

SAN JUAN COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES Committee (MRC) and Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 8:30 – 10:30am

Legislative Hearing Room

55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, WA

Members Present: Terry Turner – chair, Phil Green, Kendra Smith, Craig Wingert (via phone), Laura Jo Severson, Megan Dethier, Ken Carrasco

Members Absent: Patti Gobin

Staff: Byron Rot (Salmon Recovery Coordinator)

Citizens in Attendance: Sandra Chalk, Janet Thomas

****Denotes pre-meeting reading material sent to members with meeting agenda**

Convene MRC Meeting: Terry Turner, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37am.

Citizen Input: None.

****Approval of Minutes:** Marine Resources Committee Meeting from November 1, 2017.

Update on Bull Kelp Monitoring: Phil Green gave a presentation about the bull kelp monitoring project he has been working on. The MRC has been involved with this project for the last three years, and this will be the last year for the project for San Juan MRC. MRCs from all counties in the region signed on to the project with Northwest Straits to map bull kelp from kayaks with GPS. The survey sites that were chosen in San Juan County were chosen because of the location of kelp beds in proximity to projects that might cause sedimentation, which affects bull kelp. For 2017, the surveys occurred in July, August, and September. This project has many variables that make it difficult. Overall, the sites that were surveyed showed little change between years, and showed little affects from sedimentation.

***Motion to adjourn MRC meeting:** *NOTE:* The MRC meeting was stopped and later reconvened for scheduling purposes. Motion to adjourn the MRC meeting made be Megan, Seconded by Laura Jo. Motion approved unanimously.

**Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group,
Watershed Regional Inventory Area (WRIA) #2 Meeting**

Wednesday December 6, 2017

Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting: Meeting called to order by Terry Turner, chair.

Citizen input: None.

Updates on the Salmon Recovery Process for 2018: Byron gave updates on the timeline for 2018 Salmon Recovery Process. This is a preliminary timeline, as the state has not yet put out its timeline. Some dates may change once the state releases its timeline. The capital budget still has not been approved. That affects the last biennium. This timeline makes the assumption that the capital budget gets passed during the next legislative session, which starts in early January and runs through April. Byron presented this timeline because he would like to begin advertising for 2018 project ideas by the end of December. He reminded the committee of the May 2018 meeting and field trips to look at proposed projects and sites. The schedule is very similar to the 2017 schedule. Byron also noted that the PIAT II presentations will be next week.

*A motion to approve the provisional timeline was made by Megan, seconded by Terry. Motion approved unanimously.

Byron also reported that he is working on a four-year work plan. He will send it out to committee members in January for a vote. He noted that Senator Ranker will be introducing a bill to ban Atlantic salmon net pens in Puget Sound.

***Adjourn Salmon Citizen's Advisory meeting and reconvene MRC meeting:** Motion to adjourn the Salmon Citizen's Advisory meeting and reconvene the MRC meeting was made by Laura Jo, seconded by Megan. Motion approved unanimously.

Memberships Update: Terry reported that there has been a great influx of applications for membership. There are ten applicants and eight positions to be filled. All applicants are from Orcas or San Juan. Interviews will begin next week. The MRC members will screen applications before the interviews and look for applicants who have initiative and can fill diverse rolls on the committee.

Orcas Landing: Terry gave an update on the project. The theme of the panel project is that everything is connected. Terry showed the group concept panels created by Larry Eifert and asked for constructive feedback on text and species content for the panels from the group. Discussion followed. Everyone agreed to have their comments by the end of the week, and will report them to Terry. Terry and Kendra will communicate that input to Larry.

Southern Resident Killer Whale Protection: Craig produced a report on general recommendations the MRC could make to county council about orca protection actions. Kendra sent the final results from the survey and workshop to MRC members. It also went to county council and was posted to the MRC website. Next steps will be to formulate a work plan to figure out how to proceed on tasks leading to orca protection. There will be a presentation on the results to county council in January. Kendra asked members to look over all the material so the MRC can create a sub-list to present to county council. The MRC can follow up during the January work plan retreat. Kendra will also pass on a grant opportunity for orca protection that the MRC might be interested in.

Citizen Input: Janet Thomas, a 27 year resident of San Juan Island, sent the 28 page decision about Jet Ski whale watching from the Supreme Court as a precedent to ban whale watching boat activities. She will share that with the MRC as well. She supports the efforts of the MRC in orca protection.

MRC Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 am