



# Marine Resources

Committee

October 5, 2005

Minutes

4:03 – 5:30 pm

Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor

[www.islandcountymrc.org](http://www.islandcountymrc.org)

**PRESENT:** Chair Phyllis Kind, Hi Bronson, Tom Campbell, Sayed El-Sayed, Ian Jefferds, Don Meehan, Ken Urstad, Executive Director Gary Wood, Admin. Ass't. Dan Pedersen. **ALTERNATES:** None. **ABSENT:** Joe Hillers, Rolf Seitle, Jeff Tate, Dick Toft, Benye Weber. **VISITORS:** Rex Porter, Island County Public Works.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:03 pm. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Adopted. **MINUTES** of 9-21-2005: Adopted. Motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, no objections. El Sayed complimented Pedersen on the the minutes and asked that it be mentioned in the record of this meeting. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

## Summary of Decisions

**Posters for NWSC Conference.** The MRC is preparing the following posters for the conference.  
*Pigeon Guillemot study.* In progress – Kind and Frances Wood are working with Kim Bredensteiner.  
*Forage fish* – Complete.  
*Shore Stewards* – Complete. Pedersen produced a three-panel tabletop display several months ago.  
*Crescent Harbor* – In progress. Toft is doing this one and has already taken the photographs.  
*Seining* – Urstad said he could work with Micah Waite on this. Meehan suggested several photos with short captions, a pictorial display, about the joint MRC-Beach Watcher-NOAA project.  
*Shoreline hardening* – Wood will produce this.  
*Feeder bluffs and accretion shoreforms* – Jim Johannessen.

**Dec. 7 speaker: Jim Ramaglia.** Meehan will invite Jim Ramaglia of Skagit MRC to speak at our Dec. 7 meeting in Oak Harbor, about the underwater dive park at Keystone.

**January speaker: Jeanne Koenings.** Meehan will invite Jeanne Koenings to speak at one of our January meetings.

## ACTION GRANT PROJECT REPORTS

**Shore Stewards.** Bronson said he is growing increasingly familiar with Shore Stewards and has spent some time talking with Scott Chase of Camano Island, the program coordinator. Next, Bronson wants to meet with Toft, who will track Shore Stewards for the MRC on Whidbey. Bronson reported that as of a month ago Shore Stewards had 155 members, 34 of whom were on Whidbey but the majority on Camano, where the program originated. He pointed out this represents 105 properties, since political entities such as Port Districts may belong, as may individuals who live in communities with shared shoreline access. Bronson distributed copies of the Shore Stewards brochure and mentioned that Scott Chase publishes a monthly newsletter for program members. In addition, Shore Stewards has a website that Pedersen and Chase recently updated. Wood said he and Meehan recently met with Chase and Linda Lyshall of Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT). He said Washington State University has received a grant from the Direct Implementation Fund, toward which PSAT contributed \$3,000. This portion of the grant will be used to create a replication model to export Shore Stewards to other counties, starting with the six other Northwest Straits Commission counties. He said there is also interest in the South Sound.

**Derelict Gear.** Urstad reported he is waiting to hear from Jeff June regarding when an effort will be made to retrieve the commercial net snagged on two pilings at Keystone. Wood said two days after June's Sept. 21 presentation to the MRC, the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) program Nova approached June about filming an episode on the derelict gear project. Wood said it's possible Nova may film the work done in Island County.

**Shoreline Resource Book.** Pedersen said he and Sarah Schmidt are working hard on the shoreline resource book, writing and checking site-data. Graphic designer Stacey Neumiller has joined the project and will be a great asset. Wood asked what the format of the book will be. Pedersen said right now it appears to be a soft cover field guide of the same dimensions as before, but twice as many pages – about 100. Pedersen said he and Schmidt are looking for individuals to contribute high-quality, interesting photography for the front cover and several inside spreads. No payment is available but a photo credit will be given. A call-for-photos was published in the last issue of Beach Log. Ideally, these will be photographs of people using the shoreline – kayaking, beach-walking, tidepool exploring, fishing, etc., with dramatic lighting or some other arresting quality.

