

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Rene Beliveau, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

Guests:

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Karrie Cooper, SJC EcoNet Coordinator
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Susan Key, Ecosystem Monitoring Coordinator
Janice Peterson
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Shann Weston, WSU Beach Watchers Coordinator

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, January 19th, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- MRC outreach subcommittee meeting, January 19th, 12:30pm, Friends of the San Juans (FOSJ) Conference Room
- Town of Friday Harbor Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update primer, January 19th, 5:35pm, Town Hall
- Shoreline Master Program update interviews, afternoon of January 20th in Friday Harbor (Legislative Building?)
- Marine Managers Work Session, February 28th & March 1st, 2011, UW Friday Harbor Labs

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

Minutes: Minutes of the 12/01/10 meeting and the 12/15/10 Retreat were approved with corrections.

Policy subcommittee: Kit Rawson announced that the group will meet today after this meeting.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Jeff Hanson said the outreach subcommittee would meet after the next

MRC meeting at the FOSJ Conference Room. He reported that Kristen Cooley has mailed an EcoNet evaluation survey to all on the email distribution list concerning the effectiveness and use of the EcoNet effort and asking for ways to improve it. Jeff said that the website will tentatively be replaced by "My Puget Sound," a multi-use tool to help get the word out and to improve communication back and forth. The next EPA grants, "Targeted Awareness Grants," will provide targeted outreach for individual networks (e.g. on jobs, food, a clean Puget Sound). The first round will tie in with the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update here, which will be at the right stage, Jeff said; an introduction, "SMP 101," will be presented soon by WA Department of Ecology (DOE) with Colin Maycock of SJC Community Development & Planning (CDP) presenting a local view. Jeff added that in the second round Kristen and others will do a "listening tour" to get feedback from all members of the network. There will also be classes for Network members on training and technical assistance.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White noted to new members that he is the NWSC representative from San Juan County and is also on the Board of the Northwest Straits Initiative. He said that the NWSC distributes some operating funds for the seven MRCs in Puget Sound. Jonathan said that the representative from British Petroleum is leaving after eleven years on the NWSC; he'll be replaced by Jerry Masters, the Snohomish County MRC chair.

Reporting on the December 10th meeting at Padilla Bay (NWSC main headquarters), he said there was an update on the derelict fishing net removal project (a \$4.6 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) which has been completed. Technology has improved since it began and 3,000 more nets have been located; a \$47,000 grant from NOAA will be used to retrieve the nets as well as derelict crab pots and to look deeper than 100' for additional abandoned gear.

Jonathan said there was a presentation on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project which is funded by a consortium led by the US Corps of Army Engineers; there are 26 PSNER candidate projects around Puget Sound. Mary noted that the MRC helped the effort by sending a letter of support. Ginny Broadhurst's letter reported that there is lots of support for re-authorization of the NWSC but that it did not make it through the 111th Congress. It will be business as usual, with the NWSC being a NOAA-negotiated earmark. Ginny said that we won't know the amount of funding until the spring.

SMP Direction for Interviews: Kit Rawson suggested that a group of MRC members participate in the interviews, along with Colin Maycock, on the afternoon of January 20th in Friday Harbor. Michael Durland said that he, as a Deer Harbor business owner, will be attending the meeting on Orcas on January 19th. The policy subcommittee, Kit added, is helping to coordinate topics for the interview to include points we want to make (e.g. who we are, our role, what we do). Laura added that Tina Whitman has assembled information gathered by the subcommittee over the last several years. Jim and Laura will serve on an ad hoc subcommittee and will present to the MRC on January 19th. Jim said that public input is being collected and all of it should get into the public record; Laura added that MSA Plan implementation should also be included. Mary reported that Colin has said that information from stakeholders will help shape the public process; the consultant hired is the same one the MRC used to get the MSA Plan out to the community.

2010 Draft Annual Report: Jeff gave a preview of the draft, condensed from the 8-page report of past years down to a 4-page pamphlet. A matrix of MRC tasks from 2010 was distributed along with a chart

on financial resources the MRC has brought to the County. The draft includes a message from the Chair, four points on what the MRC does to protect marine resources, its relationship to the NWSC, its mission statement, and subcommittee work. This same information will be used in preparing the annual report to the NWSC. Jeff asked for feedback on the design and content. It was suggested that printing be increased from 100 to 250, along with a link on the MRC webpage and email distribution, to be used as an outreach tool; other ideas were to make the Report available in the display holders at public libraries here, at the Chambers of Commerce offices, the courthouse, ferry (?), etc. Shann Weston said that 50 to 100 of them could be distributed by Beach Watchers at public events.

MRC Survey Update: Copies of the survey results were distributed, with Jonathan's edits to clarify and simplify the questions. Mary said that she compiled the results, averaging 10 responses per question, just yesterday. She said that the MRC function responses were in alignment with the first set of survey responses with the MRC's role as citizen advisory committee for the county was identified as most important and work in salmon recovery was also ranked high. Kit noted that the MRCs are an alternative to federal government-mandated marine sanctuaries. He added that the MRC Retreat was a good effort to look at reducing the MRC's scope of work, pointing out that the Local Integrating Organization can now perform a lot of the detail work. Mary added that the Stewardship Network/EcoNet also is robust and doing good work. Does the MRC need to be a household word in order to be effective? David said that the MSA is what we do and getting the word out about the MSA as an MRC initiative can help to recruit more stewards.

MRC Membership: There was discussion about the idea of MRC members "adopting" a County Council person to work informally on keeping communication open and current. A sign up sheet was circulated. Quarterly reports to the Council were discussed with a suggestion for follow up presentations to the MRC. The topic will be re-visited at the next meeting to fill in more structure (for instance, a one-page concise set of talking points based on the work plan). The role of subcommittees was discussed.

Marine Managers Workshop update: The 7th annual Marine Managers Workshop will be held on February 28th and March 1st at Friday Harbor Labs. Mary said she is finalizing negotiations with Amy Windrope for facilitation of the workshop. The Director of Islands Trust, a Gulf Islands' planning agency, will present on the Trust's approach to shoreline development management; Mary said she hopes the presentation can be included on the next day's Council agenda. She is looking for presenters to lead a discussion on oil spills prevention and response which will include transboundary coordination. Barbara Rosenkotter will talk about recent results of research and assessments of salmon use of the nearshore. There will be an update on NOAA's Orca Recovery Plan.

A Data Research Workshop will be held on February 24th, from 9am to 4pm at the Mullis Fire Station. New feeder bluff mapping that the MRC funded and other new data funded through the Salmon Recovery Program will be presented. Barbara Rosenkotter said that all members of the MRC, as well as of the county CDP and Public Works departments are invited. Data for the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Chapter on critical habitat and how salmon utilize San Juan waters is coming in, Barbara said; researchers will also present on topics such as stream typing analysis (Wildlife Fish Conservancy), feeder bluffs by Coastal Geological Services, eelgrass and kelp maps, forage fish spawning beaches, and adaptive management for salmon recovery. Jim suggested that PowerPoint information from the data workshop be posted to the MRC website with a link to the Marine Managers

Workshop. Mary will send summary notes of last year's Marine Managers Workshop to MRC members.

Jonathan announced that the NWSC Annual Retreat will be on February 24th and 25th in La Conner.

There will be no regular MRC meeting on March 2nd.

2011 Work Plan: Assignments for lead point persons on particular tasks were discussed. Laura said she will draft verbiage on general transboundary work to act as a placeholder. Copies of "2011-2013 MRC Projects" were distributed, outlining projects discussed at the Retreat in preparation for the February 2nd MRC meeting with the NWSC. All reports to the NWSC are due by January 20th and the Progress Report to the County Council is due in March.

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the Work Plan, as modified today, identifying leads and adding the transboundary piece, be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary said the MRC will be meeting with Sasha Horst on February 2nd to discuss ideas for the next grant cycle funding (beyond standard administration) and to work on details for the contract. Copies of the MRC Budget 2011-2013 were distributed. Jim proposed adding the Sportfishing Guide display ad back into the list of projects (~\$8,000/yr). Mary suggested that the large event idea discussed at the retreat be scheduled every second year and Shann Weston said that smaller events with neighbors talking to neighbors has been a successful model. There was consensus that the MRC co-sponsor existing lecture series with hosting groups, as well as on-the-road presentations with other groups. John Aschoff said that the "Getting to the Water's Edge" outreach effort needs to be aware of the sensitivity around privately-owned properties; there was discussion about how to get people to look at the website.

Members talked about how to support citizen science and a possible RFP for coordination of volunteer work. Susan Key said that Public Works has some money to develop the stormwater monitoring plan using FHL lab equipment; it could include citizen training, she suggested.

Citizen comments: Jim said that the Town of Friday has invited the public to its January 19th meeting on the Town's Shoreline Master Program update process, including public participation planning. See <http://www.fridayharbor.org> for details.

Shann passed out copies of information on the WSU Beach Watchers Core Program. She said the MRC has a history of supporting the Beach Watchers' efforts to extend outreach and the Core Program deliverables target MSA Plan goals. Emerging issues, Shann added, could be added to the existing list.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

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Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

Guests:

Jack Bell
Jane Cable
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Susan Key, Ecosystem Monitoring Coordinator
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Shann Weston, WSU Beach Watchers Coordinator
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, February 2nd, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update Best Available Science synthesis meetings, February 8th and 9th, 8:45am, Mullis Center, Friday Harbor
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) retreat, February 24th and 25th, La Conner
- Marine Managers Work Session, February 28th & March 1st, 2011, UW Friday Harbor Labs
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)

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

Citizen comments: Jack Bell introduced himself as a bioanalytical chemist working at the FH Labs and consultant with Russel Barsh of Kwiaht. He distributed copies for the record of his "Comment on the Stillwater Sciences Draft SJC Pilot Stormwater Monitoring Plan." He noted that neither FHL nor Kwiaht are equipped to produce the level of chemical monitoring that Stillwater recommends (3 samples at 31 sites using 12 EPA methods/sample per year). Therefore, Jack suggested, FHL and Kwiaht toxicology studies could focus on local analytical talent to look at emerging pollutants of local concern; he added that there are practically no data sets on local conditions (low level, ambient). Jack said that the Common Sense Alliance hired Earth Solutions to look at nine sites here, using EPA methods, to test for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, etc. [More discussion on the

topic will be moved to later in the agenda.]

David Loyd said more than 100 people participated in the Salmon Nation events on Lopez Island last Saturday; presentations at this annual celebration of citizen science included Russel Barsh's lecture on statistical models and Gene Helfman's hypothesis on salmon smolt residing on San Juan, Lopez, and Waldron Islands shoreline. David said the Indian Island Marine Health Observatory (MHO) will sponsor a midnight survey tonight for high school students and others; he added that recent plankton surveys on Waldron have revealed the presence of very small larvae that may be greenlings.

Minutes: Minutes of the 1/5/11 meeting were approved.

Steve Revella introduced Scott Williamson, the new PSP Ecosystem Coordinator for the San Juans.

Work Session on 2011-2013 Biennial Scope of Work/Budget:

In preparation for Sasha Horst's visit to the MRC at its February 2nd meeting, members worked on ideas for 2011-13 project options that were suggested at the Retreat. Notes from that session follow:

- Power Point on Marine Stewardship Area: Barbara Bentley will help and the outreach subcommittee is ready to roll on this work
- Revising and maintaining the MRC website
- Developing "Getting to the Water's Edge" website
- Public events: Barbara Marrett
- Article on marine issues for local media
- Marine Managers Workshops in 2012 and 2013
- Friday Harbor raingardens monitoring: Mary said that the state Department of Ecology grant will cover most of the cost
- Derelict vessel removal program: How to support?
- RFP: Mary relayed information from Sasha that MRC's can only issue RFP's for specific projects since they are not grantors.

Kit suggested that the MRC focus project funds on MHO's in a way that adds value to the great work already going on. Ways we could support this program consistent with our mandates include identifying targets and connection to the MSA plan; providing guidance on what to monitor and what to analyze; and, determining how best to communicate the message to people in a manner that will resolve uncertainties and promote solutions. He noted that we should prioritize projects that produce visible results within two years.

Kit said that community science is an ongoing discussion for both the outreach subcommittee and the monitoring subcommittee. Mary said that SJC Public Works has \$50,000 budgeted per year for stormwater monitoring which the MRC could help leverage.

Jon said that Snohomish County MRC has produced and distributed excellent laminated information for crabbers that could be adapted for use here.

Ken suggested that the topic of Olympic oysters could provide good education, using volunteers to monitor them; a small dollar investment could have big value as a water quality message (re stormwater impacts).

John asked about the criteria for selecting projects and Tina suggested that determining priorities was a good starting point. David said the purpose of the Work Plan is to implement the MSA.

[new jargon: “community,” rather than “citizen,” science]

Brainstorming on potential projects for MRC focus discussed at Retreat:

A straw vote on the three top projects resulted in stormwater being the first choice; rockfish and SMP tied for second; oil spills, third; followed by a tie for derelict gear/crabpots, crabbing, mussel program in Friday Harbor, and community science support.

Stormwater ideas: workshop for local businesses (\$ in EPA grant); augment work of EPA grant (cost share \$) for Friday Harbor and East Sound raingardens; leveraging of LID addition to SJC Code; b work with Beach Watchers (Olympic oyster project?); outreach with FHL and schools.

Desired outcomes/2-year objectives: build local capacity for high quality (monitoring) data (tied to species and water quality) gathering/analysis/documentation (database)/sharing (outreach); engage large portion of community; build a sustainable monitoring program; make headway for getting people to understand what the problem is and what they can do to reduce their own impacts; highlight Spring Street Aquarium as indicator (less pollution = less die-off) and, possibly, add other Aquariums in public places; contract by mid-May.

Rockfish outreach: presentations to groups; how many people release by-catch?; can there be recovery?

SMP education and outreach: connect to MSA goals/ tools; define the problem!

Oil Spills: establish baseline (requires low temperature freezers); how to collect/document good data (MHO's?)

Derelict gear/ crabpots:

Crabbing outreach: to encourage use of escape cords

Community science support: there are three MHO's now / another one more in 2013(?); fund work through other agencies and groups; do random survey (Kit); “WE'RE NATIVE!” bumpersticker.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report: Jonathan White invited everyone to the NWSC Retreat to be held on February 24th and 25th in La Conner. One of the topics, he said, will be advocacy. Mary will help with the discussion on the 25th. Jonathan asked members to share with him any thoughts or issues to convey to the NWSC in preparation for the Retreat. Laura Arnold noted that San Juan has a county-wide MSA which the MRC is responsible to implement; this makes San Juan County different from the other counties.

Salmon Recovery Council update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the County Council was asked about assigning a new representative to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council to replace Bob Myhr but expressed no interest. The partnership, she added, supports Bob's continuing his position through the end of his term. Barbara explained that the County Council can weigh in but the MRC, as the citizens advisory committee for salmon recovery, makes the decision. There was consensus by all members that the MRC is comfortable with the status quo decision.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Best Available Science (BAS): Kit Rawson said that the draft BAS synthesis document is now available on the county's website. The SJC Community Development and Planning Department (CDP) requests comments by February 4th so they can be summarized before the February 8th and 9th meetings. Kit said the document contains good scientific information, noting in particular, that the wetlands inventory and shoreline chapter are within the purview of the MRC; he said that the document affirms that the islands are different. Kit said that those making technical (as opposed to public) comments have been asked to list their credentials. He also pointed out the opportunity for the MRC to comment on the document where information is relevant to MRC work (e.g. review by the Science sub-committee and Barbara Rosenkotter from the salmon recovery perspective). Tina said that the MRC has already contributed heavily. Jim Slocomb said that the Court of Appeals has just upheld the application of CAO to shorelines in Kitsap County.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Interviews: Kit Rawson said that the SMP dovetails with CAO work with respect to documentation of BAS. He said that members of the MRC's Science subcommittee were invited to participate in CDP's interviews. The policy subcommittee developed a draft letter to Colin Maycock, as well as MRC responses to CDP's list of questions, which were distributed and discussed. Steve, Laura, and Jim will participate in tomorrow's interviews to be held at the Legislative Conference Room. There was discussion about how the MRC should contribute and advise the County Council throughout the remainder of the CAO update process. It was agreed that the Policy subcommittee members who worked on the letter and its attached list of documents (collected by the MRC since 2003) are to be commended for a well done job. The BAS requirement in SMP is not as black and white as in the Growth Management Act (GMA) but there is a requirement to back up assertions. The public participation plan is available online. Kit said that those who attend the interviews will report back to the next MRC meeting.

MRC Subcommittee membership: Copies of the description of the subcommittees and current membership were distributed. Barbara Rosenkotter and Rene Beliveau were added to the Executive and Planning Subcommittee; the Outreach and Education Subcommittee is made of up a core of MRC members as well as others; the Monitoring Subcommittee (part of the Outreach group) is headed by David Loyd with Barbara Bentley and John Aschoff now joining in; Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Rosenkotter, Susan Key, and David Loyd were added to the Science Subcommittee; Kit Rawson is the new Chair of the Policy/Management Subcommittee and one or two additional members need to be solicited (Rene?); David Loyd joined the Salmon Group; David also agreed to be the pro tem Chair of the ad hoc Rockfish Group (Jim Slocomb asked to be removed from active participation); Laura Jo Severson and Michael Durland will be on the ad hoc Oil Spill group; and Jonathan White and John Aschoff will continue on the Membership Subcommittee.

Mary asked that subcommittee chairs write up a description paragraph of their group's tasks.

County Council relations: Jonathan distributed a list of member assignments to particular Council members. He said the goal is to build a relationship with the Council through an informal approach, looking to learn how the MRC can better serve the Council's work. Talking points, Jonathan said, will be vetted. He added that he spoke to new Council Chair, Lovel Pratt, who suggested that the MRC ask Richard Fralick to serve as its liaison. There will be an update at the next MRC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

SAN JUAN COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 2, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

Guests:

Jack Bell

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources

Caroline Gibson, Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Islands

Sasha Horst, NWSC

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator

Laura Jo Severson

Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, February 16th, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- SJC Natural Resource Data workshop, February 24th, 10:15am-3:30pm, Mullis St. Fire station, Friday Harbor
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) retreat, February 24th and 25th, La Conner
- Marine Managers Work Session, February 28th & March 1st, 2011, UW Friday Harbor Labs
- MRC progress report to County Council, March 22nd, 2011
- Response to MRC grant Request For Proposals (RFP) due March 28th, 2011

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

Minutes: Minutes of the 1/19/11 meeting were approved.

San Juan Action Agenda Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) update: Barbara Rosenkotter reported on the January 21st meeting of the AOC which is the policy group for implementing the local action agenda. She said the Implementation Committee is ready to run but the AOC is still determining how to work together. The good news, she added, is that both groups support the concept of the Prioritization Framework developed by the Implementation Committee to prioritize local action items and want to continue with that. Funding is still a critical issue. Barbara suggested creating an information sheet on what the Puget Sound Partnership can and cannot do to support the

implementation of the local action agenda. The AOC will meet again in April so there is time to clarify the issues. Steve added that the County Council wants a firmer commitment that funding is coming and then will evaluate the Local Integrating Organization concept feasibility for San Juan County.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White introduced Sasha Horst and Caroline Gibson. Sasha said that as Projects Specialist for the NWSC she manages MRC grants and maintains the NWSC website, along with other duties. Caroline said she is the Marine Program Manager for NWSC and is heading up the forage fish program and coordinates with the MRCs. Jonathan said that, although the NWSC re-authorization did not go through in the 2011 Congress and funding remains a dismal situation, there is lots of support for re-authorization, including from Patty Murray. There could be more news in the next two or three weeks and MRCs are advised to move ahead with planning as usual.

Jonathan gave a brief review of the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal project. About 2,490 nets were removed in finishing up the large NOAA grant; this brings the total removed since 2002 to 3,700 nets, covering an area of about 235 acres of bottom habitat. There are an estimated 1,150 nets left; the Project has applied for a \$1.2 million NOAA grant focused on rockfish recovery but which would allow for the removal of 550 additional shallow water nets and includes developing deep water diving protocols and deep water surveys would also be included in the grant. A \$50,000 grant from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is being used to remove crab pots in Port Susan.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Jeff Hanson said he will be reporting on the results of the recent survey from EcoNet when they become available. A visit from an EcoNet representative is expected soon. There was discussion at the recent meeting on Shoreline Master Program (SMP) monitoring related to the EPA grant on shorelines development. Jeff said that the annual Sustainable San Juans event, which has usually included displays, workshops and awards, will use a different approach this year: Shann Weston will lead tours of private properties or public areas to showcase successes on beaches; another plan is to create a portable display that could be rotated every few weeks to the various Farmer Markets on the islands. This could not only provide focus on a particular eco-group but also maintain presence of the stewardship concept at our popular Farmers Markets. Jeff reported that there was discussion about sponsoring an event within the next two years with a well-known speaker on marine ecology heading the venue.

SJC Natural Resource Data Workshop: An agenda was distributed for the workshop to be held on February 24th at the San Juan Island Fire station on Mullis Street. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the goal is to share information with local decision makers on how to access and use local inventories and natural resource data effectively. All data sets will be reviewed in presentations on eelgrass and kelp, forage fish spawning beach assessments, stream typing, juvenile salmon in our nearshore, feederbluff assessment, shoreline modification inventory results; these will be available on CDs and will be published to the MRC webpage. Actual datasets are or will be available through the County's Polaris portal. Barbara said there is a lot of interest in the workshop and RSVP invitations went out this week to Public Works and the GIS team, CDP, and other such agencies. Tina Whitman said that there will be another workshop in about a year focused on priority actions for salmon recovery based on the results of the "Pulling It All Together" project.

Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) map in WDFW's 2011-2012 Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet: Mary said that the map, titled "San Juan County is a Marine Stewardship Area and You Are the Steward," will be published in a prime space (but not on the back page) at a good rate from the publisher; costs

will be covered by the Port of Friday Harbor and an MRC grant. There was discussion on the details and positioning of the map and Mary will email a pdf version for more comments. John Aschoff suggested that we need a good interactive map on the website, with a link from the pamphlet map.

Subcommittee membership: The Chairs of the various subcommittees were reminded to send descriptions of their group's duties and to confirm the list of members.

Shoreline Master Program Interviews: Laura Arnold reported that she, Steve, and Jim Slocomb represented the MRC at the series of interviews put on by County consultants (Norton Arnold and the Watershed Group). She said it was good to listen to the interests and concerns of other participants (e.g. representatives from local marinas). Barbara Rosenkotter said that she found it encouraging to hear from the Roche Harbor Resort/Marina representative that businesses forget we all have a vested interest in a healthy environment; protecting the environment protects economic investments.

Presentation of 2011-2013 Project Proposals to NWSC: Copies of the project proposal list and the grant application were distributed. Mary gave an overview of each project for discussion and presentation to Sasha and Caroline.

MRC Website Revision: Sasha said that the NWSC is offering assistance to the MRCs to update their websites. Jefferson County and Snohomish County will be launching their new sites next week. She has been working with an online content manager on design, etc. who is ready to start immediately to provide training on how to edit sites; no specific software is needed. John and Jeff will work on the update. Members discussed design options and hierarchy of elements; Sasha said the design could align with NWSC's site, or not.

Report to NWSC; remaining budget tasks: Mary said the Report (copies distributed) was submitted last week. Copies of the budget for tasks to be completed over the next six months were also distributed. There was question about the new "liability" charge that has been separated out from "administration." Mary explained that this is part of the grant and cannot be changed until June. Jim Slocomb pointed that the MRC has not officially been re-authorized so "how can the County charge us?"

County Council relationship building: Jonathan reviewed the idea behind MRC members assigning themselves to various Council members to meet quarterly to informally develop open MRC relationship with them. The first of these "meetings" will occur this quarter (before the end of March). The goal is to learn how the MRC can better serve San Juan County and work with the Council. Talking points on topical issues will be developed by the MRC (Mary or Chair) and a folder of introductory MRC information, including a history of transboundary work, will be produced. Richard Fralick's role as liaison to the MRC is not clear at this point. Assignments are as follows:

Lovel Pratt:	Steve, Tina, Gregg
Rich Peterson:	Kit, Barbara Marrett, Ken
Richard Fralick:	John, Barbara Bentley, Jonathan
Howie Rosenfeld:	Johannes, Jim, Kit
Patty Miller:	Jonathan, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland
Jamie Stephens:	Barbara Marrett, Laura, David

Marine Managers Workshop (2/28 and 3/1) update: Kit said that Long Live the Kings will sponsor the reception and Jacques White will be the speaker. Mary asked that anyone needing lodging contact

her soon. **There will be no regular MRC meeting on March 2nd.**

Citizen comments: Phil Green said that in his opinion it is a waste of money not to have the MSA map on the back cover (or near the regulations page) of the WDFW Sportfishing Rules pamphlet. Mary said that she would contact WDFW to check out the possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

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Meeting Minutes

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Staff: Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

Guests:

Sherry Bell

Cedar Bouta, Department of Ecology (DOE) Shoreline Management Program

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery/ Lead Entity Coordinator

Laura Jo Severson

Presentation: "Analysis of diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) in San Juan County Waters" by Jack Bell

Upcoming Events

- SJC Natural Resource Data workshop, February 24th, 10:15am-3:30pm, Mullis St. Fire station, Friday Harbor
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) retreat, February 24th and 25th, La Conner
- Marine Managers Work Session, February 28th & March 1st, UW Friday Harbor Labs
- **No regular MRC meeting on March 2nd!!!!**
- Salmon Recovery Project update to County Council, March 8th, 2:00pm
- Next regular MRC meeting, March 16th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- MRC progress report to County Council, March 22nd.
- Response to MRC grant Request For Proposals (RFP) due March 28th.

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am. A card was circulated for signatures, thanking Islanders Bank for the continued free use of the Community Room for meetings.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2/2/11 meeting were approved with a correction.

MRC subcommittee membership update: The list of subcommittee descriptions and members was distributed and revised, adding John Aschoff to the Membership Subcommittee and Gregg Dietzman to the Policy Subcommittee.

Presentation: Jack said he has a BS in Chemistry from the University of Washington and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin; he has also worked in marketing for an instruments company and has taught college chemistry. Jack has been involved with Kwiaht, the Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea, from Lopez Island, and the Friday Harbor Labs for several years; he has been a

property owner here for 50 years. Jack distributed copies of “Development and Application of a Method for the Analysis of diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) in San Juan County Waters,” co-authored by Jack and by Russel Barsh.

The goal of the report is to provide local decision makers with preliminary data and cost-benefit considerations relevant to San Juan County’s stormwater monitoring plan. DEHP is one of the emerging pollutants (along with flame retardants) whose presence is on the increase in the sediments of Puget Sound...as opposed to the legacy pollutants (e.g. lead, mercury, PCBs) whose presence has declined as their use has been reduced or eliminated. DEHP is one of the numerous phthalate additives found in plastics (including PVC), glues, cosmetics, some insecticides and lubricants; it is the dominant phthalate in such products and is the most toxic to aquatic wild life. A recognized hormone disruptor, long-term exposure of DEHP in several species of fish has caused loss of young and disturbed growth; invertebrate and vertebrate endocrine system disruption is another subtle but serious effect.

The plasticizer contamination is found world-wide at ambient background levels and is present in human semen at parts-per-million. Is its presence a concern in San Juan waters and marine resources (e.g. salmon)? Jack described some of the properties of the compound: DEHP bioaccumulates in the food web because it is sticky and lipophilic (adsorbs to fats, sediments, atmospheric dust); it is a persistent chemical that is slow to break down in the environment; its estrogenic effects have been observed in freshwater and marine animals in the 4-14 parts per billion (ppb) range.

Analytical protocol: Jack said that surface water samples were taken using standard procedure; a high performance liquid chromatography system and auto sampler were used in the analysis. Because of DEHP’s surfactant property, it forms micelles in water that do not stick to equipment; Jack said this may result in many reports underestimating DEHP concentrations. He noted that the method used is sensitive, relatively inexpensive, easier to operate and maintain, and apparently more accurate.

Soluble DEHP found in local water samples: Low parts per billion were found in all samples taken...Port of Friday Harbor seawater, 0.2 ppb; Eastsound storm sewer water, 1.6 ppb; Lopez Village store parking lot runoff, 0.64 ppb. The National Toxics drinking water criterion for DEHP to protect human health is a minimum level of 0.6 ppb; the maximum to protect aquatic life is also 0.6 ppb. The preliminary study, therefore, indicates that local input waters tested appear to be at the threshold of potential adverse environmental impacts, before dilution in marine waters. Jack said that a peer review of the study has begun and needs to be vetted by a certified analytical lab which could take up to a year.

Questions remaining to be studied:

- Is DEHP bioaccumulating in San Juan aquatic food webs (freshwater or nearshore habitats) at toxic levels?
- What are possible sources of DEHP here (air? runoff? water treatment plant effluent?)
- What is the DEHP loading of the islands’ most impacted nearshore habitats (urban waterfronts)?

The study recommends strategic surveys to sample and test stormwater inputs for DEHP on a periodic basis, every two to five years, to detect any significant increase in this contaminant.

Jack said that more work is needed on tissue and sediment sampling protocol. He added that the Town of Friday Harbor tests drinking water each year for about 100 chemical compounds. Jack said that the local Common Sense Alliance group did earth tests at 9 sites across the islands last year; the 100 chemicals in the test were low reporting, except for one herbicide. Stillwater tests were done at 31 sites, six times per year, at a cost of more than \$50,000. The Friday Harbor proposed raingardens will be tested for grease and oil, for water entering and leaving the raingardens. Mary said that Sandy

Wyllie-Echeverria is looking into a free possibility for analyzing certain chemicals through the Labs. There was discussion on saving samples to test with future instrumentation; how to save samples (could last for years if kept at very low temperatures and away from water); when to monitor and what to include in baseline monitoring (done regularly and during events).

Jack said there have been problems with DEHP in bottomfish in Elliott Bay and Tina added that there have been abnormalities in river otters on the Columbia River have been attributed to the contaminant.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Jeff Hanson introduced Cedar Bouta who will be presenting today at the Stewardship Network meeting. Cedar said that as the Community and Outreach person for DOE's Shoreline Management Program she works to engage communities and citizens in the SMP update process and is circulating background materials. She will present an SMP primer later today and lead a discussion on projects to submit to the Puget Sound Partnership. Cedar said that Bob Friesen, DOE's Policy Lead, is assigned to San Juan County to work with Colin Maycock and the community throughout the update process.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White reported that funding was the main topic of last week's NWSC Retreat at Padilla Bay. Although the NWSC is not yet re-authorized, it is still federally funded and managed through DOE. Jonathan said that Ginny Broadhurst has requested that the MRCs write a letter to our federal delegation as soon as possible to support re-authorization. Mary will draft the letter for review by Laura Arnold, Steve, Jonathan, and Gregg Dietzman.

Salmon Recovery Project update: Barbara Rosenkotter provided an update on the salmon recovery adaptive management and monitoring (AMM) process, noting that the tailoring of templates for the San Juans has been completed; the next steps to be accomplished will use the results of the "Pulling It All Together" project (with May and Fall deliverables). The AMM work is funded through Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) capacity funds which run through 2013. Barbara will be presenting an update on the salmon recovery work to the County Council on March 8th at 2:00pm and requested that members attend to show support.

Marine Managers Workshop: Mary said the latest draft agenda was sent out last week. Amy Windrope will facilitate and Mac Fraser of Islands Trust will be speaking to the County Council on March 1st after his presentation at the workshop on the Canadian approach for managing growth in the Gulf Islands. Mary said that SJC Emergency Management Director Brendan Cowan announced a Coast Guard full-blown oil spills drill for Island and San Juan Counties to be held at Oak Harbor on June 22nd; she added that Brendan wants the MRC to participate and Kit and Steve will do so.

2011-2013 funding for the Lead Entity Program: Barbara Rosenkotter said that there is some inkling that the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Funding will be status quo although the state is required to provide match. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office staff has recommended that RCO provide backfill, via the federal funds, for reductions in state operational funding as needed. The projected budget cut at the state level is about 20%, Barbara said, so that capacity funding via this RCO/SRFB grant will hopefully remain stable but will then require reductions in project funding. Additional funds support the Salmon Recovery program via the PSAR capacity grants (state funds). The projected state budget cuts for PSAR, which supports both capacity and project funding are about 55%. Barbara said these cuts reflect dramatic reductions in both operational and project funding for the local salmon recovery program. She added that she's hoping to hear in late April or May about the biennium funding starting in July and is hopeful but realistic about the outcome. There was discussion about private foundation funding options; it was suggested that a discussion with other MRCs on the

funding situation be proposed for the NWSC Retreat. Barbara said that she is anticipating that there will be competitive grants available for specific projects via the Action Agenda Local Integrating Organization efforts.

MRC Annual Report to the County Council: Mary said that the presentation on March 22nd will not be a quarterly report. Members suggested adding mention of the MRC's role in salmon recovery, the Puget Sound Action Plan, and the SMP update process. Other ideas were to ask the Council to also write a letter in support of NWSC's re-authorization; to emphasize how much money the MRC brings in the County (16% of grant funding going to county administration); what the MRC is looking to contribute in 2011 and 2012 (Work Plan), subject to funding availability; requesting a formal meeting schedule with the Council; highlighting transboundary work; projects with local schools; shoreline characterization work re SMP; MRC participation in the derelict gear removal project (most nets being retrieved from San Juan County waters) and in the derelict vessel removal project; MRC relationship with salmon recovery program, oil spills response, and other regional networking efforts. Data collected has benefited salmon recovery but is applicable to other county and state efforts. It was noted that the federal grant money brought into the county by the MRC will provide technical assistance to property owners as well as construction jobs. MRC grant money also promotes ecotourism and the marine science industry here.

Ken Sebens said that he is preparing a one-page factsheet as part of an annual update to the Council from the Labs. He suggested asking the Council for continued annual funding for the MRC and Lead Entity project as a placeholder. The MRC was reminded of Kit Rawson's comment that the MRC is a local management alternative to the marine sanctuary concept and San Juan County's MRC was the prototype for the other six MRCs that followed.

County Council relationship building: Mary distributed packets of information and publications for use by members who will be speaking to Councilpersons soon; it was suggested that the MRC calendar and the Sportfishing Guide be added. She is also working on a Powerpoint presentation for the next regular MRC meeting on March 16th. Mary ran through a draft "talking points" document and asked for suggestions. Jonathan pointed out that the membership represents a range of different perspectives and Jim seconded that the work of the membership of unbiased talent makes life easier and cheaper for the county. The MRC helps to build capacity for the county in different areas and is completely supported by grants (tenuous). It was agreed that the MRC wants to be valued as a resource, providing well-researched guidance, and should be officially re-authorized. It was also pointed out that Rene Believeau's time with the MRC is critical.

An estimated one million dollars is brought in to the county through the MRC with an additional one million dollars per year through salmon recovery work. Barbara Rosenkotter said that she will include a refined jobs multiplier being used throughout Puget Sound in her report to the Council. She said that a total of six million dollars in grants has been brought here since 2001 (about 40 projects). Johannes Krieger pointed out that this has involved the economics of a number of local families.

Citizen comments: Sherry Bell said that this is the first MRC meeting she has attended and she is overwhelmed by all that the MRC does. She noted that it is a big job to get so much information across and suggested using more visual imaging and diagrams. Jack Bell suggested that the media be invited to the County Council MRC and salmon recovery presentations, followed by press releases to further spread the word.

No regular MRC meeting on March 2nd!!!!

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Johannes Krieger, Jonathan White

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

Guests:

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Richard Civile
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Milene Henley, SJC Auditor
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson

Upcoming Events

- “Net Loss” film viewing, March 23rd, 7:45pm, The Doctors Office Cafe, Friday Harbor
- MRC regular meeting, April 6th, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- SJC Natural Resources Data workshop, April 18th, 10:15 am-3:30pm, Mullis Street Fire Station, Friday Harbor
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)

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

Minutes: Minutes of the 2/16/11 meeting were approved as read.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Jeff Hanson said the meeting this afternoon will focus mainly on Stewardship Network items: planning for summer Network-sponsored events and the EPA Targeted Awareness Grant application. The application to be submitted by EcoNet could be used to fund two potential areas: (1) controlling growth in rural areas through outreach related to healthy water and healthy jobs; (2) outreach support for the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) update.

Coordinator’s report: Mary Knackstedt announced that she has accepted a job with the state Department of Health Shellfish office, starting in April. Her work will focus on marine issues, with one goal being to reopen 10,000 acres of shellfish beds currently closed due to pollution. Mary said

that Jeff Hanson has agreed to take over as interim Coordinator, pending County approval. Jeff said he will try to keep things on track (e.g. grant application and maintenance). Mary reported that the MRC is going into this quarter with a strong financial position. The Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) has made the exception this year of allowing left over grant money to roll over into this year's projects. There have also been donations to the MRC from private sources. Mary is putting together a report on several potential funding scenarios for the MRC. All members expressed their high regard for Mary's work and sadness to see her leave.

Copies of the County Council's 3/8/11 letter to Senator Patty Murray were distributed. Mary said the same letter was also sent to Rick Larsen, Maria Cantwell, Norm Dicks, Jay Inslee, and Will Stelle, extending the Council's support for continued NWSC funding to allow for ongoing financial support for the seven MRCs in the Puget Sound region. Mary thanked Lovel Pratt and Jonathan White for helping to shepherd the letter along. Barbara Marrett suggested that follow-up telephone calls would be helpful, especially from County Council members. Steve reported that Lovel said the response from Senator Murray was very positive and Jim Slocomb added that Representative Kevin Ranker said that both senators are on board.

Mary said that Shireene Hale and Colin Maycock of SJC Community Development & Planning may be requesting that the MRC science subcommittee review some SMP documents. The Technical Advisory Group of the salmon recovery project may also be consulted in the review that would provide technical guidance and check of the accuracy of the science presented as well as its relevance and applicability specific to San Juan County. The first deadline would be the shoreline characterization and inventory draft, due from the consultants by the end of May, with review in June. There could then be reviews of the cumulative analysis and restoration plan pieces.

Laura Arnold said that it would be important to clearly distinguish technical comments from policy comments at each stage in the review process. Following group discussion, it was suggested that a formal letter be submitted to clearly articulate this concern. Tina Whitman said that at some point the MRC policy subcommittee could be brought in as well if the request for review went beyond shoreline characterization and inventory; she added that the cumulative analysis piece, for instance, evaluates the effectiveness of existing policy. Barbara Rosenkotter said that some TAG members have volunteered to participate in the review and she suggested that TAG and the MRC science subcommittee work together; she added that this information is foundational to the whole SMP update process and it is important that it accurately reflect the critical habitat situation here. Mary said the Council would like a complete bio from each reviewer (resume or Curriculum Vitae format).

Marine Managers Workshop debriefing: Mary said that participants seemed to show interest in all the workshop topics and there were good reviews all around. Copies of the results of the workshop survey were distributed. Tina said she had hoped for more representation from state agencies that issue permits and Mary noted that there were some glitches in sending out invitations. Kit said he thought there was more interest in the issue of managing growth than in oil spills, although there was good federal presence at the workshop. He suggested that the policy subcommittee brainstorm what the general purpose of the next workshop might be...for instance, a focus on Marine Stewardship Area plan implementation. There was some positive response to the suggested title of "Salish Sea Islands Conference." Mary noted that Islands Trust representatives expressed strong interest in continuing the relationship across the border.

Derelict Vessel Removal Program update: Milene Henley reported that two proposals to the Request for Qualifications to manage the Program were turned in and that Joanruth Baumann was selected. A

contract is being prepared and an interagency agreement with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is under review. Milene said that interlocal agreements are also underway with both the Town of Friday Harbor and the Port of Friday Harbor, as participating legal authorizing agencies for boats within their respective jurisdictions. A second RFQ is being prepared for a contractor to provide towing and disposal of recovered vessels. Milene said that there is not much funding available now but the goal is to begin work on July 1st with knowledge of which boats to target. The state maintains a list that SJC can also access to add identified derelict vessels for removal, with DNR approval. Laura Jo Severson offered to help publicize the Program and to report boats once removal activity begins. Milene said that the Power Squadron, representing a large consortium of organizations with different interests, is ready to contribute funding for this year and next. Steve thanked Barbara Marrett for moving this project forward and Barbara said it would not have happened without Marc Forlenza's dedication and work for the cause.

