



**Vision:**

A healthy Puget Sound environment as defined by diverse natural ecosystems and sustainable human communities.

**Mission:**

Trained volunteers working in and around Island County for a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound environment through education, community outreach, stewardship, and citizen science.

# HOW WE GOT HERE

1982 Don Meehan, WSU Cooperative Extension Director for Island Co. hired



1989 Beach Watchers was born, modeled after Master Gardeners

1995 LEP formed to help fund BW and other groups

1995 Sound Waters (University) first offered

1998 Intertidal monitoring started within BW

2000 MRC grant funds: Forage Fish Spawning Study (WDFW) and Eelgrass Surveys; BW volunteers collect (and analyze) data

2008 Don Meehan retired; finances stable with surplus

2010 Tim Lawrence hired; then Barbara Bennett hired as WSU employee with differing responsibilities (structural changes)

2013-14 Key projects shifted away from BW; resources dwindling rapidly; BWAC meetings with members to discuss future of BW program

2015 BWAC appointed *Change Committee* to recommend future

2015 *Change Committee* recommends; BWAC approves BW becoming an independent non-profit as a bottom-up, grassroots organization with continuity of mission, projects and work

# 2016

- Board elected (fall, 2015):  
Jay Adams (VP), Kate Ambrus, Dave Brubaker,  
Lois Farrington, Bob Gentz (S), Linda Ridder (P),  
Amnon Schoenfeld, Tom Vos, and John Welsch (T)  
Derek Pritchard (former BWAC President for one year)
- Legal documents approved (state & federal; 501(c)(3) approved)
- Agreements finalized or in process with:
  - LEP (thanks for being fiscal sponsor; revision in process)
  - Town of Coupeville
  - Port of Coupeville (wharf) (nearing completion)
  - Washington State Parks (nearing completion)
  - Island County

# STAFFING

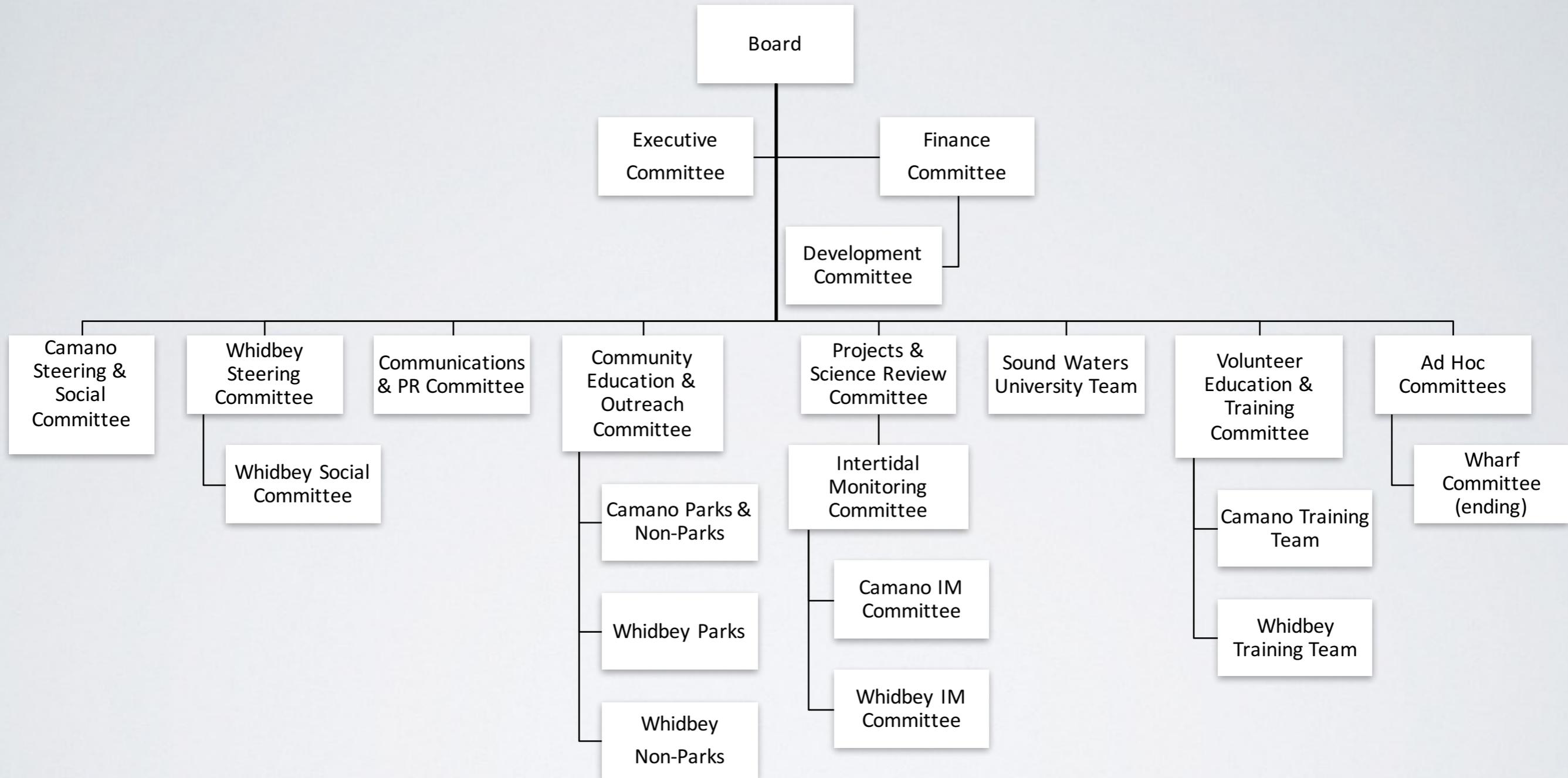
- No paid staff initially (to determine resources and needs)
- *Temporary* Part-Time Staff Assistant hired March, 2016
- Part-time Coordinators are being hired now
  - Camano Coordinator (10 hours/week)
  - Whidbey Coordinator (20 hours/week)
  - To facilitate and support work of committees and projects
  - To coordinate human resources, manage records, inventory ...
  - To assist with PR, facilitate communications, and more
- Future Staffing (undetermined; dependent on funding capacity)
  - Executive Director (part-time)?
  - Grant Writer (contractor)?
  - Clerical Support?

