

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 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, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Barbara Bentley, Johannes Krieger, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Janice Biletnikoff, SJC Community Development and Planning (CDP)
Sally Hawkins
Colin Maycock, CDP
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator

Presentation: “Deer Harbor Project sediment and hydrology modeling,” Rachel Benbrook, People for Puget Sound (PPS)

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, August 3, 2011, 8:45-10:30am, **Whidbey Island Bank, Friday Harbor**
- San Juan County Fair, Fairgrounds, Friday Harbor, August 17th-20th
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)

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

Critical Areas Ordinance update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Technical Advisory Group commented to the Planning Commission that the issue of sea level rise should be incorporated but it has not been specifically included in the recommendations. Janice Biletnikoff said that the Commission’s findings are not complete yet and that standards are being developed for Category 2 that could be brought into Category 1 (e.g. preserving natural vegetation on bluffs). She added that draft recommendations will be distributed about two weeks prior to September 13th, the first touch to the County Council; the second touch will be on September 20th. Laura Arnold said that the Science subcommittee is drafting comments on marine fish and wildlife section of the Best Available Science piece; she will circulate the draft through Jeff by July 29th. Kit Rawson said that the Tulalip tribe has submitted a letter on the sea level rise issue.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that the next meeting will be in Jefferson County at the end of July. Last week’s long executive meeting discussed budget and other upcoming issues including budget constraints on plans for the fall conference. The NWSC is now operating on a six-month emergency budget. A \$400,000 EPA grant, through the Puget Sound

Partnership, should help to keep the doors open through half of 2012; a one-to-one match is required that could possibly be filled with MRC volunteer time.

Implementation Committee report: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the local action agenda is almost complete and will be sent to the MRC when it is updated. There will be links between ecosystems and prioritized pressures and possible strategies to address them. A preliminary update was presented to the County Council on July 12th with a follow-up scheduled for July 26th (before the next AOC local integration organization meeting on July 29th).

Jonathan pointed out that our MRC is much more involved in the process than others. He announced that he will be resigning from the AOC and a new MRC representative needs to be selected. Jonathan said that the AOC, which meets after the first MRC meeting of the month, is a very productive group where the work of implementing the Action Agenda (which is parallel to the MRCs work) will now be getting done. The MRC is now represented by Steve Revella, with John Aschoff and Barbara Marrett as alternates. Kit said that it is very important to have two MRC members on board. Gregg Dietzmann offered to take the position.

John asked whether the output from the AOC has the same or different emphasis as Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Plan work. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the MSA plan almost exclusively deals with marine issues and though it called out potential threats from shoreline development and oil spills, the AOC work includes runoff from the built environment and upland interface with the shoreline (e.g. insects in streams).

NWSC Foundation funding update: Jeff said that there is funding for crabber education but since this is not part of the MRC work plan, funds will not be available to SJC. However, he pointed out, the WSU Beachwatchers have already done some good work in this area. Shann Weston is working with the Snohomish County Coordinator to learn more. The MRC would need to have this on their work plan, with staff time, volunteer time or funds committed to the effort in order for the NWS Foundation to consider grant funding for local crabber education efforts.

Transportation Element (of SJC Comprehensive Plan) report: Colin Maycock said that Public Works and CDP began updating the transportation plan element early in 2011 and spent the day on May 23rd with the County Council looking at what the Council wanted to see in it. He distributed copies of the draft section, Comprehensive Plan, Section B, Element 6, "Transportation," and requested MRC comments on 6.2.E, of the Transportation General Goals and Policies, "Hazardous Materials Transport," on page 6. The Department of Transportation grant ran out on June 30th covering the costs of the first draft; Colin said that more funding could be available sometime in the future. San Juan County is the only county in the state that is not part of a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO).

Shoreline Master Program update: Colin said that that first draft of the analysis of the shoreline inventory is now posted on the website. Kit, Gregg, and Barbara Bennett are members of the Technical Advisory Committee for the update process. Colin said he has been attending Farmers Markets throughout the islands to discuss the issue with anyone interested. The first review of draft regulations will be scheduled by mid-August; community meetings will be held on September 20th, 21st, and 22nd to discuss islanders' visions with respect to the shoreline (e.g. development).

Putting It All Together Project supplemental request: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the MRC agreed to submit requests for supplemental funding of projects for subcommittee review (TAG with

MRC members). The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR) has money to reimburse Friends of the San Juans (FOSJ) for their work on mapping pocket beaches. Pocket beaches are used by juvenile salmon and, Barbara said, although salmon are everywhere and use all shoreline habitats here, incremental data shows that pocket beaches are the most likely places to find juveniles (particularly Chinook). PSAR's funds are regional and specific allocations are not yet known.

Motion: Kit Rawson moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the MRC accept the TAG recommendation to reimburse FOSJ. The motion passed unanimously.

MRC Coordinator's Report: Jeff said that the website work continues. He has been talking with Joan Drinkwin of the NWSC Foundation who will be visiting MRCs to further outline prescriptive guidance on funding their projects; such projects need to be fully-developed proposals. Steve mentioned that derelict crab pots (in Westcott Bay, Garrison Bay, Friday Harbor, and Roche Harbor) are an ongoing problem. He suggested that retrieval of the crab pots by divers, along with preventive education, would be a good project for funding.

