, **Fran Horvath**, **PaulBen McElwain**, **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff.

ABSENT: **Andi Kopit** – notified, **Patrick Havel** – notified, **Jeff Wheeler** – notified, **Kirk Larsen** - notified.

VISITORS: **Nat Scholz**, Research Associate, **Maddie Buehrer**, Whidbey Conservation District, **Quinn Farr**, IC Lead Entity Coordinator & Conservations Futures Program Coordinator, **Carlie Miller**, IC Surface Water Quality Specialist, **Kelly Zupich**, IC Shore Friendly, **Josie Dodd**, IC Pollution Identification Coordinator, **Heather Vitiaz**, WSU Island County Extension, Hiller West.

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Agenda approval was made by Jill Lipoti, the motion was seconded by Marena Salerno Collins and approved by all. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Minutes from July was made by Greg Easton, seconded by Brad Thompson, and approved unanimously. August Minutes were amended with a clarification. A motion to approve the Minutes from August was made by Jill Lipoti, seconded by Marena Salerno Collins, and approved unanimously.

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.

GOOD NEWS: This month's "Good News" highlights the Southern Resident Killer Whale Annual Census.

STORMWATER, 6PPD, AND SALMON PRESENTATION – Nat Scholz

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Chair leadership report – Kelly Webb:
 - o Executive Committee will meet to discuss Island County Commissioner Candidate meetings.
 - o Work on next grant cycle proposals will begin early 2027.
- County Lead leadership report – Jen Schmitz:
 - o No leadership report.
- Island County Commissioner leadership report- Commissioner Janet St. Clair:

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- No leadership report.
- MRC Coordinator report:
 - Volunteer hours are due 9/6 and Lead Annual Project Report due 9/15.
 - Abandoned and derelict (ADV) outreach poster discussion. ADV project team will reconvene to discuss poster.
 - NWSC Conference will take place on November 6 & 7. Registration is open and must be completed by October 19. Hotel lodging must be completed by October 7 – please keep your hotel invoice to send to Coordinator following the Conference for reimbursement.

NW STRAITS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Ken Collins

- Discussed toxic algae presentation at most recent NWSC meeting.
- How could Island MRC use the Scientific Advisory Council meeting to understand and determine the value of the MRC in terms of tourism, economic value, etc.?
- NWSC will write a letter in support of WADNR's effort in regard to the recent regional mooring buoys discussion.
- Ken has invited anyone interested in discussing the NWSC Representative Position to attend the NWSC Meeting in Island County on September 25th or to reach out to Ken to learn more.
- Island MRC will be participating in the NWSC Conference Collaborative Networking Activity, and the initial idea is to discuss the recent Strategic Planning process.

SRTCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Quinn Farr:

- SRTCC ranked and approved the three projects up for discussion.
- SRTCC is waiting for the Sept 15 meeting to learn about what projects were approved. So hopefully good news before the October meeting!
- The Volcano Point/Double Bluff Point project ranked 4th in the Puget Sound region. SRTCC will not know if this project is funded until next year.
- The 2025 Kristoferson Creek Beaver Marsh Conservation Easement fell through, so now SRTCC is moving through a fast process to use those funds elsewhere.
- Island County will be hosting the Salmon Recovery Council on Thursday, September 24th.

ISLAND & SKAGIT LEGISLATIVE VISIT – Jill Lipoti:

- Island and Skagit Counties have partnered together to host District 10 Representative Clyde Shavers at Bowman Bay and Cornet Bay/Hoypus Point on Friday, September 18th.
- Both Counties have determined talking points for the 4-5 topics: bull kelp monitoring, forage fish monitoring, abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict crab pots, and restoration.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – Marena Salerno Collins:

- Strategic Plan draft pillars were distributed to the MRC prior to the meeting. Please send any comments or feedback to the Strategic Planning Committee.
- The October meeting will be a continued discussion and status update.

OUTREACH DISCUSSION:

- Policy sub-committee reviewed the Island County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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- Shoreline Master Program is on the Sept 15 BOCC regular session meeting and there will be a public comment opportunity.

OUTREACH DISCUSSION:

- No additional outreach opportunities at this time.
- Camano 101 will take place on Sept 12. Big thanks to Fran and Jeff for volunteering to table this event!

Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

DRAFT