ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

November 3, 2026

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Kelly Webb,** Chair, **Jill Lipoti, Ken Collins, Andi Kopit, Josh Berkowitz, Kirk Larsen, Greg Easton, Fran Horvath, PaulBen McElwain, Jeff Wheeler, Patrick Havel, Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Elise Adams,** MRC Staff.

ABSENT: **Marena Salerno Collins –** notified**.**

VISITORS: **Jen Schmitz,** IC LIO and DNR Manager, **Quinn Farr,** IC Lead Entity Coordinator and CFF Coordinator, **Shawn Morris,** IC Public Health Director, **Carlie Miller,** IC Surface Water Quality, **John Incardona**, Research Associate, **Nat Scholz**, Research Associate, **Maddie Buehrer**, Whidbey Conservation District, **Kelly Zupich**, IC Shore Friendly, **Josie Dodd,** IC Pollution Identification Corrections Coordinator, **Heather Vitiaz,** WSU Island County Extension, **Kaitlyn Nichols.**

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 Patrick Havel and approved unanimously. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the October Minutes was made by Fran Horvath, seconded by Ken 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 legislative work following Island and Skagit MRCs Deception Pass visit with District 10 Representative Clyde Shavers.

CORRESPONDANCE: No correspondence.

WHERE DO WE GO NOW PRESENTATION AND Q&A – Nat Scholz and John Incardona

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Chair leadership report – Kelly Webb:
  - Abandoned and derelict vessel, Blue Goose off Penn Cove, was removed in October.
  - Kelly is looking in to the Be Whale Wise Boater Ambassador Program and ways to incorporate boating activities and their impact on nearshore ecosystems in Island County.
  - Kelly and Jill attended the inter-county climate partnership meeting.

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  - MRC is working to strengthen relationships and working partnerships with the Island MRC technical advisors. They have been sent the most recent version of the Strategic Plan for input.
  - Kelly and Jill attended the Whidbey Conservation District long range planning meeting in October.
- County Lead leadership report – Jen Schmitz:
  - LIO technical committee and executive committee have continued to move ahead with the target action plan – a way to help LIO's fund local project from bottom-up. Jen heard today that there is potentially some additional one-time funding coming through – stay tuned!
  - Jen is attending the Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting in Suquamish this week before heading to the MRC Conference. At this meeting, all three sub-committees will be proposing their recommendations to the ECB (land use, water quality, and shoreline) and these have legislative impacts and help determine how the Partnership allocates resources.
  - Jen and her colleagues will be meeting with Representative Dueer on topics like water quality and shoreline armoring.
  - There is a lot moving on the local, state, and federal level!
  - This is one of Commissioner St. Clair's last meetings with the MRC – a big thank you to her for all of her support and guidance over the last year (and more!)
- Island County Commissioner leadership report- Commissioner Janet St. Clair:
  - The Planning and Development Community Docket was presented at today's County BOCC meeting. The MRC should review this document to see how we can be involved.
  - Jen has been asked to co-Chair the ECB – this is a big win for the ECB and for Island County! Congrats Jen!
  - This may be Commissioner St. Clair's last meeting with the MRC and a big thank you for all the work the MRC has done!
- MRC Coordinator report:
  - Big thank you to Jill and Kelly for joining to make magnets for the MRC Conference!
  - The MRC Conference is this Friday, Nov 6th and Saturday, Nov 7th – all registered MRC members should have received a reminder email with all of the Conference information.
  - Please send Elise your reimbursement information after the Conference – she will email you – so you can be reimbursed promptly!

MRC POSITIONS:

- We have had a few folks step up for our open positions – Chair, Vice-Chair, SRTCC Rep, NWSC Rep, and LIO Rep. Please reach out to Elise and Kelly if you are interested in participating in one of these positions, or feel free to contact the current member in the position with any questions!
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NWSC Pre-Conference SAC Brainstorm:

- For those participating in the pre-Conference SAC activity, please prepare yourself with ideas and take a look at the pre-activity worksheet sent out by Dana Oster!

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- Island MRC wants to take a look at the whole and broader picture rather than just looking at monitoring.

Public Comment: N/A

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

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