

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

August 6, 2019

CAMANO ISLAND LIBRARY

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, **Barbara Bennett, Randy Berthold** (WebEx), **Scott Chase, Matt Kukuk** (WebEx), **Linda Rhodes** (WebEx), **Kes Tautvydas, Kelly Zupich, Anna Toledo** MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** **Michael Bianchi** (un-notified absence), **Jodi Crimmins** (un-notified absence), **Ed Halloran** (notified absence), **Gwendolyn Hannam** (notified absence), **Hannah Liss** (notified absence), **Janet St. Clair** (notified absence), **Lori Clark** (notified absence), **Tim Lawrence** (notified absence)

VISITORS: Dana Oster (Northwest Straits Commission), Jerilyn Ritzman (WSU Extension – Island County), Meredith Penny (Island County Planning), Beverly Mesa Zendt (Island County Planning) Greg Bloom, Paul Williams

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:01pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. Chase introduced Jerilyn Ritzman as the new WSU Extension Camano Coordinator. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Zupich moved to approve the agenda. Tautvydas seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the July 2, 2019 minutes. Zupich seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATES – TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Beverly Mesa-Zendt and Meredith Penny presented about Island County Planning Department's plan for the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. They will be working with a consultant as well as graduate students to assist in this process. They will also be forming a technical advisory group (TAG), and would like a recommendation from the MRC for a member to sit on the TAG.

The SMP update process will include opportunities for public input, and the Planning Department also anticipates bringing presentations to the MRC. The guidance from the State has included that jurisdictions will integrate new information about sea level rise. This will likely include information about best management practices and a monitoring program.

Feedback from the MRC included:

- For the monitoring program, include the MyCoast app.
- Look into ways to incentivize restoration work. How to help communities make the leap to remove hard structures or utilize soft shore protection.
- Share information and lessons learned with other communities in this update process.
- Utilize the NOAA sea level rise viewer to engage the public in thinking about sea level rise.

➤ **ACTION: Berthold moved to recommend Bennett and Rhodes to serve on the SMP TAG. Zupich seconded. The motion passed.**

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT IDEAS

MRC Symposium (Dana Oster): The Northwest Straits Commission is planning a daylong event to promote cross-MRC collaboration. The MRC Symposium will be held after the MRC conference but before MRCs start annual project planning, either January 8 or 10. The event will be open to MRC members and staff only. All MRC members are invited, but expect to have about two members from each MRC. Members can reach out to Oster to provide feedback or suggestions.

Creosote identification (Dana Oster): The NWSC has noticed renewed interest in creosote identification and removal. Snohomish MRC is planning to identify which piles in the Snohomish River Estuary are creosoted and develop criteria for prioritizing their removal. Island MRC is planning workshops to help the public identify loose creosote and report it through the MyCoast app.

Schwartz is working on a project through Restore America's Estuaries to remove creosote in the San Juan Islands. It could be possible for the MRC to utilize funding to conduct smaller-scale removal work.

Discussion included:

- It would be helpful to have a rack card about creosote to let homeowners know how to identify and report it.
- Project approach should include: identification, prioritization, and removal.
- The NWSC can help keep MRC's connected on this issue.

Forage fish outreach (Bennett): Bennett showed photos of an interactive educational display to teach beachgoers about forage fish, developed by Friends of Skagit Beaches. Sound Water Stewards is interested in developing a similar kit. The kit could be utilized in conjunction with forage fish surveys or at independent events. Bennett will continue discussions with Sound Water Stewards to explore opportunities for collaboration.

RAIN GARDEN SIGNAGE AND FIELD TRIPS

The rain garden signage subcommittee researched several rain garden sites on Whidbey and Camano to choose two for the funds that the MRC has to develop new or updated signage for two existing rain garden sites, and to host field trips to those sites. The subcommittee considered the visibility and accessibility of the rain garden, the current state of the signage, the state of the rain garden and likelihood for maintenance, and the willingness of the owner to partner on signage and field trips.

After the review, the subcommittee recommended the rain gardens at Crescent Harbor Elementary School and Greenbank Farm for this project. The rain garden at Crescent Harbor Elementary School was installed by a class of students and later rehabbed by another class. The School District is eager to partner on this educational opportunity.

The rain garden at Greenbank Farm was originally installed by Master Gardeners, and is used annually as a demonstration site. This rain garden will be rehabbed as part of Orca Recovery Day on October 19th. The subcommittee is working with Maribeth Crandell at Island Transit to develop a rain garden field trip utilizing public transportation for spring 2020.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

- PUGET SOS Act: The MRC was asked to consider signing a letter supporting passage of the PUGET SOS Act, which would increase federal investment in Puget Sound.

