

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

July 7, 2026

VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Kelly Webb**, Chair, **Jill Lipoti**, **Patrick Havel**, **Fran Horvath**, **Marena Salerno Collins**, **Josh Berkowitz**, **Paul Ben McElwain**, **Greg Easton**, **Kirk Larsen**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff.

ABSENT: **Andi Kopit** – notified, **Ken Collins** – notified, **Brad Thompson** – did not notify.

VISITORS: **Jen Schmitz**, IC Natural Resources Manager/LIO Coordinator, **Quinn Farr**, IC Lead Entity Coordinator & Conservations Futures Program Coordinator, **Josie Dodd**, IC Pollution Identification Coordinator, **Heather Vitiaz**, WSU Island County Extension.

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Agenda was amended to include the Maritime Washington Tribal Engagement Webinar report by Josh Berkowitz. Agenda approval was made by Jill Lipoti, the motion was seconded. **MINUTES:** Minutes were amended to clarify May minutes for the record. A motion to approve the Minutes from June was made by Jill Lipoti, seconded by Fran Horvath, 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 introduction of "Climate.US", a new climate-science website.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- Chair leadership report – Kelly Webb:
 - o There was an abandoned and derelict vessel (ADV) sighted this past week in Penn Cove (it is impossible to see from the road above and must be accessed via the beach and private land).
 - Kelly has learned a lot and had a good learning experience about successful ADV work.
 - o Reminder that volunteer hours were due July 6.
 - o Annual project reports are due in Sept – Coordinator will send out a timeline and due date for leads to send in the reports.
- County Lead leadership report – Jen Schmitz:
 - o Jen followed up regarding the ADV from this weekend. She reached out to fellow Public Health staff to determine if there were any pre-approved access points. Did

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confirm there is a vessel at the high-water mark that has been there for quite some time.

- Might make sense to send some targeted postcards to shoreline homeowners educating on ADV reporting in addition to ADV project's pre-planned outreach.
- Island County/DNR has been contacted by Camano 101 staff regarding a booth in addition to MRC.
- LIOs have been working on targeted action plans for the last few years. This year, they will be working on floodplains/estuaries.
- Island County Commissioner leadership report- Commissioner Janet St. Clair:
 - No leadership report.

NW STRAITS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Ken Collins (Elise reported out):

- There was a presentation by Morgan Arrington focusing on the social science perspective of shoreline ecosystems. Discussion about this connection followed.
- Regional MRC updates: Snohomish has an intern who is looking into forage fish analysis; Skagit found the first green crab in Fidalgo Bay; San Juan highlighted “Dock Talks”, their work with Whatcom on transboundary oil spill response, the success of youth advisors, and county budget cuts.
- State legislator visit planning is underway. Federal legislator visits are being worked on by NWSC staff.
- SAC project workshops are still available. MRCs need to submit a request by 9/18.
- NWSF is searching for a new Executive Director.
- NWSC Conference is November 6th and 7th. Coordinator will reach out with more information when its available for those interested in attending.

SRTCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Josh Berkowitz:

- At the June meeting, they reviewed the project rankings.
- July meeting is rescheduled to July 30 where they will review final project comments.
- Final project approval status will be announced on September 17.
- Lead Entity Coordinator is working to clarify SRTCC roster.

MARITIME WASHINGTON TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT TRAINING – Josh Berkowitz:

- Hosted a webinar publicly unveiling their tribal guide, which will be accompanied by a website with a variety of resources.
- Began by focusing on two Seattle area Tribes with the long-term goal of working with full 21 federally recognized Tribes.
 - Worked with the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Suquamish Tribe.
- Much of the workshop was about the lessons learned and process focusing on how to work with Tribes, mainly for non-governmental agencies.
- Coordinator will share the webinar resources and website following the meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – Kirk Larsen:

- Committee is conducting background research and having meetings with partners to discuss the MRC Strategic Plan process.
- August MRC Meeting time will be used to discuss the Strategic Planning process.

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OUTREACH DISCUSSION:

- The only outreach opportunity on the radar is Camano 101 on September 12. Coordinator will reach out regarding volunteer interest in participating and helping with the MRC outreach table.
- Elise is working to create an “MRC 1-Pager” that helps to articulate more than the projects the MRC works on, but the community impact, funding source, and how the work of the MRC translates to County impact.

LEGISLATOR VISITS – Jill Lipoti:

- NWSC has put together a workgroup including all the MRCs to strategize and host state legislator site visits this summer.
- Island County is in District 10 which includes Representative Clyde Shavers, Representative Dave Paul, and Senator Ron Muzzall. We share these legislators with neighboring Skagit County and share Port Susan with Snohomish County. Island workgroup members, Jill and Kelly, are working to partner with these neighboring counties to discuss how to best work together.
- MRC Coordinator has reached out to the staffers for all three legislators to feel out availability and interest.
- There are several Island County organizations simultaneously working to host legislators.

GENERAL;

- August MRC Meeting will be a Strategic Planning discussion and volunteer potluck.

Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.