



Island County  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information about Watershed Planning in Island County, visit our web site.  
<http://www.islandcountypeh.org/page/17>

## Meeting Notes

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
February 04, 2016 2:30-4:30 PM  
Heller Road Fire Station #25  
2720 Heller Rd, Oak Harbor

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### Call to Order and Introductions

Present:

Citizen Members: Don Lee (Co-Chair), Julius Budos (Co-Chair), Gary Ehrenfeld, Al Williams, Dave Thomas, Tom Vos, Carol Gillespie, Barbara Brock

Technical Advisors: Rob Hallbauer (WICD)

Island County Staff: Stephanie Croan, Matt Zupich, Nathan Howard, Brian Wood, Dawn Pucci, Vin Sherman, Lori Clark

### Adoption of December WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

Tom Vos moved to approve the December 03, 2015 meeting summary notes. Al Williams seconded. Motion approved.

### Announcements

Matt recently spoke with Jennifer Kropack, Regional Planner with the DOH Drinking Water Program, regarding updates for the WRAC. Following the Camano Water System forum in November, she knows of 4 Camano water systems that have been communicating with each other via an email "list serve". This is an encouraging step toward a re-organized Camano water system association.

Don spoke with Commissioner Hannold regarding WRAC membership options in light of some long-standing vacancies. Options include appointing members regardless of the Commissioner district they live in or change the resolution to include "at large" members. Commissioner Hannold responded that he has successfully recruited an applicant to fill the North Whidbey/Camano vacancy by the end of February. Matt added that the applicant is Jay Lawrence, District Manager for the Camano Island Mosquito Control District. There is still one seat open from Commissioner Jill Johnson's District #2, Oak Harbor. Don will follow-up with Commissioner Hannold about possibly modifying WRAC membership requirements.

### Reports/Updates

*Sound Waters*

Matt reported he put together a tri-fold display for the upcoming Sound Waters event. He included maps of Nitrates in Wells and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas as well as general information about the WRAC. Tom indicated there are currently 633 people signed up for Sound Waters.



### *Water Quality Program*

Matt would like to present the WRAC with both the 2014 and 2015 water quality monitoring program reports at an upcoming meeting. He and Stephanie are also working on a presentation for an EPA-supported water quality study on fecal bacteria tracking which recently completed. They plan to present this information to the WRAC in the near future as well.

### *Comp Plan/CAO Update*

Nathan Howard, Long-Range Planner, reported the Planning Department has adopted a tentative schedule for completing the Comprehensive Plan update including public outreach. He anticipates a draft will be presented to the public at the end of June 2016 followed by a 60-day intensive public outreach and comment period. Gary asked how the outreach will be accomplished. Nathan replied that all the usual methods will be employed (newspaper, mail). Gary commented that these customary means of communicating with the public do not seem to be effective in his experience. Nathan indicated that the Planning Department is unable to use certain media types, such as Facebook, at this time but does have a website (<http://islandcounty2036.org/>) and an email distribution list which provides regular updates and information. The overarching message being that public outreach is complex and difficult to effectively accomplish in Island County.

Nathan went on to report that the revised Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis of the Critical Areas Ordinance should be available for public review very soon.

### *Clean Water Utility*

Julius asked what the timeframe is for moving on to Phase 2 of the CWU. The WRAC is frustrated with the delay and would like an explanation.

### *Coordinated Water System Plan*

Julius asked about the status of updating the CWSP. Nathan reported that the CWSP is a Long-Range Planning document. Long-Range Planning staff recently placed the CWSP on a 10-year docket to be updated within the next 3 years. Tom suggested the WRAC submit a letter to the Board of County Commissioners, and carbon copy the Planning Department, encouraging an earlier update of the CWSP. Don volunteered to draft a letter.

