

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

October 7, 2025

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Jill Lipoti**, Chair, **Kelly Webb**, Vice-Chair, **Paul Ben McElwain**, **Andi Kopit**, **Ken Collins**, **Scott Chase**, **Greg Easton**, **Patrick Havel**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Barbara Bennett**, **Joshua Berkowitz**, **Jennifer Schmitz**, Island County ex-officio, **Florian Graner**, Technical Advisor, **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff

ABSENT: **Kirk Larsen**, Commissioner **Melanie Bacon**

VISITORS: **Carlie Miller**, IC Surface Water Quality, **Kelly Zupich**, Shore Friendly Coordinator, **Renee Zavas-Silva**, IC Surface Water Quality, **Quinn Farr**, Pollution Identification Coordinator and Beach and Shellfish Lead, **Maddy Buehrer**, Whidbey Conservation District Natural Resource Planner, **Dannon Elora**, Sound Water Stewards Camano Coordinator, **Brad Thompson**, **Fran Horvath**

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda approval was made by Barbara Bennett, seconded by Ken Collins. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Minutes from September was made by Jeff Wheeler, seconded by Kelly Webb, and approved unanimously.

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.

ART & CULTURE: The Seattle Art Museum is putting on a performance titled "Sea Change Within Us" by Karin Stevens Dance on October 19th.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Florian Graner, Executive Director with Sound Water Stewards, presented "Orca Ecocultures and what they show us."

CORRESPONDANCE: Jill brought up the question regarding whether the MRC can pay for member educational trainings. Trainings must connect and tie-in with one of the MRCs funded projects. The MRC Coordinator welcomes members to bring potential future trainings to the Coordinator for consideration.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Report from Jen Schmitz – Last year's shoreline report catalyzed a lot of conversation at the State and Federal level. The September Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB), a part of Puget Sound Partnership who reports to the Governor, have taken notice to the report and are very excited about the topic. The ECB decided to create a sub-committee looking at shoreline management and Jen Schmitz and David Trout will act as co-chairs. The sub-committee will

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

convene in a few weeks and continue to celebrate IC MRCs position at the forefront as this work moves forward.

Leadership Report from Chair Jill Lipoti – Jill and the MRC celebrates long-time MRC member and Camano Island steward, Scott Chase, as he departs the MRC. Jill and the MRC Coordinator presented Scott with a farewell gift and certificate of appreciation for his many years of stewardship.

MRC APPLICATIONS:

Island County DEI consultant update:

- Island County BOCC will hopefully be discussing the DEI recommendations at the Nov 5th work session. MRC Coordinator will continue to update the MRC as the discussion develops, but the MRC should plan to hold on new appointments until after Nov 5th.
- BOCC has said they will extend to a two-year term for those who joined this year. Extensions should happen automatically, and Jen coordinated with the County clerks and the resolution should be completed by EOY and will apply to all 2025 appointments.

New member recruitment update:

- Executive committee would like to prioritize having potential new members join at the same time for onboarding purposes.
- There is currently one open position and two current MRC members departing by EOY.
- We have received Island County and MRC applications from two interested potential new members, Brad Thompson and Fran Horvath.
- Per our November 2024 meeting, potential new MRC members need to attend at least 2-3 meetings and participate in an interview.

COORDINATOR'S UPDATES:

Annual reports to NWSC are in.

Orca Recovery Day events at Cornet Bay/Hoypus Point on October 16th and at Keystone Farm and Preserve in partnership with Whidbey Conservation District on October 18th.

NWSC Conference: Jill, Jen, and Elise have sent in the MRC collaborative activity information and are working with Jessica from NWSC to fine tune the activity one sheet. Elise is looking for crafting volunteers for the conference and will reach out to pick a meeting date.

NWSC Representative Report (on behalf of Kirk Larsen who stepped in for Ken Collins as the representative at the September meeting): There is an open spot on the NWSC for a Governor's appointee and recommendations can be made for that position. You can contact Lucas Hart to make your recommendation. There will be no NWSC meeting until December due to the conference.

November MRC Monthly meeting will be virtual.

Elise has begun including MRC due dates on the monthly meeting agenda and is exploring other means of streamlining due dates and event dates.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.