



Island County Marine Resources Committee

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org>

MINUTES

May 5, 2004, 4:25 – 6:00 pm

Monroe Landing Firehall
Oak Harbor

Present: Chair Roger Sherman, Tom Campbell, Sayed El-Sayed, Ian Jefferds, Phyllis Kind, Don Meehan, Benye Weber, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen.

Alternates: Pedersen (for Bronson).

Absent: Martin Behr, Hi Bronson, Mike Gallion, Rolf Seitle, Jeff Tate, Dick Toft.

Visitors: Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point.

Call to order: 4:25 pm, Sherman called the meeting to order. The delay in normal starting time was caused by a last-minute need to change locations to Monroe Landing because of a scheduling conflict at Heller Road Firehall.

Quorum: Declared.

Agenda: Adopted. No additions.

Minutes of 4-25-2004: Adopted. No objections.

Summary of Decisions

Serendipity of Coupeville will cater the stewardship area cruise. **Motion carried.**

Stewardship cruise committee will meet at the Sherman home at 4 pm, Wednesday, May 12.

Correspondence: Meehan

Meehan read a letter from Gallion dated April 18, addressed to County Commissioner Mike Shelton, which subsequently had been forwarded to him. Gallion stated he could no longer continue to serve as a member of the MRC after April 30 and requested Shelton appoint a replacement at the earliest opportunity. Gallion recommended Frank Roberts, pointing out that Roberts is an avid fisherman, shoreline property owner and retired professional engineer who has attended many MRC meetings.

Sherman asked Meehan whether the commissioners would like a recommendation from the MRC. Meehan said the commissioners have said they would like the MRC create a public process for gathering recommendations, pointing out that if Roberts or others are interested, they should send a letter to the commissioners to this effect. Meehan said he will compile a list of those who are interested and bring this list to a future MRC meeting so the MRC may identify one to recommend.

Roberts stated he does not plan to request appointment because he believes he can be of more service by remaining a member of the public "on the outside looking in," rather than an MRC member "on the inside looking out."

Marine stewardship area cruise

Visit Matt Nichols. Sherman and Wood will visit Matt Nichols May 6 to bring him fup to date on plans for the cruise. Meehan will join them if he gets back from Puyallup in time.

Insurance. To finalize arrangements for county insurance, Meehan has asked Nichols send a copy of his insurance policy to the county risk pool.

Boat visit. Meehan said the boat is available for us to preview on civilian property during its re-fueling stops at Harbor Island in Seattle. Alternatively, we could visit it at the Naval Station Everett if the Navy security officer approves the list of visitors. Wood and Meehan need to see the audio-visual and food-preparation facilities. Campbell will call the Everett security officer and inquire about arranging a visit for next week.

Invitations. Wood shared the design of the VIP invitations. About 44 have been sent so far and Wood estimated a total of 144 would be sent altogether. He said 67 tickets already have been purchased.

Food. Wood said Serendipity of Coupeville has proposed a cold menu of sesame noodle salad, grilled chicken ceasar salad, seasonal fruit salad, French rolls and butter, deluxe cookie platter, assorted chilled sodas and water for \$10 per person plus 8.3% sales tax. Includes disposable paper plates, napkins and cutlery, and staff of four to serve and clean up.

Mussels. Jefferds proposed preparing the mussels ahead of time, cooling them, leaving them in the shell and serving in a vinegarett. He's planning about 100 pounds of mussels.

Oysters. Wescott says they can be shucked in an area about the size of a card table.

MOTION CARRIED: Motion by Kind, second by Jefferds, none opposed, to hire Serendipity to cater the cruise.

Beer and wine. Wood said for \$60, the cost of an event license, we can separate beer and wine from the catering operation. Meehan clarified that our insurance through the county will not allow us to sell beer and wine, although we could offer it at no charge, or collect donations. Jefferds said there are breweries and wineries that will donate the bill and wine if asked.