### **Ebey's Prairie Watershed Restoration Project**

Rob Hallbauer, Natural Resource Planner with Whidbey Island Conservation District, gave a presentation on a multi-year, grant-funded project to improve surface water quality in the Ebey's Prairie watershed. Ebey's Prairie watershed has historically ranked last for water quality among County-monitored surface waters mostly due to consistent exceedence of fecal coliform standards. Rob discussed components and activities completed in Phase I of the project including watershed characterization, flow monitoring, pollution source identification, farm planning, BMP implementation and public outreach. He described many of the complexities associated with tracking down and correcting some of the potential sources of pollution. Phase II of the project is focused on conceptual designs for stormwater treatment intended to alleviate fecal coliform contamination in the stream discharging to Ebey's Landing beach. At the moment, the Conservation District only has funding for 30% designs on



public lands. Fortunately the bulk of fecal bacteria contamination was found to be coming from a farm owned by the National Park Service thus enabling the implementation of treatment facilities that are expected to significantly reduce stream pollution. WICD is working to acquire funds to fully fund the project and intends to begin construction in 2016. The County water quality team will continue to perform effectiveness monitoring throughout and following project implementation.

### **Lead Entity Update**

Dawn Pucci, Island County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator, provided an update on the Lead Entity program including a few items requiring WRAC decision. She started with a discussion on 2016 monitoring projects, reminding the WRAC that they approved a monitoring project (SRSC Pocket Estuary Census) in 2015 following a last-minute SRFB decision to allow 10% of Federal funds for such projects. SRFB has again decided to allow 10% of Federal funds to be applied to monitoring projects in 2016. Dawn's recommendation is to *not* request monitoring proposals in 2016. Her rationale is that the Lead Entity does not yet have a monitoring plan to help guide potential project sponsors and no project scoring process currently exists. Don called for a motion.

*Dave Thomas moved to approve Dawn's recommendation to not request monitoring project proposals for the 2016 SRFB grant round. Barbara Brock seconded. Motion approved.*

Dawn moved on to a discussion on a PSP offer to provide 40 hours of "Coaching" for facilitation, technical consulting, product development, etc. Her recommendation is to keep 20 hours of coaching and donate back 20 hours-worth of funds to help pay for updating Nearshore Chapter (Ch.15) of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.

*Julius Budos moved to accept Dawn's recommendation to keep 20 hours of coaching and donate 20 hours-worth back to PSP to update the Nearshore Chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.*

Dawn next talked about a few current projects being paid for out of Salmon Recovery capacity funds. The first is a UW Sea Grant Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge modeling project currently underway in Island County which will provide useful predictive data for future planning efforts. She presented a recent map this project generated showing vertical land movement trends across the County. A second project, currently out for bid, is to produce a new, hi-resolution GIS data compared with WSU Beach Watcher data to show status and trends of shoreline armoring around Island County.

Dawn then discussed the upcoming funding cycles between PSAR and SRFB. PSP is attempting to adjust their legislative funding request therefore several changes are being implemented on the local level regarding project funding, proposal processing and timing. She provided a few handouts and guided the group through a sample project schematic to help make sense of this complex topic. Barbara spoke up to recruit a second WRAC member join the Salmon TAG. Dawn suggested the TAG and WRAC may have joint meetings in the future especially for high dollar acquisition proposals, for example.



Dawn wrapped up with a few more updates. Beach seining training was recently conducted for volunteers. She indicated they caught some early Pink salmon. She also mentioned that Jim Somers has proposed to work with the State Parks to promote a public education event in tandem with future beach seining events. The Lead Entity is planning to host a watershed tour in April for Local, State and Federal elected officials to see salmon recovery projects in-person within Island County. Dawn announced the Salish Sea Conference this year is in Vancouver, BC in April. The Waterman property permits are all secured to remove the dike this coming June. WDFW will work with WCLT during and after the project to monitor a feeder bluff behind the dike. The Iverson Project is moving along with an initial public meeting of 75 people out of which a Task Force has been established to continue meeting and working together with the County.

### **Meeting Closure**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

*Audio recording of all WRAC meetings are available, by request.*

*Next Meetings:*

*March 3 (Camano Center)*

*April 7 (Oak Harbor Public Works)*

*May 5 – Open House (Heller Rd Fire Station)*