

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

November 5, 2024

WHIDBEY/HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Jill Lipoti, Chair, Kelly Webb, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Barbara Bennett, Kes Tautvydas, Ken Collins, Andi Kopit, Greg Easton, Kirk Larsen, Patrick Havel, Jeff Wheeler, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified – Melanie Bacon, un-notified, Jennifer Schmitz, notified

VISITORS: James Watson, WICD, Ron Beier, Public, Paul Williams, Public, Jessica Reed, IC Watershed Planner, Renee Zavas-Silva, IC Surface Water Quality

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** October 1, 2024, 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.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES:

- Jill Lipoti has been attending the NW Straits DEI Cohort weekly. There will be more information coming out about this once the team is ready.

VOTE FOR NEW MEMBER: Jill Lipoti

- The MRC voted to accept Joshua Berkowitz's application and to recommend to the Board of Island County Commissioners that he be appointed to the MRC.
- Moving forward we will reinstate interviewing prospective members along with requesting they attend a couple MRC meetings to gauge their interest and fit.

HSIL FORUM WRAP UP:

- Members in general found this event to be very energizing. It was a great opportunity to see what other Counties are doing along with a chance to make connections. We hope that these type of conversations regarding sea level rise continue on a regular basis.
- Tideland ownership is a complex issue that we should keep looking into.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:

- The MRC was invited to take part in the Climate element workshops that took place this month. There were three workshops one focused on sea level rise, one on heat, and one on groundwater. We had a different MRC member represent us at each one of the workshops.

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We are saying goodbye to member Kes Tautvydas after 9 years of service on the MRC.
Thank you very much for all of the time and expertise you put into your work!

Meeting Adjourned 5:30 pm