



Marine Resources

Committee

September 1, 2004

Minutes

4:04 – 5:40 pm, Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor

www.islandcountymrc.org

PRESENT: Chair Roger Sherman, Hi Bronson, Tom Campbell, Phyllis Kind, Don Meehan, Dick Toft, Ken Urstad, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen. **ALTERNATES:** Bredensteiner for Weber; Pedersen for El Sayed. **ABSENT:** Sayed El-Sayed, Ian Jefferds, Rolf Seitle, Jeff Tate, Benye Weber, Bruce Wood. **VISITORS:** Kim Bredensteiner, Island County Public Works; Frank Roberts, Lagoon Point.

CALL TO ORDER: 4:04 pm, Sherman called the meeting to order. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Adopted. **MINUTES** of 8-18-2004: Adopted. Motion by Toft, second by Bronson, no objections.

Summary of Decisions

Eko-System. Wood will invite a representative of Eko-System to attend a future meeting to discuss a possible partnership in organizing our data in their software system.

NOAA / Shore Stewards pre-proposal. **Motion carried.** The MRC authorized Wood to submit a pre-proposal to NOAA for a grant to fund Shore Stewards outreach and education.

List of grant applications. Wood agreed to give Bredensteiner a list of grants for which the MRC has applied.

MRC project liaisons. Agreeing to serve as liaisons to the MRC on specific projects were Bronson (Shore Stewards), Pedersen (stewardship areas), Toft (Maylor's Marsh) and Kind (data).

Estuary program. Meehan has invited Danelle Heatwole to speak to the MRC on estuaries, Oct. 20.

Treated wood program. Meehan will invite Ken Brooks to speak on treated wood at a date to be set.

Non-point pollution program. Bredensteiner will invite Rex Porter to speak to the MRC on non-point pollution, Oct. 6.

Trinity Lutheran Church donation. **Motion carried.** The MRC will donate \$100 to Trinity Lutheran Church in appreciation for the use of their facilities. Campbell will ask Robin to prepare an invoice so the county has proper documentation.

Retreat development. Bronson asked whether we should again consider changing the date of the MRC retreat, currently scheduled for 2-8 pm, Tuesday, Sept. 14, since Wood will not be available. After weighing the pros and cons, the group agreed to stay with Sept. 14. Sherman then asked for a discussion, around the table, of topics to consider at the retreat:

Kind: "Develop an approach to the stewardship areas – how we're going to publicize them."

Bredensteiner: "Have the MRC and Salmon TAG meet together sometime in the next year. Discuss water quality, and water-quality issues, from the perspective of shellfish beds and work Kathleen Parvin does, and non-point pollution."

Campbell: "Discuss what constitutes success. Do we have a sense of when we will be able to say we did well? We're supposed to bring back the critters. I'd also like to discuss teaming – who we'd like to pair up with – other MRC's, whatever."

Bronson: "What are the Northwest Straits Commission's ideas on this? I don't know where they are in getting this out. Also we need to explore the outreach aspect – how do we let people know what we're doing, especially on the stewardship areas."

Toft: “Dedicate an early part of the retreat to a simplistic review of objectives and talk about where we’ve been, where we are, and where we’re going. We’ve done eelgrass, forage fish, we’ve just started stewardship. Is there anything left to do? Let’s look at what we want to focus and concentrate on.”

Roberts: “From the outside looking in, if I wanted to find out what you’ve done I wouldn’t have any way. I don’t doubt the information exists in some digital form, but the availability keeps getting put off from quarter to quarter. The public needs to know when you’ve got the data for people to look at.”

Wood (G.): “There was a proposal at last Friday’s NWSC meeting to change the funding applications for the new round to two years, so there’d be one bulk grant for twice as much, for two-year plans and projects. We should start thinking about where we’d like to go if we’re doing two-year proposals starting next spring. There might be one administrative grant for \$110,000 available in July.”

Meehan: “It makes sense to back up and look at where we’re at and what we’ve done. We’ve created all this data and will have it packaged in the next few months. How are we going to tell the public? We need some kind of interpretive package – need to have a brainstorming session on how we’re going to educate the public about the resources. I think we’re off on some good paths with stewardship areas and Shore Stewards – great ideas.”

Kind: “We need to get a real expert to look at the data – an environmental biostatistician to help us look at it and find the holes.”

Meehan: “This is an area in which I’ve always had a lot of interest – getting an environmental statistician to help us understand what inferences we can make from our data. Do we have data that is more powerful than we think it is?”

Roberts: “I just want to ask Phyllis to comment on the scientific usefulness of unpublished data.”

