

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Patti Gobin, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Sharon Abreu, Marta Green, Michelle Halliday, Tony Parkin, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, , Sam Whitridge

**8:35 AM Convene Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.*

**8:36 AM Public Comment**

Michelline is here from the public, introduces herself, talks about using the Be whale wise flag

**8:37 AM Approve April MRC meeting minutes**

*Christina Koons*

Phil moves to approve the April minutes, Kendra seconds. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

**8:38 AM NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

*Phil Green*

Phil couldn't attend, Frankie was there to present annually on ongoing projects. Support letters went out for NWSC bid for additional funding. Cecilia Gobin from NW Indian Fishing commission also in support, it would mean an increase in funding– could be useful for shoreline restoration, etc.

Christina: I've been serving on that external relations committee, engaging with congressional staff – Frankie sent around updates on other MRCs' activities, short summaries on activities

**8:46 AM Islands Oil Spill Association update**

*Tony Parkin*

IOSA is a non-profit community oil spill response organization. various types of response. Recent focus on vessel repairs (four boats: Goose and Heron on SJI, two skiffs on Lopez), in-person training at the FH fairgrounds, half-dozen new people. New safety gear. Outreach, drills, and exercises

We're response-ready up to a point. Not yet an official Primary Response Contractor (PRC) but submitting application soon. Currently recruiting, 8-hour training only covers responders for some things. Next step is 24-hour (3 day) HAZWOPER training. Next grant will focus on wildlife response training. IOSA has an office at the dock, website and Facebook page, Tony shares contact information

**QUESTIONS**

Q: can you add the on-water training hours to the initial 8 hours to get the required 24?

Tony: I can't change OSHA requirements here for the 24-hour class. I understand it's onerous. there's a grace period after training year, trying to set up a rule for three years past/refresher

Q: We want a rescue tug nearby. What can IOSA do to help work toward that goal?

Tony: discusses drills with big tugs arresting tankers, available to help with this however possible

Frankie: Lovel likely knows more about this, and I forwarded webinar led by Lovel and Marta

Lovel: there was legislation enacted with intent to have an additional vessel but to have the cost shared with Canada. And a few questions, 1. Yesterday CG gave a report of the Norwester response?

Tony: yes, I was getting calls from landowners on Stuart. state and federal were in charge

Lovel: when IOSA becomes a PRC that'll help, and 2. on dispersants, Alaska has a good system for what's allowed with those and we need to look at that here – revise dispersant policy

Tony: whenever we convene regulators in a large spill event, we'd raise that issue

Lovel: and 3. With wildlife response, could IOSA provide resources for hazing of whales?

Tony: that's definitely on the radar, in Alaska we didn't do hazing for whales – more for shoreline.

Q: question about how to participate as a volunteer? Can you let local citizens know?

Tony: the training is required for participation in oil-response activities, we'll make a training calendar

Christina: in the case of a large spill will there be many experienced people coming to help?

Tony: there is a global response network. First response to wildlife may be collection and stabilization

Q: about funding, will you be able to transition to fully fund your own program without county funds?

Tony: We understand next year we need to start matching funds, we're working toward that

Q: what would it take to be a PRC and what are capability of IOSA right now in terms of response?

Tony: need a phone tree/network available 24 hours a day, training database, and equipment. Today we'd be a defensive strategy, using existing GRP's (geographic response plans). We don't yet have a response timing standard for amount of oil we could collect in a certain period of time.

#### 9:42 AM **MRC Housekeeping**

*Frances Robertson*

- Member appointment confirmations, four members up for renewal this month: Carl, Karin wants to renew participation for another term. Frankie needs to check with Ivan. Cathleen needs to cycle off the MRC, everyone thanks her for her service! There will be two open seats

- Grant approved at last meeting has been submitted, Frankie working with NWSC on that

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will send a spreadsheet to members to fill in volunteer hours and submit!

#### 9:46 AM **Project Updates**

- PFSS – SeaBin status and other project updates

Should have Seabin soon, plan to install in Deer Harbor as a pilot, set up monitoring protocol.

- "Plastic Free July", a global event, raise awareness around reducing plastic consumption. possible pledges from businesses, using social media (ours and partners like Lopez solid waste, friends of SJ's)

Karin: webpage for PFSS has a beach steward section, sign up to clean, [www.plasticfreesalishsea.org](http://www.plasticfreesalishsea.org)

Frankie: National park service has a volunteer form for when cleaning is happening on their beaches

What to pick up? Anything that's been there 50 years+ is cultural and should *not* be picked up

Karin: research from UC on psychology of littering, new motivation to keep cleaning beaches and roads - When an area is pristine people won't litter as much. If they see litter, they don't mind adding to it. Cleaning makes a difference by setting a cultural norm, starting 'leave no trace' conversations

Phil: at SJC park they have a 'leave no trace' sign, would more of those be helpful?

Karin: already at some kiosks in county parks e.g. at Eagle Cove

Kendra: people may start to ignore the kiosk, we may look at alternatives like periodically posting social media. I have 3 cigarette butt disposal containers, I'd like to put them up around the port.

ACTION ITEM: let's find a place for those! (Need permission from Port)

- SRKW – KWT updates

*Kailey Genther*

Kailey is in SJ elementary school now with 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Jeff is instructing virtually with Kailey assisting.

