



Island County
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information about Watershed Planning in Island County, visit our web site.
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/WRAC/Pages/Home.aspx>

Meeting Notes

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, March 03, 2016 2:30—4:30 PM
Camano Center
606 Arrowhead Rd, Camano Island

Call to Order and Introductions

Present:

Citizen Members: Carol Gillespie, Julius Budos (Co-Chair), Jay Lawrence, Bob Boehm, Dave Thomas, John Lovie, Don Lee (Co-Chair), Tom Vos

Island County Staff: Stephanie Croan, Matt Zupich, Vin Sherman, Doug Kelly

Adoption of December WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

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

Announcements

Julius welcomed Jay Lawrence, newly appointed WRAC member from Camano Island. Jay gave a brief personal background and discussed his involvement as Manager of the Camano Mosquito Control District. Jay led a discussion about mosquito issues in Island County and the interaction between mosquitoes and water.

Matt announced that the Salmon Recovery Project Site Visits will be held on April 6th and 7th. The April 7th date coincides with the regular WRAC meeting. Don asked if the group would be interested in using the Site Visits as a replacement for the April WRAC meeting. Julius called for a show of hands to use the April 7th site visit as the April WRAC meeting. A majority vote approved to replace the April 7th WRAC meeting with the Salmon Recovery Project site visits.

Julius suggested improved feedback from the Salmon Recovery projects from year-to-year as a measure of the WRAC's decision to approve or not approve projects. The group agreed to make a request for this type of feedback. Julius will send Dawn Pucci, Lead Entity Coordinator, an email to make this request.

Reports/Updates

Sound Waters

Matt reported that the WRAC display at Sound Waters was well received. Stephanie staffed the display booth and spoke to a number of people with water resource related questions and concerns.



Sound Water Stewards

Tom reported the 2016 Sound Waters University was the most successful event to date with an attendance of over 650 people. This was the first year exhibitors were asked to pay for display space with several opting to donate money as an event sponsor instead. Thus, it was a very good fundraiser for this newly formed organization. Next year the event will be in Oak Harbor.

Coordinated Water System Plan

Don reminded that at the February meeting, the group agreed to continue impressing upon the BOCC the WRAC's desire to update the CWSP as soon as possible. Following the meeting, Don and Matt discussed the fact that Keith Higman, Interim Long-Range Planning Director, reported current planning priorities lie with the Comprehensive Plan update therefore the CWSP is a low priority at the moment. Don contacted Keith about potential next steps for getting the CWSP updated. Keith replied that the Commissioner's had recently approved a long-range planning docket listing the CWSP update to occur within the next 2 years. Don also called attention to the fact that the Groundwater Management Plan is also on the docket for update sometime in the future – no timeframe is listed. He also pointed out that the WRAC is listed under Ongoing Intergovernmental Coordination through 2025. Julius is curious to what extent the WRAC might be involved in the CWSP update. Don suggested the group hold a strong position that WRAC is absolutely involved in that process.

Clean Water Utility

Julius asked if there was any information on Phase 2 of the CWU. Don reported that Keith and Bill Oakes still have not met about moving forward with Phase 2 despite broad support and available funding. On a related note, John Lovie indicated that the City of Oak Harbor recently codified Low Impact Development requirements.

Island Local Integrating Organization

John provided a brief description of the purpose of LIO's then an update on the following items:

- The Puget Sound Partnership will announce ranking of Island County Near Term Actions March 11th.
- PSP has a new commitment to ILIO long term plans. Too early to tell what it means in practice.
- ILIO is working on a vision and mission statement – continuing today – and a 5 year plan vision statement.
- Strategic Implementation Transition Teams recently critiqued and reported on ILIO's ecosystem component and vital sign choices
- PSP has added a number of additional vital signs to do with human quality of life. Some of these look helpful. To open up selection of vital signs for the county is a significant endeavor.



The group discussed a number of related topics such as the 2020 recovery goal soon approaching and the status of shoreline armoring in Island County relative to impacts, inventory, measurement and permitting.

Surface Water Quality Program Annual Report Presentation

Matt provided a Powerpoint presentation on Island County's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program including an overview of the program goals & components, monitored parameters & associated standards, data analysis methods, results and trends of baseline water quality for water year's 2014 and 2015, source identification, and other ongoing efforts.

Measured Groundwater Nitrates

Julius provided a Powerpoint presentation on measured groundwater nitrates from Island County well data. He showed and compared nitrate data from wells on both Whidbey and Camano Islands over a 40 year period. The data indicates that Whidbey wells have been contaminated more than Camano wells but the overall extent of contamination is low relative to the drinking water standard for Nitrates (92% of wells have values less than 2.5mg/L; the standard is 10 mg/L). He also displayed some graphs to show the effect of well depth on nitrate concentration which indicates that shallower wells have higher nitrate concentrations. The overall message is that most wells in Island County have consistently low nitrate concentrations with the exception being very few wells having elevated concentrations increasing over time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting Closure

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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

Next Meetings:

April 6&7 (Salmon Recovery Project Site Visits – Location TBD)

May 5 – Open House (Heller Rd Fire Station)

June 2 (Oak Harbor Public Works Facility)