Kind: “We have to get it published -- absolutely.”

Sherman: “Wouldn’t it be beautiful if there was some central organization in the state that assembled all this stuff, so you could go to one place and ask, ‘What do you have on this subject?’” One of my priorities is long-range planning, a five-year plan or something like that.

Executive Director’s written report:

Prior to the meeting, Wood e-mailed his written report to the membership as follows:

Page One story, August 9th

“SPARTINA WARS”

Volunteers attack invasive species Saturday

WHIDBEY
NEWS-TIMES



“In a few years, the low tide landscape of Oak Harbor could change. In place of mud flats, a lush green belt could swath rocks and cover driftwood. Great blue herons stalking their next meals would look for new dining spots. Other shorebirds would abandon the area as life in Oak Harbor’s mud flats disappears.”

THE MRC SALUTES Keeley O’Connell of People For Puget Sound for co-managing two successful restoration sites, with Susan Horton of Weed Abatement. Nineteen volunteers worked in the 82

degree heat of Oak Harbor this month, digging up *Spartina* grass on an MRC sponsored project. Photo: GW

GRANT DENIED: The ‘Private Stewardship Grants Program’ did not make an award for our MRC’s Shore Stewards proposal, pending Review since last March. Three WA projects were funded: **Tarboo Watershed** - East Jefferson County, Washington - (\$108,000); **Taneum Creek Restoration, Phase III** - Kittitas County, Washington - (\$25,750) and **Ahtanum Creek Stream Restoration** – Yakima County, Washington - (\$71,000). That’s the Bad News –

NEW Opportunity: the Good News -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Restoration Programs, are soliciting for project proposals to fund in fiscal year 2005. Programs involved

in this request are: Partners for Fish and Wildlife, **Puget Sound**, and Chehalis Fisheries Restoration programs. Project types include on-the-ground restoration, assessment, and outreach. We were invited to 'Preview' the Maylor's Marsh project for the Puget Sound Program last Spring....and it would really enable that site to receive the best available technical and support staffing. We could do a COMBO – 'Shore Stewards to Whidbey/ Navy /Maylor's Marsh Proposal', indeed. Preproposal of two pages due 9/17.

Also ALTIRA Foundation has a funding round that fits Shore Stewards. May I use all that good work and submit it to them? Shore Stewards is worth it. NOTE: The Final 12 Applications awaiting the **Fisheries Conservation Foundation** awards include our Shore Stewards app. Meanwhile, Jefferson County has PSAT \$\$ for a Shore Stewards program, with our blessing!

New Grant APPLICATIONS:

1. Hotel-Motel Tax Fund The MRC proposes to combine tourism promotion with environmental education aboard cruiseships. (Under \$10,000) Thanks to all your comments and support, it was in a day early! We are working the ship's side of the street now.
2. WA Fish & Wildlife Cooperative Projects Another stab at Shore Stewards funding (under \$40,000) – and this was submitted three days early (??)

September Dinner Retreat – Neither Duane Fagergren nor Tom Cowan are available for the MRC's Second Annual 'Planning Feast' - September 14th. I have also asked Skagit, Jefferson and Snohomish MRC reps...but the first string is all in Seattle at RAE...see below. Dare we fuss with the date again? Maybe a new Head Count is in order.

RAE Conference -- The "Second National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration" in Seattle Sept. 12-15 will feature a 3-person panel moderated by Chair Kathy Fletcher (Tues, 9/14, in p.m.) that includes a **Shore Stewards** presentation by yours tru/Gary Wood. Attendance is mandatory. We also will be in the Poster Competition with a Forage Fish Project Summary.

NOAA Community Based Restoration Program Grant (CRP) – After considerable discussion and input from DNR, last Friday the Commission moved/passed and directed me to draft/design & prepare the Project Narrative for a CRP proposal for a 'Creosote log and piling' project. The proposal will be modeled after the Derelict Gear project they so happily underwrote. We have a very seriously GOOD reputation with these folks... Ok. The state DNR has offered cash match (CRP requires 1:1 Nonfederal), and the Commission/Foundation will participate.

BENCHMARKS / Retreat Digest...Under a separate email I will forward the Commissions' discussion and conclusions regarding BENCHMARKS, strategic planning and Congressional renewal of the Initiative at a time when agreeable matters cannot proceed in DC, from sheer inertia.

There is additional work on contracts, and on many Grant Tasks too complex and ugly to readily report. Best I lead a group sing and we'll warble our way through.

