

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# March 1, 2016

COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

**PRESENT:** Frances Wood, Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Florian Graner, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes, Ruth Richards, Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson (on WebEx), Anthony Turpin, Stan Walsh, Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension Island County (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Barbara Bennett, Lori Clark, Leal Dickson, Lois Farrington, Richard Hannold, Elsa Schwartz, Todd Zackey

**VISITORS:** Jordan Macke, Annika Fain (Fain Environmental), Dick Toft

**CALL TO ORDER:** Wood called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Tautvydas moved to approve the agenda. Rhodes seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Halloran moved to approve the minutes of the Island County MRC meeting held on February 16, 2016. Adams seconded. The minutes were approved

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Toledo passed around a copy of a letter from the Board of County Commissioners to Bob Gentz, congratulating him on receiving the 2016 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award, of which the MRC was a sponsor.

Toledo announced that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) released the Request for Proposals for the upcoming fiscal year: October 2016-September 2017. The RFP is similar to the previous year's RFP. Funding is expected to be around \$73,000 per MRC. The proposal is due June 3, and a representative from each MRC will be asked to present about one of the proposed projects at the April 29<sup>th</sup> NWSC meeting.

Toledo passed around a copy of the NWSC Annual Report. A hardcopy will be available in her office, and the report is also available online: [http://www.nwstraits.org/media/2101/2015-nwsc\\_annualreport.pdf](http://www.nwstraits.org/media/2101/2015-nwsc_annualreport.pdf)

## OVERVIEW OF NWSC GRANT PROJECTS

### Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards)

Current Work: Monitoring presence/absence of forage fish at 4 beaches in Island County (Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Waterman, Camano Island State Park), where there are current, planned, or potential restoration projects.

Future Plans: Identify additional restoration areas and collaborate with regional WDFW effort for future monitoring sites.

### Seining (Tautvydas)

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Current Work: Seining at Cornet Bay to monitor use by juvenile salmonids and other species before and after shoreline restoration. Monitoring is conducted at 10 sites along Cornet Bay.

Future Plans: 2016 is the last year planned for Cornet Bay. Future plans include seining at Ala Spit, and identifying other areas for seining to evaluate estuary use by juvenile salmon.

## **Eelgrass (Tautvydas)**

Current Work: Measuring extent of eelgrass beds in Island County through underwater videography at 10 sites and aerial photography of entire shoreline.

Future Plans: Continue to monitor 3 core sites (Holmes Harbor, Penn Cove, Cornet Bay) and other sites chosen in consultation with MRC and DNR. Explore additional measurement methods.

## **Pigeon Guillemot (Wood)**

Current Work: Monitoring breeding behavior and success of pigeon guillemot colonies around Whidbey Island.

Future Plans: Expand surveying to Camano Island.

## **Phytoremediation (Adams)**

Current Work: Originally planned to coordinate with Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) on pre and post monitoring for phytoremediation project. Due to project timeline, monitoring will not fit with MRC grant timeline.

Future Plans: Continue to stay connected with WICD to learn about phytoremediation work. Focus on education and outreach around existing phytoremediation projects.

## **Cornet Bay Restoration (Richards)**

Current Work: Coordinating with Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) on monitoring as well as native vegetation planting and maintenance in new and existing restoration areas.

Future Plans: Continue to coordinate with NWSF to identify future restoration projects where the MRC might be involved.

## **Bull Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes)**

Current Work: Reviewing and refining protocols and safety concerns from 2015 boat-based survey.

Future Plans: Conduct boat-based in 2016. Select index sites for year-to-year monitoring as well as random sites for one-time surveys. Conduct county-wide assessment to identify all approximate bull kelp locations using a variety of resources, including: known documented beds, recent aerial surveys from Gregg Ridder and DNR, and observer reports through the Puget Sound Restoration Fund website: <http://www.restorationfund.org/projects/kelp/reporting>

## **Kelp Harvest Outreach (Rhodes)**

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**Current Work:** Collaborating with DNR and Whidbey Watershed Stewards (WWS) to develop educational signs around the importance of kelp and sustainable kelp harvesting at the Smith & Minor Island Aquatic Reserve (SMIAR).

**Future Plans:** Continue to coordinate with DNR and WWS to expand the harvest survey to additional SMIAR beaches, and include bird and marine mammal disturbance surveys.

## OTHER REPORTS:

**WSU Extension:** Lawrence reported that WSU Extension is in the process of developing a Master Naturalist program, and is looking for qualified individuals to serve as peer-reviewers for the curriculum that is being developed. Three modules are in need of review, whose topics are: stream ecology, limnology, and oceanography. Any interested parties should contact Lawrence.

**Creosote Removal:** Turpin reported that he has been in touch with Chris Robertson at DNR to discuss the MRC's potential involvement with identification of creosote for removal, and will be coordinating further with DNR as well as Wood and Toledo to develop a plan. Robertson will be scheduled to present at a future MRC meeting.

**Shoreline Armoring Reduction:** Toledo reported that WDFW has developed a booklet for shoreline landowners based on the Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines, which is available online: <http://www.shorefriendly.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Your-Marine-Waterfront-web-version.pdf>.

**Port Susan MSA:** No updates.

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

**Chair:** Wood reminded members about the MRC planning retreat, scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm-5:00pm on Camano. Toledo asked members to fill out the RSVP and carpool survey.

**County Lead:** No report.

**County Commissioners:** No report.

**COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC:** No comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.