# FINANCES

- Asset depletion between 2008 and 2015
- BW spent down remaining funds held by WSU by 12/31/15
- LEP
  - Held significant BW assets; transferred to SWS (6/16)
  - License plate funds (portion of 65% of revenues) (annual?)
  - Fiscal Sponsor until June, 2016
  - Agreement under revision
  - SWS will be able to apply for LEP grants
- Sound Waters University (annual event)
- Donations (mostly from members); up significantly since leaving
- Whale Cruise (annual event)

**Challenge: Develop new and stable sources of income**

# SWS Organizational Chart



# SWS Projects and Committees

- **Citizen Science** (volunteers collecting data for other organizations and agencies and for SWS)
- **Community Education and Outreach** (volunteers providing information to citizens in a variety of settings)
  - WA State Parks
  - Other (festivals, fairs, school visits, talks to groups, etc.)
- **Stewardship** (volunteers being stewards and helping others see connections between behaviors and outcomes)
- **Administration** (running the organization)

# Citizen Science

(volunteers collecting/analyzing data)

- Intertidal Monitoring (SWS Project)
- Audubon - Pigeon Guillemot
- COASST
- Island County MRC
  - Eelgrass
  - Forage Fish Survey
  - Seining
- Invasive Green Crab Monitoring
- WDFW Mussel Watch
- WDoH Shellfish Testing
- Whidbey Watershed Stewards (Smolt Count, planting, etc.)
- WA State Parks Stewardship (all Island County State Parks)
- Other ....



# Community Education & Outreach

- WA State Parks
  - Camano State Parks
  - Deception Pass State Park
  - Central/South Whidbey State Parks
- Community Outreach
  - Coupeville Wharf
  - Camp Casey
  - Digging for Dinner
  - Ebey's Reserve
  - Facebook/Website
  - K-12 students
  - Fishing Line/Plastics
  - ORCA Network
  - SEA & EcoNet
  - Ships Naturalists
  - Whidbey Watershed S.



# SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY

- First offered in 1995
- Volunteer organized and run
- 2016 - 21st event year!
  - 650 attendees
  - \$30,000 revenue



- February 4, 2017 South Whidbey HS

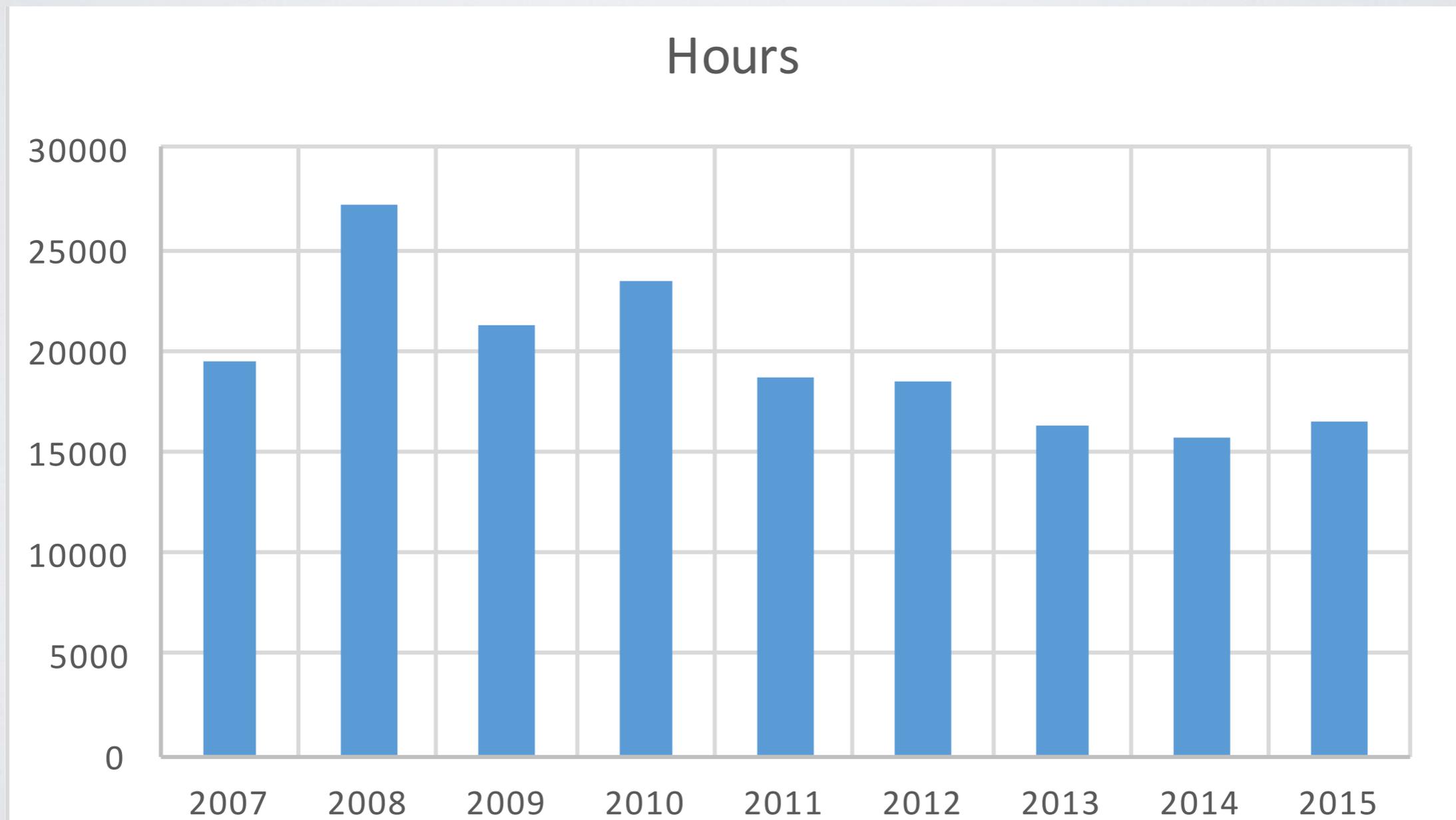
# STEWARDSHIP

- IC MRC Port Susan MSA
- Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- Skagit Fisheries Shoreline Enhancement Group
- WA Department of Ecology Beach Clean-Up
- Whidbey Camano Land Trust
- Whidbey Watershed Stewards
- WA State Parks

# VOLUNTEERS!

- More than 700 volunteers trained since 1990
- 296 active SWS Member & Trainee Volunteers
- 2016 Training Class: 42 Trainees (18 Camano, 24 Whidbey)
- 12,285 hours donated (documented) thus far in 2016
  - 934 Hrs - Citizen Science for SWS Projects
  - 2342 Hrs - Citizen Science for others
  - 2153 Hrs - Education and Outreach for SWS Projects
  - 1168 Hrs - Education and Outreach for others (Parks, esp.)
  - 574 Hrs - Stewardship for others
  - 2432 Hrs - Administration for SWS
  - 622 Hrs - Administration for others
- Total hours (recorded) donated since 1990: 321,948

- Number of volunteers entering hours ranges from 113 (2015) to 155 (2008); 127 have entered hours so far in 2016
- Annual total hours range from: 15,666k (2014) to 27k (2008)



# WHAT'S AHEAD

- Continuity of MRC Projects
- Cement relationships with IC MRC and other partners
- Explore future collaborations with IC MRC
  - Education and outreach
  - Citizen science
  - Annual Lecture Series
- FUNDING!!
  - Grants
  - Cultivate community support and donations

# THANK YOU!



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

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