

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

David Cable

Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator

Laura Jo Severson

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC Science Subcommittee meeting, December 21, 2011 (email notice w/ specifics to be sent out by Barbara Bentley)
- MRC regular meeting, January 4, 2012, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Marine Managers Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Friday Harbor Labs

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Citizen comments:** Laura Jo Severson said there was a report on NPR radio this morning about the importance of raingardens. Barbara Bentley said that KUOW ran a report yesterday on PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon) pollution.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting were approved, with the note that the dates of the Marine Managers Workshop have been changed to March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Kit Rawson the question of how to know which subcommittee is appropriate to review letters of support for projects; discussion followed.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley said that the meeting two weeks ago helped to bring all members up to speed. The group formalized a policy for selecting its members (a past issue): 1) permanent members made up of MRC appointments by the Chair; 2) ex-officio members, such as the Lead Entity Coordinator and MRC Coordinator; 3) ad hoc members, invited to join group for specific topics and time. There was discussion on whether this arrangement is appropriate and necessary for all the subcommittees. Barbara announced that the next Science Subcommittee meeting will be December 21<sup>st</sup> on Orcas Island.

**Coordinator's report:** Jeff Hanson circulated the volunteer time tracking sheet and the expense reimbursement sheet, noting that he needs receipts for mileage and lodging, for instance. Jeff outlined upcoming funding opportunities...all with application deadlines looming:

1. EPA Urban Water small grants (webinar next week) – Ed Hale, SJC Utilities Manager, said that Public Works hopes to coordinate with the MRC to apply for this grant (\$5-25,000) to help fund additional monitoring and outreach/education work for the Eastsound constructed wetland. This would include water quality monitoring in the receiving waters to measure effects of the project on reducing contaminant pollution; this work would be accomplished by a contractor. Deadline for the grant application is January 23, 2012.

**Motion:** Laura Arnold moved, and Barbara Bentley seconded, that the MRC support a partnership in the proposal, as developed by Public Works, with a focus on the outreach/education component as a learning tool. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed. Laura suggested coordination with the work on Indian Island. Susan Key added that the outreach effort include contact with Lance Evans of the Eastsound Chamber of Commerce as well as Eastsound businesses. She noted that there are five stormwater monitoring sites in the area and that this monitoring work links well with the MSA plan priorities. It was agreed that the science subcommittee needs to review the monitoring design and final report.

2. The Local Integrating Organization (LIO) grants are designed to address Tier 1 strategies of the Action Agenda; the application is due by January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the funds need to be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion about applying for \$4-5,000 to help fund the 2012 Marine Managers Workshop and about the workshop agenda. Gregg Dietzman and Kit Rawson will prepare and submit a draft proposal which Jeff, Steve, and Laura will review before it goes to the executive subcommittee for review. Jeff said that an MRC program statement is required for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Kit suggested inviting private funds to the Workshop.

Gregg proposed that a second proposal be submitted for about \$6,000 in LIO funding to provide for a Marine Specimen Bank. This idea was discussed at an earlier meeting of the science subcommittee with the suggestion to present it to the Marine Managers Workshop; Laura pointed out that this idea has been in the MRC work plan for years and it's important to get started. Gregg asked members how to proceed and what level of detail to use. The science subcommittee will review the draft at its December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Gregg said he supports the concept of the MRC as the organization that facilitates work to establish protocols and oversight for good community work. Susan Key added that the Marine Specimen Bank is one of the top strategies in the MSA monitoring plan. Gregg said the Bank would store sediments, detritus, and biological tissues. He noted that an established water quality sampling protocol is needed and that Island County has a certificate program for trained citizens.

**Motion:** Kit Rawson moved and Jim Slocomb seconded that the MRC submit a proposal after the draft is reviewed by the science subcommittee on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on the inconvenience of short funding notices and on whether there should be an MRC policy/procedures manual.

Rene Beliveau said that 16 applications for the LIO Coordinator's position have been received; he asked that members send him their ideas on who should review the applications and on interview questions. He added that the LIO grant contract for \$75,000 is moving forward. Jeff noted that the MRC Coordinator's job took 50-55 hours per week with both him and Mary Knackstedt doing the work; he is now working 17-18 hours per week.

Jeff said that the final evaluation on the Friday Harbor raingarden has been submitted by Kwiaht. It will be reviewed the science subcommittee. Jeff reported that the report shows that PAH numbers have been reduced by the raingarden; other contaminants are somewhat increased, potentially due to enrichment from the materials used in the raingarden. The question was asked if the LIO could support continued sampling/monitoring of the raingarden.

Jeff said the NWAC task force is focusing on oil spills as well as derelict vessels, shoreline cleanup, wildlife updates, etc. Brendan Cowan has asked about MRC participation. There will be more discussion later.

**Marine Managers Workshop draft agenda:** Copies of the draft were distributed. The executive subcommittee will work on it next Monday and Jeff had members for comments. The main topics for the workshop will be oil spills preparedness, runoff from the built environment, and emerging information.

There was discussion on the desired outcomes for the workshop. Steve said that the islands need a quick organized response, i.e. within the first hour and first eight hours. The MRC is tasked with providing some direction on the types of response and on communication. The Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) was recognized for its excellent work in providing local response over the years and is a partner in the MRC's role for major oil spill preparedness. (Jess gave a briefing on his recent meeting with Julie Knight of IOSA). Laura Jo said that other groups will likely be interested in participating in the planning and response namely the Red Cross and the amateur radio groups. Laura asked about the possible role of other agencies, particularly in providing baseline information for Puget Sound. She added agency coordination and how agencies provide data for this purpose would help to emphasize why the database is important and explain how to use it. A list of whom to call at each agency and development of a process to keep it updated are also needed. The executive subcommittee will discuss on Monday. Susan pointed out that oil spill response is the second topic in Tier 1 of the Action Agenda.

On the issue of impacts to San Juan County waters from proported Fraser River run-off and flushing from the Salish Sea, Susan Key noted that "plume" is more technically accurate.

David Cable suggested using local talent as possible presenters for the Workshop, such as David Hyde, oceanographic specialist, and Ed Kilduff hydrogeologist.

**2012 Work Plan review and Annual Report discussion:** Copies of the drafts were distributed for general comments. Kit said that Barbara Rosenkotter as Lead Entity Coordinator should be an MRC member. It was noted that the MRC Charter has not been adopted; the executive subcommittee, at its next meeting, will discuss how to proceed. Gregg said that Ginny Broadhurst asked whether San Juan County has a strategic plan. John Aschoff said there should be more emphasis on the MRC's advisory role.

**MRC/NWSC Conference:** Jeff said that the key element for private funding is the development and

submittal of an MRC case statement (including an overview of the organization history, objectives, fundraising plan, etc.) John said that the GIS portion of the Conference was very good and was well attended; discussion included the national map and DOE's shoreline access map. Susan asked if the information could be useful for local spill response.

Jeff ran through an outline of the Annual Report to include a 15-year retrospective. He said that the MRC website has been moved to a new location but not all the pieces are in place yet. Jeff asked what the MRCs priorities are for the next six months.

**There will be no MRC regular meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The science subcommittee will meet that day on Orcas Island.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada