



Island County Marine Resources Committee

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org>

MINUTES

October 15, 2003, 4:02 – 5:20 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
Freeland

Present: Chair Tom Campbell, Hi Bronson, Sayed El-Sayed, Mike Gallion, Don Meehan, Rolf Seitle, Roger Sherman, Dick Toft, Benye Weber, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen.

Absent: Martin Behr, Phyllis Kind, Jeff Tate.

Visitors: Nancy Waddell, Clinton, Maxwellton Salmon Adventure; Kim Bredensteiner, Island County Public Works; Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point; Chuck Leavitt, Langley; Rich Melaas, NAS Whidbey Island.

Call to order: 4:05 pm, Campbell called the meeting to order.

Quorum: Declared.

Agenda: Adopted.

Minutes of 10-01-2003: Adopted. Motion by Bronson. Second by Toft. No objections.

Correspondence

Campbell shared a letter he had sent to Frank Roberts on Sept. 29 in response to one Roberts had written to him. Roberts had asked Campbell if any additional documents were available to the public beyond those he had already obtained from Meehan, after Meehan had said there were none. Campbell wrote he was disappointed Roberts seemed to feel Meehan and others present were not being truthful.

Meehan read aloud a letter he had sent to Roberts on Oct. 9, in response to one Roberts had written to him on Oct. 3 pursuant to RCW 62.17, "Request for public records." Meehan said that before responding, he had consulted with Dave Jamieson, county prosecuting attorney. Meehan explained that there is no RCW titled 62.17, and that neither he nor Jamieson were able to determine from the citations in Roberts' letter what information he was requesting. He said RCW 42.17.290 does not contain the sections Roberts itemized, but that he will be happy to comply once he understands the request.

Unfinished business

Stewardship area resolution. Campbell asked whether any members wished to share input on the draft BOCC resolution to establish stewardship areas that Toft had distributed at the last meeting. Bronson commented he had given Wood some handwritten edits he felt would help balance the wording better for Camano residents. Wood said he would share the proposed new wording with Pedersen and Toft.

Additional support for stewardship resolution. Campbell invited those who missed the last meeting to express their position on the stewardship proposal. **Behr** had already sent an e-mail to the entire committee expressing his support. **Meehan, Seitle and Weber** each voiced their support, in turn.

Executive Director's Report

PIE grant. Wood reported he has submitted a PIE grant proposal, copies of which were shared by e-mail.

Shore Stewards booklet. Wood shared two advance copies of the Shore Stewards booklet, of which 500 were printed, commenting that we owe Brittany Stromberg a debt of gratitude for bringing together the team on Camano Island that produced this book.

Derelict Gear Project. We learned today that the project has been awarded another foundation grant of \$30,000, plus \$10,000 from the Tulalip Tribes. To date, more than \$300,000 is available next year and Whidbey Island is included. We will soon learn whether King County plans to put some its \$10 million mitigation fund into this project. Clallam County put \$50-some thousand of their Northwest Straits Action Grant into derelict gear removal. Wood will speak about derelict gear to about 150 members of Puget Sound Anglers of Clallam County when they meet tomorrow evening in Sekiu. Wood and Toft have presented programs on this to Rotary and the Oak Harbor chapter of Puget Sound Anglers, and Wood said he spoke at the Rod & Gun Club. He said he would like to give a program to the Fishin' Club.

Gallion commented that the club's bylaws preclude anything related to political activity and he expects the club's board of directors would consider derelict gear to fall into that category. Wood expressed surprise and asked Gallion to inquire about this with the board. On a related issue, Campbell commented to Gallion that he had approached a mutual friend of theirs about possibility of the MRC giving a presentation to the Fishin' Club. This person understood Gallion's response as "absolutely not." Gallion said this was a misinterpretation – that he had said he felt the board probably would not entertain such a request because of its political nature. Frank Roberts interjected that he sits on the board of the Lagoon Point Improvement Club and that he thought his group would like a presentation from the MRC. He said there are 375 property owners.

Eelgrass mapping. Mapping of both islands is complete, within the October 1 window. Eelgrass was found in some places it wasn't expected. A lengthy highway of eelgrass was found on the west side in waters considered too active for it. The first indication of this eelgrass came in the MRC's citizen survey of homeowners. Seitle said the MRC recently saved the Port of South Whidbey a significant expense. The Department of Natural Resources had asked the port to provide eelgrass survey data in relation to one of its projects, and the port was able to save the cost of a separate study by using MRC data.

Feeder bluff project. Jim Johannesen was ill with pneumonia, so this project will extend into spring.

Forage fish survey. Island County is in the third year of its forage fish survey – Wood has submitted an application for additional funding. The survey has identified an additional 22 miles of forage fish spawning beaches on Camano and Whidbey islands that were not previously known to be forage fish spawning areas. The data will not be released until completed, Wood said, because the scientists do not want multiple incomplete and differing versions of the study in circulation to create confusion.

Correction of minutes of Sept. 17, 2003

Campbell directed the group's attention to a point of business he had intended to address earlier. The minutes of Sept. 17, which were approved at the Oct. 1 MRC meeting, incorrectly stated that the second motion of the evening had been defeated 5-3, when actually it had been approved. **Motion by Bronson, second by Toft, to correct the minutes. Carried unanimously.**

Public Input

Nancy Waddell, Maxwelton Salmon Adventure. Waddell has requested the MRC's help in providing information for an educational/interpretive kiosk to be displayed at Dave Mackey Park. The signage would incorporate both marine and historic information. Campbell offered Pedersen's assistance with verbiage when the project gets to that point. Waddell also distributed copies of the *Executive Summary of the Maxwelton Lower Reach and Fish Passage Feasibility Study*. The study looked into what could be done to restore some estuarine habitat functioning and improved fish passage without ignoring the needs of people. The study came up with six alternatives ranging from doing nothing to restoring the full historic estuary. She commented that the Salmon Adventure has an opportunity to acquire a piece of property that would be key to any future estuary restoration, and they are looking for funding for this acquisition. Meehan expressed great interest in the lower reach study and asked Waddell for two copies of the full report. Weber said she also would appreciate a copy.

Kim Bredensteiner explained that at the second meeting in November, the presentation by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project will need to start a little later than originally expected. The presenters, Jacques White and Curtis Tanner, will be arriving in Freeland around 4:30 pm, driving from the Anacortes ferry. Campbell said this would be no problem.

New business

Meeting attendance. Campbell commented that most members have maintained very good attendance this year, but that hit-and-miss attendance by some has occasionally left us close to not having a quorum. He pointed out that the bylaws ask members to let someone know if they are unable to attend. He complimented Gallion on perfect attendance at all 15 meetings to date in 2003. Meehan pointed out that some members provide great support to the committee, though a heavy workload and competing obligations make meeting attendance difficult. It was noted that in addition to those whose attendance is spotty, we also have one position vacant – for a representative of commercial fishing.

Adjournment: 5:20 p.m. There being no further business, Campbell declared the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 4-6 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 5, Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor.