



# Marine Resources

Minutes

May 17, 2006

4:05 – 6:00 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:05 pm. Kind called the meeting to order. **QUORUM:** Declared. **PRESENT:** Chair Phyllis Kind, Hi Bronson, Joe Hillers, Ian Jefferds, Don Meehan, Rolf Seitle, Ken Urstad, Communications Mgr. Dan Pedersen. **ALTERNATES:** Kim Bredensteiner for Weber. **ABSENT:** Tom Campbell, Johnny Palka, Jeff Tate, Dick Toft, Benye Weber, Executive Director Gary Wood. **VISITORS:** Kim Bredensteiner, Coupeville, Island County Salmon Recovery Program; Nancy Waddell and Scott Pascoe, Maxwellton Salmon Adventure; Dave and Karen Anderson, Clinton.

**AGENDA:** Adopted. **MINUTES** of 5-03-2006: Adopted, motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, no objections. **CORRESPONDENCE: Shellfish closures.** Meehan said he had received a letter from the state Department of Health reporting completion of their annual review of the classification of Washington's shellfish areas and stating that no currently classified growing areas in Island County are threatened with downgrading. Meehan said he happened to walk into the county health department today and found a notice posted on the door about shellfish closures in Holmes Harbor. Jefferds remarked that growing area classifications are different than temporary closures. **WSF Keystone terminal project.** Kind reported she had furnished the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) copies of our letter to the ferry system about the Keystone project, and of the county commissioners' cover letter. She said Ginny Broadhurst congratulated us on raising some excellent issues and bringing elected officials into the process.

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

**Schmidt and Pedersen contracts.** Motion by Urstad, second by Bronson, passed unanimously, to amend Sarah Schmidt's contract as project manager for *Getting to the Water's Edge* for an additional \$4,300.

Motion by Urstad, second by Seitle, carried unanimously, to grant Meehan authority to allocate up to \$3,000 additional for Pedersen's work on *Water's Edge* and signage.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Water quality.** Hillers reported the Executive Committee had met last week and restructured the budget to allocate \$3,000 from the former data mapping project to hire Scott Harbour as a student intern. His role would be to compile existing historical data on Island County marine water quality from a variety of sources.

**Water quality buoy permit.** Hillers reported the U.S. Coast Guard has issued our permit for placement of the water quality monitoring buoy. Jefferds will deploy the buoy using one of his boats and the data will be transmitted back to a receiving station at Coupeville Wharf.

**MRC vacancies.** Meehan reported Johnny Palka has been appointed by the county commissioners. He is traveling and could not attend tonight's meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Feedback on logo proposals for marine stewardship areas.** Pedersen circulated copies of two proposed logo concepts for the marine stewardship areas. One concept depicted a human hand enfolding a fish. The other depicted a landscape of a shoreline bluff, beach and mountain. The group favored the fish-in-hand by a small majority, though several felt the landscape was more representative of shoreline stewardship. Several asked if the two logos could be combined into one. Two members felt the hand appeared to be trying to catch the fish, or that the fish was trying to escape from the hand. The consensus was that the hand was creative and sent a strong message about stewardship, but that the object within the hand needed work. Pedersen said he would take the feedback back to the designer for the next round of work. Jefferds asked why the stewardship areas need a separate logo at all. Why not just use the MRC logo? Pedersen said the purpose of the logo is to brand the stewardship areas as an entity in themselves, separate from the many organizations that advocate stewardship such as the MRC, Shore Stewards, Beach Watchers and others such as the new Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The MRC logo is an organizational logo. It does not specifically evoke a message about stewardship. The stewardship areas logo will become the identifying symbol of these areas wherever they are mentioned, such as on the signage, on the *Water's Edge* book, on our two stewardship area brochures and on the stewardship area website.