Implementation Committee (of the Local Integrating Organization) update: Barbara Rosenkotter said the committee will be working on the prioritization framework and process approved by the Accountability Oversight Committee, adding, modifying and clarifying content. She said there is no funding at this point but the Tulalip Tribe has offered to fund a facilitated process that will prioritize threats and link them to actions...if the idea is approved today. Barbara said that Jim Hooper will work with the Economic Development Council (EDC) to fill the spot on the IC vacated by Patty Miller. Steve suggested a review of the Action Agenda since there have been added items.

2011-2013 NWSC grant application update: Mary distributed copies of the draft application due March 28th. She presented an overview of the proposed projects and budget, as well as different funding scenarios to include additional potential funding sources. There was discussion about what constitutes match money. Mary asked how to connect stormwater monitoring to biological communities in the nearshore. She will circulate an updated draft to members before submission of the application to NWSC.

Report on Town of Friday Harbor's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) update process: Jim Slocomb distributed a few copies of the Draft Shoreline Analysis Report being developed in the update of the Town's Shoreline Master Program (SMP), noting that the information is also available online at <http://www.fridayharbor.org/SMP/smp.htm>; public comments are being sought (smp@fridayharbor.org). Jim said that the SMA, RCW 90.58, was originally adopted by the Washington legislature in 1971 and then affirmed by a vote of the people in 1972. It includes a prioritized list of preferential uses for shorelines of statewide significance:

- (1) Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
- (2) Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
- (3) Result in long term over short term benefit;
- (4) Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- (5) Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
- (6) Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline;
- (7) Provide for any other element as defined in RCW [90.58.100](#) deemed appropriate or necessary.

Jim said that SMA jurisdiction is 200' upland from the water and beyond when impacts may be present. The process for updating local SMP's involves a partnership of state and local jurisdictions with the state's Department of Ecology providing technical assistance and final approval. The basics of an SMP are local planning with a system for designations/zoning and training for project permit processors (re evaluating cumulative impacts). Most SMP's are out of date, many dated from the 1970s. Therefore,

Jim said, updates are required to address current conditions. WAC173-26 sets the requirements for SMP updates: shoreline inventory and characterization; designation/zoning; policy and regulations; cumulative impact analysis; restoration planning. Jim discussed the key concept of “no net loss” of ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources. Restoration, he added, is not required for existing shoreline development but may be required as mitigation to offset impacts. SMA guidelines describe the intended use of science and technical information, to be most current and accurate.

Jim pointed out that the Town is not located within a driftcell or other habitat forming process. It is recognized as critical Chinook salmon habitat and has understory kelp that provides habitat for juvenile rockfish (not mapped); there may also be clam habitat. The only significant freshwater inputs to marine waters from the Town are stormwater runoff and sanitary sewer outfall. The Harbor Jurisdiction Line cuts the Port of Friday Harbor in half, Jim said, and the shoreline has residential and urban designations. There are a lot of creosoted pilings, likely adding to cumulative impacts.

Jim discussed the issue of water quality in the Town, saying that he could find no official documentation of dead fish in the Spring Street Aquarium and there is no description or quantification of the situation. Barbara Marrett said that she will send water quality test results from the Port of Friday Harbor to the Town’s SMP comment website.

Jim said the Town Planning Commission will be working on re-designation of some shoreline zoning. He noted that there is a fair amount of acreage available for potential development along the Town’s shoreline (100’ deep). The setbacks issue will be an interesting discussion with Ecology, Jim added. Changes to the “non-conforming” classification of uses are being proposed in new state regulation. Mary wondered how to direct growth while providing resource protection (e.g. vegetation retention) in an Urban Growth Area to protect natural aesthetics as well as economic values.

MRC Annual Report to the County Council: Steve said that the scheduled March 22nd presentation to the Council has been postponed. The Council is re-examining the role of advisory committees and the RCW process. There was discussion about the MRCs process for making appointments to its subcommittees. Kit suggested that members meet with Council representatives to gain more understanding of the issues and Steve emphasized how helpful it would be to carefully listen to the Council’s concerns. It was noted, in the ongoing County Charter review process, that there may be an issue with the Council micro-managing. MRC members pointed out that there is still no official structure or ordinance for the MRC.

Marine Resources Data Workshop: Barbara Rosenkotter said the workshop has been re-scheduled to April 18th.

She also noted that the Salmon TAG and MRC salmon subcommittee met to start updating the evaluation criteria for the upcoming salmon recovery grant round. The timeline and evaluation criteria will be very similar to what it has been in the past. New knowledge concerning the results of the data assessments and the broadscale analysis from the “Pulling It All Together” project will be added as an interim strategy document to the evaluation criteria. The target timetable is to have the draft timeline and evaluation criteria to present to the MRC on April 6th or 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 8:30-10:40 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Michael Durland, Johannes Kreiger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Barbara Bentley, Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman,

Staff: Mary Knackstedt, Jeff Hanson, Sally Hawkins (minute taker), Brian Rader

Guests:

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Islands
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, April 20th, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- SJC Natural Resources Data workshop, April 18th, 10:15 am-3:30pm, Mullis Street Fire Station, Friday Harbor; MRC members have no charge; please RSVP for lunch.
- County Council Meeting April 19th, 2:00. Presentation and approval of 2011 MRC work plan.
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)

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

Minutes: Minutes of the 3/16/11 meeting were approved as corrected by Jim Slocomb, who brought attention to the last page of the minutes, under “Report on Town of Friday Harbor’s SMA update process”. In the second paragraph of that page the number 2, in the sentence, “The 2 Harbor marine waters. . .” should be stricken. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Barbara Marrett reported on the 3/16/11 meeting saying the focus was shifting from Sustainable San Juans this year to the Farmers’ Market; with EcoNet people attending these markets on the various islands, to hand out their material, as well as MRC material. The Good Steward Awards will now be handed out at bi-annual “Big Events” that will spotlight well-known marine-centric personalities. Shan Weston will coordinate Best Practices for Field Trips on other islands. The San Juan County Fair’s Green Village will not be on the MRC’s agenda this year. Jeff reviewed the Targeted Awareness Grant, being offered by the Partnership. The EcoNet is creating a project that reaches those audiences interested in the SMP Update. The focus is to do public

awareness events that will enhance the County's existing citizen engagement effort. The Letter of Intent is due April 28th, for a \$10,000-\$40,000 grant proposal, with 100% match for a \$20,000-\$80,000 project. Due to the uncertain funding prospects at this time, the group put the MRC, hence Jeff, in as EConet coordinator for the upcoming fiscal year, unless conflicts arise.

Northwest Straits Committee Meeting Report: 3/25/2011. Jonathan White. Although there is no word yet about 2011-13 funding, hopefully soon there will be closure on the "funding" issue. The NW Straits Commission, Ginny in particular, has received numerous offers of support for the region's MRC groups from both private citizen volunteers and institutions such as U of W in the form of internships; contact Caroline Gibson for more information. Jonathan mentioned the presentation from Snohomish MRC on Data Archiving, noting that there is a local effort making some traction in that area. He also stated that the April meeting will present MRC projects that are seeking funding outside of the NW Straits Commission's funding capacity. He was quite impressed with the Snohomish Oil Spills Preparedness Presentation given at the meeting and suggested that it might be of interest to this MRC or the next year's Marine Managers' Workshop. Steve asked whether monies in current grant cycle would be allowed to roll forward. Mary and Jonathan clarified that the monies would probably be taken back by the NW Straits commission and then re-allocated; Mary also clarified that the current grant cycle ends June 30th of this year; the new 2 year grant cycle begins July 1st of this year. Barbara clarified differences in federal and state matched funding practices; also the county's calendar for MRC's part in their budget process.

Science Committee Report: Ken Sebens reported on the monitoring plan update. He mentioned that Susan Key is working on the "what are we going to do next" portion. The Science Subcommittee agreed to act as the technical advisory committee to County Planning for the Shoreline Master Plan, if asked by the SMP Implementation Committee. All members of the committee have provided biographical information to the county.

Barbara Rosenkotter noted that the Data Workshop on April 18, is at the Mullis Fire Station, NOT the Mullis Center. MRC members can attend at no charge but must RSVP as lunch is being provided.

County Council Meeting: Jim Slocomb said that Steve, Mary Knackstedt, himself, and the press attended the meeting on how the council relates to its advisory committees. The general consensus of the Council was that the advisory committees were beneficial. Patty Miller had mentioned that in the past there had been limited guidance from the Council to its advisory committees, and that the products these committees had provided were not taken into consideration perhaps as well as they might have been. Richard Fralick was selected as the new liaison to the MRC in an attempt to tighten up communication between the MRC and the Council. Mary added that Rich Peterson's two issues were 1.) The MRC's sub-committee members are not selected by the Council, and 2.) some members could be on advisory committees for decades. Others on the Council felt that in general the various sub-committees are an asset due to the outside skills and expertise they offer. They also determined that membership was ultimately left to the Council to accept or deny when individuals come up for renewal. MRC, SWAC, and Storm Water Committee were the three groups the Council chose to improve communication with and to determine how to better use the advisory aspects of these committees. Patty Miller, Jamie Stephens and Richard Fralick will be working together to facilitate a pilot communication effort. Laura, who viewed the meeting on-line, noted mention of a need to better scrutinize committee work plans. She suggested the MRC group consider this as it develops the work plan which will be presented April 19, 2:00; with an effort to coincide as much as is practical with the council's priorities.

Implementation Committee (of the Local Integrating Organization) update: Barbara Rosenkotter said the committee will be working on the Targets and Pressures the Puget Sound Partnership is presenting and will offer feedback to them. Martha Kongsgaard with the Partnership will update where they are with the Action Agenda for the region. A tentative May 20th date is set for a workshop to prioritize the work in the local Action Agenda. The AOC (Accountability Oversight Committee) as a policy body, approved the framework the committee is working with. The committee is also preparing for an April 12th meeting with the County Council. For that meeting work that has been accomplished will be presented. The committee will emphasize that it considers the work it's doing to be important whether or not the Partnership is able to facilitate it in the future.

Jonathan mentioned that being limited with funding, prioritization is important.

Barbara agreed that it was an important distinction to make at the meeting and mentioned that Tulalip Tribes has offered to facilitate a prioritization workshop scheduled for end of May or early June.

In regard to the Partnership's work, Kit mentioned that its dashboard indicators were chosen in part for their resonance with the public and may not take the full picture of Puget Sound's Health into consideration.

Barbara Rosenkotter presented information and led discussion on the upcoming salmon recovery grant round:

- **Cascade Creek Acquisition:** Barbara distributed copies of the WRIA2 Lead Entity Process for Reviewing Supplemental Requests and described the grant extension procedures for this property acquisition. The request is for a one year extended period. The Lead Entity has been authorized to make this decisions and no action is necessary from the MRC.
- **Salmon Recovery Funding:** Barbara then distributed the WRIA2 Lead Entity Application Process and Scoring Criteria Round 12 (2011) Salmon Recovery Funding AND the Timeline for this Proposal Review. The Timeline had one change: the Preliminary Applications Due date is now May 27th; a week sooner than the previous timeline. It was reviewed and highlighted by Barbara, who noted that the MRC would have to vote for approval of the timeline. Budget is currently unclear. Potential funding for these projects is \$300,000-\$800,000 for this grant round.

Barbara then reviewed the Application Process and Scoring Criteria. She noted that assessment is no longer the highest priority; protection is the first priority, then restoration, and finally assessment which will probably consist of data gaps.

Protection will fall most probably into the area of land acquisition and conservation easement.

The Land Bank and Preservation Trust have been included in discussions of this grant for some time. The PIAT project (Putting It All Together) will influence priorities for these grant projects. Evaluation criteria has not significantly changed. What did change was to slightly lower the "benefit to salmon" weighting from 65% to 55% and raise the "fit to plan" strategy to 30%. The appendix includes a letter concerning the actual sea level rise projections by 2100.

Kit emphasizes that it is important for the proponents to be answering the same questions that the reviewers are going to be rating the projects on.

It is projected that the broad scale analysis for PIAT will be complete in late May and fine scale analysis complete in the fall to assist prioritization of projects. The motion to accept the draft proposal was seconded and passed after discussion.

Spring Street Rain Garden Project: Johannes reported that most all was in place with the exception of 20/20 Engineering analysis for hydraulics, soil amendments, etc. May 26th is the planned deadline date for completion of the installation. Brian Radar summarized the process as first putting the project out for bid, then evaluation of the bid, award the bid, then process through the county for contract approval, then construction can begin. Johannes suggested that due to the size of the contract using a

small works roster, it may be able to be expedited. Mary added that Brian would manage the project with Johannes; Jeff will be managing the monitoring with Kwíahht. There was discussion as to how to present the project to the public.

Northwest Straits Commission: Jonathan mentioned two upcoming meetings:

- Lead Staff and Chair **Annual Meeting** April 21st, at which each of the MRCs present a past project showing what might be done a little differently than other MRCs and might be valuable to other counties. He discussed content for the upcoming presentation from our MRC. Discussion ensued concerning derelict vessels and the West Side NOAA vessel ruling. The project should emphasize this MRC's advisory/ political and public involvement; perhaps its successes and failures. He asked "What are we doing today that is different and effective?" Marine Stewardship area was brought up. The group discussed the relevance of funding as being critical to a successful public outreach. Jeff requested help putting the presentation together and will send out requests for information on the Aquatic Reserve. Barbara will work with Jeff and Mark Forlenza to provide an overview of the Derelict Vessel Program.

Jeff suggested moving prioritization on the grant application to the next meeting. The group agreed.

- **The Northwest Straits Commission monthly meeting is April 29th** at which the MRCs present new projects that have potential for outside funding. Jeff discussed the stormwater monitoring planning project and suggested that a one-time contribution of \$24,000 might be made as seed money to help initiate the project for citizen and volunteer involvement. There was unanimous agreement to use this project for the meeting.

County Council Work Plan Meeting: April 19, 2:00 p.m. Steve showed the Presentation for the upcoming County Council meeting. The Power Point slides were shown for preview and discussion. Suggestions were made for improvement. This will be completed by Jeff Hanson with assistance from Barbara Marrett.

Mary's Last Day: Kit paid tribute to Mary Knackstedt, as this was her last meeting. A card and gift were presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Submitted by Sally Hawkins

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2011 8:30-10:40 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Karrie Cooper
Erin Corra
Sally Hawkins
Susan Key
Kari Koski, The Whale Museum/Soundwatch
Dennis Linden
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, May 4th, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- Implementation Committee meeting, May 4th, 11:15am-1:45pm, Key Bank Garden Room
- Open House at Friday Harbor Labs, May 14th, 11am-4pm
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)

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

Barbara Marrett said that she, Laura Arnold and David Loyd met with County Councilperson Jamie Stephens, last week to discuss what the Council wants from the MRC and vice versa. Jamie expressed his concerns that it is the Council that sets policy, not advisory committees, a concern that stemmed from an MRC subcommittee members grant application mentioning “influencing” policy. Jamie said there is a perception reported by some people who have attended MRC meetings that it is a closed group with a pot of money that is doled out to the same groups and that the MRC is a committee that does not engage a wider audience in its activities. Barbara responded that the MRC does not restrict funding opportunities and it is recognized there is not a large base of people in the county qualified to do research, etc. Barbara told Jamie that the MRC wants respect as well as recognition for the more than \$1.2 million brought into the county from outside for local projects. She added that at one point, not long ago, the County provided some of the funding for the MRC; Barbara said that subcommittees are needed to get the large amount of work done.

Minutes: Minutes of the 4/6/11 meeting were approved as read.

Outreach/EcoNet update: Jeff Hanson said the group will be meeting later today to discuss its proposed Targeted Awareness Grant application project which involves outreach ahead of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update: the “At the Water's Edge” project would include field trips to public and private shoreline properties, mapping, and other means to inform the public on SMP issues. Jeff noted that the set of criteria for mapping shoreline properties includes scoring by amount of vegetative cover, streamwater quality, amount of development, etc. He said the group will report on the grant application results at the next MRC meeting. Susan Key said that the SJC Water Resources Management Committee did a similar exercise a few years ago; she added that the SJC Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee is doing a basin characterization study and Tina Whitman said that the state's Department of Ecology is doing a watershed characterization study. The suggestion was that the efforts could be linked and duplication could be avoided.

Northwest Straits Committee (NWSC) update: Jonathan White reported that the NWSC meets next week to hear updates from each MRC with an annual summary of activities. Jeff will be presenting for the San Juan County MRC. Steve said that although there is no news on the status of future funding, Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC Executive Director, has said that she is feeling realistically optimistic.

Jonathan said that he and Barbara Bentley will be meeting with Councilperson Rich Fralick this Friday. Barbara Marrett said that Steve did an excellent job of updating the Council at its meeting yesterday on MRC activities. She noted that Jim Slocomb asked the Council to fund next year's Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) display map in the Sportfishing Guide. Steve said that he is not certain of Rich Fralick's continuing as active Council liaison to the MRC; he suggested that the liaison role involves interfacing with the MRC chair, attending frequent MRC meetings, discussing and understanding issues and advocating for them as appropriate. Sally Hawkins asked how there could be a closer tie with the Council without strong liaison presence.

Jim Slocomb addressed the reported public perception that the MRC is an elitist group, noting that the committee is specifically formulated with the need for expertise in marine resources. He said that when positions are taken, in the MRCs job to advise the Council, they are usually well seasoned. Jim acknowledged that there may be a communications issue. David Loyd suggested that this could be improved if one Councilperson showed up at each meeting. Johannes Krieger said the MRC could submit a monthly written summary of its focus issues to the Council to inform them of current focus issues. Another idea, Kit offered, is to establish a relationship now with each Council member to develop a mechanism for getting updates to them. Barbara Bentley said that one-on-one informal talks are very effective and there's no reason to wait. Ken Sebens added that the white papers, letters, and other documents the MRC submits have provided helpful information for the Council in its work.

John Aschoff said that a concrete formalized list of things we need the Council to do (working actions) would be useful. Barbara Marrett said that the MRC needs to narrow down its Work Plan items. She mentioned, as an example of MRC service, that when the Council asked for information on desalination, Richard Strathmann furnished an excellent report at no cost to the County. Added to the list of needs were: charter acknowledgment, County funding, a liaison to help strengthen the relationship, MSA plan implementation (with some key pieces that only the Council can do), implementation of the San Juan Initiative recommendations. Jeff said that the current EPA grant can fund implementation of some of the MSA plan but County match is required!

Science/Monitoring Subcommittee update: Ken reported that there will be a presentation on the monitoring plan at the MRCs May 18th meeting. The subcommittee will meet before then.

Salmon Recovery update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Data Workshop on Monday was well attended (50) and well received. Project sponsors for the next grant round will be doing updates in early May on specific needs in their proposals; site visits will be made on June 15th and the MRC, as the Citizen Advisory Group, will meet with the Technical Advisory Group on August 3rd and 17th before final scoring of the proposals.

Jonathan said that he and Tina will represent the MRC at the Orcas Island Community Foundation meeting next week; the informal roundtable and environmental needs assessment presentations by county-wide environmental groups will help with making new contacts; a packet of MRC information will be distributed.

Friday Harbor Raingardens project update: Johannes reported that he will be making a final presentation to the Town Council tomorrow at noon and asked for members to attend in support of the project. Bid packets are being finalized with construction expected to begin in early May. Johannes said there has been very good support from the Mayor and Council. There was discussion about monitoring requirements and regimen. Johannes said the plan is to monitor water quality before it enters and then after it leaves the raingardens. Barbara Bentley said that monitoring at the outflow pipe into the harbor would help establish a baseline with real data to track improvement to the environment. Ken said this project is experimental and is not large enough to make a big impact; it represents a good first step with the next phase providing more useful data. Barbara said the Eastsound constructed wetlands is collecting 40% of the stormwater runoff. She recommended that data collection be built into the budget of every future project. Johannes said he is ready to submit a press release on the Town raingardens after the project gets the final go ahead. He has already discussed truck turning room needs with businesses that could be impacted and most of them are okay with the project proceeding.

