

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 17, 2011 8:45-10:30 a.m.  
Whidbey Island Bank Community Meeting Room  
535 Market Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Gregg Dietzman, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Janice Biletnikoff, Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum

Sally Hawkins

Alice Jamesen, Lopez Island

Susan Muckle, Lopez Island

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator

Dan Silkiss, Lopez Island

Elsie Silkiss, Lopez Island

Zuiko Swann

Andrea Wieland, San Juan Island Beach Watcher, Lime Kiln Volunteer

**Presentation/Discussion:** “Review and Scoring of Salmon Recovery Funding Grants” by Barbara Rosenkotter

**Presentation:** “Marine Animal Alert System for Southern Resident Killer Whales” by Simon Geerlofs and Andrea Copping, Pacific Northwest National Labs

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, September 7th, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, **Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor**
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Vancouver B.C. ([www.salishseaconference.org](http://www.salishseaconference.org))
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Conference, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend [see <http://www.nwstraits.org/Whats-New/Meetings-Events/2011-MRC-Conference.aspx>]

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:45am.

**Citizen comment:** Zuiko Swann said that there seems to be a glitch between science and actuality with regard to orcas. Although current best available science lists toxins, food scarcity, and includes boat noise as probable causes of orca decline here, there is not mention of prevention. She said there are too many boats out there and their impacts to the orcas are underplayed; she emphasized that our whales are subjected to the noise and pollution of an estimated 25 days every day in the summer.

Spotter planes overhead are also a problem. Real education is needed, Zuiko said, to bring back the whales and regulation is needed! She said that Denali Park in Alaska, for instance, is having to deal with the reality of there being too much demand and activity in the resource. Steve Revella told Zuiko that she was talking to a group that agrees with her and David Loyd suggested that he and Zuiko speak more on the topic after the meeting. Rene Beliveau said that the Best Available Science work on the Critical Areas Ordinance update (CAO) and land-based development code has nothing to do with boats.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August 3, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

**Policy subcommittee update:** Steve said that he presented comments on riparian marine habitat to the County Council; Barbara Rosenkotter commented on buffers and salmon recovery. Barbara Bentley said there is a need for more data and monitoring. Laura Arnold said they still didn't seem to get it but there will be more commenting and meeting opportunities. The Policy subcommittee, Laura said, needs to address how to approach the Planning Commission, outlining basic topics to be covered.

Barbara Bentley said that NOAA's Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment provides a marine invertebrate databases in the Oceans section by coast. She would like to see a discussion on a future MRC agenda.

**Presentation: “Review and Scoring of Salmon Recovery Funding Grants”**

Barbara Rosenkotter distributed copies of the criteria for scoring Socioeconomic Impacts of proposals, explaining that the MRC as Citizen Advisory Group will be scoring proposals in this category. Barbara recapped that the \$800,000 in funding allocation includes separate funding of around \$500,000 from Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and about \$300,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). SRFB funding needs to be allocated now but the PSAR funds could be held over. Barbara said that the Putting It All Together project's supplemental PSAR funding is first on the list of requests for returned funds but this amount will not be known until the fall (otherwise, the \$15,500 request could be part of this allocation).

Barbara asked if there were any conflicts of interest to declare. Tina Whitman stepped out of the room for the scoring and there were no conflicts of interest expressed by other members. Barbara reviewed each proposal and discussion followed. Comments included that a MRC member from Lopez Island would be a valuable asset. Dan Silkiss said that Fisherman Bay is a major foraging area for marine life, that volunteers from Lopez and Kwiaht have done a lot of cutting edge scientific work, and that progress that could come from this good work and that of Friends of the San Juans is negated if there is no proper enforcement of environmental regulations by San Juan County. Susan Muckle said that the Kwiaht proposal has the potential to have very positive benefit. The Lopez volunteer group is just starting, she added, and with very limited resources is operating with donations from volunteers. Susan said that Fisherman Bay is in very bad health. Final scoring and ranking results are posted later in these minutes.

**Presentation: “Marine Animal Alert System for Southern Resident Killer Whales”**

Simon Geerlofs said that he works in the Marine Sciences Lab of the Pacific Northwest National Labs in Sequim; he is also on the Snohomish County MRC. Simon said that there would be follow up and discussion on this presentation topic at the NWSC Conference in December. Andrea Copping, who was a founding mother of the NWSC, said that today's presentation would provide a background on renewable ocean energy development, the status of the proposed tidal energy project in Puget Sound, and an introduction to the Marine Animal Alert System.

Andrea said that Marine Hydrokinetic Power (MHK) is an emerging renewable energy technology (generating power from tides, currents, and river waves) that can move us towards a cleaner energy future; offshore wind and biofuels from algae are also studied. Tidal power technology is an emergent industry, Andrea said; she briefly described Verdant Turbine, Open hydrology, Clean Current (e.g. at Race Rocks), Ocean Renewable Power, and Marine Current Turbine technologies. Wave Energy Technology is a wide open engineering space, she said, with such devices as OceanPower Technologies' PowerBuoy, deployed, for instance, in the North Seas, Scotland and off the coast at Reedsport, Oregon to generate electrical power from waves. Other wave energy devices are the Polaris Surface Attenuator, Oceanlinx Oscillating Water Column, and Sea Dragon. Offshore Wind technologies are situated 10-30 miles offshore in such locations as wind farms in Europe and Cape Wind in Nantucket Sound, Maine (the first American offshore wind farm). Sitings are flexible and visual impacts are being minimized but technical challenges remain, Andrea said. Ocean Renewable Energy is a significant resource, particularly, as Andrea pointed out, in a coastal country like the United States where 52% of the population lives on coastlines; generating power close to users is sensible, she said. Percentage of total 2008 power generation in the Pacific Northwest is 26% for tidal, 77% for wave, and 2,148% for offshore wind. Offshore wind, ocean wave, and tidal power potential exceeds the total energy use of Washington and Oregon, Andrea said.

