

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Ann Prusha

June 2, 2020

WEBEX

PRESENT: Kelly Zupich, Chair, presiding; Barbara Bennett; Randy Berthold; Scott Chase; Ed Halloran; Gwendolyn Hannam; Kes Tautvydas; Matt Kukuk; Elsa Schwartz; Janet St. Clair Island County Commissioner (non-voting); Lori Clark IC DNR Manager/Island LIO Coordinator (non-voting); Tim Lawrence WSU Extension (non-voting); Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff); Ann Prusha (staff) **ABSENT:** Hannah Liss, Vice Chair (notified absence); Michael Bianchi (un-notified absence)

VISITORS: Dana Oster Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC); Lisa Kaufman Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF); Andi Kopit; Traci Sanderson, Blue Coast Engineering; Kathy Ketteridge, Blue Coast Engineering

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Gwendolyn moved to approve the agenda. Randy seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Barbara moved to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes. Kes seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

HOYPUS POINT AND POSSESSION POINT FEASIBILITY STUDY (Kathy Ketteridge, Blue Coast Engineering)

The NWSF identified Hoypus Point and Possession Point as having potential for armor removal. The MRC and NWSF contracted Blue Coast Engineering to conduct a high level feasibility study at both sites and a conceptual design at one of the sites, as decided by the project partners. The MRC's portion has been funded through the MRC annual grant. The MRC has been partnering with Washington State Parks (Parks) and NWSF. The NWSF is applying for an Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) grant for final design and implementation and the MRC will be reviewing a letter of support later in this meeting.

Kathy Ketteridge and Traci Sanderson gave a presentation about the Hoypus Point and Possession Point feasibility studies.

- Hoypus Point:
 - Located at Deception Pass State Park, and was a once a ferry dock.
 - The site is mostly accessible by vehicle, except for one road slump, which will need to be improved to in order to implement this project.
 - There are buried pilings. There may be more, buried by sediment.
 - There is a fiber optic cable, which splits on either side of the abutment and pilings. It should not be an issue.
 - There are no unstable slopes

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- It was ranked as “restore low” in the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) Shoreline Process Unit, but ranks higher than Possession Point for Chinook recovery.
- The abutment is wide and high, and Blue Coast Engineering is not sure how far below the grade it extends.
- There is concrete rubble, and a flat area where the old landing was.
- There likely won't be in-water work, so turbidity should not affect the nearby kelp beds. If in-water work did need to occur, sediment traps would be used.
- There have not been complaints about the abutment affecting recreation.
- This project will remove the last remaining armor from a drift cell with little constraint. It is relatively close to the middle of the drift cell. It will make a difference for the physical processes of the shoreline.
- Possession Point:
 - Is a gully where a stream used to run.
 - There are more constraints here than at Hoypus Point, including a house on a septic system, manholes, a well, and a few flat areas. Parks is not yet interested in moving the house.
 - Water from the historic creek is piped through the site to the beach.
 - It is directly north of a residential property.
 - It was ranked as “restore high,” in PSNERP Shoreline Process Unit but lower than Hoypus Point for Chinook recovery.
 - The north side has a high scarp, and some of the previously buried armor has become visible.
 - Possession Point was not selected to move into conceptual design because of the number of constraints.
 - Once Parks is ready to remove the house and septic system on Possession Point, the entire site and creek delta can potentially be restored as a larger project.
- Hoypus Point Conceptual Design
 - 350 linear feet of material will be removed. The concrete will be recycled. Armor rocks will be stockpiled for future projects.
 - The artificial fill will be removed so it looks more like the natural shorelines on either side. Beach substrate will likely need to be installed.
 - The family who put in the bench on site will be consulted on where to move the bench.
 - The trail will be fixed, and will meet ADA standards. This will replace the current asphalt.

The next phases are preliminary design, permitting, final design, and then construction. There will be opportunities for the MRC to help move this project forward, such as from ESRP funding. The site will also need monitoring and vegetation management in the future. This will be a 5-10 year commitment after construction is completed.

The timeline is dependent on funding. Ideally, with Salmon Recovery funding, it will take a year to move into the next phases of design unless funding comes sooner. ESRP funding would not start until July 2021. For the final design, the MRC might be able to fund monitoring. Skagit River System Cooperative has been seining near there for 20 years, so there is fish data.

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The MRC then discussed the letter of support for the ESRP Small Grants Program to fund final design and implementation. The NWSF can use the letter of support for any grant application supporting the Hoypus Point project. The ESRP Small Grants Program is designed to include MRC input, so our support is valuable.

Barbara moved to approve the letter of support for the Hoypus Point Restoration Project. Elsa seconded. The letter of support was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (Barbara)

It is important for us to increase awareness with our target audience and ourselves. We need to be careful to do the things we need to do, not just want to do.

Barbara reviewed the recommendations in the communication plan. They are: Assess Communications Strategies Annually; Conduct Periodic Needs Assessment (at least every 3-4 years); Engage Professional Guidance; Anticipate and Use New Communication Strategies; Develop Meaningful and Concise Tag Lines and “Elevator Speeches”; Adaptively Update and Manage Outreach and Communications; Recognize Volunteer Efforts; and Leverage Partnerships and Consider Internships. She recommends that everyone read the report.

