

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

June 4, 2019

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

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, **Barbara Bennett, Randy Berthold, Mike Bianchi, Ed Halloran, Gwendolyn Hannam, Matt Kukuk, Linda Rhodes, Kes Tautvydas, Kelly Zupich, Anna Toledo** MRC Coordinator (staff), **Lori Clark**, Island County DNR (non-voting) **ABSENT:** **Jodi Crimmins** (un-notified absence), **Tim Lawrence** (un-notified absence), **Janet St. Clair** (un-notified absence)

VISITORS: Hannah Liss (resident), Bill Howard (Beachcombers Community Club)

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. Bennett seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Rhodes moved to approve the May 7, 2019 minutes. Berthold seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

ILIO UPDATE: Lori Clark provided an update on the Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) funding strategy and projects. The EPA allocated about three million dollars to each Strategic Initiative (habitat, shellfish, and stormwater) for both regional and local projects. The Stormwater Strategic Initiative did not receive much local allocation. Clark has applied for a seat on the Stormwater Strategic Initiative Advisory Team to help provide a local perspective.

The MRC discussed how the message from our area should be that the Whidbey Basin has good habitat, and the focus should be on the protection of existing habitat. The MRC suggested inviting the Strategic Initiative Leads to the annual MRC conference to help them stay connected to local projects and priorities.

The ILIO will be deciding on which project to allocate \$100,000 of locally-directed funding. They would like to prioritize projects for local funding allocation for the next 2-3 years.

PROJECT PLANNING: OPPORTUNITY FUND

The MRC discussed project ideas for the Opportunity Fund:

- Outreach:
 - o Ferry posters: The ferries have space for trifold flyers. Zupich offered to help design a trifold, if desired.
 - o Ferry videos: Videos are handled through a third-party vendor. Videos should be less than 16 minutes and are shown without sound. The Catch More Crab videos developed by the NWSF might work well for this. Berthold will gather more information about the cost of running a video.
 - o 20th anniversary event: Would like to host Day on the Beach with informative/interactive stations about projects like forage fish, beach seining, and

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- kelp. No specific event has been scheduled yet. Could maybe tie in with existing outreach plans.
- o Magnets with MRC logo and who to call for marine-related needs (marine mammal stranding, derelict boat, etc.)
- Creosote identification workshops: WA DNR has identified a need for more people to be utilizing the MyCoast app to report creosote. The MRC could host a workshop and invite Chris Robertson from DNR to train members of the public on identifying and reporting creosote. The MRC discussed including this in the NWSC grant application rather than the Opportunity Fund.
- Public Relations Program/Communications Plan: Develop a strategic communications plan which would identify target audiences to reach and strategies to reach them. The plan would help the MRC strategize how to increase awareness and provide consistent messaging about the MRC and its work throughout the community.

➤ **ACTION: Rhodes moved to form a sub-committee to develop an Opportunity Fund proposal to prepare a communications plan. Hannam seconded.** Bianchi, Berthold, Bennett, and Rhodes offered to serve on the sub-committee. **The motion passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS

Presentation at NWSC meeting (Schwartz): The NWSC is asking each MRC to present on a proposed project at the June 28th meeting in Everett.

- **Follow-up: Hannam** offered to present on proposed MRC projects, with a focus on the creosote identification workshop.

SMP Technical Advisory Group (Toledo): The Planning Department is forming a technical advisory group to support the upcoming update to the Shoreline Master Program.

- **Follow-up: Bennett and Rhodes** offered to participate on the technical advisory group.

Coordinator's update (Toledo)

- 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference: This event will be held April 19-22, 2020 in Vancouver. The call for session is now open (deadline July 12): <https://ssec.confex.com/ssec/2020/cfp.cgi>
- Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan: The next workshop will be held on June 13 in Olympia. Dana Oster will share notes from the meeting, as no IC MRC members are able to attend.
- MRC Conference: Save the Date for November 15-16 in Everett. All MRC members should have received an online survey to provide input to help with conference planning. Please fill out the survey or notify Toledo if you haven't received it.
- Family Outdoor Discovery Day: The MRC has been invited to participate in this event hosted by Sound Water Stewards and Washington State Parks on Saturday, August 3, 11am-3pm. The MRC booth needs to have a kid/family-friendly activity.
 - **Follow-up: Hannam** offered to help with this event.
- Film trailer: Rhodes participated in a restoration project at Thornton Creek in Seattle, which is featured in a film selected for the Seattle International Film Festival. The trailer is available at: <https://vimeo.com/128652416>
- Photographs on the beach: Zupich has connected with a volunteer who has offered to take photos of volunteers on the beach to build our photo library for our monitoring projects.

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- **Follow-up:** Any MRC members who are planning to do work on the beach, let Zupich know some of your monitoring dates so her contact can take photos.
- Historical kelp beds: A NOAA Hollings Scholar is gathering information on historical kelp distribution, and would like to reach out to contacts who may be able to provide local historical knowledge. The MRC suggested: Ken Urstad, Jack Hartt, Florian Graner, Todd Graves, anglers' clubs, and the Sea Doc society's citizen science diver program for studying rockfish.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Forage Fish Monitoring: WDFW is hosting a training for forage fish volunteers on June 24. If you are interested in participating in the forage fish project and would like to attend the training, please contact Anna. We will be developing teams of volunteers assigned to specific beaches. Monthly monitoring will focus on restoration sites (pre and post-restoration): Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. On Camano, sampling will continue at the Maple Grove index site.

Outreach:

Food webs display

In conjunction with the release of the “Discover Our Island Shores” video in local schools we developed a display for the Coupeville Library that focused on the marine food web that is featured in the film and classroom activity. We also included information about the MRC and the new film.

We wanted to find a way to engage people and make them think. We asked one question, “How are you connected to the food web?” On a table near the display we left notecards for viewers to leave their comments. Below the pictures we have included some of their comments. Library staff reported visitors engaging with the display. We plan to take this display to more locations over the next few months.



“I am connected to the food web because I eat food that is in the food web, not nothing but dangerous animals can eat me, meaning I am close to the top of the food chain.”

“I am connected to the food web because humans like me eat salmon, blue mussels, kelp/seaweed and more. That is how I am connected to the food web.” Ava 4th grade

“By water! We need to stop plastics from entering our waterways.”

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“We eat shrimp.”

“I eat salmon! (Wild salmon)”

“I am at the top of it.”

“We are connected to the food web because we eat other animals such as chicken, cows, pigs, and lamb.” Adeline M.

“I eat plants.” Allison L.

Art contest

We received 70 entries in the art contest that accompanied the “Discover Our Island Shores” film and classroom activity. MRC members as well as the general public voted on the top finalists from the three grade categories (4th, 5th, and 6th grades). The voting link open to the public drew 134 votes. Winners will be given a certificate and copy of the book “Explore the Salish Sea.”

Film screening

We are planning film screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores.” Possible venues include Sno-Isle libraries as well as the movie theater on the Navy base.

Crabber outreach

We will conduct opening day crabber outreach at the Coupeville boat launch and on Camano. Volunteers will provide crabbers with informational cards regarding best crabbing practices to avoid losing crab pots, and will also hand out free crab gauges and rot cord. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kelly Zupich on Whidbey or Scott Chase on Camano.

Forum

We have developed a survey to be sent to attendees of last year’s forum to help shape the offering for this year’s forum.

OTHER REPORTS

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The next NWSC meeting is Friday, May 31. The meeting summary will be distributed after the meeting. The MRC would like to continue receiving meeting summaries, as some members read them and find them informative.

The NWSC would like to arrange field trips for elected officials this summer. If there are any appropriate events for an elected official to attend, send that information to Schwartz.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): The Navy’s monitoring program reported discovering forage fish eggs along the entire 1,500 feet of restored shoreline at Maylor Point. A write-up was featured on the Puget Sound National Estuary Program blog: <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/2019/05/22/forage-fish-return-to-restored-shoreline-at-maylor-point/>.

We are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Washington Department of Natural Resources to schedule a date for a community meeting regarding the Hidden Beach nearshore restoration project to present the proposed project design.

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Island County has secured funding through the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) to continue the Shore Friendly funding. The County will offer mini-grants of up to \$5,000 to shoreline homeowners to incentivize actions towards shoreline armor removal or prevention. Program details will be developed in the upcoming months.

The next community meeting at Hidden Beach to present the nearshore restoration project design will be scheduled for August.

The MRC would like to continue to add sites to the “capture beach change” tool on the MyCoast app. The photos MRC members took to add sites to the app were not all consistent with the app format. The MRC will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: Mark Stamey submitted his resignation from the MRC due to difficulty in attending meetings, but is interested in remaining connected as a technical advisor in regards to restoration projects.

➤ **ACTION: Berthold moved to approve Stamey as a non-voting technical advisor. Kukuk seconded. The motion passed.**

County Lead: No updates.

County Commissioners: No updates

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: Hannah Liss suggested two outreach ideas: 1. Host a photography contest to put together an MRC calendar, which could be sold or given away as an outreach tool. 2. Distribute dog poop bags and highlight connection to water quality.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.