## SPEAKER

### Whidbey Watershed Stewards

**Nancy Waddell**

Nancy Waddell announced that The Chums of Maxwelton Salmon Adventure has begun the formal process of evolving into Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The organization originated 10 years ago with teachers and Beach Watchers and grew to encompass over 200 dues-paying members and many volunteers. Waddell said Maxwelton Salmon Adventure started with a focus on the Outdoor Classroom and on salmon recovery in Maxwelton Creek. While they still operate the classroom and are still concerned about salmon recovery in Maxwelton Creek, they have come to realize over the past year that they are thinking bigger, especially as they start doing restoration projects. At a retreat a year ago one of the board members remarked, "I care about this watershed because I care about keeping Puget Sound healthy. What we do in the watershed affects Puget Sound." In the course of continuing discussions they came to agree that they care about more than just Maxwelton watershed and have broadened their focus to include all of south Whidbey. The tagline will be: *Connecting water, land, wildlife and people*. Waddell pointed out the Salmon Adventure has worked with a great many partners over the years and will continue to do so. She said they will seek to enlarge their circle of funding and do more on the nearshore and uplands, and more water quality monitoring. They are partnering with the human ecology program at Edmonds Community College to do restoration and habitat assessment of the water quality monitoring around culvert replacement and riparian planting. They hope this will be a model they can extend to other students. Waddell said the Salmon Adventure already has been asked by several other watershed groups on Whidbey to help in creek restoration, since they are especially good at this. Glendale Creek is a natural for them, since it is right next door to Maxwelton. Meehan asked whether the group was going to focus on restoration. Waddell said that's certainly what they are good at, though they might also pursue other areas such as low impact development. Meehan wondered how Whidbey Watershed Stewards will differentiate itself and work in a complementary way with Beach Watchers, which does similar work, not only on the nearshore but also in upland areas. He said the two organizations could end up competing for the same pot of grant money. Historically, a number of Beach Watchers have been active in Maxwelton Salmon Adventure over the years. Scott Pascoe said he feels the intent is to build community capacity. Kim Bredensteiner said she feels neither Beach Watchers nor Whidbey Watershed Stewards, alone, has the capacity to do everything that could be done with the available pot of funding. Waddell said the two groups might subcontract with each other, back and forth, as lead entity on various projects. She said Whidbey Watersheds Stewards also would love to work with Shore Stewards, helping introduce the program to landowners in Maxwelton watershed.

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

**Puget Sound Partnership.** Bronson reported he attended the recent public meeting in Everett – one of several held in various communities to gather input to help launch the Governor’s initiative to clean up Puget Sound by 2020. He said Puget Sound already is under a great deal of stress. In the next 20 years the population is forecast to increase about 25 – 30 percent, greatly adding to that stress. Bronson said about 60 people attended the Everett meeting, of whom about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were the meeting organizers and the remainder were the same people he sees attending just about all meetings on marine issues. He said the public input will be considered in forming recommendations that will be submitted to the Governor by year end. Meehan commented that on Monday he attended a science meeting on this same initiative, with about 280 people, almost entirely bureaucrats and only a handful of scientists. This was disappointing to him – the PSP does not yet have a science agenda. Meehan said a Beach Watcher from Snohomish County got up and expressed the need for more Beach Watchers programs and marine resource committees. Given that the whole meeting was about science and outcomes, the one thing that got the attention of all the committees was the need to get the politicians tuned into the importance of more education. “We are burdened with ignorance as a Puget Sound community,” Meehan said. “Also, we need to get a grip on the economics of this issue. Whenever the economic plight is weighed, development always comes out ahead, because they aren’t looking at economics the right way.” He said much of the public is not aware of Puget Sound’s problems and doesn’t care. Programs such as Beach Watchers engage the public in learning and understanding. But other than that, not much effort has been made to change the public attitude.

### County Lead – Meehan

**Sarah Schmidt contract.** Meehan pointed out that the *Water’s Edge* book project has grown much larger than originally anticipated. Sarah Schmidt, who is managing it, has requested an additional \$4,300 to fund the extra hours she is spending on the project through completion at the end of June. Meehan said the executive committee suggests diverting funds to Schmidt’s contract from the data mapping project, which has been dormant. **Motion by Urstad, second by Bronson, passed unanimously, to amend Schmidt’s contract for an additional \$4,300.** Meehan also requested authority to fund an additional \$3,000 for Pedersen’s work on the book and signage. **Motion by Urstad, second by Seitle, passed unanimously to fund an additional \$3,000 for Pedersen.**

**Northwest Straits Commission grant application.** Meehan said he and Kind have been working on some fixes to our NWSC grant application and will be shipping it back to them shortly. In the process of doing this, Meehan said he and Kind had a good discussion with the NWSC. For some time the NWSC has seemed concerned about the great deal of outreach activity in which our MRC is engaged, as opposed to restoration projects. At the same time, they seem to recognize there may not be enough funding for administrative activity. He said they seem to recognize the need to consider some adjustments to the allocation formula. Kind pointed out that our MRC carried out much more data collection in the early years than other MRCs and we are now at a point where we are ready to push out information to the public. Jefferds pointed out that preservation is a lot less expensive than restoration.

### ADJOURNMENT: 6:00 pm

There being no further business, Kind declared the public meeting adjourned at 5:35. The MRC went into executive session to discuss a contractual relationship. At 6 pm the executive session ended and the meeting was formally adjourned.

### Coming Events

#### Summer Schedule – Only One Meeting Per Month

<b>June 7</b>	Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, <b>Oak Harbor</b>
<b>July 19</b>	Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, <b>Freeland</b>
<b>Aug. 2</b>	Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, <b>Oak Harbor.</b>