

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

April 7, 2026

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Kelly Webb**, Chair, **Jill Lipoti**, **Ken Collins**, **Brad Thompson**, **Fran Horvath**, **Andi Kopit**, **Marena Salerno Collins**, **Josh Berkowitz**, **Paul Ben McElwain**, **Greg Easton**, **Kirk Larsen**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Janet St. Clair**, Island County Commissioner, **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff

ABSENT: **Patrick Havel** – notified

VISITORS: **Jen Schmitz**, IC Natural Resources Manager, **Quinn Farr**, IC Lead Entity Coordinator, **Renee Zavas Silva**, IC Surface Water Quality Specialist, **Kelly Zupich**, IC Shore Friendly, **Barbara Bennett**, **Dana Oster**, NW Straits Commission staff, **Hiller West**, **Heather Vitiaz**, WSU – Island County Extension, **Suzanne Shull**, NW Straits Commission staff.

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Commissioner St. Clair requested a switch of the SoundIQ Presentation and Leadership Reports. The agenda approval was made by Greg Easton, seconded by Jeff Wheeler. **MINUTES:** Andi Kopit requested to be included as “absent – notified” on the March Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes from March was made by Jill Lipoti, seconded by Josh Berkowitz, 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 creation of the Great Bear Sea Marine Protected Area Network!

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Island County Commissioner leadership report- Commissioner Janet St. Clair:
 - o Commissioner St. Clair has invited the MRC to participate in her upcoming virtual Earth Day Town Hall on April 22nd.
 - o The MRC has decided they will participate on the Town Hall and Kelly Webb and MRC Coordinator will coordinate and prepare the presentation.
- County Lead leadership report – Jen Schmitz:
 - o Island County Department of Natural Resources has officially moved to South Whidbey – feel free to stop by!
 - o Today’s Board of County Commissioner Regular Session today was interesting, and some members may find it worth listening to.

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- The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan will be a topic at the 4/8 Board of County Commissioner Work Session.
- The Surface Water Quality team will be presenting their annual data at the 4/8 Board of County Commissioner Work Session.
- At the 4/16 LIO Technical Meeting, there will be a presentation from ESA as they wrap up their OSS project and LIO will be figuring out how to best use that information for future work.
 - Financial Assistance Program has run out of funding for their Inspection Incentive Program which provides a coupon for homeowners to use for a free inspection. Jen has received approval to use some of the LIO funding to supplement that program.
- New Pollution Identification Coordinator (PIC) has been hired and will start on 4/8.
- Chair leadership report – Kelly Webb: Kelly attended the HSIL Summit and thought it was fantastic. Learned a lot about how other counties and organizations work and thought it was applicable to things we do on Island County.

PRESENTATION: SoundIQ Presentation and Walk Through by Suzanne Shull

NW STRAITS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Ken Collins:

- “NW Straits 101” is tomorrow, April 8th from 11:00a-12:30p.
- Ken reflected on the recent NW Straits Commission Retreat on April 2 & 3. This brought together NW Straits Commission reps, staff, and MRC staff to discuss NWSC goals and communication needs.

COORDINATOR REPORT:

- A big thanks to everyone who attended and participated in our annual retreat in March!
- Confirmed co-leads for all MRC projects and sub-committees.
- Q2 reporting update – MRC Coordinator has finished quarterly reporting. A big thanks to all volunteers who sent in updates and volunteer hours. Island MRC had over 500 hours of volunteer time in Q2 – well done!
- MRC Coordinator walked attendees through the Island MRC Webpage Resource “Members Only” section. MRC members can turn to this webpage for event details, reporting formats and due dates, and general administrative information regarding the MRC.
- Meeting time & location logistics update – Island MRC meetings have changed to **4:00p-6:00p** beginning in May. MRC Coordinator will update all meeting materials with the correct information, including location changes for upcoming meetings.
 - MRC Coordinator is working to rotate MRC meeting locations between South Whidbey, North Whidbey, and virtually.
- Earth Day at Fort Casey – Volunteers needed!

Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.