



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

**Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**8:30 AM-10:30 AM**

**CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Call in number: 1 (360) 370-0599** Conference ID: 285694

**The Grange**

152 First St N, Friday Harbor

**Agenda**

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:45 AM	<b>Introduction to our new Salmon Recovery Coordinator Sam Whitridge</b>
8:55 AM	<b>IOSA updates</b> <i>Brendan Cowan, Jen Olson</i>
9:30 AM	<p><b>MRC business</b></p> <p>Quarter 2 report: <b>Please send Frances your volunteer hours!</b></p> <p><i>FCR will email to confirm the projects being submitted for the grant based on to-day's discussions.</i></p> <p>MRC Marketing and Promotion</p>
9:30 AM	<b>Project updates &amp; 2019/20 grant project ideas</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Whale Flag</li> <li>b) Outreach and education</li> <li>c) North of Falcon public meeting summary – <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking Trash event</li> <li>• Great Island Clean Up</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MSA Plan Review: <i>Lovel Pratt/Terry Turner</i></li> <li>• NTA Oil reports: dissemination: <i>Marta Green</i></li> <li>• Proposed letter for Council regarding Ecology's oil spill contingency plan rulemaking process – <i>Lovel Pratt</i></li> <li>• Pinto Abalone: <i>Carl Davis</i></li> </ul>
10:20 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koon</i>
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<p><b>Updates on Salmon Recovery:</b></p> <p>May SFRBD proposals and field trips</p> <p>Salmon Recovery Council updates</p>
11:00 AM	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Carl Davis, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Christina Koons (on the phone), Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith (on the phone),

**Non-Committee Members:** Brendan Cowan, Laura Ferguson (on the phone), Brendan Flynn from Lopez (guest), Jen Olson, Giles + FHL class (12 students), Marcus Reaves (on the phone),

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Frances Robertson (on the phone), Marta Green, Sam Whitridge (on the phone)

**Committee members not present:** Megan Dethier, Jeff Friedman, Patti Gobin, Terry Turner

8:35 AM Convene Meeting

*Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

Phil moves to approve the minutes from last meeting, Karin seconds, all in favor.

8:37 AM Introduction to our new Salmon Recovery Coordinator Sam Whitridge

Sam started last week, working remotely, will be on Orcas full-time by mid-June.

Background: watershed restoration in southern Oregon for the past decade.

Marcus Reaves introduces himself, new habitat biologist, based in La Conner

8:41 AM no citizen Input (no citizens present)

8:41 AM IOSA updates

*Brendan Cowan, Jen Olson*

Brendan Cowan: County emergency management director, get islands ready for out-of-the-ordinary events including oil spills. Jen Olson: whale museum marine mammal stranding network, experience with emergency response to wildlife issues, IOSA volunteer since 2014.

IOSA is a group of volunteers ready to respond to marine oil spills, first on the scene for any complaint of sheen or sign of oil. Last year IOSA BOD put a pause on operations, now trying to reinvigorate IOSA. Implementing structure with accountability - 'incident command system'. Presented to County Council Dec 10, 2018, first met on Jan 19, 2019, now meeting monthly. Accomplishments: we've set up trainings, scheduled public outreach meetings, hazardous materials training in May here and on Orcas. By October primary response contractor (prc) status with Dept of Ecology, Initiate hiring for 2 staff members by November -99.9% of IOSA's hundreds of responses over past 30 years are small but add up to tens of 1000's of gallons. Local response is the core of what IOSA does and it's important -the key to IOSA's long-term sustainability is multi-tiered approach, local and regional - the most critical thing IOSA is going to do in a big spill is Protect wildlife and deploy booms, plug into larger response (know where equipment is, who's available, etc.) Historically IOSA funding has come from the industry. Need funding from local government as well. There's a vision for IOSA to be a professionally equipped and managed, budget by 2020 based on donations, local SJC government, and industry.

JEN: wildlife is important here, 200+ spp. of birds and mammals. Wildlife ops are logistically challenged and highly regulated. Now IOSA isn't equipped for permitting for all types of

wildlife rehab but do have extensive volunteer network. Potential partnership with Focus Wildlife based in Anacortes, an international response facility with many resources. We have the staff to command, critical knowledge and they can provide training and oversight of ops.

Discussion:

Q: who's responding now? If there were an incident now that IOSA responded to in the past?

Brendan: now resources are further away. Ecology or Coast Guard would need to bring in a contractor to set up booms, coming from the mainland within 4-5 hours instead of 1-2. This isn't about the super-tanker, this is about local small boater. Now there's no local response

Q: does IOSA take any advocacy or prevention?

Brendan: can promote good practices around marinas, refueling. IOSA is a response org, not overlapping with other missions. Want to keep relationships with refineries/shipping.

Q: what's the point of meetings – to get more volunteers?

A: yes – there are different levels of volunteers: Initial response team need to be physically fit, good boat operators, committed to training. Then others who commit to an annual 8 hour training, help with logistics, shoreline training, participate in exercises twice a year. Also people who aren't trained at all but willing to support, feed & house & drive volunteers around. Need to rejuvenate volunteer core and keep database of potential volunteers.

Q: what would be response time to a spill from a large tanker?

A: Depends where it's coming from. Variables that impact the outcome of a spill include response time, but also weather, currents, etc. Prevention is definitely the foundation.

Q: Is there an expectation of County funding for an independent nonprofit?

Brendan: IOSA is a 501c4. Brendan has Council's support to work on this as part of job but also volunteering his own time. County leadership has decided to support this separate org during this rebuilding phase. In the long term, more independence with county involvement.

Kendra: we have the derelict vessel program under solid waste, that has some funding but the county general fund pays a lot to deal with sinking boats.

Brendan: we're trying to keep IOSA to response, the prevention piece still needs work. Last summer DNR paid to haul away the derelict boat on Lopez, Mark Herrenkohl helped.

Q: Are there lessons about wildlife response learned from the BP oil spill?

Jen: from logistics side the entity responsible will pay for most response. Also experience with Exxon-Valdez. They did some research, capture studies, learned impacts on mammals. But those lessons would be applied differently here because we have different resources

Brendan: can't apply those lessons unilaterally because weather, water temperature, distance to land, can all be different in Salish Sea when compared with those situations

Marta: In a recent study about impacts for our County, we extrapolated data from 7 other major spills. That study resulted in a wide range of economic impacts.

A public presentation about those results will be here at the Grange, May 8<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm

Brendan: we'll know by May about some funding, we'd like to check back in with MRC in October/November to better inform about how we can support each other

Some discussion of Emergency Response Tug Vessel research, availability and location.

9:38 AM MRC business

*Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

- Quarter 2 report: Report volunteer hours (quarterly), include time at MRC meetings.
- MRC Marketing and Promotion: need a meeting to discuss this. Frances is working on the website. Please like/share the MRC page on facebook. We have a plastic-free salish sea website. Need logs, pictures, stories – Earth day will be an opportunity.

9:42 AM Project updates & 2019/2020 grant project ideas

- Southern Resident Killer Whales

a) Whale Flag – presented to the Whale Watch operators, sold 44 flags. The interim report is still in process, due to Marine mammal commission mid-May.

b) Outreach and education: Anacortes Boat Show May 16-19, Taylor Shedd from Soundwatch will lead but need volunteers. Dock talks in June can happen on every island, this is education about “be whale wise”, whale warning flags, and new regulations. Youth conservation core may help. We’ll have a communications intern for the summer

c) North of Falcon public meeting summary

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Giles, Cindy Hansen, and have attended as well as WDFW meetings advocating for whales. We’re asking for salmon. Karin as a story-teller/naturalist, Cindy from Orca network provided data. Giles, as a scientist, and also representing Friends of the San Juans, provided studies describing the importance of whales to the ecosystem. Made some productive connections with fishermen.

North of Falcon involves Canada/Alaska/WA, tribal leaders and other entities looking at numbers of fish returned in 2018, which should inform which fish are available. Chinook salmon and some chum runs are seriously depleted. Coho and sockeye seem ok. Managers are mostly looking at returning numbers, not considering climate change.

Overall positive response from WDFW and productive meeting. Brendan Flynn is part of the task force as a fisherman.

Q: could we have a transcript of the three viewpoints from your talking points at these meetings, the story teller, the orca network and the scientist.

ACTION ITEM: Karin will share these with the MRC

9:52 – lose phone audio

- Plastic Free Salish Sea

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

- Talking Trash event, April 25 at Brickworks 5-7pm. 3 speakers.

