

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

May 1, 2018

CAMANO ISLAND LIBRARY

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Mike Bianchi, Ed Halloran (WebEx), Matt Kukuk, Linda Rhodes (WebEx), Mark Stamey (WebEx), Kestutis Tautvydas, Kelly Zupich (WebEx), Florian Graner (non-voting, technical advisor), Lori Clark, Island County DNR (non-voting, WebEx), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)
ABSENT: Ruth Richards, Jill Johnson, Tim Lawrence, Frances Wood

VISITORS: Elisa Dawson (Snohomish County MRC), Kathleen Pozarycki (Snohomish County MRC), Hi Bronson, John Amell, Ann Precup, Scott Chase, Janet St. Clair

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:35pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Bennett moved to approve the agenda. Kukuk seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the April 20, 2018 minutes. Kukuk seconded. The minutes were approved.
CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Educational Presentation: MyCoast Application: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson from the Snohomish County MRC presented the MyCoast mobile application they had developed for use in Snohomish County. They worked with the app developer to incorporate five reporting categories: Storm surge, abandoned boats, king tides, creosote pilings, and capturing beach change.

Data reports can be filtered and downloaded by the administrators (MRC staff and any designees). Data can be used in-house or shared with other individuals or organizations, such as Eric Grossman with USGS who is interested in the storm surge data.

Chris Robertson with WA DNR is seeking funding to expand the creosote and abandoned boats categories for regional reporting capability.

Discussion included:

- Additional reporting ideas:
 - o Forage fish monitoring data
 - o Marine mammal stranding
 - o Bird sightings
 - o Should be sure not to duplicate what other entities are doing
- Next steps for IC MRC would be to connect with Chris Robertson (WA DNR) and Sasha Horst (NWSC) to indicate interest in regional expansion, and to download the app for use when in Snohomish County.

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MRC video (Graner): Graner was able to complete interviews on Camano for the MRC video. He will compile and edit the footage for review by the MRC at a future meeting.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference debrief (Schwartz): Bennett, Schwartz, Rhodes, Zupich, and Graner attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem conference. Highlights and takeaways included:

- Salmon recovery: current recovery situation not looking optimistic, lower survival rates of hatchery fish compared to wild salmon
- Creative ways for public outreach: educational talks, pub nights, present science to the community in ways they relate to and appreciate
- Kelp: gaining better understanding of threats and pressures
- Uplifting messages from leaders and strong engagement from tribal representatives
- Microplastics: daunting issue, should be on MRC's radar

BUSINESS ITEMS

SRKW protection – boater outreach (Toledo): Toledo shared an email response from San Juan County MRC regarding their boater outreach whale flag project. The project will utilize the same flag that is used around Vancouver Island as part of the See a Blow, Go Slow campaign. Boaters would raise the flag upon seeing a whale to alert approaching boaters that whales are in the vicinity and to follow the Be Whale Wise guidelines. The MRC expressed interest in boater education, but concern over the effectiveness of the flag. Discussion included:

- The flag may not work in Island County
- Not everyone will know what the flag means
- Outreach work should involve feedback from the Center for Whale Research
- It would be great to get Be Whale Wise guidelines into the online boater license
- “See a Blow, Go Slow” could be utilized as a social marketing campaign to be an ongoing reminder about boating guidelines around whales rather than an alert only when whales are present.

Meeting time (Schwartz): The Commissioners' Hearing Room is reserved by another group at 5:30pm on first Tuesdays, which does not allow for any extra meeting time or breakdown time for MRC meetings. The MRC discussed alternatives and decided to shift its meeting time to 3:00-5:00pm, starting at the June 5th meeting.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **The MRC agreed to shift its meeting time to 3:00pm-5:00pm.**

Coordinator's Update (Toledo):

- Forums: The aging shoreline infrastructure forums were well-attended. The Coupeville forum had 43 attendees, and the Camano forum had 36. Participants gave positive feedback. The MRC might consider making this forum a yearly event, either with the same topic or another relevant topic.
- Site visits: Site visits for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects were held today. On Thursday, May 3, Lisa Kaufman and Dana Oster will be meeting with Toledo and Schwartz at Hidden Beach and Possession Point to discuss potential restoration opportunities there. Any interested MRC members are welcome to attend.

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- Shore Friendly workshop: The NWSF, in partnership with the MRC, is hosting a shoreline vegetation workshop on Thursday, May 3.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

NWSC Grant Reports and Other Reports include information shared from written project updates submitted by project leads as well as any additional information shared during the meeting.

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): Lisa Ferrier (WA DNR) has offered to analyze the raw underwater videography data. The team is considering conducting underwater videography at the 3-4 sites where they will also conduct sonar: Cornet Bay, Monroe Landing, Holmes Harbor, and Seahorse Siesta.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): Talking about bull kelp is done! The latest presentations were at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (April 4) & at the Board of Island Commissioners' work session (April 18). Planning for the 2018 season is in full swing, with 2 beds near Camano & 5 beds near Whidbey considered for monitoring. Protocol training & equipment transfer for the Camano crews is provisionally set for this weekend (April 28 or 29). Training for Whidbey volunteers still to be established.

OTHER REPORTS:

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): The kiosk at Libbey Beach Park that the MRC funded is now populated with information, including enlarged versions of WA DNR's bilingual (English & Korean) guidance for sustainable kelp and seaweed harvest & information about bull kelp as habitat. The kiosk also has a partner sign by DNR about the Aquatic Reserve & bull kelp beds (see photo below). Both signs give visitors good detailed information about this special offshore area of Island County.



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Sound Water Stewards (Zupich):

- Sound Water Stewards has starting planning a 6-8 week Lyceum Series on South Whidbey for the Spring of 2019 in partnership with Goosefoot and Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The topics will feature the Salish Sea Ecosystem.
- SWS has sent out a survey to partner groups. This survey will help guide our strategic planning process. If anyone on the MRC that works with SWS volunteers and would like to take the survey let Kelly Zupich know.
- If any MRC projects want SWS volunteers, there is a form to fill out which will get reviewed by the citizen science committee.

WSU Extension: Ann Precup is the Camano Coordinator, and is coordinating Shore Stewards, Master Gardeners, and other WSU Extension programs on Camano.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: The NWSF is providing materials and support for crabber outreach events. Bianchi has organized an outreach event on the Navy base for June 15. Zupich will check if any SWS volunteers are interested in doing outreach on opening day.

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Janet St. Clair thanked Bennett for her letter to the editor.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.