Jeff said the Friday Harbor raingarden looks great, with more work done at the request of the Town Council; rocks have been added up to street level so that no railing will be required. The As-Built drawing has been corrected accordingly. The Town has decided, Jeff added, that it will take over ownership of the raingarden after two years, assuming that the gardens are well-established, with the Town's Parks Department doing maintenance. The interpretive sign will be installed soon and the agreement with the Master Gardeners for maintenance will be signed soon. Russel Barsh is preparing baseline soil samples for pre- and post-monitoring that will be frozen for storage at the UW Labs. Pre-monitoring data for the raingarden will also be done; Jeff said that the design has been done with an estimated total cost of \$27,000 (the same as the cost of the first raingarden). The second raingarden, if built, would filter runoff from many more parking spaces than the first.

Jonathan said that the NWSC is discussing the idea of awards for exemplary projects and he suggested that this project would be a good candidate. He added that if the NWSC doesn't follow through with an award, then the MRC could do it!

Rachel Benbrook said that the Skagit MRC has just released an LID brochure with a good section on raingardens.

Barbara Marrett said that Nak-Nek Charters has submitted a proposal to the Port of Friday Harbor Commissioners to do a fall harbor dive cleanup here (similar to one done at Catalina Island). She said this would be a great partnership and would clean up the Harbor of cellphones, crab pots, etc. It was suggested that an inventory of the retrieved debris be done.

Jeff said that the biggest source of funding over the next six years is likely to be from the EPA, through LIOs, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Health, etc. \$48 million will be available over the six-year period for each broad category, including protection and restoration of Puget Sound; watershed-scale research; toxin and nutrient load studies; prevention/control of pathogens; etc.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Science subcommittee needs to link monitoring plan specifics to the LIO's identified threats; proposals are due in early September and are part of the Implementation Committee's work.

Jeff said that he and Janice will be doing some training in preparation for her takeover as Coordinator

for the August 3rd MRC meeting. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the TAG review of the salmon recovery proposals will be presented at the August 3rd MRC meeting and a quorum is required for the August 17th meeting for the final scoring and ranking. Laura requested a discussion on the marine fish and wildlife section of BAS for the August 3rd meeting.

Presentation: “Deer Harbor Project sediment and hydrology modeling”

Rachel Benbrook said that she is Restoration Ecologist for PSP (rbenbrook@pugetsound.org). The Project has two components and the timing is right for these tasks. Rachel said there will be economic benefits to the community as well as support for more marine life. Funding was provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (\$172,571) and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (\$153,741). Future funding is anticipated from NOAA and the Restore America’s Estuaries project.

1. Riparian (shoreline) restoration of Fish Trap Creek and Cayou Lagoon on Orcas Island: A stair step fish weir was installed to eliminate fish passage blockage. Rachel said it was very useful to have world-class permaculturists, like those from Bullock Farm, involved. Madrona Murphy helped with removal of invasive plants and with applying new techniques for riparian vegetation restoration. Myco-remediation was used to improve water quality and erosion control; Ken Brown of Fungi Protecti inoculated mycelium to address the high fecal coliform count and other pollutants. Trails were built from site-sourced wood chips and there are plans to begin monitoring in the fall. Rachel said the work provided a good flow of money and jobs to the local economy. She asked how fast is too fast for juvenile salmon to swim up into the Lagoon?
2. Modeling to inform Channel Creek bridge replacement: Rachel said that ESRP provided pre-restoration monitoring to establish a baseline for birds and other wildlife. The original channel was about 120-feet wide and with the bridge is now 55-feet wide; in 1970 rock was filled in under the bridge to protect the pilings. Sediment and hydraulic modeling studies were designed to evaluate restoration alternatives and to determine impacts on sediment transport and hydraulics in Channel Creek and Deer Harbor. The goal of the study was to protect hydraulic and geomorphic changes, providing bank erosion control, bridge stability, and restoration of historical tidal exchange. Performance criteria for physical processes included tidal exchange, suspended sediment, and morphological change to the system. Performance criteria for the bridge design included water level clearance, bridge deck elevation, protection and scour, permitting, and cost. The project had lots of public input. Rachel discussed the history of the site and showed photos of the bridge changes over time. She also showed videos of tidal inundation predictions (water level, sediment movement) and hydraulic response. The final report is due today. Rachel said that deposition rates are limited in the area by sediment supply and that bedside erosion is slow.

The projects are on Public Works’ six-year plan and may be eligible for more PSAR funding. Next steps include ongoing maintenance and riparian restoration at Cayou Lagoon with a work party scheduled for August 3rd from 10am to 2pm and another on National Estuary Day, September 24th, 10am-2pm. Rachel requested that the MRC partner in the effort as a flagship event that would help to train local leaders. Michael Durland said there may be issues with the source of sediment/storm events and he asked what would happen if the modeling is wrong and silt ends up in the oyster farm beds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Submitted by Helen Venada