



## Island County Marine Resources Committee

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org>

# MINUTES

April 7, 2004, 4:05 – 6:04 pm

Heller Road Firehall  
Oak Harbor

**Present:** Chair Roger Sherman, Hi Bronson, Tom Campbell, Ian Jefferds, Phyllis Kind, Don Meehan, Dick Toft, Benye Weber, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen.

**Alternates:** Pedersen (for El Sayed), Frank Roberts (for Gallion).

**Absent:** Martin Behr, Sayed El-Sayed, Mike Gallion, Rolf Seitle, Jeff Tate.

**Visitors:** Micah Wait, Washington Trout (speaker); Kim Bredensteiner, Island County Public Works; Robyn Du Pre, Puget Sound Action Team, Bellingham; Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point; Nancy Waddell, Maxwellton Salmon Adventure.

**Call to order:** 4:04 pm, Sherman called the meeting to order.

**Quorum:** Declared.

**Agenda:** Adopted with two additions: Wood wishes to reschedule the Tony Frantz creosote tour and Meehan wishes to discuss the MRC 5-year Report.

**Minutes of 3-17-2004: Adopted.** No objections.

### Summary of Decisions

**Creosote tour** with Tony Frantz will be rescheduled, both at his request and also because of a potential conflict with an MRC visit to Maylor's Marsh with the Navy.

**Benchmark updates** postponed till April 21 meeting. For that meeting, members are asked to bring 2004 workplan updates to the benchmarks for which they are responsible.

#### Speaker: Micah Wait

#### Conservation Biologist, Washington Trout

Website: <http://www.washingtontrout.org/>

e-mail: [micah@washingtontrout.org](mailto:micah@washingtontrout.org)

Washington Trout is a statewide nonprofit organization, based in Duvall, dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of wild fish and their habitat. It is not a user group but is often associated with fishermen and a majority of its members are fishermen. It focused initially on the watersheds and has worked its way down, following the fish downstream, and the organization now is interested in estuarine work. Washington Trout has submitted a proposal to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to study juvenile salmonid use of the west side of Whidbey Island. The group is interested in having the MRC join as a project partner.

Washington Trout plans to do beach seining of nearshore areas -- open beaches and pelagic, littoral habitats -- and will sample pocket estuaries and tidal channels. Eventually they would like to tie the data they develop from their projects to data the MRC has been collecting on forage fish spawning areas, shoreline hardening and eelgrass. They hope to generate a landscape picture of the importance of west Whidbey habitat for juvenile salmonids.

Potential sampling locations include Swantown Lake, Crockett Lake, Lake Hancock, Lagoon Point, South Whidbey State Park, Deer Harbor Lagoon, Maxwellton Creek and Cultus Bay. They plan to sample both

day and night because they believe habitat uses may shift between day and night in response to predators. Their hypothesis is that there will be more use of the nearshore by juveniles at night as juvenile fish move in to avoid larger predators. However, if no significant difference is apparent in the first few months of surveying, they may switch over to daytime-only sampling.

In the pocket estuaries they will use a fish weir to force the fish to pass close to a video camera where they can be filmed. This is useful both scientifically and to provide a video medium for public outreach and education.

The final product will be an empirical determination of juvenile salmonid use of specific sites that are listed in the WRIA 06 salmon recovery strategy. They also hope this will provide a predictive model for various types of habitat on the western shore of Whidbey Island.

Wait said the MRC's role would be the contribution of its data as well as assisting in public outreach and education with its ties to the local community. He said he hoped members of the community could be involved in pulling up some of the nets so they could directly see what the studies reveal.

**Stewardship area cruise.** Sherman invited Weber to update the group on plans for the June 4 cruise.

> Invitations. Weber shared the draft of a VIP invitation Pedersen and Meehan had put together.

> Flyer / brochure. She also shared a flyer Pedersen and Meehan had produced.

> Letter to port districts. She reported Pedersen had drafted a letter to the Port of South Whidbey which had helped in Seitle's successful request for a \$2,000 contribution to the cruise. Sherman adapted the letter for the Port of Coupeville and will present it to them next week in the hope of a similar donation.

> Sponsors. Meehan reported the financial sponsors to date are **Nichols Brothers, Pacific Navigation Company** and **Port of South Whidbey**. He hopes within a few days to add **Wal-Mart** (four stores in the region) and **Port of Coupeville**. In addition **Penn Cove Shellfish** (mussels) and **Wescott Bay Farms** (oysters) are contributing shellfish.

> Northwest Straits Website. Wood reported the NWSC website has an announcement of the cruise and instructions to register by mail to the WSU Extension Office.

> Registration. Meehan said his office will handle registration.

> Passenger list. Weber said Pedersen has prepared a master list of VIP guests, news media, speakers and paying customers. Pedersen will circulate the list to all MRC members by e-mail and request their additions.

> Attendance limit. Weber said food is the key issue in setting the attendance limit. Do we want to cap the cruise at 250 or 300? Meehan said he thought we had set 300 as the maximum but were planning for 250.

> Guest speakers. Speakers currently envisioned are Don Meehan (M/C), Russel Barsh (Salish), Eric Beamer (Whidbey Basin salmon), Melanie Ford (Cama Beach), Roger Sherman (maritime history), Matt Nichols (Nichols Bros), Karen Jefferds (Penn Cove Shellfish), Hugh Shipman (DOE – ecology), Heather Lahey Mack (Deception Pass), plus opening for speakers on eelgrass and forage fish.

> Name tags. Do we need them? Meehan's office will produce stick-on tags.

> \$10 price. Meehan said everyone who has seen the flyer thinks \$10 is an incredible bargain. Toft and Campbell asked if it's too late to discuss the price. The question will be discussed by the stewardship committee rather than the full group.

