



# Marine Resources

Minutes

January 4, 2006

4:00 – 5:50 pm, Heller Road Firehall, Oak Harbor

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

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

**VISITORS:** Kim Bredensteiner, Coupeville, Island County Public Works; Rex Porter, Coupeville, Whidbey Watershed Project Manager; Nancy Waddell, Maxwelton Salmon Adventure.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4 pm. **QUORUM:** Declared, with Bredensteiner as alternate for Weber. **AGENDA:** Adopted, with the addition of a discussion about new members. **MINUTES** of 12-7-2005: Adopted. Motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, no objections. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Wood mentioned he had sent a note to Sayed El-Sayed's family on behalf of the MRC.

## Summary of Decisions

**MRC membership.** With the death of Prof. Sayed El-Sayed, we have two board vacancies to fill. Kind urged members to think about their recommendations and bring them to the committee.

## Memorial to Prof. Sayed El-Sayed

Kind noted the loss on Dec. 21 of our colleague, Prof. Sayed El-Sayed, and suggested the members take a few moments to share their memories. A synopsis:

**Kind:** *When I think of Sayed I remember a dapper gentleman who was always a gentleman with his jaunty beret. It was a pleasure to know him on a personal level, and he made terrific contributions to the Marine Resources Committee in his serious reading of any of the science issues, with proposals that were well-thought-out and constructive, that improved any of the science we were doing.*

**Seitle:** *I knew him a little bit; my wife and Nan are very good friends. He fought a terrific fight – it was heroic. He never gave up. There was great sadness when I heard he had passed – I liked him very much.*

**Pedersen:** *Sayed rode with me to all the Oak Harbor meetings. I got to know him as a very gentle person; also a very funny guy. He paid close attention to what was going on in the world. He always had insightful comments to share on whatever was happening in the news. And he always had something positive and upbeat to say when he got into car and we started out. We had some very pleasant times, riding along in the winter darkness, talking about what was happening in the world. I do miss him.*

**Toft:** *I second what Phyllis said. When he spoke up he had something very meaningful to say. We enjoyed a common bond with our times spent in Antarctica down at McMurdo Sound and at the South Pole. He did have a sense of humor and we'll miss him.*

**Urstad:** *My wife knows Nan quite well. Reading his obituary – wow, that blew me away. He will be deeply missed.*

**Wood:** *When I think of Sayed I hear him saying, "Actually, Gary..." When he said actually it was because he had put a lot of thought into what he was going to say. He joined Jackie and me to go to Bow, which was the longest I ever had a chance to really share with him. We had my ailing 86-year-old father with us and we picked up Sayed. My Dad's mind is still working really well and Sayed was, you know, brilliant. When we dropped my father at my cousin's in Everett, my father thought I had traded him in for*

*Sayed. So later to remedy the situation we all went out to Indian dinner in Everett—my father and Sayed and my cousin, whose father founded the Explorer’s Club in San Diego and knew all about Sayed’s adventures of discovery. When we picked up my father at my cousin’s house and walked inside there was an Arabic dictionary in the library and Sayed went right to it – he was pleased to see this Arabic dictionary. We went out to dinner. I’m a hot-food lover and so is my cousin, and Sayed just put us to shame. He and my Dad were chatting it up and it was just wonderful and it was inspiration.*

**Bronson:** *I just thought he was a heck of a nice guy. I enjoyed the times I had with him.*

**Bredensteiner:** *I’ll always remember him standing on the bow of the ferry coming back from Port Townsend at the first of the workshops I attended with the MRC. We talked about the Sound and his thesis, and all the ideas we’d been talking about the last couple of days.*

**Porter:** *My memory of him was his humility when I filled in for Kim at the offsite that was held at Kind’s house. Here I was the least of the members of the group and you wouldn’t have known we hadn’t known each other for a long time and that I wasn’t the highest-ranking person. He was receptive to anyone’s comment, not based on credentials or schooling.*

## **SPEAKER**

### **Non-Point Pollution Issues and Progress in 2005**

Rex Porter, Whidbey Watershed Project Manager

Porter said his talk today was inspired by a presentation by three members of Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) at the November conference of the Northwest Straits Commission in Bow, called *Introduction to Water Quality Issues in Puget Sound*. Porter said PSAT had challenged the MRCs to become involved in issues that touch on the work he does with watersheds and non-point pollution prevention planning, as well as other activity in Public Works, Surface Water Management, Planning and Health. The PSAT speakers talked about pollution categories and effects, pollution sources and institutional frameworks. They presented a primer on non-point pollution and then gave a who’s who and what’s what of the institutional framework related to water quality. Porter said it’s a terrific primer; he has a copy and will e-mail it to MRC members who want it.