Action Agenda Oversight Committee (AOC) update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Puget Sound Partnership presented to the County Council last week to allay any fears related to Action Agenda work, tasks and deliverables; the County tentatively agreed to be the fiscal agent for the Action Agenda coordination work. Barbara reported that the Implementation Committee will be meeting with the AOC to discuss how the work will get done with funding at the local level. A work plan and description of Coordinator work is needed. The IC will meet on May 4th to review the Action Agenda prioritization (sequencing) process which will be completed in time for the public process in August; the MSA plan is listed in the threats section. Ken said that making changes to the Agenda was also discussed to flesh out the San Juan County piece. Jonathan pointed out the importance of the work being done now.

Interim Coordinator Report: Jeff said that completing current grant deliverables is his top priority. He reported that the Sportfishing Guide ad has been updated with the new orca rules. He asked if the MRC was interested in participating in the Friday Harbor Labs Open House on May 14th, from 11am to 4 pm; Ken said that 600-800 people are expected to attend from all walks of life and of all ages. Barbara Marrett and Susan Key will participate and MRC materials will be made available. Jeff will disseminate the Department of Ecology survey to members; its focus is a stewardship market analysis of shorelines. Jeff said that the NWSC has requested that MRCs take the 5-10 minute survey. Jeff reported that Ginny is waiting to hear from NOAA about future funding and is guardedly optimistic; the NWSC will prioritize staffing when funded. Copies of the Northwest Straits Initiative Annual

Report 2010 were distributed. Jeff will be attending an LID training at WSU on May 4th.

MRC website upgrade: Webpage developers, Mind Fly from Bellingham, need content and images to fill out the MRC website; Jeff requested that members submit, by Monday, one to two brief paragraphs to introduce the MRCs major topics and assignments were made. Brief biographies from those members who have not already submitted theirs are also needed. John Aschoff said that Mind Fly will be providing training sessions for those interested before mid-June (on interactive maps, etc.).

Release of NOAA Vessel Rules: Kari Koski said that the existing voluntary guidelines on 100-yard vessel distance from whales has been in effect through Soundwatch efforts since 2001. NOAA has recently announced a new regulation increasing the distance to 200 yards. She said that NOAA's website (<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>) is a useful tool on the new regulation and the Federal Register has good information. Kari mentioned that some operators find the regulation language somewhat confusing. She wondered how well officers understand the new regulations.

Kari said that the San Juan Island west side closure is not included in the regulation but is not off the table...NOAA still wants a whale protection area there. The new regulation has no new enforcement (fines) element; although there is an enforcement/implementation plan, there is no budget for it (and there is not much state funding available for enforcement either). She said a joint three-year Section 6 grant proposal has been ranked high at this point.

There was discussion about requirements for sportfishermen under the new regulations; Kari said that no fishing is allowed where whales are milling and boats need to try to maintain the 200-yard distance as much as possible and to get out of the way of whales. Johannes said the regulation is frustrating without clear definitions and enforcement. Kari noted that there are exemptions to the rules but even research vessels need permits; the rules apply to anyone in U.S. Waters. The educational piece is, therefore, still important, including for Canadian operators, Kari said. Soundwatch is revising the "Be Whale Wise" guidelines for all marine mammals with an insert on the new regulations; this will be handed out to all boat registrants in San Juan County. The Kayakers Code is also being updated. Kari said that the next Soundwatch training will be on May 1st. Soundwatch will be on the water seven days a week, beginning in June, if fully funded.

Kari and Jeff will draft a letter to NOAA and state legislators (for County Council signature?) regarding the enforcement concerns expressed today and in support of funding; individual MRC members are also encouraged to send in letters of support. NOAA's Lynn Barre will be in Friday on May 18th for a closed workshop. David said that we need federal support for water quality in Puget Sound. Kari said that NOAA is also researching vessel disturbance to foraging fish and Kit said that the whole fishing plan has not been approved yet. The Whale Museum will sponsor a community meeting on April 28th to gather input on the Soundwatch program; comments can also be emailed.

Nomination/Election of MRC Officers (1-year term): Steve Revella was re-elected Chair and John Aschoff was re-elected Vice-chair; both results were unanimous.

Renewal/Application Process for Committee Members with Expiring Terms: Jeff explained that the renewal process is simple; the six current members who want to renew their memberships need to submit a written request to Maureen See in the Administration office. Copies of the new County Council policy were distributed. Tina made the motion that the MRC recommend endorsement for renewal of the six current members but, following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Prioritization of NWSC 2011-13 grant application projects: Jeff distributed copies of a summary of the proposed projects with various funding scenarios. He said that NWSC should know before the first week in June what its federal funding situation will be (NWSC funding will account for 60-70% of its budget). It was agreed that discussion on prioritizing proposals be postponed until funding is known.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership

Presentation: The Northwest Straits Foundation/Fundraising Assistance for MRCs by Joan Drinkwin

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, May 18th, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- Annual Tribal Canoe Journey, Salish Sea, July 2011
- 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 8:30 am.

Citizen Comments: Laura Jo Severson said that the Tribal Canoe Journey would be landing on San Juan Island on Friday, July 22nd and then on Lopez Island at Odlin Park on Saturday, July 23rd. Volunteers are needed to help provide food for the estimated 250 guests at the Fairgrounds. The local Red Cross, Friends of the San Juans, and Soroptomists are among the groups helping this year. Barbara Marrett volunteered to help. Tina Whitman said that this year's Journey is hosted by the Swinomish Tribe and includes canoes from Vancouver Island and west coast Washington. She said that support boats are needed here on the 22nd and that Rhea Miller will be leading the welcoming at Odlin Park.

Minutes: Minutes of the 4/20/11 meeting were approved as read.

Election of MRC Officers (1-year term): Steve Revella was re-elected Chair and John Aschoff was re-elected Vice-chair; both results were unanimous.

Letter in support of Education and Enforcement of NOAA Vessel Rule for Puget Sound Orcas: Jeff Hanson distributed copies of a draft cover letter to County Council recommending letters of support of NOAA's vessel rule to protect the southern resident orcas; attached were copies of a sample letter to NOAA, WDFW, the Secretary of Commerce, Senator Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. Member discussion clarified that support was for more fully-funded locally-based enforcement of the whale rules. It was suggested that Soundwatch be given a sub-award to continue its education and data collection efforts. Steve said that he would shepherd the draft through to Council Chair Lovel Pratt.

Johannes Krieger emphasized that enforcement has to be the focus, looking at what works in the current streamlined regulation. He would like to see Soundwatch get funding and the capability to be the local enforcement authority, noting how valuable Soundwatch's on-the-water education program has been. Tina Whitman said that a large part of the Section 6 grant is for federal and state enforcement. Will WDFW presence be increased? Jeff said that the proposed direction of enforcement is a return to the status of years ago when there were 45 days of enforcement with officers and a boat based here.

Motion: David Loyd moved and Tina Whitman seconded that the letter be forwarded. The motion was amended to include that the letter also be sent to Representative Rick Larsen. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Town of Friday Harbor Raingardens project update: Johannes said that construction for one raingarden (in front of Herb's Tavern) would begin on Monday. A second raingarden is being planned for in front of the Caldwell Banker building. The first will collect stormwater from the east side of First Street and the second from the Palace Theater down that side of Spring Street. There will be different sized catchment areas for the different sized tributaries; this would provide a very good opportunity to monitor effectiveness, Johannes said. Jeff said the project budget (\$30,000) is part of the state Department of Ecology's Local Source Control grant. Bids for the two gardens came in at \$44,000 but the engineers on the project advised moving ahead on a potential change order, thereby increasing the cost to \$48,370. Brian Rader is working with his grant officer to re-allocate about \$2,000 in additional funds. Jeff pointed out that the MRC has about \$9,500 available in the NWSC grant and suggested allocating \$5,500 to the project. The change would require an amendment process with NWSC and San Juan County. Discussion followed.

Motion: David Loyd moved and Tina Whitman seconded that the MRC authorize the \$5,500 re-allocation in its NWSC grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Jo Severson suggested a "Plan B" to use native plants salvaged from local sources by volunteers. Jeff noted that the WSU Master Gardeners have agreed to maintain the raingardens and Laura Jo wondered if they would be replacing plants as needed. Another plant source might be donations from local nurseries. Johannes said that the cost of the plants is about 5% of the overall cost of the project.

Shoreline Master Program update "subcommittee" report: Jim Slocumb said that new documents have been posted to the web at <http://www.fridayharbor.org/SMP/smp.htm>. The Town Planning Commission will be meeting next Thursday for further discussion of the update. Tina and Kit Rawson of the policy subcommittee will review the Town documents in preparation for MRC comment.

Outreach Subcommittee report: Barbara Marrett said that there was discussion at the last meeting about the Targeted Awareness Grant (\$40,000) application; the grant would include “At the Water's Edge” workshops on priority species and why Puget Sound is in trouble. Another grant project would be “Feet on the Beach,” providing improved technical assistance for shoreline property owners (which has been identified as a critical need in San Juan County and is a recommendation of the San Juan Initiative as well as from other groups). David and Tina recommended that the MRC review other SJI recommendations as well.

Barbara said that there will be an outreach booth at the three major Farmers Markets representing the various groups of the Stewardship Network. The MRC will have a backdrop display on the Marine Stewardship Area. Barbara suggested speaker Mark Schrader for the big annual event being planned; she said he is a well-known sailor who has circumnavigated the globe, testing water and atmospheric quality, providing classes for students and publishing a book and blog. Barbara added that Mark would appeal to a wider audience and suggested the big event for next spring. She proposed partnering with San Juan Nature Institute to have Mark also speak in our schools for a small fee. There was general consensus that Barbara should pursue this idea.

Joan Drinkwin said that NWSC could provide a stand-up display on preferred crabbing practices for the Farmers Market and big event. She noted that improved crabbing practices (e.g. using escape cords) has been identified as a priority by the MRC. The display is stored at Padilla Bay. It is also available for use at Friday Harbor Labs Open House next weekend (Susan Key, Barbara Marrett, and Gregg Dietzman will be attending). Gregg and David offered to represent the MRC at the San Juan Island Farmers Market and Jeff volunteered for Orcas.

Kit, Barbara Marrett, and Ken Sebens will be meeting with Councilperson Rich Peterson later today.

Presentation: The Northwest Straits Foundation / Fundraising Assistance for MRCs

Jeff introduced Joan Drinkwin whose visit today, he said, is timely in relation to discussion of the variable budget situation. He noted that NWSC is committed to funding infrastructure (NWSC and MRC staff + office). Joan said the Foundation is a non-profit arm of the NWSC whose mission is to help raise funds for marine projects identified by the Initiative. The Foundation can accept donations and manage grants for the use of non-profits to implement specific projects; it is not a funding foundation with unrestricted funds, however. Its core programs include project/program fundraising, grants management, project/contracts management, fiscal support, and general fundraising. The derelict fishing gear project, Olympia oyster restoration work, Tribal Canoe Journey, and Shore Stewards are examples of past projects (not all of which were successful!).

Joan said that the relationship between the Foundation and Initiative are well established, but funding is separate. The annual work plan provides for working on funding any project identified in MRC work plans, strategic plans, etc. that have some MRC funding. The Foundation can act as a pass-through for MRC money. San Juan County, Joan said, could choose to be part of the two-year Olympia oyster project that includes genetic analysis and presence/absence surveys with training for volunteers to identify remnant sites. The project goal is to protect 10,000 acres of Olympia oyster habitat in Puget Sound. She will forward notices on the project. Tina suggested, and all agreed, that the Marine Health Observatories might be the perfect match.

There was discussion on the MRC work plan and need for a strategic plan. Some grants have the potential to be moved through the Foundation. One issue is how to fund equipment (e.g. freezers for

sample archiving, for water quality, and for SJNI school projects). Some of the latter has been funded by the Norcliff Foundation of New York. Kit, Michael Durland, and David will serve on an ad hoc oyster subcommittee. Joan suggested identifying priorities beyond the Action Plan. She said that more information on the Foundation can be found on its website, newsletters, annual briefs and fact sheets. She encouraged members to contact her at her Bellingham office.

Update on the Pulling It All Together Project: Barbara Rosenkotter reported a cost overrun; she is soliciting additional funds for the mapping element and pocket beach survey (200 new ones have been identified). Barbara read the process for requesting supplemental funds (for the wild salmon recovery project / assessment). Gregg will participate in the upcoming conference call.

2011-13 grant application: Jeff said that the grant begins on July 1st. He proposed an ad hoc committee to review the draft application for the May 17th conference call with NWSC; approval of the revised application is scheduled for the May 18th MRC meeting. There was agreement that the MRC needs to tell its story as a catalyst for lots of good work in San Juan County.

Interim Coordinator Report: Jeff said that the recent NWSC meeting included annual reports from the MRCs; there was little funding news, which is now expected in mid-June. Jeff said there was great MRC presence at the meeting, including our monitoring project. He related some details of the Eby's Prairie wastewater/stormwater project being implemented through Island County's MRC; phyto-remediation is being used before the water is conveyed to irrigate farmlands.

Jeff distributed copies of Billy Frank's recent article, "What's good for Orcas is good for fishermen," which comments that we need to support ecosystems so they can rebuild by not fishing endangered species for a while. It was suggested that the article be distributed to local media.

There will be an update presentation by the monitoring subcommittee on the MSA Monitoring Plan at the May 18th MRC meeting; Lynn Berry of NOAA will also be in attendance. Jeff said that the County Council's update hearing on Best Available Science will be held on May 16th-17th in Council chambers. Comments: Is government "adopting" science? This has been a 7-year process, so far.

Tina and Barbara Rosenkotter will attend the Salish Sea Conference at the end of October in Vancouver, B.C. There will be two to three days of presentations on the latest science research, policy, and transboundary issues; Barbara said this is an important opportunity that only occurs every other year or so. The MRC can cover food, lodging, and travel for those who attend. Abstracts and posters are due May 27th.

Jeff said that the Sound Publishing editor has invited the MRC to write an introduction to this year's "Green Living Guide #2." After discussion, it was agreed that the MRC participate in some writing but not sponsor the Guide this year (having had no say in which businesses posted ads in it last year).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Michael Durland, Barbara Marrett, Tina Whitman

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

John Calajero, Soundwatch
Karrie Cooper
James Grifo, Friends of the San Juans
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator
Kari Koski, The Whale Museum/ Soundwatch
Carol Maas, San Juan Islands Conservation District
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Nick Sciretta, Friends of the San Juans
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Presentation: “Coordinating Local, State, and Federal Orca-Related Boater Outreach Efforts” by Lynne Barre

Presentation: “San Juan County Stormwater Monitoring Plan” by Ed Hale

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, June 1st, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor, with special presentation on Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Monitoring Plan
- Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting, June 8th, 8:30-11:30am
- MRC regular meeting, June 15th, 2011 with Salmon Project Presentations (June 16th, Site Visits)
- Annual Tribal Canoe Journey, Salish Sea, July 22nd (San Juan Island)/ June 23rd (Lopez), 2011
- 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 8:30 am.

Minutes: Minutes of the 5/4/11 meeting were approved as read.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said the next meeting will be this Friday in Clallam County.

Monitoring subcommittee: Susan Key is finishing up the grant deliverables; monitoring collection and other documents will be available by the next MRC meeting. Methods and metrics are being developed, needing oversight by the MRC. The question was asked: how to interact with Puget Sound Partnership's Implementation Committee on the Action Agenda? RFPs are coming out from four lead organizations. Barbara Rosenkotter said the targets are nearshore marine, watershed/upland, pathogens, and toxins. Jeff Hanson requested that everyone attend the next MRC meeting for a presentation of the monitoring plan.

Salmon Recovery Project update: Barbara Rosenkotter reported that this round of grant proposals are due to be submitted by May 27th; proposal presentations will be made during the next MRC meeting on June 15th and into the afternoon with site visits on San Juan Island; Orcas and Lopez site visits will be on June 16th. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board review panel and Technical Advisory Group will also be present.

Barbara said that a letter in support of County Councilperson Richard Fralick taking over as Salmon Recovery Council representative will be forthcoming for MRC review and approval.

Outreach Subcommittee report: Jeff said that ECONet's response to the Stewardship Network letter of intent regarding the Targeted Awareness grant is anticipated by today's noon meeting of the Network.

Gregg Dietzman reported that the Open House at Friday Harbor Labs was attended by over 700 people. He, Susan Key, and Barbara Marrett staffed the MRC booth; Gregg said the event provided an opportunity for positive exposure and good discussion on what the MRC is all about.

Johannes Krieger said that construction of the Town of Friday Harbor raingarden is moving forward on schedule; he noted that three or four local contractors have taken part in the construction. Jeff said that a simple, clear interpretive sign is being designed, and there may be additional signs with information on dog and cigarette butt restrictions. Brian Rader has been providing overall outreach articles on the raingarden project.

Ken Sebens said that he, Barbara Marrett, and Kit Rawson met with Councilperson Rich Peterson for about two hours. Kit reported that Rich suggested that subcommittee vacancies be advertised to open the selection process. Rich was also concerned about accountability for derelict gear (possible MRC project?); Kit noted that outreach for immediate reporting of lost gillnets is a major current effort, and the Tulalip Tribe is using funds from the NWSC to hire Tom Cowan to work with all tribes on this. Rich also mentioned the possibility of using funds for local capacity for Action Agenda implementation to help fill the MRC's funding gap. This is a topic for broader discussion beyond the MRC. Ken said that another of Rich's concerns is the use of Best Available Science (BAS), particularly of unpublished reports with new data, for Critical Areas Ordinance update work and in general. Kit said an independent peer review process for MRC documents might be a good idea.

Laura Jo Severson suggested that the outreach subcommittee work with local boating groups to encourage more identification and reuse of derelict gear. Jonathan said that tagging gear is difficult; he will take the concern back to the NWSC.

Jonathan reported on the meeting he and Barbara Bentley had with Councilperson Richard Fralick. He said Richard was resoundingly favorable towards the MRC and is familiar with its work. Richard has informally been appointed as MRC liaison; he reiterated that it is important for the MRC to confer with the Council on policy issues.

Barbara Bentley agreed that Richard was aware and interested in what the MRC is doing, and was respectful and supportive. She noted that a copy of a recent proposal to a private foundation, asking for a substantial amount of money for monitoring of chemicals and water quality not addressed by other programs, found its way to the Council. Following her review of the proposal, she found it to not be the kind of proposal she's used to seeing, in terms of rationale, methodology, timing of sampling, structure of study. It also included money for SJC staff time to help disseminate data. The MRC was mentioned in the proposal but not consulted. The proposal was not approved. She asked how the MRC, with its expertise, could review such proposals in the future.

There was agreement that the one-on-one meetings with Council members are very worthwhile; David suggested that they be repeated in advance of quarterly presentations to the Council. Summary notes from the informal meetings will be circulated to all members.

2011-13 grant application: Jeff said that the grant application has been revised in response to comments resulting from the recent conference with NWSC. It was noted that this MRC does fewer hands on monitoring projects than other MRCs but local projects increase capacity. The NWSC requested that the MRC tell this story better in reports to them.

Motion: Jim Slocomb moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the revised application be submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the need for sufficient funding for administrative staff for MRC coordination.

County Council Best Available Science (BAS) Workshop: Jeff said the Council appears to be moving forward to adopt the BAS report; one concern is the need to clearly separate data from opinion. The Council was assured that the report is a compilation of science for their consideration. Jeff added that the Council will hold a workshop on June 13th and 14th on policymaking and toward adopting regulations for CAO. It was agreed that regulations will be an issue. Laura Arnold suggested that the Council be gently urged to move forward with quality research. Barbara Rosenkotter said that Shireene Hale said it would be helpful to have the original CAO committee participating in the workshop, along with the Council and Planning Commission.

Presentation: “Coordinating Local, State, and Federal Orca-Related Boater Outreach Efforts” Jeff introduced Lynne Barre, Marine Species grants representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He added that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has introduced a fledging proposal that Lynne will be discussing. Lynne thanked the MRC for its helpful comments in the process of adopting the new vessel / orca rules, pointing out that NOAA opted to take more time to study the No Go Zone option. Lynne asked how NOAA and the MRC can work together to engage the community in implementing the new rules (e.g. 200-yard and parking in

path of whales prohibitions). WDFW has introduced, and NOAA is interested in incorporating, a voluntary Go Slow Zone out to one-half mile along the west side of San Juan Island. Lynne said she'd like to see the MRC involved in scoping of the proposal. The next step, she added, is to talk with all stakeholders during the rulemaking process.

