

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

July 5, 2016

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

PRESENT: Frances Wood, Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes, Ruth Richards, Elsa Schwartz, David Thomson, Stan Walsh, Lori Clark County Lead – Island County Department of Natural Resources Manager (non-voting), Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension Island County (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Ed Adams, Florian Graner, Richard Hannold, Kes Tautvydas, Anthony Turpin, Todd Zackey

VISITORS: Chris Sublet (Oak Harbor Marina), Lenny Corin (Northwest Straits Foundation), Kathryn Wells (Snohomish Conservation District)

CALL TO ORDER: Wood called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Schwartz moved to approve the agenda. Walsh seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Halloran moved to approve the minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on June 7, 2016. Farrington seconded. Richards noted the last name of one of the visitors was misspelled. Toledo will make the correction. The minutes with the correction were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Toledo read a Notice of Final Determination sent from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the MRC, stating that DNR issued a Determination of Non-significance for the Waterman Bulkhead Removal.

Toledo read an email from Tim Callison, Mayor of Langley, sent to Lori Clark, regarding the presentation on ghost shrimp harvest at the previous MRC meeting, noting that the DNR was taking a rational and scientific approach to the fisheries management of ghost shrimp, and that he would request they restrict harvesting from Sandy Point to West Langley.

ESRP GRANT PROPOSAL: OAK HARBOR MARINA

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) developed a Small Grants Program (SGP) to solicit proposals for nearshore restoration projects that align with local MRC goals.

Toledo worked with Schwartz, Richards, Clark, and Dawn Pucci to identify potential projects for the MRC to submit an ESRP SGP proposal, and decided on a collaborative project with the City of Oak Harbor to conduct a feasibility study of strategies to restore nearshore habitat and processes at the Oak Harbor Marina. This would be a multi-benefit project with the opportunity for outreach and education to the public about the importance and benefits of habitat restoration. The project would take a comprehensive look at several elements of impact at the Marina. The aspects to be assessed in the feasibility study include:

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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1. Armoring reduction: Remove approximately 1,100 linear feet of shoreline armoring and replace with soft shore protection, which may include native plants, gravel, sand, logs, and root masses.
2. Stormwater improvement: Remove approximately 700 feet of storm drain flowing directly into the Bay and replace with a natural filtering system, such as bioswales, and explore options to increase the angle of the boat launch ramp to reduce pollutants from vehicles that have to be submerged to launch a vessel.
3. Shading reduction: Remove approximately 46,000 square feet of shading, including covered moorage, dock fingers, and creosote pile docks.

Toledo, Richards, Farrington, and Adams, along with Lisa Kaufman (NWSF) and Chris Sublet (Oak Harbor Marina Harbormaster), were present at a pre-application site visit with the ESRP Implementation Team. The team gave feedback on the proposed project, including suggestions to incorporate the existing trail along the side of the parking lot at the Marina into the overall feasibility assessment, and look into collaborating with the Navy to include the adjacent stretch of riprap.

One of the requirements for the ESRP SGP application is to include an MRC Acknowledgement Form, which confirms that the MRC has received information about the proposed project, and that it meets the goals and the objectives of the MRC.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Toledo** will contact the Navy about including the adjacent stretch of riprap in the feasibility study.
- **Walsh moved to have Wood sign the MRC Acknowledgement Form for the Oak Harbor Marina Restoration Feasibility project. Schwartz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

CORNET BAY UPDATE: Kaufman was unable to attend the meeting and will provide an update at a later date.

ESRP GRANT PROPOSAL: LIVINGSTON BAY

Kathryn Wells from Snohomish Conservation District (CD) presented on an ESRP SGP project proposal they are planning to submit, and requested feedback and support from the MRC. Presentation available online: <http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/2016-0705%20ESRP%20Livingston%20Bay.pdf>

The project would work with homeowners at Livingston Bay to develop demonstration areas for soft shore protection. This community has been working with the Snohomish CD for assistance with planting native vegetation and addressing storm protection. Through the Island County Shore Friendly program, Toledo organized a site visit with coastal geologist, Jim Johannessen, to assess soft shore protection options at the community. Johannessen recommended anchoring large logs as a solution.

The project area would include demonstration plantings and soft shore protection at private properties, as well as a plan to include a demonstration site at a public access point. Snohomish

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CD would develop outreach materials, including photos and videos of the demonstration sites, to encourage other homeowners to consider soft shore protection options over hard armoring where appropriate.

The total budget would be around \$65,000, to include consultation with a geocoastal engineer, construction of log anchoring design, and outreach for the demonstration sites. Snohomish CD will work with homeowners on native plantings prior to the timeframe for grant implementation.

