

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# December 3, 2019

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

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

**VISITORS:** Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Salmon Recovery)

**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. Berthold seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Bennett moved to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes. Zupich seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBER (Schwartz):** The MRC thanked Rhodes for her service on the MRC, and presented her with a certificate and card. Rhodes was appointed in December 2009, and has contributed to the work of the MRC in many ways, including: serving as Vice-Chair and on the Executive Committee, helping develop SoundIQ, leading development of the memo on finfish netpens, heading the bull kelp monitoring project, leading development of a communications plan, and sharing her knowledge with the community through several presentations over her years of service. The MRC is grateful for her talent and expertise that she has shared with the MRC and the community.

➤ **ACTION:** Tautvydas moved to retain Linda Rhodes as a technical advisor on the MRC. Halloran seconded. The motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING (Rhodes):** The MRC used Rhodes's draft communications spreadsheet to discuss communication roles and opportunities, and will continue the conversation at upcoming meetings. Rhodes suggested the MRC consider having members select areas of interest and form teams on Communications, Monitoring, and Restoration.

The MRC discussed how best to utilize the Opportunity Fund funding, originally slated for a consultant to help develop a communications plan. Given that Rhodes and the communications team have developed a framework to work from, the funds might be better utilized for more

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specific communications planning and/or implementation around one or two particular topics, if some flexibility in the funding is allowed.

- **Follow-up:** *The Communications Team (Bennett, Berthold, and Graner) will follow-up to discuss the communications spreadsheet and the Opportunity Fund. Zupich is interested in helping with design work for communications tools.*

**CONFERENCE DEBRIEF (Schwartz):** Members shared highlights and feedback from the MRC Conference, including:

- Great speakers and great overall organization
- The elected officials were energizing and motivating
- Great networking opportunities
- Content was well-rounded and presentation timing was structured well
- Having everyone together in a plenary style was uniting
- NWS 101 was a very helpful session for newcomers
- Schwartz and Hannam participated in the OCTOPOD podcast recording, which is available at: <https://www.openchannels.org/podcasts/octopod/conference-conversations-northwest-straits-commission>
- The MRC received an award for Community Education. The award text is available at: <https://nwstraits.org/media/2862/mrc-awards2019.pdf>

## BUSINESS ITEMS

**Officer nominations (Toledo):** Schwartz and Bennett will be finishing their terms as Chair and Vice-Chair. Elections will be held at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- **Follow-up:** *Schwartz nominated Zupich as Chair and Liss as Vice-Chair.*
- **Follow-up:** *Members can self-nominate or offer nominations between now and the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

With Rhodes terming off the MRC, there will be an open seat in January. Toledo will post and share the membership application. Members are encouraged to think about what gaps there are on the MRC and encourage individuals to apply. Areas discussed included: business, agriculture, shellfish, Port of Coupeville, and Camano.

The Executive Committee discussed holding an MRC retreat, likely in February. Toledo will send a doodle poll to determine an ideal date.

**Commissioner update:** Commissioner St. Clair presented a card on behalf of all three Commissioners to thank Rhodes for her service on the MRC. Commissioner St. Clair noted that the Commissioners are not experts on certain topics, and committee such as the MRC provide important information and advice.

Commissioner St. Clair attended the MRC Conference, and was struck by the importance of the work of MRCs. She thanked the MRC for being an avenue for bringing information and gathering community members from different perspectives.

Commissioner St. Clair will be the Board Chair in 2020, and will continue to sit on the MRC.

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**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Toledo):** The MRC has funds to cover registration and lodging for the Salish Sea Ecosystem conference for 2 MRC members. The following members expressed interest:

- Graner (registration only)
- Bennett (registration only)
- Zupich
- Hannam (registration only)
- Liss and Schwartz will be attending the conference separately

Toledo will follow-up with interested members to determine how the funds can be distributed.