Also boater safety signage here on SJI, altering Be Whale Wise sign to include eelgrass messaging.

- kiosk at County park will be on a concrete base so can be moved around, no digging in the ground

- Eelgrass monitoring updates

Buoys are out in Odlin so active eelgrass protection zone is in effect. Small typo in phone number – it goes to facilities manager. Beth can weld a new piece onto buoys to fix that (with public works phone number) when we pull buoys out for maintenance next year. Frankie will send emails about vessel compliance monitoring - link Christina up with Tina to set a site. Jeff on Lopez. Kailey and Phil on SJI.

The monitoring will involve an app to enter the data -take a photo of the scene and count the vessels

Question: update on what State is doing on whale flag?

Frankie: had a grant to promote the whale warning flag more broadly, a communications assistant helping with that over the summer – social media, press releases. Targeting charters, boating companies, boaters with educational videos. The State Parks Boating Program will be supplying enforcement and soundwatch with flags to give directly to recreational boaters that they contact on the water.

Q: will they also give them the brochure to explain how to use?

Frankie: They've been provided. In the fall, follow up with Patti and Deborah, get flags to the Tribes

Trying to keep "be Whale Wise" branding consistent even with so many involved

I've been asked to participate in state communications meetings, helping to put message forward

– Frankie can send posters to anyone who wants them, just let her know how many

10:08 AM **Member news and any other business, Orcas Landing Opening**

<https://theorcasonian.com/theres-a-new-experience-awaiting-you-at-the-ferry-landing/#comments>

– Frankie reads out message of appreciation from Jamie Stephens

Kendra talks about the moving moments while Patti spoke, potential future plans for the site

Level: two updates,

1. Article published about the tanker that transited Active pass on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (instead of Boundary pass) and fortunately action has been taken to prohibit further passage of that kind, a reminder that a spill there would definitely affect us even though that was an issue for Canada, and also,
2. The Trans Mountain pipeline expansion was approved and now construction is 20% complete. One of only options left to oppose it is to convince insurance companies not to provide coverage. June 14-21 is a week of action to reach out to insurance companies. WA State's Insurance Commissioner is urging the insurance industry in WA State to work with Tribes on adopting policies of consent on environmental projects that affect Tribes.

Christina: is there something MRC could do to help with these insurance coverage concerns?

Level: we could make a recommendation to County Council that they send a letter to the Insurance Commissioner.

The Council engaged in the permit review process and opposed the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

We're also asking for thanks to the State Insurance Commissioner for work he's doing in support of Tribes and treaty rights

– Level is willing to draft some language for that recommendation to Council. Can we approve the concept now and then work on the details? If approval in concept, Level can send out a draft letter

– Thumbs up all around, everyone approves

ACTION ITEM: Sam will coordinate with Level and Christina on a final recommendation to Council. next council meeting is on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Level can have draft done soon

10:23 AM Briefly discuss charter review process

Christina: Kendra has presented to the Charter Review Commission (CRC). They have now voted on a recommendation by the environment committee to create an office of climate policy with an independently elected climate commissioner. I am concerned about having an elected official in what will basically be Kendra's role. I made some comments at last night's CRC meeting. Should independent climate commissioner be elected or appointed with skills and understanding of the science? concerned this role could go to someone with a political agenda. Propose MRC recommend giving voters a choice on appointed or elected person in this office.

Other Comments: - an appointed position could also have an agenda

- we've had members leave MRC because they felt they were being ignored. It's an evolving situation.

Kendra: clarify that my position is considered as appointed. We are a division of public works also concerned about politicizing the position, particularly when it comes to enforcement issues. County council can make recommendations back to the CRC

Frankie: the other difference between elected and appointed position is former just has requirement to be a resident of the county for 3 years, nothing about the education, experience, background for this work

Q: Would elected position be as effective if not reporting to county manager? We have seen strong candidates in the past, not just residents who decided to run. One element of proposal that had merit was reorganization with code enforcement falling under this new office, particularly with issues related to the environment. There's a lot of dissatisfaction with current lack of code enforcement

Kendra: we did communicate that we feel the issue is with lack of enforcement. We only have one code enforcement staff. That's an important gap –inspections when construction is occurring etc.

ACTION ITEM: table this discussion and bring it up again at July meeting, consider CRC proposal

10:52 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting** *Christina Koons*

10:52 AM **CAG business** *Sam Whitridge*

- Update on SRFB round

Sam reviews specific amounts for the WRIA 2 SRFB Allocation for 2021 and 2022. Sam reviews current 2021 SRFB proposals with total request amount, still falls short of allocation

Eelgrass project decided this morning to pull out of current grant round, due largely to TAG feedback.

We heard back from SRFB review panel, strong support for McArdle Bay project but want more specific information. McArdle Bay project is also strongly supported by the TAG, clear priority this year

Level: if McArdle project is awarded entire request and split over two years, will we be committed to give the remainder next year?

Sam: that's TAG's decision, we'll discuss in August.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of funding this year and remaining amount next

Laura: reviews targeted funding SRFB set aside, statewide 15 lead entities compete for those funds.

11:06 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**