The last chart PSAT presented was called Opportunities for MRCs. The speaker mapped the institutional framework relating to water quality, mapping the specific acts, laws, codes and RCWs, and relating them to water quality and to MRCs. When there were examples of other MRCs doing things he gave examples. He talked about WAC 400-12 and non-point pollution plans, and areas of opportunity for MRCs to get involved. Federal laws touching on water quality include the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act. The PSAT speaker outlined 34 state laws, including the Water Pollution Control Act of 1973 and the role of the Department of Ecology; he also talked about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), watershed planning under RCW 90.82 and WAC 400-12; the Growth Management Act, Shoreline Management Act, Oil Spill Prevention and Shellfish Protection Districts. Porter said it is up to the MRC to look at these acts, perhaps at our next retreat, and think about how we might want to respond to this challenge in our medium- and long-term plans.

Turning to non-point pollution prevention planning, Porter said water quality is a sensitive issue in Island County right now and he hopes the MRC will ask good questions. Within Surface Water Management in Public Works, he focuses on issues under WAC 400-12 and the implementation of watershed planning and specifically non-point pollution prevention and implementation acts and other grants. Right now the county is responding to Critical Areas Ordinance and the Western Regional Board, and one offshoot of that is the water quality study initiative being led by the Planning Department.

Public Works has used funding from a major Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant to tackle some water quality implementation actions, based on the work of two earlier planning grants. The water quality sampling done under this grant was primarily for north Whidbey, with some sampling on Camano. Whidbey water quality sampling up to this point included baseline sampling for six north Whidbey sites, follow-up sampling in 2002 and 2003, and baseline sampling on south Whidbey. The entire Centennial

grant is about \$300,000, so this is not a robust countywide program. Another piece was to do some groundwater studies by inter-local agreement with the Health Department, which is not yet completed.

The grant also included a Public Information and Education piece. Currently being completed is a non-point pollution primer to be used in the schools, grades K-12. They hired an educator to put together material from public sources that could be presented to all four school districts in the county, to show science departments and principals how it could be used in a complementary way with the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). They also put together a Clean and Simple program, a kit of less-toxic cleaning materials as an alternative to commercially purchased materials. However, the kits are no longer available because no business environment was created to maintain their availability. In addition the grant funded some education for real estate agents on the issues raised when people buy land saying they intend to start a hobby farm. And it funded some creek restoration work with Maxwelton Salmon Adventure. Nancy Waddell commented this attracted great publicity in the newspaper, a large turnout of volunteers to do the work, and a lot of hands-on education.

The final piece under way right now is the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Assessment, looking at how well the north and south nonpoint plans were implemented. They constructed a large correlation matrix that takes all the plan actions and compares them to what's been implemented and rates them. They also hired someone to update it, interview the stakeholders and ask them to grade the results.

Last year, 2005, Public Works applied for a follow-on Centennial grant for several hundred thousand dollars to take the results found for the fecal contamination in Freeland and source-track it and do some remediation. The application was well received and scored by the Department of Ecology, but priority went to Hood Canal. This year the county commissioners declined to reapply, feeling the timing wasn't right. They wanted to wait till the Planning Department had finished responding to other issues and created their own program.

One other Centennial grant is ongoing on Camano Island, with about a year remaining, putting together a Camano plan to implement in the future. A contractor currently is coordinating and writing the plan.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Publicizing Fort Casey Underwater State Park.** Toft said he had reviewed a DVD slideshow of Jim Ramaglia's photography, to which Meehan had added some new material helping orient viewers to the park's location. Toft said Meehan added some good aerial photography and several maps, but Toft felt the map image was too busy. He said it's close to being in a condition to show to service groups, but needs a little further work. Kind asked whether it can stand on its own without a narrator. Pedersen and Toft said it needs someone to introduce it, but is accompanied by music and text that identifies the creatures shown.