The Go Slow Zone definition recommends maintaining a speed of under 7 knots within 400 meters of whales and avoiding abrupt course changes. Kit wondered if this concept would provide the same benefit to whales as No Go; Lynne said that No Go provides more protection. Enforcement is still an issue. She said that NOAA will continue to promote the Be Whale Wise (updated) Guidelines. With respect to kayakers, physical presence is still an issue although acoustic influence is not.

Kari Koski recounted the process for promoting the Guidelines originally. The Whale Watch Operators Association was involved early in the development and adoption; they have presented the Guidelines as part of their package. The MRC (notice on MSA maps) and County involvement lends legitimacy to the Guidelines.

Kit said that efforts to protect this endangered species are serious and he suggested adding meaningful outcomes to the outreach. Johannes said that it would be impossible for boaters to know where the Go Slow Zone is and it would be better to put the money towards WDFW being out there on patrol more days. Lynne said that NOAA is working to increase training, with more cooperation with other agencies to enforce the new regulations (Section 6 grant). Marine mammal organizations in Canada are also stakeholders in the process. Laura Jo said that there are lots of folks here who want to help monitor boating activity in the presence of whales and who may be willing to comment directly to boaters who, for instance, leave big wakes. She also suggested a radio frequency announcing "You are entering a Go Slow Zone." Phil Green suggested incorporating the zones and rules on NOAA and NOAA-based charts, being used on GPS devices and Smart Phones.

Lynne said that WDFW has not discussed the proposal with the local Whale Watch Operators Association yet. She met with operators yesterday to discuss monitoring and enforcement. David Loyd suggested calling the west side a "whale harbor," since boaters know to slow down when approaching a harbor. He said that threats of prey availability and quality have been identified; residential fish are so toxic with PCBs that the recommended human consumption is limited to two portions per month. Lynne said that NOAA is working with PSP on contamination and health links (threshold levels); all threats are on the table, she added, in this comprehensive program.

Lynne clarified that the new regulations allow for a boat already fishing when whales enter the area (if within 100 yards) to wait until the whales pass by...don't start the engine to leave the area! Ken said that Homeland Security is likely already tracking boats out there. Lynne said NOAA is working with them but they are focused on their primary mission. Jonathan suggested looking at the Glacier Bay model where boaters are required to register and be trained; boaters are therefore invited to be a part of the program. Local groups can help to identify what the next really important steps are, Lynne said. She proposed that this would be a good topic for the next Marine Managers Workshop.

Presentation: "San Juan County Stormwater Monitoring Plan"

Ed Hale, SJC Utilities Manager, said that the current draft plan is similar to the previous version but with changes needed to address current reduced funding realities. The main difference, he added, is the identifying of three background index groups of sampling locations in the Lopez Fisherman Bay, Eastsound, and Garrison Bay watersheds; six or eight sites will be sampled twice a year, with a broader sampling of the original 30 sites, by island. This should be sufficient to meet the goals of the

sampling/monitoring program. Ed recommended looking at the tables on pages 17 and 28 of the draft. Dr. Singer will be present at the Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee's meeting on June 8th. Ed said it would be helpful for MRC members to attend and also to send in comments on the draft before the meeting.

Jim Slocomb suggested that the MRC science subcommittee, or other local experts, review legacy data. Ed said that lacking a baseline now, it will be developed over the next three years. Jeff will send the draft out to members. John Calajero said that Dr. Robin Kodner has done a phytoplankton study that engaged trained school groups to contribute to sampling. Susan Key said that money is needed for the analysis of samples. She added that local volunteers (WSU Beach Watchers, Marine Health Observatories, the Labs' K-12 program) are providing ongoing monitoring. Jeff said that some of the next NWSC grant could go to analysis and outreach.

Susan suggested that it would be helpful if the MRC commented as a group on the draft plan. Laura said the plan should be linked to the MSA plan.

Letter of Support Policy: Jeff said that Andrea McBride, a Skagit River System Cooperative researcher, is applying for a Sea Grant, with a SJC component, to study the effects of bulkheads. A second Sea Grant application is in the works from UW, related to the results of implementing the Green Shores Program guidelines.

There was discussion about how the MRC should approach letter of support requests for grant proposals. It was noted that there is a lack of BAS data on local bulkhead impacts (e.g. on eelgrass beds). The committee requested that Jeff provide the requested letter of support.

Interim Coordinator Report: Jeff said he will be getting help with preparing the NWSC grant deliverables via an extension of Susan Key's Monitoring Coordinator contract. Susan said that Barbara Bentley has offered to be on the monitoring subcommittee, which will be working on updating the monitoring plan. A 3-page summary of local monitoring efforts and 20-page prioritized monitoring strategy will be sent to the MRC and Implementation Committee for review by June 1st. The monitoring subcommittee will coordinate to provide a report with comments and recommendations on the Stormwater Monitoring Plan.

Laura Jo said she is continuing to recruit volunteers to help with providing food for the Canoe Journey's stop in the San Juans.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Kit Rawson, Tina Whitman

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Susan Key, Helen Venada

Guests:

David Cable
Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow/Low Islands
Sally Hawkins
Shannon Hoffman
Brian Rader, SJC Pollution Prevention Specialist
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Presentation: “Marine Stewardship Area Monitoring Plan” by Ken Sebens

Presentation: “Prioritized Monitoring Strategy” by Susan Key

Upcoming Events

- Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting, June 8th, 8:30-11:30am
- MRC regular meeting, June 15th, 2011, 8:30-10:30am with Salmon Recovery Project Presentations (June 15th/16th, Site Visits)
- Annual Tribal Canoe Journey, Salish Sea, July 22nd (San Juan Island)/ June 23rd (Lopez), 2011
- 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 8:30 am.

Minutes: Minutes of the 5/18/11 meeting were approved as read.

Citizen Input: Laura Jo Severson said that much good will is generated by getting a diverse group of people involved in efforts like feeding people at the Canoe Journey reception on June 22nd. David Loyd and Barbara Marrett offered to help.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that the focus of the meeting in Clallam County was the uncertain budget future. There was also a great presentation, he added, on this fall's removal of Elwah Dam; Jonathan suggested inviting the presenters to visit here. The project is many-layered, including a re-planting of terrestrial natives that are being sown by local nurseries and tribal involvement. Ken Sebens said that a research apprenticeship class at the Labs two years ago studied the ecology of the area and effects on the marine environment of the dam; the same study is scheduled for next year and changes since the dam removal will be interesting, he noted. Ken said there is concern about how much sediment could result from the dam removal. David Loyd said that in line with this good trend, dams are being removed on the Klamath River in northern California.

Implementation Committee: Barbara Rosenkotter said there will be a workshop to look at links between threats and the ecosystem that should give a better picture of what impacts might be most critical. It will also be easier to tease out strategies. Barbara said that the salmon recovery template will be presented differently (using Miradi). Scott Williamson added that Miradi, developed by The Nature Conservancy and others, will allow us to get closer to a final picture of the targets and ecosystem threats. Jonathan said that he is interested in finding someone to replace him on the Committee since he has been traveling a lot.

Outreach Subcommittee report: Jeff Hanson said that the Stewardship Network's application for a \$30,000 (2-year) Targeted Awareness grant has been submitted (Shoreline Master Program update project). He noted that the MRC has purchased a booth for use at the Farmer Markets in late July/early August, the County Fair, etc.

Letter of support re Salmon Recovery Council:

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the letter in support of County Councilperson Richard Fralick taking over as Salmon Recovery Council representative be sent out. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant contract with NWSC/Department of Ecology (DOE) for MRC funding, July-December 2011: Jeff reported that a stop gap budget was proposed at the NWSC meeting in Clallam, while awaiting word from NOAA about allotting some of its approved funding to the NWSC. A variety of other funding sources are also being considered. There will be \$300,000 available through the end of this year for funding NWSC staff at 75% as well as \$26,500 for each MRC. A standard DOE contract will be drawn up.

Motion: Jim Slocomb moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the contract be pursued. The motion passed unanimously.

MRC staffing: Jeff talked about his background with the MRC and his need to begin working fewer hours. His transition plan for the interim coordinator's position is to finish up current grant work by the end of July and then continue to the end of year as needed. He feels that the MRC is best served by a full-time local coordinator in order to carry out the Work Plan. Jeff hopes to finish out the EcoNet work by next June, working one day per week. Steve said that with uncertain funding a Request for Qualifications for the coordinator's position could be issued in July. There will be more discussion on this topic later.

Presentation: "Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Monitoring Plan"

Ken Sebens presented a brief history of the development of the MSA Monitoring Plan begun two to three years ago. The goal now, he said, is to update and review existing material, to add to the large, detailed database all known monitoring efforts (past and current) in San Juan County, and then to

develop more substantial strategies. Ken thanked major contributors on this round including Gregg Dietzman, Megan Dethier, Tom Mulfrey, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria, Jack Bell, Susan Key, Barbara Rosenkotter, and Terrie Klinger. Ken said that four years ago the MRC funded an FHL student to research and locate relevant (mostly unpublished) reports in the Labs' library; this huge project is now about four-fifths done and is available to Labs' researchers. Eventually, all the material will be scanned and available electronically. When the list is up-to-date and fully compiled, Jim Slocomb will link the material to maps. Ken suggested that the Monitoring Plan be updated every two years with a survey by biological groups (habitat, threats, etc.) of all monitoring within the MSA and adjacent areas. One identified gap is a section on stormwater monitoring, including the new raingarden and freshwater input to the local marine environment. Ken pointed out that the Puget Sound Partnership Science website includes a section with continuous updating...which could be a goal for the monitoring piece on the MRC website. The section of the Plan due to be completed by the end of the month needs detailed editing, Ken said. He added that he is happy with the updates which are very useful and just what we needed. He would like to see new information added on groups that are directly involved in the many ongoing monitoring programs (how they are funded, etc.).

Presentation: "Prioritized Monitoring Strategy"

Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator, distributed copies of the summary "Marine Stewardship Area Prioritized Monitoring Strategy" and of a list of current and potential funders and partners. She said that many of involved groups are based in San Juan County but that federal, state, regional, tribal and transboundary agencies have also added levels of information. She asked what we want to accomplish through monitoring; areas to consider include data collection, analysis, synthesis, funding.

Susan said that the main goal is to develop and apply adaptive management strategies. Are the Best Management Practices working? If not, why not? If yes, how much improvement has there been and how is it linked to what we're doing. The overall monitoring program is being designed to track biodiversity and assess ecosystem health; measures effectiveness of the MSA strategies; and, supports adaptive management of local natural resources. A list of prioritized strategies and action steps will be developed.

Fall 2010 workshops on monitoring were held on each island that offered the opportunity to share needs. Some of these go beyond the local and specific and support joining up with others through NWSC and PSP to gain momentum for efforts.

General Plan recommendations:

- treat the MSA as a functioning sub-unit (San Juan County);
- design sampling frequencies to determine status and trend estimates;
- establish update needs and data gaps;
- establish feedback loops;
- support local programs;
- request all entities within the MSA that require monitoring and are doing monitoring (Appendix D) to contribute funding to locally-based programs that augment monitoring efforts.

Target species/habitats are seabirds, nearshore/rocky intertidal and subtidal (e.g. forage fish/eelgrass), nearshore sand and gravel, rockfish (lingcod/greenling), salmon, Southern resident orcas. Susan noted the Key Ecological Attributes (KEAs), specific recommendations on pp. 6 and 7, Section 1.7 for implementing the monitoring program. The MRC focus now, she said, is to implement the MSA Plan and to come up with ways to support efforts to add value to the monitoring program. Section 2.2 beginning on page 8 provides general local guidance for the Prioritized Monitoring Strategy, including

the coordination process. Susan said that what all of us do impacts the health of the ecosystem that supports us. And, the only way to make positively impacts is for community members to step up and partner in the effort. There are many success stories out there to model, she added. Coordination of volunteers doing on-the-ground work is needed; coordination of the over-arching synthesis activities (Plan level) is also needed. Pages 15-17 outline next steps for the MRC (in coordination) with a three-year action plan to further local monitoring. Other needs are funding for outreach and coordinator, for monitoring, and for the restoration component.

Deliverables are due by June 17th and Susan asked for any input by June 13th. Susan emphasized that the threats to the ecosystem arise from human activities that are mismanaged. The solution is: People Learning About their Community's Ecosystem (PLACE) and getting involved!

Laura Jo said that this won't work without full community support. David Cable added that he's not sure there are opposing goals and if he's called to represent property owners, he'd advise keeping the see saw balanced and the issues open to discussion. Ken said that a missing piece of the Plan is a summary of updates and new findings from the various monitoring groups. Could this be part of the annual Marine Managers workshop or other annual meetings?

It was noted that the stormwater, as the nexus point of nearshore marine and terrestrial freshwater, is a likely avenue for funding...for instance, for research at FHL on the impacts of stormwater runoff. Barbara Marrett said that the Port of Friday Harbor's monitoring reports don't necessarily lead to follow up action. Susan added that monitoring volunteers have said they'd like to know how the data they collect is being used and how it links to the bigger picture. There was consensus for the MRC to take responsibility for synthesis of the mined data on some regular basis; new information could warrant recommendations to the County Council, for example.

Comment Letters by Individuals: John Aschoff asked, as a point of awareness, if an individual writes a comment letter to the Council, for instance, would mention of their MRC membership be appropriate? Following discussion, there was agreement that this would be okay if the letter clearly stated that the opinion was a personal one.

Interim Coordinator Report: Jeff said the website training is ongoing with the first iteration of the new webpage being very simple at this point; more content will be added by June 30th. He thanked Tina Whitman for her help in compiling grant deliverables and said he will be contacting others for help. Jeff reminded everyone of their requested presence at the June 15th regular MRC meeting for presentation of the Salmon Recovery proposals and at the June 16th field trips. Alan Chapman will be lead a discussion on docks and buoys at the July 6th MRC meeting.

Raingarden Maintenance: Johannes Krieger reported that construction of the Town of Friday Harbor raingarden was completed on schedule; he noted that more plant work and addition of a hand guardrail will be needed. Education, including signage, is the next step. Johannes asked about the MRC's future role. He suggested that the Town and County need to take ownership and the general consensus he's heard is positive. Johannes made reference to yesterday's news article on the raingarden by Jack Cory in the online Island Guardian.

Jeff said that the MRC could provide ongoing public relations for the raingarden and a thank you commentary online. He added that the experimental project provided an inexpensive solution (with local jobs) for addressing a stormwater-caused problem. Brian Rader said that the county's role will end, with his job, on June 23rd. He estimated that the hand rail could cost \$2600 and additional

plantings \$300...costs, at this point, being assumed by Johannes. In addition, a fall re-planting could be required to replace those that don't make it over the summer. A metered water line is available inside the raingarden. Brian asked who will take over ownership. Jeff said that he'll follow through on a maintenance agreement with the WSU Master Gardeners.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Johannes Krieger, Steve Revella, Kit Rawson

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Presentations: San Juan County Round 12 Salmon Recovery Project Proposals

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, July 6th, 2011, 8:30-10:30am
- AAOC Implementation Committee meeting, July 6th, 11am-1pm, Key Bank Garden Room
- Annual Tribal Canoe Journey, Salish Sea, July 22nd (San Juan Island)/ June 23rd (Lopez), 2011
- 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 Vice Chair John Aschoff at 8:30 am.

Minutes: Minutes of the 6/1/11 meeting were approved with Barbara Rosenkotter's correction.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that there was still no news on funding at the last NWSC executive meeting; the re-authorization process is moving forward through Congress. He added that a six-month budget (through December) has been approved and that fundraising efforts will be shifted to the NWSC Foundation.

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Action Agenda and Recovery Targets update: Jeff Hanson said that the MRC received a reminder from NWSC about PSP setting new action targets and that a website has been set up to collect comments until June 20th. Jeff added that he, Barbara Rosenkotter, and others have discussed whether MRC members individually, or the MRC as a group, should respond. The consensus was that the Action Agenda Oversight Committee (AAOC) through its Implementation Committee (IC) has been very active working through review of the Agenda, including a look at threats and their prioritization to be integrated into PSP's work; 5 out of the 12 IC members are from the MRC. Barbara Rosenkotter (Chair of the IC) said that an update of the Action Agenda will be presented to the MRC when it is complete and Laura Arnold suggested that staff from the SJC Community Development and Planning Department be invited to the presentation as well. The next IC meeting will be on July 6th and a report on targets and indicators being considered, including comments

collected, will be presented then. There was agreement that Jeff should submit comments from the MRC.

Scheduled meetings: Jeff said that Alan Chapman, ESA Coordinator for the Lummi Tribe, will present an introduction on docks and buoys at the July 6th MRC meeting for continued discussion. Brendan Cowan, SJC Emergency Management Director, will also attend the July 6th meeting with a report on the federal three-day oil spill drill on Whidbey Island. The MRC Coordinator hiring process will also be a topic of this meeting. There will be a planning committee meeting to review the MRC Work Plan in consideration of the current budget situation.

At an August MRC meeting, Simon Geerlofs of the Northwest Pacific Science National Laboratory (Marine Sciences Lab) will introduce the acoustic modeling project being conducted at Lime Kiln State Park; the project is doing tests to design a mitigation strategy.

There was discussion about holding the July 20th MRC meeting on Orcas Island. Jeff said that PSP will be doing some outreach on Orcas on hydrology and sediment modeling for the Deer Harbor project; members agreed that it would be better to ask PSP to do a presentation at a future MRC meeting, rather than at the July 20th meeting. There was consensus that a September or October MRC meeting on Orcas Island would be better timed.

Jeff said there was a Friday Harbor raingarden planning meeting last Monday. The MRC, as lead on the project, was asked to commit some time to maintain daily watering (and conduct saturation tests) of the raingarden throughout the summer. The WSU Master Gardeners and Steve Schram of Island Gardens have also committed some time. Barbara Marrett offered to help out on Thursdays and Helen Venada will water on Tuesdays.

Jeff said that Brendan Cowan has asked the MRC to send someone to role play in next week's oil spill drill; Jeff, as Acting Coordinator, will participate.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Workshop report: Barbara Bentley said Rich Peterson suggested that a field trip would be useful for the County Council. She proposed that the MRC sponsor a weekend workshop on CAO critical habitats, with field trips, for the Council and Planning Commission. There was discussion on funding the workshop and its relevance as Shoreline Master Program update outreach.

The regular meeting of the MRC was concluded at 9:00 am. Presentations on the San Juan County Round 12 Salmon Recovery Project Proposals followed.

Submitted by Helen Venada

Presentations on the San Juan County Round 12 Salmon Recovery Project Proposals:

Presentations were completed for the six proposals for this grant round. Copies of the presentations can be found via this link under the Files and Links section in the folder titled, "SRFB Round 12 Project Presentations":

http://www.hws.ekosystem.us/?p=Page_89901fef-078a-47c8-9c7b-f3c0c259700a&sid=190

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 6, 2011 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room
225 Blair Avenue
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

Members Present: Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Susan Key, Helen Venada

Guests:

Janice Biletnikoff, SJC Community Development & Planning (CDP)
Ginny Broadhurst, Northwest Straits Commission
Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Brendan Cowan, SJC Emergency Management
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow/Low Islands
Shireene Hale, SJC CDP
Kyle Loring, Friends of the San Juans
Kevin Turner
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Presentations:

“Docks and Buoys in San Juan County,” *Alan Chapman*
“Oil Spill Drill Report and Lessons Learned,” *Brendan Cowan*

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, July 20th, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, **Whidbey Island Bank, Friday Harbor**
- Annual Tribal Canoe Journey, Salish Sea, July 22nd (San Juan Island)/ June 23rd (Lopez), 2011
- San Juan County Fair, Fairgrounds, Friday Harbor, August 17th-20th
- Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) meeting, July 29th, 9:45am-1:30pm, Anacortes City Council Chambers
- 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 8:30 am.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Ginny Broadhurst said that she is making the rounds to MRCs to keep them abreast of the budget situation. As of last Friday’s start of the new fiscal year, she said it is a very different world. The NWSC had planned for such a contingency back in

January by putting the brakes on spending thus providing a reserve to support the MRCs for the next six months. Ginny explained that by keeping the staffing infrastructure in place, the NWC and MRCs can have staff to work for other funding. She said that the EPA has granted \$400,000 to the Commission for Puget Sound projects and the scope of work for the grant is under development. For now, the confirmed funding is for \$27,500 for MRC base level operations for January-July, 2012.

