



## Island County Marine Resources Committee

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org>

# MINUTES

April 21, 2004, 4:02 – 5:50 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Freeland

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

**Alternates:** Pedersen (for El Sayed), Gary Wood (for Jefferds).

**Absent:** Martin Behr, Sayed El-Sayed, Ian Jefferds, Don Meehan.

**Visitors:** Kim Bredensteiner, Island County Public Works; Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point; Tony Frantz, Puget Sound Creosote Awareness.

**Call to order:** 4:02 pm, Sherman called the meeting to order.

**Quorum:** Declared.

**Agenda:** Adopted. No additions.

**Minutes of 4-7-2004: Adopted.** No objections.

### Summary of Decisions

**Fisheries Conservation Foundation grant application.** Motion carried authorizing Wood to apply for an education and outreach grant to fund Shore Stewards.

**Creosote tour** with Tony Frantz is rescheduled for 3 pm, Tuesday, April 27, at Double Bluff.

**Stewardship cruise committee** will meet at the Sherman home at 4 pm, Wednesday, April 28.

### Speaker: Gary Wood Stewardship Area PowerPoint

Wood shared the PowerPoint presentation he recently prepared about the Island County marine stewardship areas. He pointed out this is an early version and he welcomes suggestions for improvement. This presentation has been given already to the Whidbey Island Flyfishing Club.

Main points:

- Stewardship is about taking care of that which is in our care. The point of this show is to explain what's so special about these waters. Using aerial images, Wood pointed out that Puget Sound is essentially a huge drainage system and Island County sits right in the middle of it.
- These waters have users of every type and scale and they all have the same rights. No one group has a greater right than any other. This is what the MRC is all about.
- We have to protect these resources by remembering how fragile they are. The purpose of the stewardship areas is not to regulate these waters but to give recognition to their importance and educate people about how to care for them.

- We have four basic goals – to help people understand the marine history of this area, to share the science the MRC is engaged in (what we've discovered and mapped), to encourage care, and to encourage recognition, because this resource is not unlimited.
- Additionally, we want to link the stewardship areas with our Shore Stewards program, which we have already launched on Camano Island. Shore Stewards helps property owners understand some things they can do to take better care of their shoreline.
- Science – the MRC has funded several scientific assessments of Island County, including eelgrass, shoreline hardening, forage fish, feeder bluffs and accretion shoreforms. One of the MRC's goals in connection with the stewardship areas is to install some interpretive signage at appropriate locations to help explain the science to the public.
- Care – the public uses Island County's waters and beaches in countless different ways. About 80 percent of the resources we are concerned about protecting are on private property, which is where Shore Stewards comes in. The MRC takes the position that private property owners are not the enemy. Most of the actions landowners take are motivated by the intention to improve and protecting their property and enhance its value. If we can help them do it in a way that is better for the environment, we want to. That's why Shore Stewards prepared its guide to shoreline living – to give shoreline property owners helpful information and access to resources.

Comments: Kind remarked that Dr. James Karr, who spoke at last night's Whidbey Institute Lyceum, has developed an approach for analyzing the health of fresh water systems. He calls it the Index of Biological Indicators. She said a similar approach might be useful in analyzing the health of the nearshore using the data we've developed.

### Executive Director's Report

Stewardship area cruise: **Catering.** Wood reported he had talked with Anthony's Restaurant in regard to catering our cruise and learned they do not cater off site. They referred him to Apulent, a catering firm located nearby at the Everett Marina, and they are working on a quote for our event – to provide the food, staffing and bar, including license. **Insurance.** Wood said he is talking with the Betty Kemp about providing insurance for the cruise and it looks like the county probably will do so. **Underwriting.** Wood said we now have \$2,000 from the Port of Coupeville in addition to the original \$2,000 from the Port of South Whidbey. If we sell 200 tickets, this will be another \$2,000. We are still hoping to line up Wal-Mart. We have applied to Puget Sound Action Team for printing of the Five-Year Leadership Report, which we want to distribute on the cruise. **Administrative support.** Jim Clark in the WSU office is preparing the master list for mailing invitations and issuing boarding passes and cruise information.

Fisheries Conservation Foundation grant opportunity. Wood recently learned of a new grant opportunity from this private foundation for **outreach and education for stewardship for private property owners**. Wood requests authorization from the MRC to apply. He's going to redesign the application he just submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for Shore Stewards and submit it instead to FCF. **Motion by Kind to authorize Wood to do this. Second by Bronson. Carried unanimously.**

Cama Beach State Park. It is apparent that we are not going to be able to complete our project to remote the boat ramp at Cama Beach State Park in time to fulfill the Northwest Straits Action Grant that funded it. Wood has requested permission from NWSC to reallocate this \$25,000 to the Maylor's Marsh project, which is under-funded with just a \$15,000 DNR grant. He said the NWSC would probably allow us two years to complete this work.

Maylor's Marsh. One reason it makes sense to reallocate the NWSC grant to Maylor's Marsh is because the US Fish & Wildlife Service has approached us about the project and might provide matching funds. USFWS has a grant round coming up for on-the-ground restoration. Wood and Jim Johannessen will present our Maylor's Marsh project to them in Olympia, April 30. The DNR and NWSC grants would count as a match toward the US Fish & Wildlife grant, under which several hundred thousand dollars might be available. They Navy is offering in-kind work as an opportunity to provide training to their

personnel, but the DNR grant alone does not provide much cash, especially for the preliminary assessments that are needed. After touring Maylor's Marsh recently with representatives of the Navy, Oak Harbor, MRC and private contractors, Wood says it is a big project that needs a feasibility study, surveying and assessment before the physical work begins. The physical work is mostly to restore a natural shoreline and beach with a natural slope, and improve the function of the salt marsh. Improvements probably would be made in beach shading as well. Any work we intend to do in the water cannot go forward between March and June because we now know, from Eric Beamer, that Chinook salmon are present. This is a discovery that probably would have helped us with our earlier SRFB applications. Tony Frantz commented that when the Navy gets ready to begin work with heavy equipment, they should convert their equipment to operate on vegetable oil fluids to avoid environmental damage from fluid spills. Sherman commented that after seeing the site – seeing what's there and the possibilities – he thinks it's a wonderful project.

NWSC conference talk. Wood reported the NWSC has asked our MRC to give a 7- to 10-minute presentation at the Everett conference, at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, June 5, on our outreach and education, emphasizing how we have tied in with Beach Watchers, since Beach Watchers is expanding to the other counties.

Lyceum series. Campbell commented Wood had done an outstanding job of distributing literature and talking to the public at the Lyceum recently.

#### **Chair's Report.**

Bainbridge field trip. Bredensteiner mentioned that an opportunity exists for the MRC to participate in beach-seining this summer. She said surveys to date have identified salmon originating from a wide area, not from any one area. Sherman pointed out it would be an all-day trip.

Benchmarks. Sherman distributed the benchmark he and Kind had prepared on MPAs and asked members to submit updates for their respective benchmarks to Meehan by e-mail. Bronson commented he had been intrigued by the work other counties are doing on their shellfish benchmark and said perhaps we should invite Kathleen Parvin to give us a presentation on shellfish areas in Island County.

**Public input:** None.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Sherman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

## Coming Events

### **May 5, Wednesday, 4-6 pm**

MRC meeting at Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor.

### **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.