



Marine Resources

Committee

May 18, 2005

Minutes

4:00 – 5:40 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

www.islandcountymrc.org

PRESENT: Chair Phyllis Kind, Hi Bronson, Tom Campbell, Joe Hillers, Don Meehan, Rolf Seitle, Ken Urstad, Exec. Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen. **ALTERNATES:** Pedersen for El Sayed, Bredensteiner for Weber. **ABSENT:** Ian Jefferds, Sayed El-Sayed, Jeff Tate, Benye Weber.

VISITORS:

Kim Bredensteiner, Coupeville, Island County Salmon Recovery Program.
Tony Frantz, Puget Sound Creosote Awareness.

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 pm, Kind called the meeting to order. **QUORUM:** Declared, including Pedersen as alternate for El Sayed and Bredensteiner as alternate for Weber. **AGENDA:** Adopted, moving up the discussion of the Northwest Straits Initiative draft strategic plan and adding time for Campbell to speak about Washington Trout. **MINUTES** of 4-20-2005: Adopted, motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, no objections.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dave Jamieson, county prosecuting attorney: Wood read a letter from Dave Jamieson, county prosecuting attorney, referencing the April 6, 2005 MRC minutes. In those minutes Jamieson noted a reference to our letter of intent to the Northwest Straits Commission in which we mentioned we planned to sell copies of a revised and republished Water's Edge booklet. He said he wanted to make sure the MRC checks with the county auditor and treasurer about the proper way to handle booklet sales and transfer proceeds to the county treasurer to meet all government accountability and accounting standards. Wood pointed out that in our proposal to the NWSC we stated our intent that proceeds from the book's sale would go into a fund earmarked for reprinting purposes. We will follow the proper county procedures.

Darla Boyer, restoration ecologist, Skagit River System Cooperative. Wood read a letter from Darla Boyer, who wrote us after learning of our intention to apply to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for a grant to study several conservation sites on the northeastern shore of Whidbey Island. This idea was suggested by Rex Porter at our May 4 retreat at Partridge Point. Boyer is considering a project encompassing the entire Geographic Area 1 to assess project feasibility and landowner interest. She wanted to explore partnering with us. Wood remarked that he and Bredensteiner had talked about studying a larger area but ended up deciding to target a smaller area – just the northeast shoreline of Whidbey south of Dugualla, and not any part of Camano. "This is a big enough SRFB project in itself."

Summary of Decisions

Motion by Seitle, seconded by Campbell, carried unanimously, to direct Gary Wood to proceed with a letter-of-intent seeking SRFB Round 6 funding for a Northeast Whidbey Coast Protection Feasibility Study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NWSC Draft Strategic Plan 2005. Kind asked the members to review the **priority actions to be taken by individual MRCs** in the next few years, since this will be discussed at tomorrow's NWSC meeting. She asked if anyone had suggestions regarding a joint meeting with a neighboring MRC for the purpose of sharing information. Urstad said he recommends we meet with Skagit MRC. Hillers agreed Skagit is the major impact. Bredensteiner suggested we consider a second one, Snohomish MRC, and perhaps that all three MRCs should meet together since they share such an important role in the Whidbey Basin.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Wood

League of Women Voters – South Whidbey. Wood reported he spoke about Shore Stewards last week at this group's annual dinner. He said they expressed high interest and he gathered about 20 sign-ups. Wood noted that Rolf Seitle's wife has been presiding over the local group but is stepping down and will now become president of the state League of Women Voters organization.

Old Goats. This Friday, Wood will speak to the Old Goats organization.

Water Festival. Shore Stewards, the MRC and Beach Watchers all had tables at the recent Penn Cove Water Festival and Wood said he gave away many copies of our Five-Year Report.