- Great Island Clean Up, the weekend before on Saturday 20th.

The SJ museum of art is doing an exhibit this summer about whales called “deep dive”, June 15-September 15. A symposium in the theater next door on July 13, Jean Michel Cousteau and Alexandra Morton slated to be speakers, maybe Ernest Brooks (artist & conservationist)

Christina : the Navy has released its draft Environmental Impact statement for review, comments being accepted until May 28. More growler training would mean more noise. The vessel working group will meet to discuss this soon - Rec 25, coordinate with the Navy in 2019 to reduce noise, is a year 2 recommendation. Frankie will be part of that group.

ACTION ITEM for Kendra: follow up with Jamie to see if this issue is already on to-do list, if not let him know the MRC is in favor of less growler training

Q: is there evidence that growlers affect marine mammals?

Laura: yes, there were studies that came out of the SRKW workshop , Rob Williams. The gist is that sound from air can be perceived in the depths of water, in frequencies they can hear, but not yet clear what the impact is on behavior.

ACTION ITEM: Laura will send these studies to Frankie to distribute

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will look at how they assess the impacts of airplanes on cetaceans, look at Navy document with eye toward the science.

MOTION: Lovel moves staff will work with council, Phil seconds on comments on the DEIS to include impacts to the marine environment and specifically to SRKW

MOTION: Jeff moves we recommend to County Council to request that Navy extend the comment period for the draft EIS (*get official title*) Phil seconds. All in favor. *Note this was done*

- NTA Oil reports: dissemination

*Marta Green*

The report has been disseminated to political reps, some of task force members, sent fact sheet and link to full reports to all other MRC and LIO coordinators.

next plan: scheduled a meeting here on May 8<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm, there should be a news release.

There will also be a webinar date TBD. The report is on the MRC website, the fact sheet isn't.

ACTION ITEM: Marta will send fact sheet to Christina and to federal delegation (Cantwell)

ACTION ITEM: Christina and Lovel send Marta contacts

- Proposed letter for Council regarding Ecology's oil spill contingency plan rulemaking process

*Lovel Pratt*

Requesting that the council send a letter to Ecology asking that the update to the oil spill contingency plan incorporate the findings and recommendations from the 2015 report, [San Juan County Oil Spill Response Capacity Evaluation](#). Include a cc list that would include government reps and committee chairs.

MOTION: request that the council submit the letter as drafted with additional cc list. to Dept. of Ecology, Carl seconds. All in favor

ACTION ITEM: Lovel will send it to Frances with the cc list. The letter is already drafted, will go from staff to council *This was done.*

10:20 AM NW Straits Commission update

*Christina Koon*

Attended the retreat in March. Saw all the MRC reps, NW straits foundation, PS Partnership. External Relations committee: Some people are going to DC for Puget Sound days on the hill. Christina is attending, wants feedback from people on message she'll deliver.

Is she representing the MRC or just myself as an individual? This came up earlier for Karin.

The question of whether members can represent the MRC, Kendra will clarify boundaries with Sasha. Need to make sure we're working within the bounds of the Commission, which can provide training to MRC members about conduct and communication.

Laura: if you're going to Puget Sound on the Hill please register with the PS Partnership

10:57 AM Level moves to Adjourn, Carl seconds, adjourned.

10:57 AM Convene CAG meeting

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Updates on Salmon Recovery:

- May SFRBD proposals and field trips

Sam: grant round is moving forward, pre applications due April 10<sup>th</sup>, Sam is working with 5 project sponsors & will have proposals out to CAG and TAG the next day.

May 1st & 2nd field trips, Sam will have itinerary finalized by next week. Conceptual overview is to start morning of May 1<sup>st</sup> at Islanders bank meeting room, work through 5 presentations, then get in vans and visit sites on SJI.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> is day 2: go out in county boats, visit two sites on Lopez and one on Orcas. These are different sites than what the committee visited last year.

No MRC meeting in May.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out rating sheets prior to site visits

Jeff: I won't be able to attend trips, can I visit on my own and still rate?

Sam: we'll touch base offline to arrange visits

11:01 AM Karin moves to Adjourn CAG meeting, Laura Jo seconds. Adjourned