➤ **ACTION: Tautvydas moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners sign the PUGET SOS Act letter of support. Bennett seconded. The motion passed.**

- Family Outdoor Discovery Day: The MRC was invited to have a booth at Family Outdoor Discovery Day, hosted by Sound Water Stewards and Washington State Parks. Hannam developed a felt board for kids to learn about the marine ecosystem. Hannam and Toledo interacted with about 150 people during the event.
- Seahorse Siesta: The Northwest Straits Foundation did not receive any qualified bids for this project. The project will be re-bid next year, with construction planned for summer 2020. Forage fish sampling will begin this fall to gather pre-restoration data.
- Ocean acidification teacher workshop: The Port Townsend School District and Jefferson MRC are partnering to offer a workshop for teachers to increase their knowledge and resources for teaching about ocean acidification. Crimmins will be attending and bringing three teachers from the Oak Harbor School District.
- Orca Recovery Day: Washington Conservation Districts are hosting Orca Recovery Day on Saturday, October 19th. Whidbey Island Conservation District is partnering with the MRC, Northwest Straits Foundation, WSU Master Gardeners, and Port of Coupeville to host three events on October 19:
 - Shoreline plantings at Sunlight Shores and Cornet Bay
 - Rain garden rehab at Greenbank Farm
 - Each event will include a brief instructional/educational portion before the physical work.
 - *Follow-up: Bennett offered to serve as the MRC point of contact at Sunlight Shores. Zupich offered to serve as the MRC point of contact at Cornet Bay.*
- Restoration workshop: The NWSF has funding to provide a workshop to MRC members on how to take a restoration project from start to finish. The MRC preferred to have this workshop separate from a regular meeting. The core members interested in the workshop are: Schwartz, Liss, Halloran, Tautvydas, and Zupich.
 - *Follow-up: Toledo will work with the NWSF and core interested MRC members to schedule the restoration workshop. All MRC members will be invited.*
- The MRC is on track to spend down the budget for this fiscal year. The funds originally planned for the Biobase software will be used to purchase an additional forage fish sample kit.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Forage Fish Monitoring: Eleven MRC volunteers attended the WDFW forage fish training held at the end of June. The new Whidbey volunteers met to discuss site locations, surveying logistics, equipment needs, and outreach opportunities. The volunteers are grouped into teams of 2-4 per site, and are excited to start collecting samples.

Outreach:

Art contest: Artwork and written answers from the winners of the “Discover Our Island Shores” art contest are on display in the Island County Commissioners’ office.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Crabber outreach: We conducted crabber outreach at the Captain Coupe boat launch in Coupeville and the Camano Island State Park boat launch. Five volunteers on Camano and four volunteers and one staff on Whidbey interacted with 87 crabbers.

Family Outdoor Discovery Day: Gwendolyn has developed a felt board of a marine ecosystem to engage children during Family Outdoor Discovery Day on Saturday, August 3.

Communications plan: The MRC has received funding through the NWSF Opportunity Fund to develop a communications plan. The MRC will conduct an audit of existing communications tools and strategies and identify gaps in the upcoming months. Following the audit, the MRC will work with a professional to develop a communications plan.

Film screenings: Film screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” are scheduled for:

- Saturday, September 14, 1-2pm at Coupeville Library
- Saturday, September 28, 2-3pm at Oak Harbor Library

Sea level rise forums: We are planning a forum on sea level rise for September 28 (one forum on Whidbey; one on Camano). We are partnering with Washington Sea Grant to plan and implement the forums.

Creosote identification workshops: We have scheduled the creosote identification workshops with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources for:

- Saturday, October 12, 9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid
- Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute

OTHER REPORTS

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The meeting summary from the July 26 NWSC has been distributed to MRC members.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Island County issued a Request for Proposals for consultants to conduct the Oak Harbor Marina restoration feasibility study. Consultant selection is expected to be complete in mid-August.

We had the opportunity to showcase to Governor Jay Inslee the restoration work at Cornet Bay and the incredible volunteer work and partnerships that made the project possible. Several partners and volunteers were present to help share the message.



ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Photos from Governor Jay Inslee's visit. Courtesy of Anna Toledo, Scott Chase, and the Northwest Straits Foundation.

Island Location Integrating Organization (Bennett): No updates.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No further updates.

County Lead: No updates.

County Commissioners: No updates.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:49pm