



# Marine Resources

Minutes

September 6, 2006

4:03 – 5:23 pm, Heller Road Firehall  
Oak Harbor

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

**PRESENT:** Acting Chair **Tom Campbell, Hi Bronson, Joe Hillers, Don Meehan, Rolf Seitle, Dick Toft, Ken Urstad, Benye Weber**, Communications Mgr. **Dan Pedersen**. **ALTERNATES:** None. **ABSENT:** **Ian Jefferds, Phyllis Kind, Johnny Palka, Jeff Tate**. **VISITORS:** **Rex Porter**, Watershed Project Manager, Island County Planning Department. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:03 pm. Campbell called the meeting to order. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Adopted. **MINUTES** of 8-02-2006: Adopted. Motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, carried unanimously.

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

**Executive director screening committee.** The executive director screening committee of **Meehan, Bronson** and **Kind** was enlarged to include **Toft** and **Campbell**. Because of travel schedules, early October is the likely window for this committee to do its work.

**Puget Sound nearshore model for NWSC project.** The MRC voted to support the recommendation of a Puget Sound nearshore model as the NWSC regional project. **Motion by Hillers, second by Weber, carried unanimously.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Executive director.** Pedersen read a letter Kind had written to Gary Wood on Aug. 3, after the Aug. 2 meeting, in response to his request to terminate his contract. The letter accepted his resignation and thanked him for his service.

**Puget Sound Partnership.** Pedersen read a letter Kind had written to Brad Ack and Jim Cramer, co-managers of The Puget Sound Partnership, on Aug. 3, as directed at the Aug. 2 meeting. The letter asked them to consider the MRC an enthusiastic partner in this work and recommended the replication of the Northwest Straits Commission model in south Puget Sound.

**Tidal generation.** Meehan reported he and Rolf Seitle collaborated in drafting a letter for the county commissioners to sign, requesting that the MRC be kept informed of all developments pertaining to tidal generation. Meehan shared a packet of information from previous correspondence on this issue that the commissioners had passed along to him.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Executive director search.** Meehan shared a copy of the legal notice he published in the newspapers for two weeks after our last meeting, inviting prospective applicants for MRC executive director to submit requests for proposals. He reported that currently we have one applicant. He has heard rumors that another may be interested. Weber said two people have talked to her about it and she encouraged them to apply. A committee was established at the Aug. 2 meeting consisting of **Bronson, Meehan** and **Kind** to define the duties and responsibilities. **Toft** asked to be added. **Campbell** said he'd like to be involved in the interviewing. This committee will also screen and interview the applicants, probably around the week of October 7. Travel schedules will make the committee's work complex. Meehan will be gone most of

September. Toft will be gone Sept. 15 – Oct. 1. Bronson will be gone from Sept. 27 – Oct. 8. Campbell will be gone till Sept. 30.

**Puget Sound nearshore model for NWSC project.** Meehan read aloud Palka's report on the last NWSC meeting. Palka commented that after listening to Andrea Copping explain Lew Moore's proposed regional project, he has been converted to favoring it. The model exists – there are no development costs. It has been applied successfully to several real situations including one near the mouth of the Columbia and has proven valuable in making management decisions. It has the potential to accept local data and can be adapted easily to Puget Sound. The costs are primarily for quantitative calibration, without which the results cannot be interpreted or trusted. Meehan said he also was impressed by the model. He said it could be extremely helpful, for example, in predicting the spread of oil to local beaches after an oil spill. Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories is behind the model. Meehan said Andrea Copping is willing to come to a meeting and present this to us. Pedersen asked how this model compares to the expensive PRISM model. Meehan and Porter explained that PRISM is not interactive, allowing suppositions to be tested. The main cost of the nearshore model is in deploying buoys to gather data and calibrate it – basically tidal movement. Toft suggested it would be great to have a presentation on this at the NWSC's fall conference in November. Porter commented that we should keep in mind that by doing this, we may not have money to do something else. He also said it might be good to know whether this will require a multi-year commitment. Meehan said his sense is that the expense probably would not end this year – it would probably carry forward. Weber asked whether the \$82,000 of NWSC monies earmarked for a regional project would be adequate funding for this. Meehan said he thought it would pay for about two buoys. The buoys are a little over \$30,000 apiece. **Motion by Hillers, second by Weber, carried unanimously, to support the implementation of this nearshore model as a regional project for the NWSC.**

**NWSC fall conference display.** Pedersen reported he has done some preliminary work on a single MRC tabletop display focused around the three words of the MRC logo – science, education and stewardship. He will work with Stacey Neumiller on the design.

**NWSC action grant.** Meehan reported he's been working with Sharon Riggs, NWSC auditor, to satisfy her questions about our required report and billing for the FY 2005 action grant. The NWSC withheld processing of our new request for the FY 2006 grant cycle, which started July 1, until we completed all the cleanup issues from our 2005 grant. However, the NWSC did approve Amendment 1, allowing us to go forward with the portions earmarked for our pigeon guillemot study and with funding for Pedersen's position. In response to a question from Weber, Meehan said the \$1,500 we had earmarked for Orca Network is included in Amendment 2 of the new grant, which should now be available.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **PROJECT REPORTS**

**Shore Stewards.** Bronson reported the new Washington Shore Stewards website is now online at [www.shorestewards.org](http://www.shorestewards.org). The home page shows a map of western Washington. If you click on Island County you are taken to the Island County Shore Stewards site. Pedersen and graphic designer Phil Williamson worked closely with Scott Chase in developing the new regional site. Williamson created templates that will make it easy for additional counties to add their web pages when they join Shore Stewards. Bronson reported that Chase recently discovered The Littoral Society of New Jersey was showing our 10 guidelines for shoreline living on their website, word-for-word, without giving credit. Chase and Meehan pointed this out to the New Jersey group and they have now made some changes and given us credit.