**Interpretive signage.** Jefferds distributed copies of a brochure of wayside exhibit frames and bases manufactured by Pannier Graphics, Inc., [www.panniergraphics.com](http://www.panniergraphics.com). They manufacture several styles of pedestal-type frames such as the ones at Sunnyside Cemetery, overlooking Ebey's Prairie. Jefferds said he understood from earlier MRC discussions that this is probably the direction in which we want to go. He said he is waiting for a call back from the company with price information. Wood said he would like to put together a meeting of the MRC leads on the sign project to see if we can include outside partners. In the past we've had inquiries from port districts, the Town of Coupeville, Maxwellton Salmon Adventure and others. With co-sponsors we could perhaps order larger quantities and get a price break. Wood said we should talk to the town of Oak Harbor, too. Jefferds said we also need to be thinking about the content we're going to put on these signs. Wood pointed out that the grant that funds this project delineates some of the subject matter that needs to be tied into the signage – **stewardship areas, shore stewards and the outdoor resource book**. Kind commented that Kim Bredensteiner recently forwarded us a grant proposal that would fund projects of up to \$250,000 to finance on-the-ground habitat, conservation protection, restoration and (she emphasized) **landowner outreach and incentive programs, public use and natural cultural projects**. She said this seems to fit and might provide a source of funds to really do this well.

**Water quality.** In the absence of Hillers, Meehan reported he has sent information to the Coast Guard and is waiting for a response, in regard to placement of the water quality monitoring buoy. Jefferds said the MRC is welcome to place the buoy within the lease area of Penn Cove Shellfish farm and Meehan said he'd like to do that. He has begun a discussion with the Port of Coupeville about placing the computer monitor and receiving antenna on port property. Meehan said he'd like to know where the Department of Ecology collects its water samples of Penn Cove. Jefferds said he has all that information. He said he collects samples and the Department of Health also does so. Meehan is thinking the buoy should be left in one location for a year to collect information on seasonal changes within Penn Cove. He said the buoy will need to be raised from the water and recalibrated monthly. Jefferds indicated he could provide equipment to do this. The buoy will collect data on pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity and conductivity, and temperature.

**Seining.** Urstad said he and fellow Beach Watcher, Bob Buck, are planning to meet in preparation to talk with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) about the Beach Watchers' role in seining. Meehan pointed out that our Beach Watcher volunteer team has a good handle on how to collect the fish but face some challenges in identifying them, since these fish typically are only a few inches long. Urstad said at some point the team is supposed to visit NOAA's Mukilteo site for training in identifying the fish. Kurt Fresh of NOAA is leading the seining effort.

**Data / blueprint-style mapping.** Kind said Doug Kelly gave the Northwest Straits Commission a demonstration of our data-mapping work at last week's meeting in Coupeville. Prior to Kelly's presentation, Bredensteiner gave the NWSC meeting a demonstration similar to the one she did a few months ago for the MRC, showing how the GIS-based data may be layered. When we bring together our

panel of experts to evaluate the data, Wood said we need to also find people who can talk anecdotally about the historic conditions in Island County waters.

**Pigeon Guillemot study.** Kind mentioned the bluff bird project is complete for this year. She e-mailed an abstract to the members earlier in the day and shared a map Kim Bredensteiner has drafted that shows where the birds are located in relation to feeder bluff data and eelgrass. Kind said Frances Wood presented our study to the Northwest Straits meeting and they were very interested. Gary Wood commented it was quite different from anything they've seen before, bringing birds into a discussion that has previously focused on fish and water. Kind said she and Frances Wood have drafted a poster, and that Bredensteiner will make the panels to display as part of our MRC's display at the NWSC's November conference in Bow. Meehan suggested Pedersen write an article on this for publication when time permits. Wood agreed. Kind said another possibility is that Frances Wood might do the article, since she already publishes a column in the South Whidbey Record. El Sayed suggested the MRC explore publishing monthly columns on a variety of resource-related marine subjects.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Posters for NWSC Conference.** The MRC is preparing the following posters for the conference.