> Catering and liquor license. Weber has spoken with three caterers on Whidbey. The cost of hors d'ouvres is at least \$12 per person. Weber said the best option may be Anthony's Home Port in Everett, since it is right at the marina from which we will be embarking. Regarding the liquor license question, Sherman read a letter from Greg Drunkert of Pacific Navigation stating: "The best way to go is to identify a company that does catering to manage the bar. In this scenario they bring their license and facility and handle the whole show." Jefferds said Bud Gould, who owns Anthony's, might be able to cater this for us. Jefferds will give Gould a call.

> Insurance. Meehan said he is exploring whether the county would assume the insurance for the cruise. No decision has been received, but in any event the county would require to be released from any liability relating to the serving of alcohol. So either Nichols or Pacific Navigation would need to provide protection to the county by taking total responsibility for the alcohol. Meehan said the original idea was that the boat owners would have the bar and get the benefit of those sales, but we would provide the insurance.

> Ditty bags. Weber said she had intended to put together some ditty bags for cruise participants containing brochures, perhaps literature about island businesses, but is not sure she will have the time.

> Tax-deductibility of cruise donations. Wood commented that Matt Nichols was interested in assuring the tax-deductibility of his substantial donation to the cruise, and one way he can do this is by arranging for his donation to go to a non-profit organization, in this case the Northwest Straits Foundation. This will involve an exchange of letters between Nichols and the Northwest Straits Foundation verifying the value of the donation. Jefferds said if we go this way, the non-profit foundation can apply for a special-event license for the liquor. It'll take about two weeks to get it and it'll be about \$160. Robyn Du Pre suggested that as we talk with companies about donating to the cruise, we should not flatly promise their contributions of goods and services will be tax deductible, but that they may be tax-deductible and we will provide verification, but they will need to work through their tax attorney on it.

> Letters to speakers, news media, VIPs. Pedersen will draft letters of invitation individually tailored to speakers, news media and VIPs.

> Mailing list. Wood will work on a mailing list.

> Speaker invitations. Meehan said he could use help contacting and inviting speakers. Kind suggested we circulate the speaker list and ask members to step forward and take responsibility to invite those they know. Meehan said if someone would draft a letter (Pedersen), he will send the letter to prospective speakers.

**Next stewardship committee meeting:** 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, Sherman home.

**Workplan updates:** Postponed until April 21 meeting.

**Executive director's written report.** Wood distributed his report by e-mail on April 6, as follows:

**June Cruise News & Previews:** We again salute Rolf Seitle's successful campaign that yielded the **Port of South Whidbey's** co-sponsorship (\$2,000) of the *MRC Catalina Jet Cruise* made possible by **Matt Nichols/NICHOLS BROS. BOAT BUILDERS'** generous support. **Westcott Bay Shellfish** has committed to supply their fresh Oysters to compliment the **Penn Cove Mussels** at the buffet table. The **Puget Sound Action Team** has also asked for info to support a \$300-500 contribution; and a letter has been submitted to the **Port of Coupeville** seeking its sponsorship. *Note: The Snohomish MRC has already advised us that they will ALL be registering and cruising!* **WE HAVE A BOATLOAD OF WORK TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL EVENT.**

**DNR Project Site Tour:** On Tuesday, 4/13, MRC member Toft, and E.D. Wood will join the DNR rep, Navy resources manager, coastal geologist Jim Johannessen, Oak Harbor city planners, and others to inspect and evaluate the **Maylor's Marsh** project site to further hone the scope of work (\$15K limit), and assure the neighbors of our good intentions. Meanwhile, the federal gov't has announced a grant program

within the “Coastal Program” directed at the restoration of tidal influence upon saltwater marshes. I will report further on the advisability of this funding source.

**PSGP Grant Application:** As authorized by MRC resolution, our proposal to the federal [US Fish & Wildlife Service] “**Private Stewardship Grants Program**” was duly submitted to their regional Portland office, on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We proposed to partner with the Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and People for Puget Sound to fund & expand the existing homeowners program; and make the Shore Stewards program accessible to agricultural properties. The proposal seeks \$140,800.

**‘Derelict Gear’ Talk at Whidbey NAS:** We received a very gracious invitation from the Whidbey Chapter of *Military Officers Association of America* (MOAA), requesting to hear the “*Derelict Fishing Gear Recovery*” talk at this month’s luncheon on the Base (tomorrow, 4/8). They estimate an audience of 120 -- a great opportunity to (out-)reach a new audience – so a specially updated Power Point has been designed for this occasion. I’ll try not to ruin their meals with graphics.

**Creosote Beach Tour/ April 13** – We need to set a time and logistical details for this event.

**LYCEUM** – The MRC’s display, Poster, and Handouts were on hand for Tuesday night’s lecture by Andrea Copping. Thanks to Phyllis and Tom for their leadership and follow-through!

**Stewardship Area Power Point** – The new PPT is complete and available for shows!

**Old / new business.** Because of time conflicts for both Tony Frantz and several members of the MRC, a new date will be arranged with Tony Frantz for the Double Bluff creosote tour.

**Public input:** Frank Roberts asked how he could get a copy of Wood’s written report to the MRC when it is distributed by e-mail rather than presented during the meeting. Pedersen said he always copies it into the written minutes, and that he will add Roberts to the e-mail list for the approved minutes.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Sherman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

## Coming Events

**April 20, Tuesday, 7:30 pm**

Whidbey Institute Lyceum Series, James Karr, UW professor, on sustaining life in river systems.

**April 21, Wednesday, 4-6 pm**

MRC meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland.

**June 4, Friday, 12:00 – 3 pm**

Saratoga Passage Stewardship Area Inaugural Cruise, Everett Marina

**June 4-5**

NWSC Sound Investment Conference, Everett Events Center.