



Island County Marine Resources Committee

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org>

MINUTES

March 5, 2003, 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Heller Road Firehall
Oak Harbor

Present: Acting Chair Roger Sherman, Hi Bronson, Mike Gallion, Phyllis Kind, Jeff Tate, Dick Toft, Benye Weber, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen.

Absent: Martin Behr, Tom Campbell, Sayed El-Sayed, Don Meehan, Tom Roehl.

Visitors: Gwenn Maxfield, Island County Public Works; Jeff M. Hall, Island County Public Works; Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point.

Call to order: At 4:10 pm, Acting Chair Sherman called the meeting to order, pointing out that one more member is needed to establish a quorum, and we expect Dick Toft to arrive a little later. At 4:30, Toft arrived and a quorum was declared.

Agenda: Adopted. Five additions: 1) Weber reported that Wood will make a presentation to the salmon technical advisory group March 11. 2) Sherman invited Jeff Hall to address our group during the time set aside for public input. 3) Gallion announced the Fishin' Club will hear a presentation March 6 on the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement program. 4) Sherman commented that Mike Sato has requested the names of any individuals we'd like to propose as members of the DNR's Aquatic Reserve Advisory Committee. Sherman noted that Sayed El Sayed seems to be the most qualified member of our committee and he will contact Sayed about this. 5) Sherman encouraged members of our group to consider attending the research conference in Vancouver, March 31 – April 3, but acknowledged that the personal expenses would be significant, with hotel accommodations totaling about \$600 and tuition about \$250.

Minutes of 2003-02-19: Adopted. Motion by Kind, second by Weber, no objections.

Reports: Gary Wood

Wood noted that the agenda calls for discussion of the 2003 Workplan, but that since no draft is available to guide a discussion today, he will talk about several broad issues we may wish to address when the Workplan is developed.

In 2004, the Northwest Straits Initiative will undergo its five-year review to determine whether it will be reauthorized. Our state's senators will name a scientific panel to evaluate the first five years' work. Prior to that review, the Northwest Straits Commission hopes to hold a public conference in spring of 2004 to celebrate the five years' work.

This fall, prior to next spring's public conference, the NWSC's regular fall training conference will take place. The NWSC would like to use the fall training conference for the MRCs to make detailed presentations to one another on what they have done that has worked and what hasn't worked. The goal, he said, is to bring about greater cooperation across county lines by MRCs working together on inter-county projects. This is tricky, he conceded, because of the resistance that naturally occurs along political boundaries. But as we enter the restoration stage of our activity, much of what we want to accomplish would benefit from economies of scale, rather than having multiple counties separately sponsoring similar projects that each generate administrative overhead, bids, grants, contractors, etc.

Wood cited two examples of cross-county projects that have been tremendously successful and efficient from the standpoint of low administrative overhead – derelict gear and forage fish. He

said we as an MRC should think about what we would like to share at the fall training conference as our presentation. He commented that Island County was the first MRC to have an executive director to pursue grants, and that this model has now been adopted by all the others as they've grown to realize they need this to obtain additional funding.

Kind suggested that we might consider giving a presentation or panel on grantsmanship – how to write a grant proposal -- since this is an area where experience and training are very important to success. Wood agreed, pointing out that it's a job no one wants to take on as a "volunteer," and that many people's initial efforts are unsuccessful.

Wood commented that one very important project for our 2003 Workplan is Shore Stewards, which has the potential to expand far beyond Island County.

Another important project is our feeder bluff study, which will be conducted by Coastal Geologic Services. Wood said this company and Landau Associates submitted superb proposals and it was a very tough call to choose between them.

Kind suggested that the feeder bluff study might tie in well with the earlier proposal to add three cliff-dwelling birds to our indicator species research. She asked if it would be appropriate to invite Frances Wood to speak at our next meeting. It was noted that Pat Powell and Kathleen Landel of Whidbey-Camano Land Trust are scheduled to speak at that meeting, but Wood said he felt time could be made available also to Frances Wood, and that he would ask Don to include her on the agenda.

Wood said that by the next meeting, March 19, he will have at least the beginnings of a tangible Workplan for the committee to consider.

Public input

Gwenn Maxfield introduced Jeff Hall, <mailto:jeffh@co.island.wa.us>. Hall's phone number at the Camano office is (360) 387-3443, ext. 240. Hall has been hired by the Department of Public Works under a four-year grant from the Department of Ecology for a Watershed Non-Point Pollution Action Plan. He reports to Phil Cohen and Gwenn Maxfield. This is the third such plan the department has undertaken – this one being for Camano Island. Hall will study, research and identify sources of non-point pollution on Camano Island, working with a citizen action committee, and make a recommendation for solving them. Hall said his previous employment has included interpretive work as a beach ranger for the City of Edmonds and City of Mukilteo. His degree is in environmental policy assessment from Western Washington University. He has also been involved in several education and planning efforts for growth management for environment in Snohomish County. He said Camano Island is facing tremendous development pressure along the coastal areas, so he expects his work will focus largely on that area, in terms of the drainage. Hall said one of his tasks is oriented specifically toward nearshore restoration efforts and ties in well with work our MRC has been doing, and he looks forward to collaborating with the committee.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Sherman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2003, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland, with speakers Pat Powell and Kathleen Landel of Whidbey-Camano Land Trust.