*Pigeon Guillemot study.* In progress – Kind and Frances Wood are working with Kim Bredensteiner.

*Forage fish* – Complete.

*Shore Stewards* – Complete. Pedersen produced a three-panel tabletop display several months ago.

*Crescent Harbor* – In progress. Toft has taken the photographs and Meehan is helping put this together.

*Seining* – Urstad said he could work with Micah Waite on this. Meehan suggested several photos with short captions, a pictorial display, about the joint MRC-Beach Watcher-NOAA project.

*Shoreline hardening* – Wood will produce this.

*Feeder bluffs and accretion shoreforms* – Jim Johannessen.

### NEW BUSINESS

**PSAT.** Meehan reported he met today with Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) – with Mary Maxstead, the education coordinator, and Ron Schultz, the new number two guy who has taken over from Harriet Beale. This was to discuss expansion of the Beach Watcher program and having PSAT become a full-fledged partner with Beach Watchers, and also talk about the relationship with the Marine Resources Committee. Meehan said PSAT is at a crossroads because the governor is interested in really doing something to protect Puget Sound. State agencies are looking for ways to make more happen.

**South sound forage fish study.** Meehan said he also discovered that Dan Penttila is starting a forage fish study in south Puget Sound to do the same kind of work he did for us in north Puget Sound.

**Surface Water Management grant applications.** Rex Porter reminded the MRC that a year ago Surface Water Management applied for a \$300,000 bacteria source-tracking grant in Freeland. They did not receive the grant, but today Island County reapplied. Porter said the new application is stronger and includes additional partners -- WSU Beach Watchers, Maxwellton Salmon Adventure, the conservation district and others. The application is also stronger because it notes that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has planted oysters and clams in the past in Holmes Harbor. On a separate subject, in May the Department of Health classified for shellfish closure three south Whidbey water bodies. Surface Water Management is citing this in its application for about \$350,000 from the same fund to do the same protocol – source tracking and some remedies in those areas. He said he would like to work with the MRC on a letter giving the MRC's philosophical support to this application.

### LEADERSHIP REPORTS

**Executive Director – Wood.** None.

**County Lead – Meehan.**

**Sound Waters University.** Meehan announced that University of Washington ornithologist Julia Parrish will keynote this January's Sound Waters University.

**Salish Sea Consortium.** Meehan is meeting tomorrow with a new group called the Salish Sea Consortium, brought together by the Seattle Aquarium, to look at all the intertidal data we've been collecting. Jan Holmes and Meehan are going.

**WSU Extension Autumn Festival.** Meehan mentioned WSU Extension will have an Oct. 22 Autumn Festival fund-raiser at Greenbank Farm and he is selling tickets.

**Keystone dive park speaker.** Meehan said that Jim Ramaglia, a member of the Skagit MRC, has offered to present a program showing us what divers find in the underwater park at Keystone. Kind suggested Meehan invite him to speak at our Dec. 7 meeting in Oak Harbor.

**Future talk by Jeanne Koenings.** Meehan said he'd also like to find a time for Jeanne Koenings to speak to us again about new projects relating to the nearshore. Kind said it'll have to be in January.

**Chair – Kind.** None.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kind declared the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

## Coming Events

**Oct. 19,** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, **MRC** meets at **Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland.**

**Speaker: Jim Johannessen, Coastal Geologic Services.**

**Nov. 2, Canceled MRC.**

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

**Nov. 16,** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, **MRC** meets at Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Speaker: Fred Goetz, fish biologist, US Army Corps of Engineers,** on tracking bull trout with sounding devices and hydrophones.

**Dec. 7,** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, **MRC** meets at Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor. **Speaker pending confirmation Jim Ramaglia of Skagit MRC on the underwater dive park at Keystone.**

**Dec. 21, Canceled MRC.**