

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

September 4, 2018

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

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

VISITORS: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery), Rick Baker (Whidbey Watershed Stewards)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Zupich seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the August 7, 2018 minutes. Richards seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

MRC videos (Toledo/Zupich): The MRC discussed the informational video Graner has produced for the MRC. The video has been shared with the MRC and some additional contacts for feedback. Feedback included:

- Beautiful imagery
- Lots of information, well-presented
- The music does not seem to match the tone of the video and sounds more somber

Graner has indicated that changing the music would require at least 4 additional hours of his time, and wants to ensure that if the music is changed, the MRC is in agreement with the final product and it will not result in additional back-and-forth for more changes. Toledo will contact the NWSF to see if there are additional funds that could be utilized towards this edit.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION:** Bennett moved to seriously pursue a change in music for the MRC video. Richards seconded. Ayes: 5. Nays: 2. The motion passed.

The MRC discussed the proposed educational video and curriculum. The NWSF has provided approval of the Opportunity Fund proposal. Zupich met with Jodi Crimmins, Sustainability Coordinator with the Oak Harbor School District, who has offered to help introduce the film and curriculum to the OH elementary schools. The OH Intermediate School 5th grade is also interested in the film. Discussion has included:

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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- Incorporate an art contest. The winner(s) could be selected by the MRC, and could be acknowledged by the MRC and Board of County Commissioners.
- Timeline: Have film and curriculum ready by January 1st, to be implemented in classrooms before Earth/Ocean month. The art contest could include a display at the library.
- Additional ideas for student engagement: meet & greet with Graner, field trip, traveling aquarium/touch tank.
- Evaluation: Should gather feedback from teachers as well as students. Students can include written paragraph of what they've learned in the art contest.

Next year's grant (Toledo): Toledo reviewed the components of next year's grant:

- Monitoring:
 - o Forage fish – continuing as previously
 - o Bull kelp – continuing as previously
 - o Eelgrass – aerial and sonar are listed in the grant. Albert Foster has moved away and will not be conducting sonar. If underwater videography will continue, the equipment will likely need to be upgraded.
- Outreach
 - o Film outreach, including 2 film screenings: Can show to clubs, such as yacht clubs, marinas.
 - o General outreach, including creating an outreach plan and hosting at least one forum. The MRC's 20th anniversary will be May 24, 2019. Event ideas included:
 - Picnic to celebrate 20 years, include different activities, such as a beach walk
 - Tie the film screenings to the 20th anniversary
 - Host event at Deception Pass amphitheater. Can include additional activities: guided walk, explore tide pools, visit Cornet Bay, host Crabbing 101 class
 - The NWSF may have some funding available to host an event

Conference (Toledo): The MRC conference agenda will be available soon on the conference webpage: <http://nwstraits.org/2018-mrc-conference>

Each MRC is invited to give an "Ignite" presentation – a fast-paced, photo-based, 5-minute presentation. The MRC suggested Schwartz as a presenter and outreach as a topic. Schwartz and Toledo will coordinate to finalize the presenter and topic by the end of the month.

Each MRC is also invited to share a display. The MRC suggested showcasing the video. Zupich offered to help with any artwork.

MyCoast app (Schwartz): Schwartz has offered to be the IC MRC's point of contact for the regional launch of the MyCoast app. The NWSC is asking for MRCs to identify at least one beach that could be added to the app. Beaches should have public access and a static reference point (e.g. structure, tree) so photos taken over time can be compared. Suggestions included:

- o Ebey's Landing
- o Double Bluff
- o Coupeville, with the wharf as a reference point

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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- Iverson
- Maple Grove
- Utsalady
- Cornet Bay

Retreat (Schwartz): The MRC discussed the timing of the annual planning retreat. February/March was suggested as the best time-frame to allow for participation from any new members joining at the start of the year.

Upcoming meetings (Toledo): Toledo asked members for any requested topics for future meetings. The pigeon guillemot summer intern will present on the summer survey at the October meeting. Smelt fishing was suggested as a topic for a future meeting, including understanding its regulations, season, and practices around Island County. Toledo will contact WDFW to arrange for a presentation.

Coordinator's update (Toledo):

- Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum: This free forum on oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response will be held Oct 3-4 in Bellingham. If any MRC members are interested in attending and would like to have travel and lodging reimbursed, please contact Toledo.
- Project Prioritization: The NWSF has a grant to help MRCs develop a list of prioritized projects related to improving habitat for forage fish and salmon. Toledo, Pucci, and Clark will be meeting with Lisa and Dana on September 12th to discuss the preliminary list. Any interested members are welcome to attend.
- Hidden Beach letter to the editor: After the Hidden Beach meeting, a citizen who had attended the meeting submitted a letter to the editor of the South Whidbey Record. The MRC discussed providing a letter to the editor in response.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Bennett moved to proceed with drafting a letter to the editor to be reviewed by MRC membership at a special meeting. Zupich seconded. Richards provided a friendly amendment to have the MRC provide a bullet point list of topics for Toledo and Schwartz to use to draft the letter for Schwartz to submit before a special meeting, pending confirmation of the permissible process by the Open Public Meetings Act. If not allowed, Schwartz will call a special meeting. The motion passed.**

Topics to include in the letter are:

- Clarify the pool of expertise involved in the project planning
- Explain the project process and invitation for open dialogue
- Correct any inaccuracies
- Provide an overview of the project and purpose
- Reference other successful restoration projects in the area

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.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards): Richards announced she will be stepping down from MRC at end of the year. Anybody interested in leading forage fish activities can contact Toledo or Richards.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): The pigeon guillemot summer breeding survey is concluding after a very active season. Over 275 surveys were completed of approximately 1,000 guillemots around Whidbey Island. A full report will be given at the October 2nd meeting of the MRC.

The end-of-season volunteer meeting and potluck is scheduled for October 4th at 6:00 at the Unitarian Church just north of Freeland. Results of the summer survey and a review of the decade of intern data will be presented. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome.

Wood shared that she will be stepping down from the MRC at the end of the year.

Outreach (Bennett): Bennett has received feedback that a newsletter would be a helpful way to communicate with the Commissioners about the news of the MRC and relevant regional news. Bennett will present a draft newsletter at the October meeting.

OTHER REPORTS:

NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Schwartz): The NWSC is conducting interviews for the Marine Program Manager position. Additional updates from the NWSC August meeting were distributed to MRC members via email.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): The MRC and NWSF hosted an informational meeting about the potential restoration project at Hidden Beach. About 50 people were in attendance. Andrea MacLennan from Coastal Geologic Services presented on shoreline processes and the initial site assessment. Lisa Kaufman presented on the habitat benefits and estimated project timeline. The NWSF will compile community questions and concerns and respond to them in a document which will be posted to the project webpage at: <https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project/hidden-beach-shoreline-restoration/>. Next steps would include an in-depth feasibility assessment and possible design options.

Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett): The ILIO is moving forward in the process of prioritizing projects.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: There are two existing vacancies on the MRC, and there will be two more vacancies as of January 1. Schwartz encouraged members to think about ways to help recruit new members. Tautvydas shared he is interested in being reappointed when his term is up at the end of the year.

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Rick Baker shared that Whidbey Watershed Stewards will be conducting teacher trainings this fall.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.