Discussion points included:

- Concern that a majority of the work is focused on private property.
- While demonstration sites are on private property, the outreach materials from the demonstration sites are intended for distribution to the broader public. Videos could be made available on the Island County video kiosk.
- Concern for the effectiveness of soft shore protection at individual isolated sites. Would be better to look at a contiguous section of shoreline. Wells will explore this possibility.
- Concern for the risk of project failure if the anchored logs are not sufficient or appropriate for the site, especially in the face of sea level rise.
- Jim Johannessen has provided recommendations for soft shore protection at this site, and a coastal geologist would be engaged in the design and construction of demonstration sites.
- The timing seems right, as homeowners are engaged in seeking solutions to future damage from storm surge after the March storms, and are interested in alternatives to bulkheads.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Halloran moved to have Wood sign the MRC Acknowledgement Form for the Livingston Bay Community Shoreline Enhancement Demonstration Project. Walsh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS ITEMS

Port of South Whidbey Update (Halloran): Halloran provided an overview of the Port of South Whidbey, and an update on current activities. Presentation available online:

<http://www.islandcountymrc.org/uploads/pdf/Resources/2016-0705%20POSW%20Activities%20Update.pdf>

The Port is currently engaged in several projects, including updates at South Whidbey Harbor, renovation of the boat ramp at Possession Beach Waterfront Park, and addressing interest from Verizon in regards to installing a cell tower at Possession Beach Waterfront Park.

The Port is also in the process of conducting a ballot measure to allow the Port to take ownership of the Island County Fairgrounds, which are currently owned by the County. The Port managed the fairgrounds for one year, and created a due diligence report and a marketing plan, which showed the facility to be a viable entity. The ballot measure would allow for the property transfer, and has an associated levy lift to support needed upgrades and maintenance.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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The Port awarded \$5,000 to Island Beach Access to continue their work to identify and promote areas of public access along shoreline in Island County.

Coordinator's Update (Toledo): Toledo presented a draft letter from the MRC to Kurt Fresh, Ocean and Estuarine Ecology Program Manager at NOAA Fisheries, to thank Anna Kagley for her assistance with the MRC seining project at Cornet Bay.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Schwartz moved to have Wood sign the letter to Kurt Fresh. Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Toledo distributed #CatchMoreCrab outreach materials from the Northwest Straits Commission, and encouraged members to distribute them at appropriate locations, such as boat launches and locations where crabbing licenses are sold.

Toledo announced that Leal Dickson's resignation from the MRC leaves a vacancy for a voting member. Members are appointed by the Board of Island County Commissioners, with consideration of recommendations from the MRC Chair.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington): No update, in interest of time.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): No update, in interest of time.

Pigeon Guillemot (Wood): The Executive Committee had requested during their meeting to have the pigeon guillemot update moved to this meeting to balance the number of grant reports slotted for each meeting. Wood reported that the summer surveys are going well.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Adams/Lenny Corin):

Commission: See attached summary from June 24th NWSC meeting.

Foundation: The Foundation adopted a budget for 2016/2017 during a conference call on June 21. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2016. The budget has a slight surplus, but this is predicated on grants and donations meeting levels that exceed those that occurred this past year.

Greg Ayers, from Orcas Island, will be leaving the Board as of July 1. Greg had been with the Foundation for several years. He was a member of the San Juan County MRC and the Commission. Two new members will join the Board as of July 1; Anne Murphy and Betsy Lyons. Anne is a member of the Jefferson MRC, and has been since 2000 and was on the Commission for seven years, approximately from 2001 to 2008. She was the Executive Director for the Port Townsend Marine Science Center until she retired three years ago. Betsy Lyons is the Senior Capital Projects Coordinator for the Seattle Public Utilities. She previously worked for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy. She lives in Seattle and should be able to help the Foundation better tie into Seattle funding and grant opportunities.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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To enhance the partnership with the Commission, the Foundation and the Commission will hold periodic joint Executive Committee meetings, starting with the Foundation's July EC meeting. Both organizations will also share agendas and minutes and the Foundation will try to continue to have Board members that are also Commission members.

The Foundation held Board elections, with the following results: Jerry Masters as President, Lenny Corin as Vice-President, Jay Lind as Treasurer, and Shannon Davis as Secretary.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): Turpin is incorporating feedback into the draft plan for identifying creosote and marine debris, and will be reaching out to organizations to partner with to assist with identification.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): Toledo is scheduling several site visits with shoreline homeowners interested in exploring soft shore protection options at their properties. Island County Planning & Community Development is hosting several workshops for shoreline homeowners about shoreline regulations and the updated Shoreline Master Program. The schedule and further details are available at:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Pages/AllNewsAndAnnouncements.aspx?news=26>

WSU Extension (Lawrence): The Master Naturalist program is going into review. Modules on oceanography and introduction to ecology have been developed and are being reviewed.

Port Susan MSA (Schwartz): Schwartz requested that Port Susan MSA be removed from the list of "Other Reports" on the agenda, but that she will update on an as-needed basis.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No report.

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 5:25 pm.