Executive Director's verbal report:

Hotel-Motel grant application. As authorized in a motion carried at the Aug. 18 meeting, Wood has submitted an application to Island County for a \$9,800 grant to be used mostly for literature.

DFW Cooperative Projects Program. We also applied last week to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for \$18,790, which essentially would turn the half-time Shore Stewards coordinator into full-time.

NOAA Puget Sound Program. Wood seeks the MRC's permission to apply to this program. He'd like to pursue two categories of the grant. One part would be Phase II of Maylor's Marsh and the other might be an outreach and education proposal to expand Shore Stewards to Whidbey Island. A pre-proposal is due by Sept. 17. Meehan expressed reluctance to seek funding for Phase II of Maylor's Marsh until we've completed and assessed Phase I. The pilot project is designed to help us understand what's going on there. Toft agreed, saying we shouldn't go after Phase II until we know how Phase I turns out. Meehan suggested other saltwater estuary work might be a better way to proceed right now.

Eko-System partnership. Wood reported that a Poulsbo company, Eko-System, is looking for a partner (such as us) having a lot of data that could be organized within their software system to demonstrate their product. He suggested inviting an Eko-System representative to a future meeting and the group agreed.

Pre-proposal. Wood requested the MRC's permission to submit a pre-proposal to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a grant to fund for Shore Stewards outreach and education. **Motion by Bronson, second by Kind, carried unanimously, authorizing Wood to submit a pre-proposal to NOAA for a grant for Shore Stewards outreach and education.**

NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Grant (CRP). Wood reported he is preparing the project narrative for a CRP proposal for a creosote log and piling project, as described in his written report above.

Stewardship area funding. Sherman asked Wood if any funding was pending for marketing the stewardship areas other than the \$10,000 of NWSC funds. Wood said he needs to find a funding source and suggested this might be a good topic to discuss at the retreat. One possibility is the cruise industry.

Grant applications list. Bredensteiner asked Wood if he'd be willing to provide a list of the grants he's applied for. She'd like to share the information with her employee, Rex Porter. Wood agreed.

MRC project liaisons. Sherman commented that Wood had requested members of the MRC to serve as liaisons to the group for specific projects, to keep themselves informed and, in turn, keep the MRC informed. Four individuals agreed to perform this role for the following projects: Bronson (Shore Stewards), Pedersen (stewardship areas), Toft (Maylor's Marsh) and Kind (data).

County lead's report – Meehan

Meehan summarized the status of several contracts.

Jim Norris contract. Extended through end of September to complete the eelgrass survey.

Administrative grant for 2004-2005. Ready for signature by the commissioners.

Spartina contract. In the works with People for Puget Sound, for joint work on spartina.

DNR contract. Undergoing attorneys' review before submitting to city of Oak Harbor.

Wood's contract. Not yet renewed – need to resume work on it, despite many unknowns.

Estuary program. Meehan has invited Danelle Heatwole to speak to the MRC on Oct. 20 about the estuary research she did in Island County as part of her thesis work, focusing on the Crescent Harbor restoration project and comparing it with five other estuaries. Her project was designed to predict the degree of restoration success to be expected at Crescent Harbor. Pedersen will publicize her talk. Bredensteiner said she'll bring a list and map of Island County pocket estuaries.

Treated wood program. Meehan said he'd still like the MRC to have a program on treated wood from Ken Brooks of Port Townsend, who is an expert on this subject. He will make arrangements with Brooks.

Contact Us – MRC website. Following up on a question asked at the last meeting, Meehan said he checked the MRC website and we do have a contact-us link.

Chair's report – Sherman

Nonpoint pollution. Sherman reported that Bredensteiner wants to present a program on non-point pollution in October. He suggested Oct. 6. Bredensteiner said Rex Porter would make the presentation.

Other business

Innovation in American Government. Wood said he is applying for a \$100,000 grant honoring innovative programs from Harvard University on behalf of the Northwest Straits Commission.

Trinity Lutheran. Campbell suggested we donate \$100 to Trinity Lutheran Church in appreciation for the use of their facilities for our meetings. **Motion by Campbell, second by Urstad, carried unanimously.** To provide the necessary documentation for the county, Meehan asked Campbell to arrange for the church to give us an invoice for this amount.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Sherman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Coming Events

Sept. 14, Tuesday, 2-8 pm, MRC retreat at Kind's home.

Oct. 20, Wednesday, MRC meeting, 4-6 pm, Freeland. Estuary speaker: Danelle Heatwole

Oct. 29-30, Friday-Saturday, NWSC conference at Skagit Casino, Bow exit from I-5.