**Bluff birds project.** Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) is convening a meeting late this month of people who are working on pigeon guillemots. Kind said she and Frances Wood will attend. WDFW has done aerial surveys for over five years of Puget Sound for the colonies, and they want to compare data and fill gaps. Kind said WDFW mapped kelp beds because pigeon guillemots feed around those beds. Kind said maybe we should do the same when we collect our next round of data.

**Crescent Harbor project.** Toft said over the holidays he encountered a group of Seabees working on the Crescent Harbor project, pouring concrete and bringing in material for the road. He said he had been worried the project had been abandoned, but it appears they are actively working to complete it. This could be quite an impressive nursery for Chinook.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Stewardship area brochures.** Pedersen said Meehan was going to bring 20 copies of two stewardship-area brochures to the meeting today for MRC members to review. But since he is not present the

discussion will need to occur at a future meeting. Pedersen said he wrote the brochures and graphic artist Stacey Neumiller gave them a terrific design upgrade. The two brochures are one piece of our stewardship-area education and outreach project. Other pieces include *Getting to the Water's Edge*, the stewardship area signage we plan to deploy, and the Shore Stewards program.

**MRC membership.** Kind noted we should be thinking about filling MRC vacancies. In addition to El-Sayed's marine science position we have one other, for a commercial fishing representative. She asked whether future appointments need to fall within these specific categories or could represent other disciplines. Wood said the categories are defined broadly. Pedersen mentioned Langley commercial fisherman Rodger Bergquist; Urstad mentioned Dave Anderson and Wood suggested the owner of the Oak Harbor dive shop. Toft pointed out we generate a lot of activity, so we need to be sensitive to the other time demands on our candidates. Wood urged we try to bring aboard some younger people.

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

### Executive Director -- Wood

**Funding for the Northwest Straits Initiative.** Wood reported Congress has appropriated \$1.4 million, up from \$1.2 million. So we need to be thinking of what we want to do with our project funds next year.

**Executive Director's Written Report**, distributed before the meeting by e-mail:

#### 2006 Congressional Budget

The Initiative was awarded \$1.4MM by Congress for the next fiscal year, to fund MRC project proposals to be submitted next July. While the precise division of MRC shares is still pending at the Commission level, NOW is the time to begin our thinking about future project funding.

#### New Funding Proposals

The MRC applied to the SeaDoc Society on 11/18 for a grant. Over the course of two annual seabird breeding seasons spanning 2004-2005, MRC Chair Phyllis Kind and Whidbey Audubon's (WAS) Frances Wood designed, initiated and managed volunteer-based field surveys of breeding colonies of pigeon guillemots among the shoreline bluffs of Whidbey Island. The project's participants have committed to a long-term data-collection effort to maximize the usefulness and accuracy of their findings. The MRC and WAS have successfully collaborated for two years on this innovative project, providing field volunteer training and coordination, dataset management and GIS mapping. WSU Extension also provides essential in-kind staff support and technical services.

This proposal provides for an enhanced third-year of PIGU surveys; funds equipment acquisitions to improve survey techniques and reliability; adds boat survey and remote viewing capabilities; funds a technical education opportunity for both volunteer PIs; allows for continued (funded) GIS mapping; distribution of formal reports and poster/Power Point presentations; and enables the analysis of historic and regional assessments of the species as part of the enlarged project. This proposal represents the program's first and only funding request for the surveys, although volunteers will continue to conduct fieldwork and provide project leadership.

Grant reviewers will recommend meritorious proposals to the SeaDoc Society Advisory Board, which will select and announce awards by **January 15, 2006**.

The MRC submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund" on November 10<sup>th</sup>, circulated in advance to the Science Committee, and today to the MRC via email. That decision is pending. The MRC is a partner in a second PSMCF proposal as well.

An additional application is in process for the Puget Sound Action Team's PIE round to expand Shore Stewards into Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and Clallam counties through the Straits Foundation. New sources are under investigation for opportunities re the other prioritized MRC issues.

*There are no financial developments to report since the accounting provided by Don Meehan in December.*

**Gary Wood**, Executive Director

## ADJOURNMENT

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

### Coming Events

**Jan. 18,** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland.

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

**Speaker Scott Chase, Island County Shore Stewards program.**

**Feb. 4,** Saturday, **Sound Waters University**, Coupeville Middle School, speaker Julia Parrish.

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