Ginny said she is working with Senator Murray's office on a Blue Ribbon panel to explore how best to move the NWSC forward. She said that the fall NWSC Conference (a free event) has been scheduled for December 2nd and 3rd at the Maritime Heritage Center in Port Townsend.

Jeff Hanson noted that the MRC was informed by the Northwest Straits Foundation about an outreach grant for media to support conservation efforts; Ginny said this includes outreach efforts such as for crabs and Best Management Practices. She added that San Juan County has some advantages in seeking other funding due to the early development of its Local Integrating Organization (LIO) relationship with Puget Sound Partnership.

MRC Coordinator Transition Plans: Jeff referenced his memo to members about his stepping down from the interim Coordinator position on August 4th; he will work part-time as the EcoNet Coordinator. Jeff introduced Janice Biletnikoff who has been assigned by CDP Director Rene Beliveau to take on the role of as MRC Coordinator half-time. Janice said she has been working at CDP on projects like the Critical Areas Ordinance update and SJC Code enforcement. Her strategy will be to help the MRC stay the course. Janice said that she appreciates the opportunity to work with long-standing community citizens on protection of our natural resources.

Jeff said that the MRC needs to carve out a path forward by setting out an action plan in line with today's budget constraints. He pointed out that MRC work activity supports growing the Coordinator position to three-quarter or full-time funding. Kit Rawson suggested that the Executive subcommittee work with Rene Beliveau in prioritizing Work Plan tasks. Rene said that the Coordinator funding issue and relationship between CDP and the MRC will be re-visited after six months.

Tina Whitman and Laura Arnold proposed a special focus work session to look at short-term/long-term options for funding projects. Laura added a cautionary note that it is important to keep in mind that the MRC is funded primarily by NWSC and this funding is not meant to supplement County staff for other purposes. The NWSC and the County have different mandates; the focus needs to be kept on MRC goals.

Jeff said that the San Juan's Action Agenda Oversight Group has been granted \$75,000 a year for the next six years for operations. If the funding is not completely used for AAOG operations, there has been some discussion about the possibility that any "extra" funds could go towards MRC operations. Implementation. The Implementation Committee is meeting later today and will be discussion their recommendations for the use of these funds. Ken Sebens notes that he see the value of MRC involvement with taking steps to implement the Action Agenda and noted that we had talked at one time about having every other meeting of the MRC be an LIO meeting in order to stay aware of overlapping work and opportunities to share funds. John Aschoff pointed out that it is beneficial to have someone on AOC staff (Barbara Rosenkotter is the current Chair), working with both groups to reduce duplication. Barbara's funding will be reduced in January; Scott Williamson said that less than half-time won't work for salmon recovery in San Juan County. Kit reiterated that the County and the NWSC / MRCs have different purposes and mandates, noting that the County had been willing to pay cash in the 1990's to sidestep the marine sanctuary issue.

The Executive subcommittee will meet July 20th after the MRC Meeting to discuss in detail a job description for the Coordinator (Steve said that grant writing ability is critical), the CDP/MRC relationship, and Work Plan prioritization, and provide some recommendations to the MRC.

Presentation: “Docks and Buoys in San Juan County”

Alan Chapman said that with the Lummi tribe’s Trust responsibility, his work includes review of federal permits for docks, etc. in San Juan County. The tribe has no policy on docks but keeps an eye out so that the courts don’t do anything that could impact listed species, he added. There is concern for boat traffic running over fishing nets. Alan said that there is some Department of Natural Resources (DNR) tracking of permits but the effort does not seem to be coordinated yet. He added that the Lummi tribe has good data and needs to know how the San Juan Islands and Lummi could support one another to protect eelgrass beds, nearshore habitat, etc.

Tina suggested that Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Plan implementation and monitoring should include tracking of permits, etc. to assure consistency with policy and the courts. A case in point, she noted, is the new armoring going in over forage fish habitat. The issue of who is tracking is confused, with overlapping jurisdictions and several agencies involved. Tina said that better communication and coordination are necessary.

Kit said that County notification is good but tracking is an issue. The Tulalip, he added, are concerned with direct interference with fishing activities and cumulative impacts are significant. Could the MRC act in a coordinating role? Alan asked if the density of buoys is an issue and where the community should focus thin resources. Susan Key said that PSP has identified shoreline armoring as one of its sixteen recovery targets; a monitoring study has been done for all shoreline areas but Susan suggested that it might be useful to re-do the effort in key habitat areas. Laura said that the County has a host of authority...different from DNR, the Army Corps of Engineers, etc....to make and implement policy to protect resources (e.g. interference with normal marine navigation). Rene said that CDP has a new tracking system by permit type that works better. Tina suggested that either the monitoring or policy subcommittee request an annual report for review and comment for the public record.

David Loyd said that there are new docks on Crane Island although a community dock is already in place (counter to County policy). Alan said the Lummi are wondering if SJC has a view on the general density and distribution of docks (for aesthetics, boat traffic, or a wide range of concerns); if so, the tribe could offer more aggressive support. Laura said that the discussion of where docks are appropriate has been discussed since the 1970’s but, so far, the best standard arrived at has been “joint use preference.” She proposed that the MRC review the data and its use of the data, particularly for cumulative impacts. Tina asked if we are implementing the MSA Plan. David noted that we keep in mind that there can be some positive impacts of docks (e.g. providing new habitat). Rene said these issues will be reviewed in the Shoreline Master Program update process. Shireene Hale said CDP will be drafting regulations for docks, bulkheads, marine critical areas very soon and asked that the MRC continue to comment on what is needed. With respect to density, Phil Green warned that we could see more of the community-posted signs such as “Please Go Slow Zone” or “No Wake Zone” that are now in place with Crane Island’s new docks.

Barbara Marrett noted that no Hydraulic Permit Approval (HPA) application has ever been turned down in San Juan County, suggesting a fundamental policy and level of authority problem. There was discussion about the HPA process and Barbara added that just because HPA’s are granted, the County doesn’t need to roll over.

Presentation: “Oil Spill Drill Report and Lessons Learned”

Brendan Cowan reported that the recent Coast Guard and WA Department of Ecology-sponsored three-day drill at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station provided an opportunity for government response to a large spill without industry presence. The state/federal/local response to the “mystery” spill of 200,000 gallons of oil on the NW side of Whidbey was not as well-practiced and well-equipped as that typically provided by an industry-assisted response, Brendan said. The oil moved north up to Victoria, southwest San Juan Island, and Lopez Island and provided an interesting exercise for all involved.

Key action items for local response that Brendan identified:

- State and federal responders want to do outreach at the local level but don’t know how to do it; they need local presence at the response.
- Once the oil hits the water, a major catastrophe has occurred, a calamity for the San Juans, no matter how much oil can be retrieved (typically only 15-20% is recovered by mechanical means). Everything happens fast. Therefore, the main focus of effort should be keeping oil out of the water!!
- If dispersants are used it must be early on in the response. Another possible strategy that worked well in the Gulf spill was burning of the oil in situ.
- The very first priority is to establish local policy and regulations as a tool to keep oil off of beaches! This is a local/state/federal/and transboundary responsibility. (Brendan suggested that the MRC do a local comprehensive review and inventory of critical beaches.)
- Reports on the strategies of cutting the top few feet of kelp beds and of harassing whales to keep them away from the spill area should also be reviewed.
- Baseline science is needed to help determine when clean-up is complete and how to compensate an affected community. What level of oil is present in the water now?

Brendan said that the oil industry has lots of resources and that Julie Knight of Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) has a great relationship with industry representatives. He suggested that funding could be available for developing a good database. Brendan said that the MRC could help the effort significantly by coordinating community volunteers (he noted that, as a preventive measure at the drill, rolls of plastic were spread on beaches by volunteers who needed no prior training).

Kit said that he was very impressed with organization of the drill; he, Lovel Pratt, and Richard Peterson were in attendance. Kit noted that protecting cultural and natural resources is critical and local emergency funds allocation is needed. David suggested that a white paper be written (by Science subcommittee) that would include a focus on oil prevention policy as well as upfront response. Brendan added that the DOE can also help. He hopes that even more locals can be involved in future drills.

Minutes: Minutes of the 6/15/11 meeting were approved as read.

CAO update: Jeff said that the Planning Commission will be meeting next Friday to hear comments and review the first section on Hazardous and Frequently Flooded Areas. The MRC has submitted a variety of comments since 2005 and will continue with comments, including applying some of those already submitted to the current situation. Shireene said that the update process is moving from the general to the specific and that the Best Available Science protocol has been adopted. Draft amendments on the first section (geo-hazards, frequently flooded areas) is underway. The next section addressed will be reasonable use exceptions, site specific plans, etc. (mid- August). She said that

written comments are helpful but giving verbal testimony at hearings is most effective. The Planning Commission will submit the revised draft amendments to the County Council; the draft document includes a range of options for each section. Tina said that feedback on the marine critical habitat section is needed; she noted that sea level rise is not included at this point. The Commission will meet with the Council on August 16th at 8:45 am. Kit stressed the importance of attendance at the hearings. The Policy subcommittee will do a review before and after to help build a record; they will also organize the MRC message and strategy. Tina said it's time to gear up! The Policy Subcommittee will meet after this meeting to prepare for some testimony using comments previously submitted by the MRC and Salmon TAG.

Other comments: Barbara Marrett asked the MRC to consider partnering with the Island Museum of Art to support a proposed January event on San Juan Island. As part of his world tour, Ernie Brooks, renowned underwater sea photographer (particularly in the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary), could do a presentation here along with a panel, for instance, on “our troubled waters” to discuss the state of the oceans as well as personal stewardship actions to take. Barbara pointed out that this would reach a different audience than other MRC outreach. Ginny said that the NWSC Foundation could perhaps provide a \$1,000 loan to the MRC in support of the event. There was consensus that the MRC commit to support the partnership and help with logistics.

Ken said that the Science subcommittee can take on the oil spill issue needs since the monitoring plan is complete.

NOTE: The next three regular MRC meetings will be held at Whidbey Island Bank in Friday Harbor, 533 Market Street (off Mullis) in Friday Harbor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am

Submitted by Helen Venada

**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, 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 Policy 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 the 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

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 3, 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, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Michael Durland, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

Staff: Janice Biletnikoff, Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources and Technical Advisory Group for salmon recovery projects
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership

Presentation/Discussion: "Technical Advisory Group Comments on Salmon Recovery Project Proposals," Barbara Rosenkotter

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, August 17, 2011, 8:0-10:30am, **Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor**
- San Juan County Fair, Fairgrounds, August 17th-20th, Friday Harbor
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Conference, November 2nd and 3rd, Maritime Center, Port Townsend

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

Minutes: Minutes of the July 6, 2011 MRC meeting were approved as read. Minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting were approved as amended.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that the NWSC met last week in Port Townsend. Discussion topics included budget and the upcoming conference scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd at the Maritime Center in Port Townsend. The NWSC is now operating on a six-month emergency budget, supported by a \$400,000 EPA grant that is administered through the Puget Sound Partnership, to keep the doors open through half of 2012; each MRC will receive about \$22,000 for operations through June 2012. Jonathan circulated a laminated poster with advice and policies on crab pot retention, from Washington State University, Snohomish County Extension. See www.derelictgear.org and morecrabs.forall@wsu.edu. He also circulated a copy of a Jefferson County brochure on softshore armoring, noting that the NWSC could fund its reprinting to help get the message out. Jonathan asked for feedback on possible topics, themes, etc. (e.g. tidal energy, financial

creativity,) for the November NWSC Conference; there were questions about travel cost recoupment and housing. Jonathan said that Jefferson County is working to promote the ban of fin fish aquaculture in shoreline waters while promoting its development in upland areas. Ginny Broadhurst and the NWSC staff have assembled a blue ribbon committee to help define NWSC's role and to explore long-term funding options.

Implementation Committee (IC) update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the IC recently met with the AOC policy group; there was general approval of the IC's progress on the Action Agenda work. The local Action Agenda details will be finalized later today and will be available before submittal later this month. Barbara said there will also be a briefing on the job description for an LIO Coordinator to be hired soon. The Tulalip Tribes are contributing \$15,000 for Local Integrating Organization work.

Outreach subcommittee update: Barbara Marrett reported that there was support for the Ernie Brooks event from other groups attending the July 20th meeting; there was interest in repeating the event on Orcas Island as well. Details to be worked out include a possible sliding fee scale and recipient of the benefit event. Barbara said that the Port of Friday Harbor provided partial funding to print a guide to sea critters from the Friday Harbor Marine Health Observatory (based on information available at <http://fhmho.org>).

Barbara said that the Stewardship Network has elected to not present stewardship awards (Finnies) or to have a stewardship event this year; both will be reinstated next year. Jeff Hanson said that the local Stewardship Network acts as the local (contracted) EcoNet, providing coordination and more training opportunities while keeping a focus on local issues and concerns.

Kit Rawson said that Jay Eaglehoven is consulting with a group in Alabama on voluntary zones and is interested in the MRC's experience regarding the rockfish recovery zones. There will be a teleconference on October 4th and Kit will ask Joe Gaydos or others to participate.

David Loyd noted that the MRC, in its partnership with WSU Beachwatchers, is invited to the August 9th meeting at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon to discuss the future of the Beachwatchers.

Marine FWHCA (Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas) Policy Recommendations:

Laura Arnold distributed copies of a list of discussion points for MRC comments on the Council's policy recommendations for CAO. She said that there are some areas for which the MRC has not yet submitted comments. Janice Biletnikoff said that the August 16th County Council workshop will review consultant and staff recommendations, particularly to look at policy recommendations, where the County Code may be deficient, and how to meet minimum thresholds to protect critical areas. She said that site specific plans or county-wide prescriptive recommendations (e.g. for buffers) will be considered, related to this last section of the CAO ordinance to be discussed. Public testimony, including that from the MRC, is sought. A final draft will go to the Planning Commission for review before another public comment period is opened. Janice noted that interim rules will be in place before completion of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update process by December of 2012. The MRC policy subcommittee will draft comments for testimony after today's meeting.

Laura pointed out that the main issue for MRC comment now is mitigation sequencing, with a discussion on buffers and like-for-like trade-offs which would need to be supportable as such. Over-water structures are another concern in light of potential damage to eelgrass beds. These trade-offs, she added, should not trump other policy measures. Armoring, Laura said, is another area where a future analysis of cumulative impacts is important. She recommended that the MRC call out against the MRC-

sponsored modification inventory that documents more armoring than what shows up in the record. Also, Laura pointed out, marine riparian vegetation is not noted as a functional value in existing code on marine buffers and setbacks. David said it is also important to note that insects in this zone are critical for the salmon species of concern. Barbara Rosenkotter added that buffers have a huge functionality, beyond treatment of stormwater runoff. Laura said it would be helpful to standardize use of the terms “buffer” vs “setback” to distinguish their meanings.

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Barbara Bennett seconded, that the policy subcommittee be enabled to address the details of MRC comments to be submitted for August 16th. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on the distinctions between and overlaps of CAO and SMP, with update processes running in parallel time now. CAO is derived from the state’s Growth Management Act requirements and feeds into SMP; the federally-mandated SMP has been delegated to states by the Coastal Management Act. Laura said that it’s important to identify in the CAO what is at risk for marine habitats because CAO decisions will precede SMP decisions.

Recommendations on Work Plan and MRC role in staffing: Laura said that the Executive subcommittee discussed the current staffing situation. Janice Biletnikoff said that in her capacity as temporary part-time Interim MRC Coordinator she will work on work plan priorities. Jeff distributed copies of his simplified view of the MRC 2011/201 Work Plan. The questions are how to fill the Coordinator position and how/whether to approach the Council on the issue of the MRC having more of a say in selecting the Coordinator. A draft letter was circulated, including mention that a full-time Coordinator and long-term funding are needed; Kit will edit and send to Steve and Laura for further review and submittal to the Council before budget talks resume.

Jeff said that the MRC will be reporting to the County Council in about two months with an update on Work Plan progress and he suggested a facilitated discussion at the regular September MRC meeting to refine the presentation and to renew commitments. Leads, or subcommittees, were identified to implement the work without a Coordinator and with the County as fiscal agent.

Steve said that he has talked to Rich Peterson and Lovel Pratt and will continue the off-line discussion. Discussion of the one-on-one casual meetings with Councilmembers will be part of the September meeting agenda.

NWSC Foundation funding update: Jeff said that Joan Drinkwin of the NWSF has put together a process of how to help fund MRC projects, including a spreadsheet on proposals and potential funding sources. She wants to do a one-hour presentation to the MRC soon, possibly to the Executive subcommittee on September 3rd.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Comments on Salmon Recovery Project Proposals: Barbara Rosenkotter distributed copies of a summary of TAG scores. She briefly discussed the weighted scoring for each proposal and details of the TAG’s decisions. The MRC will do its final scoring on socioeconomic impacts at the next regular meeting. Barbara discussed funding allocation options and said that about \$500,000 will come from Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and about \$300,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

She noted that she has been solicited with public comments on the proposals and wondered what to do with them. There was discussion on email and phone calls received by MRC members and by Barbara

outside of MRC meetings. There was agreement that, although these comments are not part of the review process, members are interested in getting the information. Barbara will send a list of the comments before the next meeting.

MRC Coordinator's report: Jeff said that there is some funding left in his contract to allow for him to complete the website upgrade. He requested the go-ahead from the MRC.

Motion: Laura Arnold moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, to approve Jeff using remaining funds in his contract to complete the website project. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff said that he has an incredible experience over the last four years working with the MRC and feels lucky for all he has learned, for the people he had the opportunity to work with, and for exposure to what the MRC does for the marine environment. He said that a tremendous amount of foundational work has been done (e.g. monitoring baselines and other measuring of impacts) and that he sees a clear path forward for the MRC. Jeff pointed out that much of the work has been done through contracts with local businesses and organizations. The MRC, he said, is in an excellent position to guide funding for future work in order to accomplish its mission. Among the many challenges he sees are that some people don't seem to realize that they are part of the natural world.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**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 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 or 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

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 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, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens

Members Absent: Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Jim Slocumb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Staff: Janice Biletnikoff, Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Janet Alderton, Orcas Island
Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow/Low Islands
David Hyde, San Juan Island
Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator
Pat Miller, San Juan Island
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Richard Steinhardt, Orcas Island

Discussion: "Review of Project List and Potential Funding Opportunities," by Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF)

Presentation: "Gravel Road Conversion," by Rachel Dietzman, San Juan County Public Works

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, September 21st, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 8:30am.

Minutes: Minutes of the August 17, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

Policy subcommittee update: Laura Arnold said that at last week's meeting the subcommittee discussed the MRC policy directives to the County Council on the Marine Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas section of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update. There was discussion on the need to communicate, again, that there has been a lot of recognition by the Council of the importance of protecting marine resources in San Juan County. Laura added that Kit prepared a written

summary introducing the topic, including documents adopted by the Council. The issue of marine riparian buffers and their protective value for ecological functions was also discussed by the subcommittee; buffer width and the need to recognize more than water quality benefits need to be recognized in County Code. Laura said that Tina Whitman explained what to avoid in future shoreline armoring, summarizing the ecological functions of beaches and the structural and biological effects of armoring. Specifically, Tina advised when to avoid new armoring for new development, recommending softer approaches rather than rock or concrete walls.

Barbara Bentley said that CAO and Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update issues (e.g. land use designation /riparian definitions/ value of ecological services) seem to overlap but definitions seem to differ; she added that the two update processes seem to be moving on separate tracks and asked if the MRC could help to prevent duplication of effort. Rene Beliveau explained that the two regulations are legally separate, with separate funding and different update processes. He said that CAO will inform SMP and the SJC Community Development and Planning Department will do what it can to assure coordination of the two processes. Laura reiterated that recognition of the protective role of buffers cannot be ignored. Kit said that the MRC advises the Council and attempts to inform its own membership as much as possible; he added that the MRC is trying now to explain some marine habitat concepts that seem to have been misunderstood in order to make clear that the value of shoreline buffers goes beyond water quality. Barbara Marrett added that mitigation should be for the greater public good, not for personal gain.

David Loyd pointed out that the low shoreline on the Islands used to be covered with fallen trees; we're operating with a new baseline now, he said. Steve requested that members read Tina's draft letter that was emailed to them earlier and then to send comments to him for the Council presentation on September 12th at 10:45am. Laura noted that there has been previous discussion on the draft by the full group.

