

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for April 6, 2021 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Outreach:

Needs assessment: The Needs Assessment Team will complete interviews in early April and is compiling results from interviews done. The team will present an initial report on themes that are emerging at the 4/6 meeting and a final report at the 5/4 MRC meeting.

- MRC member interviewers: 6 (Kelly, Andi, Ed, Randy, Scott and Barbara)
- Interviews to date: 25
 - Island County Government: 10 + 6 pending (delayed due to COVID responsibilities)
 - State Government: 5
 - Conservation Partners: 4
 - Other: 6

Port Susan MSA Update: The Port Susan MSA update subcommittee met to discuss roles of each MRC for the 2021-2022 NWSC grant round. Island County MRC will focus on researching and gathering new science, and will aim to work with a group of graduate students through the UW Evans School of Public Policy. The Snohomish MRC will hire a consultant to help update the status of the action items within the seven strategies of the plan. Members from each MRC will contribute to all aspects of the project.

Island Natural Resources Symposium: Island County staff are hosting a virtual symposium to share about the range of services and programs offered through the county. Topics will include: shellfish harvesting, Shore Friendly, MRC, noxious weeds, water quality monitoring, and the on-site septic program. Thursday, April 15, 11:00am-12:30pm. [Register here.](#)

Hoypus Point: Blue Coast Engineering continues to work on the design documents for this restoration site. The 90% design is expected towards the end of April. Lisa Kaufman is coordinating with the Multi-Agency Review Team (MART) to pilot this project through a streamlined permitting process for nearshore restoration work.

Cornet Bay Stewardship: Ann has confirmed the ability to use a County truck and water tank to assist with watering the native vegetation at Cornet Bay this summer. State Parks has granted access to fill the water tank at Deception Pass SP.

Other Reports

Shore Friendly: We partnered with the Northwest Straits Foundation on a Shore Friendly workshop geared towards Island County shoreline homeowners. The workshop drew 95 participants. Staff from Blue Coast Engineering presented on coastal processes, shoreline habitats, impacts of hard armoring, alternatives to hard armoring, and the Shore Friendly program. The workshop also featured breakout rooms divided by bank type (low/no bank, medium bank, or high bluff) to allow for more focused discussion.

Sound Water Stewards:

- 1) The Sound Water Stewards 2021 class is full with classes starting April 8. Training classes are once a week, beginning 4/8 -5/20, then resuming in fall 9/9 – 10/21. Staff is contributing significant amounts of time supporting the training, especially with the current virtual format and associated “breakout rooms.”

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- 2) The Stewardship Committee has started offering beach cleanups on both islands. A training was held for leads on March 4th. Those interested in volunteering can find out more by contacting committee leads Kelly Webb at kellybwebb@gmail.com, or Scott Chase at kschase80@hotmail.com.

One unexpected challenge was the burning of a large sailboat that had washed up on the beach at Barnum Point County Park a long while back. DNR has arranged for a contractor to remove the bulk of the remaining structure and debris, and volunteers will pick up what's left of the debris. Scheduled cleanup date is April 1st.

- 3) Sales of Getting to the Waters Edge are going well with about 3,500 books sold of the 6,000 printed. Additional marketing will be undertaken shortly to take advantage of the upcoming summer months and increased interest to explore our beaches! An ad hoc team has been formed to explore options and costs of reprinting additional books, pursuing an electronic version of GTWE, development of a 4th edition , and possible development of an online app.

Island Local Integrating Organization: Update at meeting.