Costs. Sherman said we're sitting at about \$5,000 in costs right now. Fuel \$1,500. Food \$2,730. Meehan's office will need to be reimbursed some costs.

Marina scouting tour. Pedersen reported he toured the marina last week. The moorage coordinator said it was inconceivable we would need to reserve space on the guest float in the afternoon, on a weekday, on the outside. He shared a map of the marina and discussed parking. The motel is at the other end of the parking lot, looks nice, and is within a five minute walk of the boat.

Stewardship committee meeting. Sherman is calling another stewardship committee meeting at his house Wednesday, May 19. Wood said he might invite Debbie of Serendipity to stop by and talk.

Executive director's report – Wood.

Wood traveled to Olympia, Friday, to explain our Maylor's Marsh proposal to a group that included US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA for the nine western states, Army Corps of Engineers, Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management's western region, and the Navy. We've been invited to apply for the Puget Sound Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service to restore saltwater marsh and tidal influence to saltwater marshes. They are looking for projects where the state has committed money, and the DNR's \$15,000 is a big deal to them. Wood is applying to two more grant programs for substantial money to make the project happen. Both applications are due in June for decision in September and funding to begin in January.

Spartina. State Parks won't be able to act soon enough for us to complete the beach restoration, shading and boat-ramp removal work we had intended to do at Cama Beach under an NWSC grant, so we are diverting the NWSC grant to spartina removal. The money needs to be used by the end of June.

County lead's report – Meehan.

Creosote. Kind reported that she, Sherman and Pedersen toured Double Bluff Beach recently with Tony Frantz to see the extent of creosote on the beach. She said Frantz did not provide a firm number on what it would cost to remove the creosote. Pedersen said Frantz mentioned it would take about eight days at \$100 an hour to remove the creosote from Double Bluff Beach – the hourly fee being for operator, machine and one assistant. Roberts said he has spent a lot of time with Frantz working on this problem and that Frantz has not yet been able to develop a system for estimating the total costs. Sherman said creosote is essentially "litter" and that it might be desirable for the MRC to get involved in a cleanup project. Wood said Whatcom County has developed some experience at creosote removal and it might be a good idea to wait to get the costs they incurred before making a decision. Meehan said disposal is the big cost. The NWSC plans to share cost information with all the MRCs. Creosote has to be trucked

to eastern Washington and deposited in a class 1 landfill. Jefferds asked where creosote falls within the overall priorities for the MRC. He urged the MRC to focus on projects that are necessary, not just nice. Regional Beach Watchers program. Meehan said he attended the recent NWSC meeting on Gary's behalf and gave a presentation on the regional Beach Watchers program.

Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Meehan said the Beach Watchers are pursuing a grant to support the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

School kids' programs. Jefferds commented that everywhere he goes, he runs into people who learned a great deal in the WSU Beach Watchers program. He wondered whether similar training could be offered in the schools to reach a different generation. Wood commented that it is surprisingly difficult to offer programs to the schools, and that we have not been successful. Meehan mentioned that the Beach Watchers' Adventures in Nature program is tailored to families.

Chair's report -- Sherman.

PCC letter. Sherman read a letter from Dan Siemenn of the Policy Consensus Center, explaining that the PCC has completed its evaluation and recommended to Congress that the Northwest Straits Initiative be reauthorized and its federal funding increased.

Programs. Sherman said he is exploring with Meehan the possibility of getting a speaker to talk about the Dugualla Bay situation that recently made news in the Whidbey News-Times. Meehan said he'll talk to Bredensteiner about it.

Public input: None.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Sherman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Coming Events

May 19, Wednesday, 4 - 6 pm

MRC meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland.

June 4, Friday, 12 – 3 pm

Saratoga Passage Stewardship Area Inaugural Cruise, Everett Marina

June 4 - 5

NWSC Sound Investment Conference, Everett Events Center.