Andrea gave an update on ocean energy research in Puget Sound. Admiralty Inlet, as the main ingress to the Sound, is the best spot for development at this time. Snohomish County Public Utilities District (PUD) is installing Open Hydro devices (6 meter diameter) in the east side of the Inlet. Endangered species in the area include Pacific salmon, rockfish, diving birds. The west side of the Inlet is being considered only for research and development studies by the U.S. Navy.

The drivers for ocean energy development are climate change; rising demand for electricity; mandate in Washington state for 15% renewable generation for large utilities by 2020 (3%, 2012; 9%, 2016) with noncompliance penalty of \$50 per MWh of renewable shortfall; local control of power; use of clean technologies and creation of green jobs. Andrea said that the purpose of the federal Department of Energy's national labs is to get devices in the water in order to learn, using science and environmentally-responsible measures and design.

The Marine Animal Alert System (MAAS) was developed to assist in this environmentally-responsible deployment of marine tidal and wave hydrokinetics. MAAS' primary purpose is monitoring and it has the potential for mitigation. In San Juan County, passive acoustic detection, using cabled hydrophone arrays, will allow for collecting calls of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) to determine their range and location; this will be used to develop engineering solutions to build passive power-generating systems. The Lab in Sequim Bay is conducting deployment trials with two arrays of four hydrophones each. Shoreline testing infrastructure uses existing cabling with a 20-yard transits minimum. A test will be conducted off Lime Kiln Lighthouse the third of September for two weeks, in research partnership with The Whale Museum and Lime Kiln State Park. Staff will provide the educational interpretive component of the project.

Simon Geerlofs said that the U.S. "is way behind Europe" in renewable energy development. He added that SRKW are the most endangered, most delicate of all marine life and are a regulatory focus as well. The active acoustic component system will not be tested in waters with SRKW present. PNNL hopes to involve the MRC and others in research activities. Simon noted that cable is a worldwide problem since there is not enough capacity or ships to deploy them. Renewable energy research and development is NOAA's #1 priority. Out of 7 preliminary PUD permits, there are two remaining...in Admiralty Inlet and Deception Pass. Turbines will operate at 8 to 12 rpm's with no open

blades and the assumption is that the whales are smart enough to avoid them. For more info, contact [simon.geerlofs@pnnl.gov](mailto:simon.geerlofs@pnnl.gov) or [andrea.copping@pnnl.gov](mailto:andrea.copping@pnnl.gov).

**Discussion: “Consideration of Impacts to the Marine Environment from Conversion from Gravel to Chipseal”**

Steve read a history of the issue from Pete Rose; the County Council approved a 6-year road projects plan but there is some controversy over chipsealing roads as opposed to using gravel on roads close to the marine environment. Does the MRC's Work Plan allow for the committee to advise on this issue? Another question is whether there is funding to do scientific analysis of the impacts of emulsions, seal coat substrates, and anti-dust chemicals. There was agreement that a preliminary discussion be scheduled with Public Works to include options on the use of innovative processes and materials. Watmough Head chipsealing has been completed on Lopez Island; Fisherman Bay Road is scheduled for chipsealing. Michael Durland and Barbara Bentley will act as leads in collecting research by Watmough Head residents as well as the Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) for materials used. Members noted that there is some Army Corps of Engineer data as well as PSAR's data on impervious vs pervious surfaces. Steve will talk to Councilperson Lovel Pratt about the timeline.

**Results of Salmon Recovery Funding Grants Final Scoring and Ranking:**

**San Juan County (WRIA 2) 2011 (12th Round) Final Scoring & Ranking**

Order	Project Title	Avg Weighted Benefit (55%) Score (5.5)	Avg Weighted Fit (30%) Score (3.0)	Avg Weighted SocioEcon (15%) Score (1.5)	Total Avg Weighted Score (10)	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total Project Cost
1	Neighborhood Salmon Conservation Easement Program	3.988	2.475	1.260	7.723	\$49,850.00	\$8,800.00	\$58,650.00
2	Blakely Island Forage Fish Habitat Restoration	3.630	2.160	0.975	6.765	\$99,985.00	\$17,730.00	\$117,715.00
3	Derelict Fishing Gear Removal	2.640	1.560	1.065	5.265	\$255,995.00	\$45,699.00	\$301,694.00
4	President Channel Shoreline	2.063	2.175	0.975	5.213	\$750,000.00	\$165,000.00	\$915,000.00
5	Garrison Creek Restoration (Phase 1- Final Design)	1.980	1.380	1.005	4.365	\$86,620.00	\$0.00	\$86,620.00
6	Fisherman Bay Tidal Flux Restoration	1.540	1.140	0.855	3.535	\$241,000.00	\$63,262.00	\$304,262.00

Totals =	\$1,483,450	\$300,491	\$1,479,679
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The committee reviewed the combined results of the TAG and their MRC scoring.

**Motion:** Johannes Krieger moved, and Barbara Bentley seconded, that the MRC recommend full funding of the top three ranked projects: Neighborhood Salmon Conservation Easement (\$49,850); Blakely Island Forage Fish Habitat Restoration (\$99,985); and, Derelict Fishing Gear Removal (\$255,995)...and then also partial funding of the President Channel Shoreline project up to \$250,000 with the remaining PSAR funds reserved for the next grant round. The motion passed with David Loyd opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.

Submitted by Helen Venada