

SAN JUAN COUNTY

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 8:30 – 10:30am

Legislative Hearing Room

55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, WA

Members Present: Terry Turner – chair, Phil Green, Kendra Smith, Megan Dethier

Members Absent: Patti Gobin, Ken Carrasco, Laura Jo Severson

Staff: Arnie Klaus (MRC Coordinator), Byron Rot (San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator)

Citizens in Attendance: None

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

Convene MRC Meeting: Terry Turner, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36am.

Citizen Input: None.

Update on New Members Process: Terry gave an update on the process for recruiting new MRC members. Eight people have been interviewed for current openings. There was a set list of interview questions. During the first interview session, Terry, Megan, Ken and Jamie Stephens from county council six candidates from San Juan Island, and during a second session, Terry, Ken and Jamie interviewed two candidates from Orcas Island. From those interviews, the interview committee provided a list of recommended candidates to county council. There will more interviews and recommendations. There are eight positions to be filled. Terry also noted that the MRC did receive the formal resignation of Craig Wingert, and the committee thanked him for his service and input.

Retreat Preparation Discussion: Terry gave an update. The committee has been working hard to prepare for the annual MRC retreat that is coming up on January 17th. Byron reminded the group that there is homework for committee members to do before the retreat so that the process will be streamlined. Terry suggested having a working group revise the agenda for the retreat after this MRC meeting, and the group agreed.

Orcas Landing Update: Terry gave an update. There still has not been input from tribal representation from the MRC on this project. The group decided to move forward with one of the interpretive panels and wait to gain feedback on the other. The next step will be for the artist to finish the graphic on the panels and then add the text. Terry asked everyone on the committee to think about the text that should go on the panels.

Kendra discussed long-term fundraising for this project. It will be important to create a draw with this project. That will mean going beyond what the county has funded for the project. The MRC will need to find outside sources of funding in order to accomplish this. The MRC should begin to explore ways to generate funds. It will be easier to find funds once the first phase of the project is finished. There will be opportunities at the retreat for committee members to sign up for subcommittees to work on this.

Southern Resident Killer Whale Protection: Kendra gave an update. The workshop summary has been posted on the MRC webpage. This information will be presented to county council at a meeting on January 23rd. There are several actions in the final report that can be taken by the county. It is not clear on some of the actions if the county would have jurisdictional authority, so those points need to be clarified before the county could proceed. Kendra and John Cain will be scheduling a meeting with the prosecuting attorneys and staff here to brainstorm what the county is trying to achieve relative to what the county has the authority to do. Craig Wingert looked at the final report and began to refine it in terms of what possible MRC recommendations might come from the final report. Kendra reviewed the key notes that Craig summarized in his recommendations. There was discussion among members about the items on the list. There will be further discussion and potentially subcommittees assigned to address these topics at the annual MRC retreat on January 17th so that the MRC can create a list of recommendations to county council on January 23rd. Kendra also reported on the proposal for the Marine Mammal Commission grant. The core purpose of this grant is to help facilitate community driven conservation efforts of marine mammals. The grant could be a great fit to what the MRC is currently trying to do in San Juan County. The grant requires matching funds, which the MRC has already from the county. The group agreed that they would like Kendra to submit a pre-proposal.

Nearshore and Pink Abalone Restoration Projects: Kendra reported on the nearshore habitat projects. She has been looking for high priority areas to apply design work for the project to. She would like feedback from members on the process to make this happen. She will get a list of ideas out to MRC members and look for feedback.

Citizen input: None.

*A motion to adjourn the MRC meeting was made by Megan, seconded by Kendra. Motion approved unanimously. **Meeting adjourned at 10:31am.**

Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group,

Watershed Regional Inventory Area (WRIA) #2 Meeting

Wednesday January 3, 2018

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

Citizen input: None.

Updates: Byron touched on past nearshore projects, mainly an eelgrass replanting project in Westcott Bay that did not succeed due to illness in the eelgrass. There will be another project coming up looking at herring habitat. The committee can decide what kind of project they want to propose.

Byron gave an update on the budget. Salmon recovery efforts could be in trouble if the capital budget doesn't get passed. Half of Byron's funding comes from what is paid out of the capital budget. The other half comes from federal funding that is also from the capital budget. The RCO and the Puget Sound Partnership has been trying to keep the lead entities going. He has funds to carry him through the spring. The future is unknown.

Byron is open to input from the committee about changing the scoring systems for PIAT II projects. Right now, the projects are tiered as tier 1 and tier 2 projects. It makes the projects more strategic, but he needs input on policy impact.

Byron also reported that he is working on a plan for fresh water projects. He will also be working on the salmon recovery chapter update group plan.

***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 Terry, seconded by Kendra. Motion approved unanimously.

