

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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ISLAND COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Minutes

Prepared by Ann Prusha

July 6, 2021

ZOOM

PRESENT: Kelly Zupich, Chair, Hannah Liss, Vice Chair, presiding, Barbara Bennett, Scott Chase, Ed Halloran, Jill Lipoti, Alexandra Plumb, Kes Tautvydas, Jerilyn Ritzman, WSU Extension (non-voting), Jenn Johnson, IC DNR Manager/Island LIO Coordinator (non-voting) Ann Prusha, IC DNR (staff) **ABSENT:** Elsa Schwartz (notified absence), Gwendolyn Hannam (notified absence), Ken Collins (notified absence), Andi Kopit (notified absence), Commissioner Janet Saint Clair (notified absence), Anna Toledo (notified absence)

VISITORS: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, IC Salmon Recovery, Bill Leeds, Interact Club, Josephine Chia, Interact Club, Heather McCoy, WICD, Hiller West

CALL TO ORDER: Hannah called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Kes moved to approve the agenda. Ed seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Jill moved to approve the May 4, 2021 minutes. Kelly seconded. The minutes were approved. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

MICROPLASTICS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION (Jill)

Jill gave an overview of the history of plastic usage, problems around plastics in the environment, sustainable materials management and the [circular economy](#), research, policy, and potential options for us to consider. Please email her if you have more questions or would like to discuss this further.

The group then asked questions and made comments:

- There is a proposal to charge manufacturer and producers for the proper disposal of their products, in addition to the Extended Producer Responsibility Policy.
- Bill will get in touch with Jill about a local recycled plastic manufacturing company.
- Washington State University (WSU) Extension Waste Wise has been working on recycling and plastics education in Island County (IC) for over 20 years.
- Some grocery stores have areas to recycle plastic bags and film, which get turned into Trex.
- There are a number of organizations that collect data and do work on plastics, such as Surf Rider and the [Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team](#) (COASST). Sound Water Stewards (SWS) are working with Zero Waste Washington and other organizations to come up with protocols for beach cleanups and plastic audits.
- We could host a community training, teaching people to make grocery bags out of plastic yarn. We could work with the library.

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- When we wash our clothes, we are shedding whatever those clothes are made of. This releases plastic fibers from clothing into the washer, and the dryer disperses them into the air.
- Jerilyn is working on a paper about this, and can go into more specifics if we want.
- There is a non-profit organization that started out of California. It uses membership fees and donations to collect ocean plastic to make bracelets.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Barbara)

Barbara thanked Andi and Jill for carrying this project phase to completion. The summary went out with the meeting packet – the first document is text, and the other is graphs in an Excel document. She walked the group through the summary, and asked for feedback and comments.

Comments:

- Someone who is up to speed needs to be able to guide discussions with those we plan to talk about the Needs Assessment with.
 - It will be important for anyone we are speaking with to review the documents beforehand and have points/questions prepared.
 - This sets the stage for a good discussion about what we have learned.
- The Needs Assessment team did an excellent job distilling information into a usable format. Thank you!
- The way it is presented is great, especially the quotes that were put into boxes.

Barbara recommended three motions for the group to make:

The first motion would approve the summary for distribution to the public and those who were interviewed.

Jill moved to approve the Needs Assessment summary for distribution. Hannah seconded. The motion was approved.

The second motion will enable us to continue to have conversations about the Needs Assessment at our upcoming meetings. We will determine how to organize ourselves to use this data. We must first determine what we have learned about ourselves, then address any issues that the Needs Assessment has brought to our attention, and then determine what to do with this information.

Barbara moved to set aside 15-20 minutes in the September, October, and November meetings to have conversations about the Needs Assessment. The first conversation will focus on what we have learned about ourselves, the second will address any issues, and the third will be a discussion about what we should do with this information. Hannah seconded. The motion was approved.

The third motion comes out of a discussion with IC Planning around sea level rise (SLR) and resiliency preparation. This will allow us to determine ways that we can be of help. It could involve education for IC Planning staff, to help prepare them for conversations about ecology and policies. We could also help with monitoring. This is not a commitment.

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Kelly moved to endorse taking steps to deepen the conversation with IC Planning about their needs, and potential ways that we can partner with them. These conversations will be brought back to the MRC, and are not a commitment. Ed seconded. The motion was approved.

MEMBERSHIP (Kelly)

We have one open seat, and we need to discuss recruitment. In the past, we have opened up membership to the community and taken applications. This time, it would be great to look for the skills we need, have a position, and find a candidate who fills in gaps.

The group then asked questions and made comments:

- Having someone with extra knowledge can only help.
- The Needs Assessment had good feedback regarding this, including ensuring that we maintain a majority of volunteers instead of staff. It would be helpful to court people who are not in the primary circles of our usual conversations (farmers, nursery owners, construction representatives, etc.).
- We can look at our advertisement and make modifications for a specific person or background that we do not have. We could potentially send a survey to members to see what we have expertise in, and what our gaps are. We can include a cultural and socioeconomic perspective.
 - We can also contact past members who could fill gaps.
- The importance of reaching out to tribal representatives and the BIPOC community was emphasized.
 - We could reach out to see if a tribal representative is available first, and then open up the position if no one is available.
- The position description needs to be clear about the time commitment.
- The applicant must at least live near IC (but does not necessarily need to be an IC resident).
- In the past, seats were designated for specific backgrounds. It was difficult to fill seats, so we opened up recruitment.
- How was the position advertised in past?
 - We spread the word that there is a spot on this committee, and because we are an official committee of the Board, it goes out to the Commissioner's Office. There is an application form, and it might be time to look at that again to make sure it is inclusive.
- Tribes are small populations, and we are asking a lot for them to commit this much. We should think about going to them. There is a seat at the table for them, but we can try to reduce the barrier for their inclusion so that they can be involved. We might be able to get input from tribal health services, elders, or other members of the tribal community.

Next steps: There is not a big rush to recruit a new member. We can review the application and ad. The Executive Committee will meet about this and come back to the group at next month's meeting. Utilizing a strategic plan or retreat would be a good time to approach this and what would be best for us. We can also identify gaps there.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE (Ann)

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- There will be a picnic and hike on Saturday, July 10th at Cornet Bay. Everyone should have received an invitation (please email Hannah or Ann if you did not receive one). This is not a potluck – please bring your own food.
- Forage fish monitoring: The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) forage fish crew has lost its funding. We will have more information on what that might mean for the program later this month. It might mean stockpiling our samples until a crew is able to be funded, looking into having Dan Pentilla process samples, or reducing the amount we sample. We should have more information at next month's meeting.
- Interact Club – please let Ed know if you want to give permission for students to contact you.
- Please send Ann your volunteer hours as soon as possible.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS

Forage Fish Monitoring

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has lost their funding to be able to process MRC forage fish samples. Dana Oster is organizing a call for mid-July to offer more information and possible plan for moving forward. More details to come on this.

Kelp Monitoring

The season has begun, and Cornet Bay/Hoyopus Point has been added as a site.

Seining

No updates.

OTHER REPORTS

NW Straits Commission/Foundation

- Jefferson MRC has offered to impart their lessons learned from their no anchor zone project which will be useful as we explore this in Island County.
- The Commission has developed (after much input from the tribes) a tribal acknowledgement we will now be using at the start of the meetings:
 - 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. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.
- The External Affairs committee is looking for ways to engage local government officials and is inviting our ideas and suggestions.
- Special acknowledgment was given to Barb Bennett and her work developing the MRC Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Committee.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee

No updates.

WSU Extension

No updates.

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LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: None

County Lead: None

County Commissioners: None

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:

Bill will get in touch with Jill about a local recycled plastic manufacturing company. They could be potential partners for us.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.