

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for February 2, 2021 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Outreach (Bennett):

Needs assessment: Anna contacted prospective interviewees to introduce the Needs Assessment and invite them to participate. She followed up with a fact sheet about the IC MRC and an overview of interview questions. Once she confirmed their interest, Anna notified the interviewer identified for each person to proceed with scheduling and conducting the interview.

Andi, Anna and Barbara prepared an excel spreadsheet for interviewers to transcribe their notes following each interview. Andi and Barbara are prepared to do a simple analysis that will cluster themes under each question and tally the frequency of each theme in each question.

Ed, Kelly, Andi, Randy and Barbara have all begun interviews with non-county interviewees. Florian has also expressed interest in doing interviews when his schedule allows. Holidays, power outages, etc. have slowed scheduling. Interviews of county staff will begin in February. Interviews will continue through February, analysis will take place in March and results are anticipated to be reported to the MRC in April.

MyCoast Training: Kelly Zupich and Anna Toledo held a training on how to use the MyCoast app for Sound Water Stewards and MRC members. The training was recorded and will be made available on the MRC website.

Port Susan MSA Update: The Port Susan MSA subcommittee met to discuss the proposed MSA update project. The subcommittee discussed stakeholder engagement, gathering new scientific information, and role of the MRCs, consultant, and possible graduate student(s). MRC staff will explore the idea of working with a graduate student(s) to assist with the project.

Hoypus Point (Hannam): Update at meeting.

Cornet Bay Stewardship (Hannam/Chase): Update at meeting.

Other Reports

Shore Friendly (Toledo): We are partnering with the Northwest Straits Foundation on two Shore Friendly workshops. The first will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 6-8pm, and will be open to shoreline landowners and interested parties around Puget Sound. The second workshop will be held on Thursday, March 11, 4-6pm, and will be geared specifically towards Island County shoreline landowners.

Sound Water Stewards (Chase):

1. The Sound Water Stewards training registration for 2021 is open, and the application due date is March 18. Training classes are once a week, beginning 4/8 -5/20, then resuming in fall 9/9 – 10/21.
2. Sound Waters University takes place online on February 6th. The Jan Holmes Volunteer award will be presented on that date.
3. The Education Committee, reported on during the last MRC meeting, has two new videos for the public. One features the First Day Hike of 2021, taking place at Deception Pass State Park, and can be seen at

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<https://vimeo.com/495923175> The other great video, with Craig Olson showing the life cycle of salmon, can be seen in the link at <https://soundwaterstewards.org/web/education-videos/>

4. The newly formed Stewardship Committee, described in the last report, is preparing to offer beach cleanups on both islands, hopefully beginning in February. Those interested in volunteering can find out more by contacting committee leads Kelly Webb at kellybwebb@gmail.com, or Scott Chase at kschase80@hotmail.com
5. The MRC hosted an overview on the MyCoast app for interested SWS volunteers on January 22nd, taught by Anna Toledo and Kelly Zupich.
6. 2020 was a good year for SWS financially. Sound Waters University was successful, and there was a COVID PPP loan that was “forgiven”. Add to that donations by members and others, the LEP grant, and sales of Getting to the Waters Edge. Although online registrations for Sound Waters University puts the event “in the black”, it will not be as profitable as an in-person event, so SWS funding will likely not be as positive in 2021 as it was in 2020.
7. Over 2,600 copies of Getting to the Water’s Edge have been sold. Since this is close to half of the 6,000 printed, it appears that a new edition should be in the works.
8. The winter SWS BEACH LOG newsletter is out and available to read. It features not only news about SWS, but links to many events, activities, webinars, and videos produced by other organizations throughout the region. You can view the newsletter at: <https://mailchi.mp/c3a75f0b91b3/2021-winter>

Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett): The LIO (Local Integrating Organization) is responsible for coordinating locally with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) planning, priorities and project funding. The Island County LIO meets every 2nd Tuesday (with occasional changes) and the Coordinator is Lori Clark.

This is a report on LIO activities through January, 2021.

- This fall, through specialized staffing and funding provided by PSP, IC residents were surveyed about the shoreline's role in their Sense of Place. Survey data has now been analyzed and makes this illusive topic more tangible for policy discussions.
- In collaboration with the MRC and based on the Sense of Place survey results, the LIO framed two questions to be added to the MRC Needs Assessment questionnaire. These questions build on results from the Sense of Place survey and are being asked in every interview conducted this winter for the MRC Needs Assessment. They are:
 - In this recent survey, Island County residents identified drinking water, air quality, and sound stewardship as their top natural resource priorities. How does this finding relate to your department's / organization's priorities?
 - The results from this survey were compared with a larger 12-county survey around Puget Sound, which found that Island County residents in particular feel their identity is tied to the shoreline, and they utilize the shoreline to benefit their psychological wellbeing and find relaxation. In addition, 69% of Island County residents have observed changes along the shoreline, and more frequently indicated they felt the changes were negative (44% negative vs. 13% positive). These findings tell us that Island County residents value the shoreline and notice changes that are happening. How do you think this finding fits with your department's/ organization's priorities?
- In January, members of the IC LIO were asked to review the 2021-2023 Puget Sound Budget Request to the Legislature for entries that impact Island County directly. Discussion at February's meeting will consider responses.