Northeast Whidbey Coast Protection Feasibility Study. Wood said he would like the MRC to pass a resolution directing him to proceed with a letter of intent for SRFB Round 6 Funding for this study, tied to the conservation points identified in Jim Johannessen's study of northeast Whidbey shore south of Dugualla Bay. Bredensteiner said she spoke today with Darla Boyer of Skagit River System Cooperative. They are interested in doing a similar study of the same area or of the entire Tier 1 area. The larger Tier 1 area encompasses all the area within five miles of the mouths of the Skagit, Stillaguamish and Snohomish river systems. Bredensteiner said it makes sense to her that the MRC, SRSC and other groups partner to produce a block of information using similar protocols. The MRC could produce one piece of the larger survey. Wood said the SRFB earlier directed us to come back with a follow-up to Jim Johannessen's survey and he thinks they will be pleased with our proposal. Our expertise would be well focused on the Whidbey shoreline. Wood said he would feel stretched thin if we attempted to address a larger area, but it does make sense that one set of protocols should be used by the organizations studying the Tier 1 area. **Motion by Seitle, seconded by Campbell, carried unanimously, to direct Wood to proceed with a letter-of-intent seeking SRFB Round 6 funding for a Northeast Whidbey Coast Protection Feasibility Study.**

NWSC Category C Project Proposal Letter of Intent. Wood said he submitted our letter of intent to the NWSC for category C projects and it was well received.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Kind

Birds and forage fish. Kind said that in reviewing the NWSC's list of proposed regional projects she became intrigued with the idea of a research project examining the relationship between birds and forage fish. Because our MRC has collected so much baseline data on forage fish, and Audubon has collected so much bird data, our MRC may be in a good position to show leadership in developing protocols and making some interpretation. This would have to be a multi-year project, perhaps 10 years. Assistance in developing the protocols could come from someone such as bird expert Julia Parrish at the University of Washington. "She has expertise beyond what any of us here have." Wood said another person who is very interested in the relationship between birds and forage fish is Jim Norris, who did our eelgrass survey.

SCIENCE COMMITTEE – Kind

No report – the committee has not met.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – Pedersen

Pedersen said he's been in touch with Rob Harbour of Ebey's Landing Historical Reserve for information on the hardware used in displaying their interpretive signage. He attended a meeting at the Reserve last week as part of the planning process for their interpretive efforts for the next 20 years. He said the Reserve is looking for partners and much excitement was expressed about the Scenic Byways program because it would help generate more tourism to the island and to the reserve, which might help justify additional staffing at some point. Pedersen told them about the marine stewardship areas and the MRC's intention to deploy interpretive signage about these areas. Seitle expressed urgent interest in help from the MRC in developing the message for interpretive signage at the port's new park on the site of the former Kenmir Building. He said the port is getting ready to provide the facilities for interpretive and educational information but they don't know where they're going to get the information. He said it's important to do something on this within the next four months. Bredensteiner commented that Public Works is contracting with WSU Beach Watchers to develop display boards for the salmon recovery program. They plan to develop a set of very generic introductory display boards that could go anywhere and then a couple of levels of detail above that. She said some of this might fit nicely with the request for material for South Whidbey. Wood said the easiest way to cut through the complexity of signage is to talk to people who have already done it, and he recommended we learn from Ann Murphy's group at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. They are using a new technology that uses a peel-off material for easy replacement in the event of vandalism.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NWSC action grant. Wood reviewed the details of our action grant proposal, which has now been forwarded to the NWSC. Members of the MRC have volunteered or been assigned responsibility to keep track of each project. Seitle asked whether there might be a future opportunity for a Category C project to remove about 40 creosoted pilings from the pier in front of the old Langley Marina. Wood encouraged him to approach Lisa Kauffman at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), since they are putting significant resources into creosote removal.

NEW BUSINESS

Washington trout. Campbell distributed copies of a Spring 2005 report by Washington Trout that includes an article by Micah Wait about their Whidbey Island Near Shore Research Project on the west side of Whidbey Island, in which our MRC is a partner.

Salmon Recovery Plan. Bredensteiner reported the Island County Commissioners have approved the new Salmon Recovery Plan by a 3-0 vote, so for the first time Island County has a plan approved by both the Water Resources Advisory Committee and the Island County Commissioners. Within the next two weeks she will publish it and make copies available to the MRC.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Coming Events

June 1, Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor.

June 15, Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland.

Nov. 4-5, Friday-Saturday: NWSC fall conference at Skagit Casino, Bow.