**Water's Edge book.** Pedersen reported Stacey Neumiller is in the final stages of graphic design. The book is running about 178 pages. It will sell for \$15 and wholesale at \$7.50. Today we applied for our International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and Library of Congress Publication Control Number (PCN). This edition is a collaboration between the MRC and Beach Watchers. For liability protection, and in light of WSU Extension's longevity as an entity in Island County, we felt it made the most sense to publish under the umbrella of WSU Extension. The Extension office has existed since 1917 and is likely to remain in Island County as far into the future as we can see, whereas the MRC is grant-dependent and its long-term future is less certain. We believe it is desirable for the book to be tied to a physical office where questions about it may be directed 10 or 15 years from now. So the copyright will be held by WSU Extension – Island County. The co-publishers will be WSU Extension – Island County, the Island County Marine Resources Committee and WSU Beach Watchers. The original *Water's Edge* was copyrighted and published by Beach Watchers. This new edition is funded mostly by the MRC but builds on the Beach Watchers' original publication name and much of the content of their original publication. The editors of this new edition relied heavily on Beach Watchers for content and advice.

**Signage.** Pedersen reported he and Meehan met a couple weeks ago with Larry Kwarsick, Coupeville town planner, to brief him about the MRC's desire to place interpretive signs on Coupeville Wharf. Kwarsick did not raise any concerns – he seemed receptive to the idea. Kwarsick asked us to e-mail him some examples of what we are envisioning. Pedersen will do so when he receives updated materials from the artist. Meanwhile, Pedersen also has been in touch with Ed Field, executive director of the Port of South Whidbey. Field is eager to have our first panel – the common panel – to place inside the glass case at Clinton Beach. He would like to install this before year-end. Our artist, Kris Wiltse, has found a printing firm in Seattle that could produce an oversize version of our panel to fit inside the larger space of the glass case.

**Water quality data project.** Hillers reported that intern, Scott Harbour, has returned to Pacific Lutheran University, after submitting a computer disk loaded with draft data from the State Department of Health, Department of Ecology, Island County Department of Health and a dataset from Walla Walla Community College at Rosario. Hillers said it's an enormous amount of data. Harbour has a bit more to do before the project is complete, but will do so before his contract ends in December. As agreed, we will then pay him the \$3,000 we allocated to this task.

**Water quality buoy.** Meehan reported we have been unable to get our water quality buoy functioning correctly and will ship it back to the manufacturer's tech rep in Baker City, Oregon, for service.

**Estuary seining.** Urstad reported that the team is ready to go. Bob Brock submitted a request for equipment, which will be funded by the MRC grant.

**Bluff birds.** Weber commented that Frances Wood of Audubon recently published a column in the South Whidbey Record about pigeon guillemots that really explained what their significance is all about.

**Creosote removal.** Meehan reported that a large quantity recently was removed from Hancock Lake, and that the entire 50-mile shoreline of Camano Island has now been GPS-mapped for creosote. A section of Whidbey Island's west shoreline also was mapped.

**Derelict gear.** Urstad reported that Jeff June will speak on derelict gear at this winter's Sound Waters University.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Restoration project filtering for NFWF grant.** Rex Porter commented that at the next meeting, he expects to be ready to report on the outcome of the filtering process he and Kim Bredensteiner applied to the restoration opportunities identified in Jim Johannessen's shoreline survey.

**Community salmon fund grant.** Porter said the Planning Department has applied for a \$15,000 grant to hold three salmon recovery community-outreach forums in conjunction with three proposed restoration sites. This would be to brief landowners and help them understand the value of these projects.

**Greenbank estuary meeting.** Weber said the Port of Coupeville's recent community meeting with landowners at Greenbank attracted a large turnout and much interaction. She said the Port is still evaluating the input received, but it was a successful meeting because the presenters gave their information and the public had an opportunity to ask their questions.

### Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

### ADJOURNMENT: 5:23 pm

There being no further business, Campbell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

### Coming Events

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| <b>Sept. 20</b> | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, <b>Freeland</b>  |
| <b>Sept. 28</b> | Thursday 7:30 pm, <b>Bill Ruckelshaus</b> lecture at Thomas Berry Hall, Whidbey Institute, <b>Clinton</b> , on Climate Change, Water and the Choices Ahead. |
| <b>Oct. 4</b>   | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, <b>Oak Harbor</b>   |
| <b>Oct. 18</b>  | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, <b>Freeland</b>  |
| <b>Nov. 1</b>   | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, <b>Oak Harbor</b>   |
| <b>Nov. 3-4</b> | Friday-Saturday, NWSC fall conference, Rosario Resort, <b>Orcas Island</b>  |
| <b>Nov. 15</b>  | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, <b>Freeland</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 6</b>   | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, <b>Oak Harbor</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 20</b>  | Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, <b>Freeland</b>  |