

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

February 4, 2024

ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT: Jill Lipoti, Chair, Kelly Webb, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Barbara Bennett, Ken Collins, Andi Kopit, Greg Easton, Paul Ben McElwain, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff, Melanie Bacon, Ex Officio

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified – Jennifer Schmitz, notified. Patrick Havel, notified, Kirk Larsen, notified, Jeff Wheeler, notified

VISITORS: Allie Simpson, NWSC, Josh Berkowitz, Public, Carlie Miller, IC Surface Water Quality, Renee Zavas-Silva, IC Surface Water Quality

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** No minutes to approve

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES:

- Jill reported on a meeting she had with Commissioner Bacon, who will continue as the representative to the MRC and chair the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Bacon raised a potential issue that she might consult with the team about.
- Jill discussed the electrification of the port to charge ferries, which would benefit the island and Washington State. Greg confirmed that the port was planning for a passenger-only ferry, potentially electric, for service to Everett and Hat Island.
- Jill then announced and congratulated two MRC members, Barbara Bennett and Paul Ben McElwain, for receiving the Jan Holmes Volunteers of the Year Award for their respective contributions to science, and service.

DERELICT VESSEL UPDATE:

- Kelly Webb highlighted the challenges with a tugboat in Holmes Harbor and the development of a new partnership with the sheriff's office. The group discusses funding issues for derelict vessel removal and plans to address the program's future direction at their upcoming retreat.

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MRC RETREAT PLANNING:

- The team discussed their plans for the upcoming retreat, focusing on the development of their project proposals and strategic plan. They agreed that the retreat would not result in a complete project plan or strategic plan, but rather a prioritization of projects and areas for improvement. They also discussed the need for more individuals from the Oak Harbor area to join their team. The team acknowledged that the project proposals would need to be finalized by May 29th and would be reviewed iteratively. The importance of setting expectations for the retreat was emphasized, with the understanding that the retreat would be a starting point for further work.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 pm