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the draft letter be moved forward. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: “Review of Project List and Potential Funding Opportunities”

Joan Drinkwin, NWSF Program Director, explained the Foundation's process for responding to the new funding structure and the role that NWSF can play to help the seven MRCs accomplish their goals. She distributed copies of the spreadsheet of 2011-13 MRC projects, describing each and noting requested funding (before the loss of federal re-appropriation) and potential funding sources (non-NWSC). She introduced the list to lay out what the various MRCs want to do, as a starting point, noting that there is a need to be more proactive now, using a variety of approaches. Project specifics are required and she summarized other criteria that include, for instance, for projects and policy programs to be MRC-led. NWSF can help provide support for projects that would not happen without MRC funding, Joan added. Laura said that the MRC needs to maintain project administration and asked how to include that in project funding requests.

Joan provided a brief background on the NWS Initiative: its makeup consists of seven MRCs plus the NWSC (with 7 members, one from each MRC), plus the non-profit NWSF. The Foundation is the fundraising and funds management arm and its Board of Directors are on the Commission. Kit said that a primer on the NWS Initiative would be a good topic for the December NWSC conference. John added that a discussion on specific guidelines based on successful past projects would be useful.

Barbara Marrett mentioned that the January 2012 event co-sponsored by the MRC and the Islands Museum of Art needs about \$1,000 from the MRC. She asked about the NWSI timeline for submitting

a loan proposal. Joan explained that this type of education and outreach project could be bundled with other similar components from different MRCs. Joan pointed out that grants take forever and other financial sources need to be explored (e.g. local sponsors, major donors); the NWSF can help with proposals. There was agreement that it is appropriate for volunteer MRC members, but not the MRC Coordinator (except for grants), to engage in fundraising activities.

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

Rachel Dietzman, SJC Public Works County Engineer, said that she is attending today's MRC meeting to offer Public Works' services to provide information and to conduct research so that the MRC can better advise the County Council on future road surface conversion projects. By way of example, Rachel circulated copies of various study reports from asphalt suppliers and the Forest Service regarding potential environmental impacts of road paving. Barbara Bentley said that the MRC needs to look carefully at the environmental implications of gravel vs paved roads, especially for projects in proximity to marine waters. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are one of the chemical compounds of concern.

Rachel said that PAHs are found in variable concentrations in products that are coal tar- or petroleum-derived. Sealcoat, a coal tar product, she explained, is produced by a destructive process from coal and has extremely high levels of PAHs and other carcinogens (e.g. benzene); its use for roads is no longer permitted in Washington state. Public Works' chipseal is an asphalt product distilled from petroleum; Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) on these products acknowledge that environmental impacts of PAH content is unknown.

Rachel said that the emulsions in these products consist of inert soap and water and contain no solvents to volatilize. She suggested looking at the Albina website to learn more about the type of surfactants in these products. Surfactants, Janet Alderton noted, are anaerobic; some of them break down into nonylphenols, which are known to be endocrine disruptors. It was noted that results of the December 2007 study done by Russel Barsh et al at two chipsealed road sites on Lopez Island were inconclusive and there has been no follow-up monitoring.

Rachel said that some considerations for Public Works' gravel road conversion program are road traffic volumes, cost of maintenance, and preservation of infrastructure. She touched briefly on the use of porous asphalt filters for road sediments, dust control products (lignin sulfate), and leaching characteristics of recycled asphalt products. Rachel noted that the recent chipseal project at White Point on San Juan Island was well received in the community.

There was committee discussion on confining a white paper from the MRC to marine environments to advise the Council on their decision making when controversial projects arise. Laura Arnold said that surface runoff can be mitigated by the installation of bioswales, grassy shoulders and ditches. The question was asked about the source of chipseal products and gravel and whether the chipseal products were made from recycled asphalt. Barbara Bentley asked about the use of permeable asphalt.

Rachel said that the chipseal process is to spray hot asphalt emulsion on the road surface and then to apply chip rock within minutes and roll it into place. Hot Mix Asphalt is batched like concrete and there are crucial compaction needs; special trucks are required for application. Lawson Construction, the only asphalt plant in the San Juan Islands but its product is too expensive for use in SJC. Rachel said the maintenance cycle is similar for both chipseal and asphalt surfaces.

Janet Alderton said that the Forest Service studies don't apply here (large semi-trucks vs passenger cars). Rachel disagreed and clarified that these Forest Service studies were for a variety of road types and that the science is sound. Janet added that the heavy metal content of the products used here should be analyzed and she requested a copy of the cost analysis on the recent Watmough Road chipsealing on Lopez Island; Rachel said it is available on the County's website.

Richard Steinhardt said that car runoff is a significant issue when looking at road chemical pollution; road surfacing is not the only source. He is from Texas where many studies on pollution from paved surfaces have been done.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21 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, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jonathan White

Members Absent: Gregg Dietzman, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

Staff: Janice Biletnikoff, Helen Venada

Guests:

Lisa Brown, SJC Community Development and Planning (CDP)

Terry Carten, WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Dennis Clark, DNR

Bob Fritzen, WA Department of Ecology

Shireene Hale, (CDP)

Sally Hawkins

Kyle Loring, Friends of the San Juans

Lee McEnery, CDP

Colin Maycock, CDP

D. Mayer

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator

Gregory Simon

Julie Thompson, CDP

Jason Wilkinson, DNR

Presentation: “How WA DNR Lands and Programs Relate to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update Process” by Hugo Flores, DNR (Sedro Woolley) and Lalena Amiotte, DNR (Olympia)

Discussion: “Planning for the Marine Managers Workshop: Land use, Oil spills, Research”

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, October 5, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) meeting, November 4th, 10:30am, Friday Harbor Grange
- NWSC Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 8:30am.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 7, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that the main topics of discussion at the late August NWSC meeting on Whidbey Island were NWSC's long-term funding and re-authorization. Senator Patty Murray helped convene a "blue ribbon" committee, which met at Padilla Bay in late August. Bill Ruckelshaus, Senator Kevin Ranker, and other agency representatives were present. Jonathan said that the NWSC (and the work of the MRCs) have struggled to get recognition from agencies and one of the positive outcomes of this blue ribbon committee is an acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution we make to the conservation efforts in Puget Sound. He added that Bill did a look back of the NWSC five years ago showing the value of its work. The funding challenge remains and will be pursued through Patty Murray's office and elsewhere. John Aschoff will attend the yearly staff meeting next Wednesday. John said that one of the discussion items will be how the various MRCs will work with the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF). He asked that members let him know of other topics to be brought to the meeting. John said that the "Getting to the Water's Edge" proposal could be a good fit for NWSF help.

There was discussion on monitoring needs. Barbara Bentley said that targeted baseline data is needed right now for projects like the Friday Harbor raingarden and the Eastsound constructed wetland. Kit Rawson noted that with today's new reality and new focus, it likely that MRC work plan elements will be shifted; he said this would be a good topic for the annual MRC retreat. David Loyd pointed out that several proposals suggested by Kwiaht and others may also benefit from NWSF assistance. Barbara Marrett reiterated that the MRC needs a full-time coordinator. Rene Beliveau said that, based on County Council direction, Janice Biletnikoff will be returned to full-time planning work and Lisa Brown has been assigned to provide the MRC with some administrative services, with Janice available on a limited basis. Rene added that the Council also directed that the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Coordinator and the MRC Coordinator positions be consolidated; applicants for the job will be interviewed in about two weeks. One big gap, Rene noted, is that MRC help is needed to work on grants.

Kit reminded everyone that the NWSC and MRCs were initiated as a response to the rejected alternative of a national marine sanctuary. He said that a whole lot of excellent work has been accomplished with free volunteer labor. Kit asked if anyone has ever looked at the cost to implement a sanctuary.

Jonathan asked for a quick review of MRC members signed up to spend time with individual Council persons. There was an informal re-commitment to the effort and Jonathan said that it would be good to re-visit Council members before January 1st and to report back to the committee. Kit said that he had a constructive conversation with Rich Peterson who seems to be very concerned with scientific advice informing the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update process. Another suggested topic for discussion with the Council is the overlap of Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and CAO documents. There was talk about the MRC needing more signs of support from the Council. Rene said that there are very vocal and well-organized interest groups out there to provide input but environmental groups are not so well represented.

Steve announced that Ken Sebens is stepping down as chair of the science subcommittee.

Implementation Committee update: Barbara Rosenkotter reported that a final list of Action Agenda strategies has been drafted for presentation to the AOC (the policy body) and to the County Council next Friday. Barbara asked when to present the updated list to the MRC. The Puget Sound Partnership

is planning a public outreach meeting for October 19th (on the ferry?) and Barbara wondered if the MRC was interested in providing a display for the event. The LIO grant pre-proposals are moving forward and Barbara said they are available for MRC review. Kit strongly recommended that local people take action to help get the message out to the community about local Action Agenda efforts; he suggested that MRC members attend the October 19th meeting. Laura Arnold suggested that there be a subcommittee meeting after the next regular MRC meeting in order to prepare for that.

Presentation: “How WA DNR Lands and Programs Relate to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update Process”

Hugo Flores said that he is part of the policy unit at DNR. He provided a brief history of the Washington Territory, noting that it became the 42nd state on November 11, 1889. The Equal Footing Doctrine asserts that the state owns 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands (tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, waterways, and navigable waters). From 1890-1950, Washington promoted the sale of aquatic lands to encourage economic development and to raise funds for the state. In the 1950's there was a shift to leasing these lands. In 1970 the Washington Legislature eliminated sale of tidelands and shorelands.

Copies of a packet of information prepared by DNR was distributed. It is designed to assist local planning staff in coordinating with WDNR while updating shoreline management programs or other planning activities. SMP updates, for instance, require identification of shorelines with state-wide interest. If a local entity identifies a specific shoreline use (e.g. aquaculture) then DNR would be involved in the planning process.

Hugo pointed out that DNR is not a regulator (like WA Department of Ecology); DNR manages land use. The basic principles of the agency include ensuring environmental protection while fostering sustainable uses of natural resources; encouraging public access and generating income for DNR; managing navigable interstate and intrastate waters. The goal for working and planning with local governments is to share information and to prevent management conflicts.

Lalena Amiotte explained that Habitat Conservation Plans are part of the leasing program and are negotiated agreements with federal services. She said that DNR wants to minimize its liability in leased areas on Endangered Species Act issues; HCPs address ways to avoid/minimize impact and reduce harm to listed and sensitive species while describing commitments for compensation. Along with DNR's goal to reduce impacts to HCP-covered species and habitat, DNR aims to improve/restore habitat quality and to improve/protect important habitat through conservation, restoration, and landscape planning. The scoping process involves studies of 86 species, 35 activities, and 14 ecosystems to look at what causes harm. Lalena discussed some of the activities under study: log booming/storage, overwater structures causing harm, shellfish aquaculture/fish net pens. Strategies for habitat protection for all uses in all lands include protection of native aquatic vegetation (e.g. w/ buffers, surveys, and monitoring) and forage fish spawning areas as well as landscape prioritization and planning. DNR has the ability to restrict activity if the use is not consistent with its goals. Lalena said that DNR works to assure that resources are managed in accordance with lease goals. She noted that ensuring environmental protection may be the best use for a given area.

For forage fish protection, siting criteria and surveys can be used to help define the line between avoidance and minimization. One consideration is whether a given area historically supported forage fish. The Landscape Prioritization Tool uses GIS information to help DNR identify the most precious lands in Washington and to learn what to do to protect remnant populations in need of conservation in nearshore environments. Using HCP standards, and to avoid more toxic pollution, no treated wood or tires can come into contact with water bodies, Lalena noted. Copies were distributed of fact sheets on

identifying high priority aquatic ecosystems for conservation. Lalena outlined the 2010 review process: applications (\$25 fee) are subject to scientific review and site inspection; recommendations are then submitted and a Land Manager has discussion with the applicant on alternatives to be assessed. Lalena said that draft complete HCPs, similar to EISs, are subject to NEPA and SEPA formal review. Renewing leases follows the same process as new leasing; an HCP is good for 50 years. Leases are required on state-owned (not private) tidelands; easements are for non-exclusive use.

Terry Carten said that there are multiple forms of “use authorizations”: for instance, leases are required on state-owned (not private) tidelands; easements are for non-exclusive use. Laura said that it is important that SMP builds in protection where DNR is not active. Terry added that where private lands are adjacent to public aquatic lands, DNR wants to see the same level of protection through the SMP/SMA process. There was discussion about the mechanism for withdrawal of leases (by DNR Commissioner order); a lease could be discontinued at the end of its term or under consideration for protection of specific species/embayments/water bodies. The overlaps, differences, and regulatory confusion of DNR's HPA process and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction were discussed. It was agreed that it is important for the two agencies to work together early in the process.

David Loyd said that summary of the literature would be helpful. There were questions about interim CAO changes (e.g. regarding docks) and about enforcement (e.g. mooring buoys). The MRC was encouraged to help to spread the word locally that mooring buoys need to be authorized and there are benefits to doing so.

Marine Managers Workshop planning: Steve introduced the question of who would organize the event in the absence of a full-time MRC Coordinator. Could the MRC partner with CDP? Jonathan will appeal to the NWSC for help. Could the NWS Foundation help to find funding? Janice suggested that a \$50 fee might be considered as well as reducing the workshop to one day.

Discussion on County Council request for input on Reverse Osmosis water systems as a primary water source: Steve said that Dr. Richard Strathmann told him that there has been no new information since his 2009 study to change his point of view. Copies of his report, “Standards for Reverse Osmosis Desalination Systems,” were distributed. The current request is for new development. Laura said that with the science on marine resources being at issue here, the timing of this request is very relevant. Maintenance, build out, salinity changes, monitoring, enforcement remain concerns. Barbara Bentley will draft a re-packaged response to the Council which Steve and Johannes will edit.

There was discussion on the Council's feedback to the recent MRC letter on CAO. The Council's recommendations include the use of the term buffer, not setback. Laura noted that one does not replace the other and there needs to be new language regarding armoring. What are the correlation factors?

Barbara Bentley said there will be a Council meeting on Orcas on September 27th with a field trip to a wetland area with a constructed pond. Barbara hopes to include a visit to the old quarry.

Barbara Rosenkotter announced that there will be an opening ceremony of the new bridge at Cascade Creek, Buck Bay, on October 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 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, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: John Aschoff, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Russel Barsh, Kwiaht
Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy
Sally Hawkins
Pat Miller, San Juan Island
Madrona Murphy, Kwiaht
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership

Presentation: "Recent Salmon Recovery Restoration Projects" by Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, October 19, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda show on interisland ferry, October 19th
- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference co-hosted by Environment Canada and Puget Sound Partnership, October 25th-27th, 2011, Vancouver B.C. (www.salishseaconference.org)
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) meeting, November 4th, Tulalip Administration Office, Snohomish County
- NWSC Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 8:30am.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting were approved as revised.

Presentation: "Recent Salmon Recovery Restoration Projects"

Tina Whitman reported on three salmon recovery projects from this summer; all involved restoration of local spawning beaches for forage fish (including surf smelt, sand lance) in areas where juvenile salmon outmigrate. The Neck Point Coastal Wetland Reconnection project on Shaw Island recreated

tidal wetland channels, improved prey conditions, and opened the flow of marine waters into the wetland. Partners included Friends of the San Juans (FSJ), WSU Beachwatchers, San Juan Islands Conservation District, Coastal Geologic Services, Tina Wyllie-Echeverria and other local contractors.

The Barlow Bay Pacific Sand Lance Habitat Enhancement project on Orcas Island had been identified as a community early action project, Tina said. Rock was removed from the spawning habitat zone, with the bonus of improving road protection. Partners were FSJ, SJC Public Works, Salmon Point Community Association, and local contractors.

The third project, the Blind Bay project on Lopez Island, restored surf smelt spawning habitat at a public (pocket) beach along a county road right of way. The degraded beach was nourished with sand and gravel, graded, and the upper beach was re-planted. Later this fall, native shrubs will be planted along the road edge. Interpretive signs will be added. Local contractors and SJC Public Works partnered with FSJ and Coastal Geologic Services on the project.

There was discussion about the importance of monitoring all restoration sites. Tina suggested that there be a forage fish assessment along with photo surveys seasonally for two years after restoration and that geomorphic surveys be conducted in year one. She added that “monitoring is the key,” although it is very hard to fund monitoring, especially beyond the first year. Other lessons learned from these restoration projects, she noted, include that since some habitat types are relatively rare (forage fish habitat and coastal wetlands) restoration opportunities should be a top strategy. Limitations include that opportunities for restoration are often small and widely distributed. Costs can be high (in money and time) and ecological benefits can be uncertain. Restoration cannot be counted toward net gains in habitat until the protection effects are improved. Despite these limitations, restoration is where the majority of public funding is going at this time, Tina said. Other funders in the effort are the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Community Salmon Fund.

Work Session on MRC 2011-2012 Work Plan Projects and Priorities: Jeff Hanson explained that the County has asked him to fill in as interim MRC Coordinator for the next several months. He said that his aim is to help the MRC move its priority projects forward. Jeff said that he and John Aschoff attended the recent Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) staff meeting in Friday Harbor. The \$400,000 EPA grant has been finalized; Jeff said that cooperation with the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) is included in the guidelines. Ginny Broadhurst told the meeting that the goal remains that the MRCs continue to be bottoms up organizations. Jeff noted that he will be circulating a signup sheet to members at each meeting to record all their volunteer time with the MRC; the record is required for documenting matching funds for the EPA grant. Jeff announced that Florian Graner, marine biologist and photographer (e.g. documentary, “Beneath the Salish Sea: An Underwater Odyssey through Puget Sound”), will present at the upcoming MRC Conference (more info at next meeting).

Jeff facilitated a ranking process to prioritize 2011-2012 Work Plan projects. He noted that these are 9 out of dozens that require funding to complete. After discussion and consideration, the MRC ranked the projects as follows:

1. Oil Spills Prevention/Readiness with a focus on this at the 2012 Marine Managers Workshop
2. Monitoring Actions and Prioritizations
3. (a 3-way tie): MSA ad in Sportsfishing Guide; Green Shores; Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
4. MRC Presentation (Power Point, etc.)
5. Stormwater monitoring support

6. "Getting to the Water's Edge"
7. January event: Ernie Brooks

Under the discussion of oil spills prevention/preparedness work, Barbara Rosenkotter said that it is part of the MRC role to elevate issues for regional involvement, for instance, through the Marine Managers Workshop. Ken Sebens explained that, although there are related grants available now, they have been specific to the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Tina noted that the MRC is not necessarily the lead in this effort. It was agreed that establishing baselines is crucial to measuring spill impacts. Russel Barsh said that a pilot study at the South end of Lopez Island is looking at sea bird/breeding bird habitat for possible use in triage; he said that the Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) needs a clear map of where to respond. Russel added that Conoco-Philips has a fund for seabird protection and he is trying to get funding that includes baseline work.

Tina commented that more people need to show up for public meetings on issues like the SMP. She said that this is an effective way to try to shape the San Juans for the next 20 years. Laura Arnold added that this is a basic role for the MRC.

Phil Green pointed out that there may be differences between the updated shoreline access information from Ecology and local information for the "Getting to the Water's Edge" project.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that the LIO has established priorities for the San Juan Action Agenda. She said that a mini grant proposal process (~\$15-20,000 total) hopes to help fund LIO-overlapping projects, e.g. those that address oil spills, impacts to shoreline development, run-off from the built environment.

Jeff said the current NWSC grant covers 17-18 hrs/week of Coordinator salary plus benefits and some travel and project costs. The EPA grant, as an amendment, will add \$27,500 for January through June. Other potential funding could come from the County's MRC rainy day (emergency) fund (~\$17,000).