**Great Northwest Glass Quest (Toledo):** The Glass Quest will take place Feb 14-23 on Camano and Stanwood. More information about the event available here:

<https://thegreatnwglassquest.com/>. The MRC will have 10 clue balls to hide at public parks on Camano.

- **Follow-up:** *Schwartz and Chase offered to help hide clue balls.*
- **Follow-up:** *Bennett, Schwartz, and Chase offered to help write clues for the clue balls.*

## **Coordinator's Update (Toledo):**

- Rain garden signs: Many thanks to the sub-committee who worked with artist Larry Eifert on the signs that will be printed and placed at the rain gardens at Crescent Harbor Elementary School and Greenbank Farm
- Rain garden tours: We will be partnering with Island Transit to host a bus tour of rain gardens in April, which will include a stop at the Greenbank Farm to see the new sign.
- Sound Waters University:
  - **Follow-up:** *Zupich and Liss offered to help with an MRC booth at Sound Waters University. Graner offered to play the MRC video at the booth.*
- Camano 101: Jerilyn Ritzman, WSU Extension Camano Coordinator, is organizing a Camano 101 day for Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. The MRC is invited to have a booth along with several other partner organizations.
- Message regarding Ken Urstad: Ken is at home with his family. His family has asked for privacy and for no calls or visits.
- Pigeon Guillemot study: Emily Buckner, Masters student at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs is working on a thesis that is investigating variation in pigeon guillemot foraging throughout Puget Sound. She can share her work with the MRC once completed.

## **NWSC GRANT REPORTS**

**Forage Fish Monitoring (Kukuk/Bennett):** Lisa Hillier provided sample results through the month of June. There were a few eggs found in the Hidden Beach samples, both in the proposed restoration area and the adjacent natural area. The eggs were found high on the beach in both spots. The team at Seahorse Siesta started sampling in November. The volunteer for the Glendale site is planning to start in January. We are in discussions with Jason Morgan from NWSF to initiate sampling at the Sunlight Shores restoration site.

## **Outreach (Bennett):**

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- MRC Conference award: The MRC received an award for our 2019 Community Education efforts at the MRC Conference. Congratulations to all for the work accomplished this year!
- Rain garden signage: The sub-committee is working with artist Larry Eifert to finalize the designs for signs at rain gardens at Greenbank Farm and Crescent Harbor Elementary School.
- Marine food web display: Zupich and Toledo will be setting up the marine food web display at the Oak Harbor Library for the month of December.

## OTHER REPORTS

**NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz):** The big news for the Initiative is the success of the Conference! The next Commission meeting is Dec 6. The January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held at the Coupeville Library. Whatcom MRC has open seats – so please help spread the word. The Foundation is having a holiday party on Dec 12 in Bellingham and all are invited. Nicole Jordan is leaving the Commission, and they are working on the process to get the job posted to hire her replacement.

### **Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):**

Oak Harbor Marina Restoration Feasibility: Blue Coast Engineers was selected as the consultant to conduct the feasibility study. A kick-off meeting was held to gather information on site conditions and constraints.

Hoypus Pt and Possession Pt Restoration Feasibility: Toledo and Lisa Kaufman are drafting a request for qualifications to solicit a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of armor removal and habitat improvement at Hoypus Point and Possession Point, and a conceptual design for one of the sites. A consultant is expected to be selected in December.

Shore Friendly: Island County is in the process of establishing a contract for the next round of Shore Friendly funding. These funds will allow the creation of a mini-grant program for shoreline homeowners to take actions to remove hard armor or prevent the installation of new hard armor.

**Island Location Integrating Organization (Bennett):** The ILIO was a part of an effort to inform state-level teams about the importance of funding nearshore actions. The Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead team attended an ILIO meeting wanting local input on identifying areas for protection and recovery.

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

**Chair:** No updates.

**County Lead:** No updates.

**County Commissioners:** Commissioner St. Clair provided an update earlier in the meeting.

**COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:** Spilsbury Pucci announced that the Salmon Recovery Plan update will go to the Board of Island County Commissioners on Wednesday.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.