

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for January 7, 2020 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Kelp Monitoring (Liss/Berthold): Update at meeting.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Feasibility (Toledo/Hannam): A Request for Qualifications was issued in December to solicit a consultant to conduct a feasibility study at Hoypus Point and Possession Point, and bring one of the sites to conceptual design. Toledo and Hannam are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Washington State Parks on the consultant selection process, and anticipate a consultant will be selected in January.

Other Reports

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Island County Department of Natural Resources hosted a tour of restoration projects for Island County Commissioners. The Commissioners joined Island County staff, project partners, and community members at three sites on Camano and Whidbey Islands, that told the story of taking a restoration project from concept through feasibility and design to implementation and stewardship. The tour included stops at Livingston Bay on Camano, Oak Harbor Marina on north Whidbey, and Sunlight Shores on south Whidbey. There was also a brief stop at Leque Island to see this completed restoration project between Camano and Stanwood.

Sound Water Stewards (Chase):

1. Both islands will be recruiting for volunteer training for the 2020 class.
2. Registration for Sound Waters University is currently open. The event takes place on Saturday, February 1st, at South Whidbey High School in Langley. The Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at this event.
3. A new part-time position will open for an Education and Outreach Coordinator. The Whidbey SWS coordinator has been doing most of this work until now, but could not do both jobs in the allotted time. Allie Hudec, current Whidbey Coordinator, will shift to this position, and we are seeking a new Whidbey Coordinator, effective immediately. Kelly Zupich and Joan Schrammeck will continue in their unchanged positions.
4. The 2020 SWS Board has 3 new members: Trent Lowe (C), Jeannie McElwain (W), and Kelly Webb (W). 2020 Officers are: Linda Ade Ridder (back as President), Kelly Webb (VP and President in waiting), John Welsch and Sue Salveson continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.
5. Getting to the Water's Edge, Third Edition (208 pages) will be out around February 1. It is a completely new revision (\$20 retail); last one was 2006. This edition was completely created by volunteers, including raising more than \$33,000 to pay the printing and advertising costs. It is a field guide for all of Island County, including 69 beach access sites, kayaking spots, dog parks, hiking locations, and short essays about issues of importance (e.g., climate emergency, etc.). It will be available at local book sellers and eventually from our website.
6. January 22nd will be the first Camano SWS Speaker Series presentation at the Camano Library in 2020. Loren Brokaw from WDFW will talk about the completion of restoration of Leque Island, between Camano and Stanwood. Chris Robertson from DNR, who presented at the MRC creosote workshops, will talk about removal of boats and large beach debris on February 26th. These talks begin at 7:00 pm and are open to the public.
7. Volunteers are getting ready to educate school groups at Central Whidbey State Parks in 2020.
8. Linda Ade Ridder had a question for the MRC: how can SWS partner in ways that help sustain SWS, in addition to providing significant volunteer help for MRC projects?

WSU Extension: Update at meeting.