

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

February 2, 2016

COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

PRESENT: Frances Wood, Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett, Leal Dickson, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes, Ruth Richards, Elsa Schwartz, Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson, Anthony Turpin, Stan Walsh, Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Lori Clark, Florian Graner, Richard Hannold, Tim Lawrence, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Rob Hallbauer (presenter, Whidbey Island Conservation District), Joe Hillers

CALL TO ORDER: Wood called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Schwartz moved to approve the agenda. Tautvydas seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 19th meeting were not ready, and will be brought up for approval at the February 16th meeting. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: EBEBY'S PRAIRIE

Toledo introduced Rob Hallbauer, Natural Resource Planner with Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD). Powerpoint presentation available on MRC website:
http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/2016-0202%20Ebey's%20Prairie%20WICD_compressed.pdf

Hallbauer reviewed fecal coliform results that showed Ebey's Landing exceeding state standards every year from 2007-2012. This prompted WICD to apply for a grant to conduct monitoring, outreach, and technical assistance.

WICD then applied for a second grant to use the data from the first grant to develop stormwater treatment solutions. One design is at a farm on Ebey's Prairie owned by National Park Service (NPS). The system would transfer polluted stormwater to an existing, unused lagoon which could then be used for irrigation in the summer. This system is at 30% design, and NPS is eager to have the design implemented.

A second design is a bioswale along Engle Road. Due to stipulations in the grant that designs must be on public property, and uncertainty on who would maintain the bioswale, plans for implementation of this design are not solid. Toledo noted that the MRC had originally budgeted \$1,500 to conduct pre- and post- monitoring at this proposed phytoremediation site during the 2015-2016 grant cycle. However, since there is uncertainty of when this might be implemented, and the funds need to be spent by September 2016, the MRC should think about ways to

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

reallocate this funding. One suggestion was to install signage at the existing phytoremediation site the MRC established in Coupeville.

Hallbauer noted that WICD is getting ready to prepare their annual work plan and their 5 year work plan and is soliciting public input, and encouraged MRC members to provide input. Adams sits on the WICD Board and can relay any feedback, or members can contact WICD directly.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Coordinator's Update: Toledo reminded all that Sound Waters University is this weekend. Bennett will be presenting on risks to shoreline properties from anticipated sea level rise, and utilizing online tools to assess and mitigate risk. Rhodes will be presenting on using citizen science to monitor bull kelp, and the work that the MRCs have been doing to test and refine the Northwest Straits Commission's boat-based survey protocol.

Toledo announced that the MRC retreat is set for the afternoon of March 15th on Camano. Exact time and location are being determined. Ginny Broadhurst and Caroline Gibson will be facilitating.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Eelgrass Monitoring: The eelgrass team will present their results from 2015 in April. At that time, they will also ask for input from the MRC on where to monitor in 2016.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey: Phyllis Kind and Ann Casey, coordinators for the Guillemot Research Group will be presenting at Sound Waters University this weekend. The team is continuing to analyze data and make edits to the proposed article in Northwest Naturalist.

Phytoremediation: No further updates.

OTHER REPORTS:

Northwest Straits Commission/Foundation:

Commission: The Commission met in Island County last Friday, January 29th. The meeting agenda and materials are available online:

<http://www.nwstraits.org/media/2093/january29nwscpremeetingpacket2.pdf>. The January

newsletter is also available at: <http://us1.campaign->

archive1.com/?u=7e31dba6f365dc376e4a4e00f&id=d449cde36a&e=f96fe82192. MRC

members are encouraged to sign up to receive this monthly e-newsletter, which highlights work done by the MRCs and the NWSC. Members are welcome to submit any photos of MRC work or article ideas to Toledo, who can relay that to the NWSC.

Adams requested to provide NWSC updates just once per month, on the second meeting of the month, to better align with the timing of the NWSC's monthly meetings.

Foundation: The next meeting is scheduled for February 11th. Toledo distributed an email from Joan Drinkwin asking for a representative from each MRC to serve on an advisory panel that the NWSF is convening to assist in developing a derelict crab pot prevention strategy. Halloran noted that he expressed interest in being involved when this project was initially discussed, and

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

is still interested in being involved on the advisory committee. Schwartz also volunteered to sit on the advisory committee.

WSU Extension: No report.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction: Island County and NWS Foundation have submitted grant proposals to extend the work of their respective shoreline armoring reduction grants. Toledo and Rhodes will participate in a SHARP conference call on Monday, Feb 8.

Port Susan MSA: Schwartz will send around a link to the video that the Snohomish MRC developed about the Port Susan MSA.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Chair: Wood reported that the new members received an orientation from Toledo and the Executive Committee, and have stepped up to become involved in several ways:

Representation on ILIO: Bennett

Representation on Salmon TAG: Thomson

Creosote removal: Thomson and Turpin

Seining: Tautvydas

Eelgrass: Tautvydas

Forage fish: Farrington would like to assist Richards

Sound Water Stewards: Farrington

Signage: Turpin and Schwartz

Education, communications, outreach: Bennett, Turpin, Graner

Rhodes requested that Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve be added to the rotating report schedule. Rhodes has been involved with their citizens' committee, and has been providing updates on the kelp harvest assessment, but there are a lot of other activities going on that would be helpful to keep the MRC informed of.

Wood provided a clarification of the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting, which read "With the amendment of the MRC's Operations and Procedures resolution in 2014, there are no longer seats specifically designated for the Ports." This wording was ambiguous, as the conversation at the meeting was on representation from the Port of Coupeville, however the amendment referenced applied to all voting seats on the MRC, not just the Ports. The amendment changed the wording in the resolution document originally indicating that members be appointed to seats with specific representations, among them, the 2 Ports, as well as other designations (science, NAS Whidbey, sports fishers, and others). This did not change the membership status of any member, but rather indicated that members are no longer appointed with a specifically designated representation. The MRC and the Board of County Commissioners are both interested in maintaining representation from both Ports. During the solicitation of applications for new members in 2015 after John Carr stepped down from the Port of Coupeville and from the MRC, the Port of Coupeville was contacted to put forward a candidate for appointment, but felt they were not ready to offer a candidate at that time. Once they are ready, the MRC would welcome the participation of a representative from the Port of Coupeville as a non-voting technical advisor, and to apply for appointment when a voting seat opens up.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: No comment.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.