



# Marine Resources

Minutes

October 4, 2006

4:03 – 5:55 pm, Heller Road Firehall  
Oak Harbor

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

**PRESENT:** Chair Phyllis Kind, Tom Campbell, Don Meehan, Rolf Seitle, Dick Toft, Ken Urstad, Communications Mgr. Dan Pedersen. **ALTERNATES:** None. **ABSENT:** Hi Bronson, Joe Hillers, Ian Jefferds, Johnny Palka, Jeff Tate, Benye Weber. **VISITORS:** Kim Bredensteiner, Island County Salmon Recovery Program; Rex Porter, Watershed Project Manager, Island County Planning Department; Scott Chase, coordinator, Island County Shore Stewards. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:02 pm. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Adopted. **MINUTES** of 9-20-2006: Adopted. Motion by Toft, second by Urstad, carried unanimously.

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

**Annual retreat.** The MRC will hold its annual retreat from 2-7 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 15, tentatively at Sierra Clubhouse, west of Coupeville. Purpose is to discuss and update the five-year plan.

**NFWF grant restoration sites.** These projects were selected as the MRC's priorities for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant: 1) Cornet Bay bulkhead, 2) Utsalady pilings, 3) Browns Point pile bulkheads, 4) English Boom pilings and 5) Browns Point failed rock bulkhead.

**Executive director.** Motion by Urstad, second by Toft, carried unanimously, to offer the position of MRC executive director to Rex Porter.

## CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Executive Director position.** Meehan reported two individuals have applied to be our executive director. The committee will consider these applications later today during executive session.

**MRC retreat.** We will hold our annual retreat from 2-7 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 15, tentatively at the Sierra Clubhouse, to update our five-year plan. The retreat will include a potluck dinner.

**Restoration sites for NFWF grant.** Rex Porter reviewed the filtering process by which we have narrowed the list of potential restoration sites for our National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to 14 from more than 100 identified by Jim Johannessen of Coastal Geologic Services. The process involved three steps: 1) Eliminate all but the 41 sites falling within Geographic Area 1 of the Salmon Recovery Plan. 2) Within those 41 sites, select only those falling within the three grant-funded categories of creosote removal, or eelgrass or forage fish restoration and enhancement. 3) Eliminate site #4 (Ala Spit) because it is outside the grant funding timeline.

Of the 14 candidate sites, members expressed greater interest in forage fish and eelgrass work than in removing small numbers of creosoted pilings from widely scattered locations. It was noted that the Department of Natural Resources has a large budget for creosote-removal projects, but Bredensteiner pointed out they are not interested in removing small numbers of pilings from widely-scattered locations. They are looking for opportunities to remove larger numbers of pilings in concentrated locations.

Following a long discussion the group identified the following sites, listed in order of priority:

### **Creosote removal and forage fish enhancement**

1. Cornet Bay (Whidbey) – remove bulkhead and intertidal and backshore fill along Deception Pass State Park shoreline southwest of the two piers. Replace creosote bulkhead between the pier and the new State Park boat launch with soft shore armoring that maintains picnic area and protects parking lot.
2. Utsalady Ramp (Camano) – remove 40-50 pilings on upper intertidal beach east of Utsalady boat ramp that remain from an old failed bulkhead in potential forage fish spawning area.

### **Forage fish**

3. South of Brown's Point (Camano) – Remove two failed pile bulkheads on upper intertidal with potential forage fish spawning band.
4. English Boom (Camano) – Remove 50-75 old piles in vicinity of English Boom.
5. South of Brown's Point (Camano) – Remove failed bulkhead rock from intertidal beach and backshore. Rock is covering substantial portion of potential forage fish spawning band.

Meehan said he especially likes the state park projects, such as our number one choice, because it's a good partnership, it's in a public place of high visibility, and he expects the parks department will bring resources to it. Porter said he likes the fact that we've selected a mix of projects, some of which are on public lands and others on private lands. Some of these may be relatively easy to negotiate; others may be more challenging. Seitle said he likes projects that can be handled from the water, without having to bring heavy equipment onto private property.

Kind asked who is going to do the next breakdown, answering the harder feasibility questions about each site. Meehan pointed out that our NFWF grant provides funds for this – in effect, for a project manager. He suggested that we offer this opportunity to our new executive director. If the executive director elects not to be project manager on this, we could then engage someone else.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Escape cord project.** Meehan pointed out that Snohomish County MRC's rot cord project has been renamed the escape cord project. He said Joan Drinkwin of the Northwest Straits Foundation would like to expand it throughout the region. Meehan said he suggested funding the Puget Sound Beach Watcher programs to carry this forward. Urstad pointed out that the project is a natural fit with the Northwest Straits Commission's derelict gear effort.

## **PROJECT REPORTS**

**Shore Stewards.** Scott Chase reported he had attended a regional Shore Stewards meeting earlier in the day. He pointed out that because he had not been funded to conduct shoreline workshops this year, he got a late start. But with recent support from Linda Lyshall of Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) he has since compiled an agenda of sessions to educate the public about salmon and non-point pollution. To plan these he convened a meeting with Hi Bronson, Kim Bredensteiner, Barbara Brock, Linda Lyshall and Greg Ridder; and later others also agreed to participate including Rex Porter, Bob Buck, Jim Somers, Ken Urstad and Don Lee. He said they compiled a preliminary agenda last week before the Salmon Technical

Advisory Group (TAG) workshop. Topics include Salmon and the Nearshore, Shoreline Processes, Non-Point Pollution, Shoreline Process Review, Forage Fish and a Beach Seine Demonstration focusing on Race and Harrington lagoons for Whidbey, and on Elger Bay for Camano.

Many other outreach activities also are in progress including Shore Stewards participation in the Sound Gardening Workshop, Camano 101 and Whidbey 101.

Chase said he also wanted to point out that Camano Island's watershed plan was presented last week. This is a non-point pollution prevention plan. The planning committee included Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards, and Hi Bronson representing the MRC. Linda Lyshall also was in charge of the process for a number of months. So this provided an opportunity to get some points written into the plan that are important to us. Under the Marinas and Boats chapter on page 45, the draft reads: *The Island County Marine Resources Committee, Shore Stewards and Beach Watchers should educate boaters and shoreline property owners about the Saratoga Passage Marine Stewardship Area including the reasons for its designation and how they can help protect it.* Under implementation considerations the draft states: *The MRC designates marine stewardship areas and should be the lead implementing agency for identifying key messages for this recommendation.*

**Water's Edge book.** Pedersen reported that the county commissioners today approved the printing contract. We think the book will be released to the printer Friday and will be delivered just before or after the Nov. 3-4 Northwest Straits Conference. He also reported that one of the book's sponsors is the Island County Joint Tourism Committee, which publishes the Whidbey-Camano Visitors' Guide. He said we think this will be a mutually beneficial relationship that will help us get our stewardship message in front of a larger audience. The agreement emphasizes they need to honor the stewardship message and not reprint portions of the book that promote only tourism per se.

**Signage.** In response to a suggestion from Palka at the last meeting, Pedersen said our artist enlarged the location map on the common panel. One of the first things we will do is create the oversize art that will go in the glass case at Clinton. Seitle suggested the MRC should ask the Port to pay the estimated \$400 to print the large poster for that case.

**Water quality.** Meehan reported he sent the water quality buoy to Electronic Data Solutions in Baker City, Ore. Some of the electronic parts had sustained saltwater damage. Repairs will cost about \$1,000, which Meehan expects will be paid by the Beach Watchers' wharf project. Rex Porter said we are still waiting to hear from Scott Harbour about finishing touches to the data-compilation project, and that Harbour knows he must complete these before he will get paid.

**Estuaries.** Urstad said he and Bob Buck presented our estuary seining project at last month's Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Urstad said he and Buck hope to enlarge the presentation so they can present it to service clubs and schools.

**Bluff birds.** Kind shared a map of the Island County shoreline that Bredensteiner created, which overlays our pigeon guillemot survey with other shoreline data. Kind said Ginny Broadhurst at the NWSC is going to help us find a strong intern who can hold the 50-foot pole with the camera to look inside pigeon guillemot burrows. Chase asked about the possibility of a similar survey on Camano. Kind said the survey could be expanded if volunteers can be found on Camano to manage it, but that neither she nor Frances Wood can take the time to commute back and forth to Camano.

**Creosote and derelict gear.** Kind and Urstad reported they have noticed a few media stories on these issues recently.

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

County Lead -- Meehan

**Water's Edge contract time.** Meehan pointed out that the *Water's Edge* team of Pedersen, Schmidt and Neumiller have worked many hours beyond their contracts to complete the highest-quality book they could produce. He said once we know how the finances look on this project, he'd like the MRC's permission to revise their contracts somewhat to help them recover some of the time for which they have not been paid. He said it'll depend in part on how much success we have in bringing funds through the door to help with printing.

**El Nino.** Meehan reported the University of Washington Climate Center predicts a warm, dry winter and that this is going to impact us significantly.

**Beach Watchers programs.** Meehan reported that federal funding is drying up for Beach Watcher programs in the other counties, and they are scrambling to find a financial foothold. He said he hopes they can stay afloat until we can find firmer funding for them.

Chair – Kind

**Georgia Basin Research Conference.** Kind said the NWSC encourages MRC members to attend the Georgia Basin Conference in Vancouver, and that if any of our members are interested in attending she will seek to find funds to reimburse some or all of their participation.

**Puget Sound model.** Kind said it appears the NWSC will put about \$50,000 toward calibrating the Puget Sound model. It appears another \$50-70,000 will be available for other ecosystem projects.

### 5:45 PUBLIC MEETING ADJOURNED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

### 5:55 PUBLIC MEETING RECONVENED

**Applicants for Executive Director. Motion by Urstad, second by Toft, carried unanimously, to offer the position of MRC executive director to Rex Porter.**

### ADJOURNMENT: 5:56 pm

There being no further business, Kind declared the meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

## Coming Events

- Nov. 1** Cancelled Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Heller Road Firehall, **Oak Harbor**
- Nov. 3-4** Friday-Saturday, **NWSC fall conference**, Rosario Resort, **Orcas Island**
- Nov. 15** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meeting **moved to** Heller Road Firehall, **Oak Harbor**
- Dec. 6** Wednesday, 2-7 pm, **MRC retreat**, Tom Campbell residence, **Langley**
- Dec. 20** Wednesday, 4-6 pm, MRC meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, **Freeland**