Barbara recommended that we move forward with the assessment of our capacity – we need a champion for each project. The communications team will be available for different projects. It is time for another needs assessment and she suggests that we add this to the work plan for the coming year. MRC members can interview each other about priorities and concerns. The structure for these interviews are outlined in the communications plan. Barbara is available if anyone would like to discuss this further. She also suggested that 20-30 minutes are set aside to discuss projects at an upcoming meeting.

There was then discussion about using social media to highlight MRC’s involvement in the community. Kelly offered to help with social media.

Commissioner St. Clair suggested that success stories from MRC’s work will help secure funding.

Thank you Barbara and the communications subcommittee!

WORK PLAN APPROVAL (Anna)

Anna sent out a consolidation of the discussion and work at MRC’s last meeting before this meeting for members to review.

Anna is still waiting to receive a cost estimate for Cornet Bay stewardship next year. It will likely be about \$7200 if volunteer labor for weeding and watering is used. At the very least, the site needs to be watered. The MRC could potentially organize weeding efforts. It will be about \$3500.00 if all we want to do is water. Watering would need to occur twice a month, and weeding once a month. Perhaps the MRC can organize a stewardship team who can go out and weed as they want. Currently, volunteers are not allowed to do work at state parks due to

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COVID-19 precautions, but this should change soon. Gwendolyn volunteered to help with this project. The fencing in Area 1 needs to stay up to reduce instances of vandalism, where individuals have removed or cut plants in the past. Wire fencing will replace the current netting. Kelly supports spending the funds to make sure everything is watered this summer. There is flexibility in this budget, so this funding amount could be a baseline. Organizing volunteer work ourselves would be great.

This budget spans October 2020 to September 2021. Generally, funds can be moved around within specific tasks (for example, unused funding for seining can be moved to bull kelp monitoring). Moving from one task to the other (such as Monitoring to Restoration) needs to be under 10% of the grant total. Moving more than 10% would need an amendment.

Once the proposal is put together, Anna will be reaching out to leads to get more specific. Subcommittees can meet then.

Scott moved to approve MRC's work plan, and Elsa seconded. The motion was approved.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- **NWSC PRESENTATION (Elsa)**

In the past, this has been an in-person meeting where all MRCs get together and talk about projects. Now, the meetings are happening virtually over the course of two events. Half of the MRCs presented in May, and the rest will present on June 26 from 10am-1pm (us included). Barbara volunteered to present on a needs assessment, and will speak about the annual cycle and periodic reviews. Anna will work with Barb to put in a few slides at the end to show potential future projects (such as an eelgrass storymap).

- **VIRTUAL MRC SYMPOSIUM (Kelly)**

On July 9, we will give a presentation at the Virtual MRC Symposium. It will consist of a 10-minute introduction to Island MRC, a 10-minute presentation about a project, and 20 minutes for Q&A. This will happen for two different projects. Gwendolyn will talk about Hoypus Point and Possession Point. Kelly will do the MRC introduction. Barbara will talk about communication.

Update 7/7/2020: The IC MRC Symposium has been rescheduled for August 6th.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE (Anna)

Anna encouraged everyone to watch the monthly Virtual Symposiums.

We have been approved to resume monitoring projects.

The Snohomish MRC is interested in updating the Port Susan action plan and would like to partner with Island MRC. Scott, Elsa, and Anna will participate in a phone call with Snohomish MRC reps later this month to discuss further.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Kelp Monitoring (Hannah/Randy): Update at meeting.

Update: Linda Rhodes will provide instructions.

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Seining (Kes): Cornet Bay seining is on hold until next year. Jason Morgan has submitted a couple of proposals for funding seining at Cornet Bay for 2021-2022.

Update: None

OTHER REPORTS

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Anna): Island County is developing the details of a Shore Friendly mini-grant program which will provide mini-grants to shoreline homeowners to take actions to remove hard armoring or prevent the installation of new hard armoring (including native vegetation, drainage improvements, soft shore protection, and moving/raising houses). Mini-grant amounts will range from \$500-\$5,000, and are not designed to cover the entire cost of a project, but to provide some financial incentive to help a shoreline homeowner take actions that benefit habitat as well as protect the property.

Island County is also partnering with the Northwest Straits Foundation on complementary Shore Friendly work. NWSF is planning on a Shore Friendly workshop for county planners this summer, and developing a video series on Shore Friendly actions.

Update: NWSF is putting together a Shore Friendly video series. If anyone has photos or videos of storms along shorelines, please talk to Anna.

Sound Water Stewards (Scott): Update at meeting.

Update: The outreach and education committee is working on providing education for online formats and strategic plans.

WSU Extension: Update at meeting.

Update: None

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: None.

County Lead: None.

County Commissioners: Commissioner St. Clair gave an update. We are just beginning to reopen. Please wear masks. We have been focused on COVID-19, and people have been diverted from their regular jobs. For the mission and interest of the MRC, she is attending the Virtual Puget Sound Day on the Hill events. A lot of resources have gone into the pandemic response. She and other officials are looking for new opportunities for expansion of natural resources work as well as looking at what the pandemic means for programs. It does not necessarily affect work of this team, but other parts of county are affected. She suggested that we keep working on communications. There has been a lot of good work in recent years, and we need to tell the story of the impact of this work.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:

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Lisa updated the group that Caroline Gibson is working on an orca forum for the end of June. She is trying to decide if it should take place in the day or evening. Lisa would like input on this. The event will be recorded.

Dana then reminded the group that Clallam MRC has sent out a list of questions for the upcoming Virtual MRC Symposium.

Happy birthday, Gwendolyn!

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