Jeff said that PSP will do an Action Agenda showcase on the interisland ferry on October 19th. Members agreed to provide the MRC display for the show as well as handouts; Jeff will be attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 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, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, David Loyd, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: John Aschoff, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Russel Barsh, Kwiaht
Jack Bell
Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum
Stephanie Buffum-Field, Friends of the San Juans
Rachel Dietzman, SJC Public Works
Nathan Hodges
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Tom Winter, People for Puget Sound volunteer

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, November 2, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) meeting, November 4th, Tulalip Administration Office, Snohomish County
- NWSC Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 8:30am.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

Tina Whitman commented on the recent guest column by oceanographer, David Hyde, in the 10/11/11 Island Guardian online newspaper. She said that, although Dr. Hyde's oceanography looks valid, she took issue with some of the article's conclusions about the county's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) use of Best Available Science regarding marine resources. Following some committee discussion, it was suggested that the policy and/or science subcommittees consider a response guest column and that the MRC reach out to the author who is fairly new to the islands and the issues. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that CAO is not just about water quality but is also about making sure we have habitat for wildlife. Tina said that although the state classifies the San Juan Islands as part of Puget Sound, the classification is not technically accurate and she encourages more ongoing conversation; she added that there is some great and not-so-great science out there and some conclusions being drawn are flawed.

Tina also noted that the MRC missed an opportunity in the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update science review. David Loyd said that there is more agreement now that San Juan Island waters are not “sucking in raw sewage from Victoria.” Ken Sebens suggested inviting marine ecologist and oceanographer, Jan Newton, to weigh in on the subject; Tina will contact her.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White reported that Gary Greene presented on recent sand lance work at the meeting last week in Friday Harbor; Stephanie Buffum-Field talked about Local Integrating Organization work going on here. The next NWSC meeting will be on November 4th in the Tulalip Administration Building. Jonathan strongly encouraged MRC members to attend the December Conference. The executive meeting on Friday will look at next steps and Jonathan suggested that the funding issue be a topic at the Conference. He said that the Northwest Straits Foundation is a viable, solvent entity that could continue to help the MRC's in their future endeavors.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that the County Council is aware and concerned about the NWSC/MRC funding woes. They seem to value and rely on the MRC, she added, suggesting that individual MRC members encourage more conversation on the topic in their informal lunch meetings with Council members. (County Councilperson Lovel Pratt will be on the Conference panel.) All agreed that members want to hear what the Council's interests are.

Implementation Committee report: Barbara Rosenkotter said the interisland ferry-go-round is happening today for Puget Sound Partnership and other groups implementing the Action Agenda. There was agreement for the MRC to schedule formal discussion on Action Agenda priorities and implementation in early November.

Jonathan said that Amy Windrope is now working for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and is applying for a grant to publish the San Juan Initiative's work. He reminded everyone that the MRC has a commitment to keep track of progress on the initiatives (measuring success/future outcomes by December 2012). Tina said that the Council adopted some of the initiatives in its 2010 work plan. Laura Arnold said that some pieces, besides enforcement, were to be implemented through Council revision to County Code. Jonathan asked about working with building contractors on collective efforts to protect the environment.

Outreach subcommittee/Stewardship Network report: Jeff Hanson said that the Sustainable San Juans event is scheduled for the first Farmers' Market on Lopez Island in 2012. The group discussed using a more robust process to select applicants for the Good Steward awards. The November 16th potluck meeting will be combined with a scheduled meeting of one of the groups in the Network (San Juan Preservation Trust, Land Bank, etc.). The Network is applying for a small grant for the EcoNet to build and sustain capacity to implement projects.

Discussion: Kwiaht Research on Chip Seal Road Conversion

Russel Barsh explained that he is a synthesizer for the Kwiaht's lab team doing research on this topic; this includes Dr. Jack Bell's work on chemistry and Nathan Hodges' work on drainage and engineering issues. The study is looking at the potential leaching and contamination to local watersheds and fish habitats by Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) from road runoff, particularly from chip seal roads (e.g. False Bay Road on San Juan Island and Watmough Road on Lopez Island). The study is also assessing road runoff PAH contamination at the Friday Harbor raingarden site on Spring Street. Russel will email a reference list of recent research, including “From Road Kill to Road Ecology” that reviews the ecological effects of roads (A.W. Coffin, 2007, Journal of Transport Geography #15).

Russel passed around a vial containing 35 grams of motor oil recovered from a 220 gram sample of “road goo” peeled off from just one parking place above the Spring Street raingarden site. The road buildup also contains silt which, Russel said, provides a tremendous source of absorptive surface for contaminants. A significant amount of material, acting as sorbent, is trapped in roadways. The Town, he surmised, could be seen as a reservoir of parking space pollution materials conveyed to Puget Sound in winter rain runoff. The heavy metal content (Cadmium, Lead, Nickel, Zinc, Copper, etc.) of oil and its derivatives is very high, he added. Process oils (e.g. gas, kerosene) are distilled out of petroleum that comes out of the ground; heavy metals and PAHs are residual in the bottom of process vats but heavy metals are then added back into gasoline for better performance. Road paving materials, like asphalt, can carry their own load of contaminants and there are heavy metals left behind on roads from brake pads and tires. After the first big flush, a sampling will be taken at the base of Spring Street at the ferry landing.

As remediation for road runoff contamination, Russel said that the raingarden is designed to trap sediment and absorbed hydrocarbons; it can be further inoculated with fungi or other microbes to improve function and to metabolize hydrocarbons.

Russel discussed the recent Watmough Head road paving (chip seal) which is still a hot issue for Lopez Islanders concerned with environmental impacts. Hardening surfaces reduce infiltration and increase contamination to waterways. Dirt roads are more or less compacted; rocked roads are topped with fresh loose gravel; asphalted concrete (most roads) are a mix of aggregate and asphalt; and chip seal, developed originally as a means to repair asphalted roads, is a fine aggregate, sprayed with emulsion in two thin layers. It is applied hot and is dissolved with surfactant to form a soft, rubbery repair material. Russel noted that chip seal has no inherent structural strength and is already eroding on Watmough Road after just two months.

Infiltration depends on soil type, slope, traffic (i.e. compaction), and precipitation rates. Dirt/rock/dirt roads offer some infiltration. Paving allows for no permeability, Russel said, and there is erosion at the edges of roads. Remediation could include using permeable surfaces near the edge of roads or using porous materials (e.g. permeable asphalt “popcorn”) in some parts of the road. Paving relocates contamination from the surface of vehicles to downstream aquatic ecosystems. Vehicle traffic aggravates the dust situation, adding brake and tire abrasion products that contain PAHs and metals. Dr. Jack Bell said that there is data out there on how much such pollution comes from each car as well as fuel consumption numbers per population.

Since asphalt road surfaces have very low leaching rates, Tina and Ken suggested that Public Works consider spending the extra money for asphalted paving on those roads that are highly used and in high density areas like ferry parking lots. It was also suggested that adequate vegetation alongside roads would reduce impacts. Russel added that holding ponds with skimmers are another option. Tina said that we need to have better approaches to infrastructure in general.

Russel noted that the lab on Lopez is academic, not contract, and is available to help provide materials testing and other local information. The Council made a formal request for the MRC to look at relative effects on the marine environment of road conversion; Barbara Bentley will draft a response. Barbara Rosenkotter asked if the county should be converting gravel roads to chip seal.

Marine Managers Workshop: Jeff said that the Marine Managers Workshop is scheduled for March 12th and 13th of next year at Friday Harbor Labs; he added that NWSC can help with some logistics but

not with providing a facilitator. New, not review, materials on oil spill prevention/baseline monitoring, readiness, and response will be a major part of the discussion. Laura suggested looking at what might constitute baseline information that would be credible in court. The workshop will also include a boater education presentation, lessons from drills, local and regional plug ins (e.g. Coast Guard, Islands Trust).

Projects proposed by Kwiaht for MRC action: David Loyd said that as good a concept as the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) is, implementation is the way to success; he said stewardship is the “doing” part and that the outreach committee is developing a program for the Stewardship Network to do the work. He explained that the MRC outreach subcommittee and the Network were assigned initial MSA implementation but there is now additional community involvement in this initial stage. Kwiaht, the WSU Beachwatchers, and the three Marine Health Observatories are providing volunteer citizen science as crucial partners in research (such as plankton studies). There are 25 Waldron Island citizen volunteers providing community science...more than 25% of the island population...and representing a successful stewardship area. David suggested there may be opportunities for NWSF funding assistance, perhaps increasing the good results by combining the work of all the citizen science groups, as well as that of organizations like Sea Doc Society, Friends of the San Juans, San Juan Nature Institute. The role of the MRC, as lead in implementation of the MSA, would be to oversee the monitoring, for instance. David will get early NWSF feedback from Joan Drinkwin on the idea.

MRC Coordinator's report: Jeff said that the budget amendment includes priorities like 20 hours of Coordinator funding. He said that grant deliverables are specific, but with some flexibility (e.g. monitoring and policy). Jeff will do a re-write to include the changes suggested in today's discussion for a vote at the next regular MRC meeting. There was discussion on the MRC Annual Retreat and possible scheduling for November 30th. Possible silent auction items for the MRC Conference (e.g. a mini-vacation package) were suggested. Jeff said Richard Fralick has donated lodging for two (including dinner for two?) at the the Kingfish Inn in West Sound.

Citizen comments: Stephanie said that the Council has scheduled a general provision hearing on CAO for December 6th to include reasonable use exceptions and non-conforming uses.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 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, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum
Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy/ Yellow-Low Islands
Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Partnership
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Laura Jo Severson
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership

Upcoming Events

- MRC regular meeting, November 16, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- MRC Outreach subcommittee meeting, November 16, 2011, 10:30 am
- MRC Executive subcommittee meeting, November 16, 2011, 11:00 am
- NWSC Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, 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 8:30am.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting were approved as revised, with Jim Slocomb and Kit Rawson abstaining from the vote.

Implementation Committee report: Barbara Rosenkotter said the group will be meeting later today to review input from last week's interisland open house ferry-go-round and to hone in on Action Agenda items. Barbara suggested the possibility of the MRC organizing more of such ferry "meetings" in the new year as an effective means to reach a wider audience.

Road Paving/ Chipseal letter to County Council: There was discussion on the draft letter's recommendation for future use of permeable pavement by Public Works, noting that its use requires good design, detailed analysis, as well as ongoing monitoring and maintenance.

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the draft letter be forwarded to the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on how to submit the letter most effectively to be made part of the record.

MRC Contract Amendment: Jeff Hanson said that the proposed amendment is in consideration of the budget through June of 2012. He briefly reviewed the Work Plan priorities and deliverables to be completed with part-time coordinator staffing. Jonathan White said that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) meeting this Friday will discuss the potential for some additional funding through June, 2012 (\$4,000 per MRC). Jeff will provide a draft AQAC plan soon; he will also arrange for interpretive signage to be installed at the Friday Harbor raingarden.

Jeff reported that the County is now charging each entity with grants for liability insurance (\$2700/year for the MRC). This is in addition to the existing charge for indirect costs. Tina suggested that the MRC do a presentation to the Orcas Island Community Foundation and the San Juan Island Community Foundation to, perhaps, secure some funding help.

Motion: Kit Rawson moved, and Tina Whitman seconded, that the contract amendment be approved as revised today, with the condition that, if additional funding becomes available, it be allocated directly to outreach and education projects, particularly the Marine Managers Workshop. The motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion on ways to fund the sportfishing guide ad and the website upgrade.

MRC Retreat: Jeff requested member input on possible topics for the Retreat. Suggestions included: review of the current year's work and its value to the community; development of the Annual Report; a discussion on the June 2012 budget consequences and alternatives; a discussion on how to sustain the MRC (structure and funding models and possible scenarios...e.g. Local Integrating Organization's make-up and role / County funding help, etc.). It was agreed that this conversation, along with discussion of the Marine Managers Workshop and the June 2012 budget, be continued at the next executive subcommittee meeting. Scott Williamson suggested that it would be useful for the MRC to have an advance discussion with the LIO on alternatives.

Jonathan suggested that Joan Drinkwin of the Northwest Straits Foundation and Ginny Broadhurst of the NWSC be invited to attend the Retreat. The County Council will be invited to the Retreat reception; Jonathan said that White Construction Company will cover costs of the reception.

There was discussion on what constitutes indirect and direct costs. The outreach subcommittee will continue discussion of outside funding to implement the Marine Stewardship Area monitoring plan.

Jonathan pointed out that, in conversations with the NWSC, he has repeatedly heard that the San Juan County MRC stands out for its valued accomplishments and its remarkably talented and dedicated members and supporters.

Talking points for member meetings with individual County Council persons: Jeff distributed copies of his draft list of talking points.

Marine Managers Workshop: The Workshop is scheduled for March 12th and 13th, 2012 at Friday

Harbor Labs. Jeff said there is a possibility that Amy Windrope, who now works for the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, to act as facilitator or informal advisor for the Workshop. Further planning for possible presenters and agenda items will be a topic of next week's meeting of the executive subcommittee.

NWSC/MRC Conference: Jeff reminded everyone to complete registrations by November 15th.

Highlights of the Salish Sea Conference: Barbara Bentley said she appreciated the opportunity to hear recent science on regional topics; she noted that the San Juan Islands were repeatedly listed in talks on areas of interest (e.g. indicator species) as being in the “best” category. She suggested, therefore, that monitoring efforts be focused on being the best (e.g. as a baseline model of “no net loss”). Tina said that, based on the presentations she attended, the San Juans have some serious problems with marine resources, e.g. with eelgrass, and were compared to Hood Canal's similar problems. She added that San Juan County was well represented in both research and attendance. Ken Sebens said that a large group of faculty and graduate students from FHL attended and presented new information; he added that the Conference is a great way to learn what is going on in other Salish Sea locations. Barbara Rosenkotter commented on the excellent presentations from the Labs...in particular, the sediment study comparing the south end of Lopez with Hood Canal where indications are that species diversity is less in sedimented areas. Barbara said she was surprised that there was no discussion regarding the salmon virus or net pen aquaculture.

The committee discussed the issue of future sponsorship of the Conference.

Phil Green said that he met with the REEF people attending the Conference and reported that REEF will be doing a citizen monitoring here in the fall next year. Phil pointed out that Washington Department of Natural Resources seem to put a positive spin this year on the eelgrass report; the DNR presentation stressed eelgrass recovery, as opposed to last year's acknowledgement that the resource is in decline. He thought that this may reflect agencies' pressure to show progress. Alan Chapman added that he found the twelve-minute presentations on many very interesting topics too short and very frustrating.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 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, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

Members Absent: Johannes Krieger, Kit Rawson

Staff: Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

Guests:

Sally Hawkins

Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Coordinator

Presentation: MRC Powerpoint by Barbara Bentley

Upcoming Events

- MRC Annual Retreat, November 30th, 8:30am-5:00pm, FH Labs
- NWSC Conference, December 2nd and 3rd, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend
[\[http://www.nwstraits.org/Whats-New/Meetings-Events/2011-MRC-Conference.aspx\]](http://www.nwstraits.org/Whats-New/Meetings-Events/2011-MRC-Conference.aspx)
- MRC regular meeting, December 14, 2011, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor

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

Minutes: Minutes of the November 2, 2011 meeting were approved as revised.

Monitoring subcommittee report: David Loyd said the meeting later today would be discussing preliminary proposals for monitoring work. He noted that there are herring under the dock in Friday Harbor and wondered what they feed on. David said that we need partners in monitoring to assure sustainability.

Science subcommittee update: Barbara Bentley said that the meeting later today would be reviewing monitoring work to see where the science subcommittee fits in. Laura Arnold suggested that since the MRC missed the opportunity to make formal public comments on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) characterization report, the MRC convey a placeholder statement sooner rather than later, noting that the MRC and other work is not well represented in the report. Barbara Bentley said that she is on the technical advisory committee that will meet soon to discuss the characterization report. Laura and Tina Whitman will draft a statement for the next MRC meeting.

Salmon subcommittee update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that she has recently learned that the President Channel shoreline acquisition project became a “project of concern” for the review panel.

The project will be temporarily removed from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board list for December but she will continue to work with the panel to resolve its concern. Barbara added that the other projects are moving forward.

Outreach/ Stewardship Network/ EcoNet report: Jeff Hanson said that the monthly meeting is now operating with a rotating venue. The meeting later today will be at the office of the San Juan Preservation Trust. It will include an appreciation to Kari Koski for her years of good work. The EcoNet capacity-building grant for \$6,000 is designed to assist a non-profit in the Stewardship Network with furthering its networking work; Jeff said that ideas include assistance with the Sustainable San Juans event for the next two years, webpage updating, and outreach training.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update: Jonathan White said that Barbara Rosenkotter did an excellent presentation on salmon recovery at the last monthly meeting in Tulalip. A motion was unanimously passed to grant \$6,000 to each MRC out of the remaining budget. The topic of what next for funding will be part of the upcoming executive committee meeting and the NWSC Conference. The MRC agreed that a press release would be appropriate to thank the Kingfisher Inn and the New Leaf restaurant for their “Orcas weekend” donations to the silent auction that will be held at the Conference as a fundraiser for the Northwest Straits Foundation.

There was discussion on Dr. Megan Dethier’s request for a letter of support for her project to look at the effects of shoreline armoring throughout Puget Sound. It was pointed out that the research will yield good solid data for future use and is part of the San Juan Initiative work.

Motion: David Loyd moved, and Tina Whitman seconded, that the MRC send a letter of support after review by the science subcommittee to provide points for the letter. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Barbara Bentley moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the MRC adopt a policy to send such requests to the appropriate subcommittee for review before being presented to the full MRC. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on the short notice for such requests and on whether there should be an MRC policy/procedures manual.

Action Agenda Oversight Group update: Barbara Rosenkotter distributed copies of two County Council resolutions: Resolution #23-2010, “A Resolution Proposing a Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for Approval by the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council for the San Juan Action Area” and Resolution #55-2010, “A Resolution Regarding Accountability Oversight Committee and Authority of its Council Representatives.” She noted that organizational structure is mentioned in each resolution; Barbara also pointed that the list of members for the groups is also included. The main feature of the Implementation Committee (IC) is to get the work done of implementing the Action Agenda in San Juan County; the group has been meeting for over a year now and it makes recommendations to the Policy Committee (AOC) is the decision-making body.

David asked: “Who is working on herring?” It was noted that not everything is being covered in San Juan County. Copies of the IC’s “Prioritization Framework” and of the “2011 Action Agenda Update: San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group Priority Strategies....” were distributed. Laura remarked that this is basic conservation planning.

Barbara said that funding is the next step and some proposals are already underway. There was discussion about parallel actions being promoted by various entities and how to improve efficiency and find the best mechanism to get the work done. The mission of the LIO was reviewed. Participation by the Town of Friday Harbor has been inconsistent. Barbara said there is a need for targeted land acquisition and preservation to protect salmon.

The LIO, Barbara said, is not the implementing group for SMP or CAO work; it could, however, be a tool for the job, she added, but is not being used that way yet.

MRC Retreat planning: Jeff requested that members submit the completed survey to him by next Monday in preparation for the Retreat; he also requested suggestions for additional information needed for the Retreat. He distributed copies of Kit Rawson's Alternative Futures for the San Juan County MRC." Laura suggested discussion at the Retreat identifying what's in the MRC work plan that is not in the MSA plan and vice versa. Review of the MSA plan, CAO and SMP updates, and Action Agenda were also suggested as topics for the Retreat. It was agreed that a list of MRC's successes over the past ten years be part of the Annual Report, acknowledging the unique role and value of the MRC.

Marine Managers Workshop: The Workshop is scheduled for March 12th and 13th, 2012 at Friday Harbor Labs. Jeff said will send out a save-the-date email. He requested suggestions for presenters. [NOTE: The dates for the workshop were subsequently changed to March 26th and 27th.]

Presentation: MRC Powerpoint

Barbara Bentley presented a draft Powerpoint to promote the MRC and explain its role and functions. She said there can be a short, as well as a long, version. Barbara conducted a test exercise for each person in an audience to write down what they value in the San Juans, what they perceive as threats to those values, and what actions could be taken to address the threats.

The draft Power Point briefly outlines the MRC mission and history and attempts to answer the questions: why do we need to do anything? Is there a problem (e.g. rockfish decline)? What is the source of the problem (e.g. human population)? Action/reactions are also outlined in the presentation, as are the basics of the MSA Plan and updated 2011 MSA Monitoring Plan (education and outreach data collection and analysis, policy analysis and advice). Barbara requested that members email their notes on the draft Powerpoint to her.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**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 26th and 27th, 2012, Friday Harbor Labs

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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 26th and 27th. 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 21st 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 2nd and the funds need to be spent by June 30th. 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 21st 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 21st. 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 21st. The science subcommittee will meet that day on Orcas Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada