

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Sarah Ruether

June 15, 2022

ZOOM

PRESENT: Barbara Bennett, Chair, presiding, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Ed Halloran, Ken Collins, Elsa Schwartz, Andi Kopit, Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner (non-voting), Jenn Johnson, IC DNR Manager/Island LIO Coordinator (non-voting), Kelly Zupich, MRC staff **ABSENT:** Note if notified or un-notified - Hannah Liss, (notified), Gwendolyn Hannam, (notified), Alexandra Plumb, (notified), Kes Tautvydas, (notified)

VISITORS: Grace Adams, Tiffany Ha, Madison Rose Bristol, Torri Shaw, Michael Cervantes, Students with the Evan's Team UW, Matt Stewart, Student advisor, Alex Pittman Snohomish County MRC, Elisa Dawson Snohomish County MRC, Kristine Vannoy WSU Extension, Clea Barenburg, IC Watershed Planner, Loren Burch, Civil Engineer with Island County Public Works

CALL TO ORDER: Barb called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Jill moved to approve the agenda. Ed seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Jill moved to approve the May 3, 2022 minutes with corrections. A second motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Ken. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence was discussed

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. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Leadership Report – None

COORDINATOR UPDATE

There is an intention to move forward with a no anchor zone in Cornet Bay. Our committee decided at our retreat that this project is low on our list of priorities. When we did the eelgrass monitoring, we saw very little disturbance additionally other things were more pressing. It looks like the NW Straits has funds to implement the start of these projects; like putting out buoys. We

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will invite Dana Oster to come talk to our committee about this so we can make a decision to take this on or not.

MRC CONFERENCE UPDATE – Elsa Schwartz

Elsa asked the group on behalf of the NWSC to see if members are comfortable with the idea of having the next conference in person at Maple Hall in LaConner. The majority of members were comfortable with this idea.

PRESENTATION

PowerPoint Slide presentation started by **Tori Shaw** – the team of graduation students from Evan School of policy UW and School of Marine Studies

The team conducted a comprehensive literature review of each conservation target for the project. They also reviewed the strategic action for the project and other alternatives to conservation planning. The entire process was iterative and continual analysis of survey data. The team collected survey data from stakeholders and interviews were followed up. From the survey most respondents prioritized sea level rise and climate change. From the interviews they found that partners had planning fatigue, suggested improvements for community involvement, and improvement areas. The students conducted a SWOT analysis of the CAP and discussed the outcomes of this analysis. At the conclusion of this discussion recommendations were given to enhance the CAP framework and alternative paths to incorporate environmental justice and community engagement. Another recommendation was to revise the viability indicators. One of the problems was the exclusion of the socio – cultural targets so some research was done by the students to remedy this and those recommendations were presented. Another recommendation was better effort to track strategic actions and the progress made towards these. An additional recommendation was to create a communication tool to share key information. Examples were given of other agencies that have done this well. The recommendation of how to create a crosswalk with the Puget Sound Partnership was discussed. An idea given was to develop a collaborative decision-making coalition. The last recommendation was to join the WA Environmental Justice (EJC) interagency workgroup and a plan for equitable and meaningful community engagement. Presentation is ended and it opened for questions.

Kelly- I do agree there is a lot that is useful in the report, so I appreciate the information. I will be sharing that report with everyone. This presentation is the final part of the students contracted work. It is then tasked with Island and Snohomish MRC's to do next steps. We are trying to figure out how we make this plan more implementable and user friendly. The Snohomish MRC stakeholder meetings will run through the summer. Which is where we will ask our partners how to make this information most useful for their work. After that we will go into the education and outreach part of this project.

Alex Pitman- We are currently in the middle of this- taking this process into the next gear. What we are doing is the initial wave of stakeholder engagement and digging into those discussions on what would be useful- ways to track progress and connection to the action agenda. The next phase is taking all of those findings and building the plan back up with the new information. And

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figuring out how to build engagement around Port Susan and within the context of these other processes.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Water Quality Monitoring (Ken) The first phase of the project will be to assess what is currently being measured and why. Along with asking partners what water quality indicators are useful for their work. The initial project will be focused on research and discovery. We want to make sure we are not duplicating work already being done and see where there might be potential gaps. It will also be good to ask others how they accomplished water quality testing in their area. **(Barbara)** Do you have a hypothesis? The beach watchers took data but had no hypothesis. I think managing expectations is a big thing. I would just like to know what you are measuring toward any kind of analysis. **(Ken)** I may be in the minority but I think having the fundamentals is important. My hypothesis is we would have a more direct correlation with kelp health with this data. If we design it correctly it will be a source for research, but I hope it would be help for kelp. **(Jill)** We were showed how some kelp beds are decreasing but some are growing, and we don't have a reason for that so to pinpoint that we need to measure. Monitoring could help with those hypothesizes.

Shore Friendly (Kelly) As far the Shore Friendly Outreach we met and brainstormed ideas of how to use the money on the program. I recently met with Ann Prusha and got the budget put together out and pulled out some ideas that didn't fit in the budget.

Derelict Vessel Removal (Kelly) We have one particular boat that we are working on removing as a pilot for a bigger program. I have received a few complaints regarding this boat because it has been causing damage to private property. We have buy in from Waste Management for storing vessels during the 30 day mandatory storage. I am continually working closely with WA State DNR to make sure we are following all procedures. We may need to find a way to fund some of these removals. **(Commissioner Bacon)** Find out how much this will cost, and I will talk to Doug Martin. This is a good time to ask for expenditures. We are more concerned with ongoing expenditures, but we have some money for one time expenditures. **(Jenn)** You are on our list of people to reach out to. We are going to talk to Public Works as they have their own mini-program to remove boats.

ADJOURNMENT: Jill gave motion to adjourn. Scott seconded.

There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.