

Island County  
WATER RESOURCE 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, June 02, 2016 2:30—4:30 PM  
Oak Harbor Public Works  
1400 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Oak Harbor

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### Call to Order and Introductions

#### Present:

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

Island County Staff: Doug Kelly, Dawn Pucci, Lori Clark, Matt Zupich

Guests: Karen Bishop (WICD), Virpi Salo-Zieman (DOH)

### New WRAC Members

Don Lee introduced two new WRAC members, Tom Fox and Maddie Rose. Maddie, whom was unable to attend this meeting, fills the long-standing vacancy in District #2, Oak Harbor, and Tom takes over for Bob Boehm in District #1, Central/South Whidbey. Tom briefly discussed his professional background in water resources, which is quite comprehensive.

### Adoption of May WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

Dave Thomas moved to approve the May 05, 2016 meeting summary notes as corrected. Gary Ehrenfeld seconded.

Motion approved.

### Announcements

John Lovie announced the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association's quarterly meeting scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6-8 pm at the Race Rd Fire Station. All are welcome to attend these meetings but only members may vote. The guest speaker will be John Rose from the WA Dept of Ecology discussing WA Water Law and Water Rights.

Don announced the WRAC sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the separation of salmon recovery citizen committee responsibilities from the WRAC and included WRAC recommendations for the evolution of the salmon TAG into the new citizen committee. Dawn Pucci confirmed the BOCC received the letter and have since approved the proposed separation, tasking staff with amending existing and creating new resolutions accordingly. At work session, the BOCC expressed gratitude for the WRAC's 16 years of service as the salmon citizen committee and appreciation for the WRAC's recommendations on forming this new committee. It was also confirmed the WRAC will continue acting as the citizen committee through the remainder of this year's funding cycle.

Don recalled a May WRAC meeting vote to submit to the Lead Entity letters of support for 3 Salmon Recovery "large cap" projects (Barnum Point, Pearson and Leque Island). He signed the letters and handed them over to Dawn Pucci



## **Discussion**

### **New Member Orientation**

Matt Zupich asked if there is interest in developing a new member orientation. The group agreed that a formal orientation would be helpful, even for existing members. Matt will work on developing one.

## **Reports**

John Lovie reported on a series of community meetings focused on local water issues. From these meetings, a group traveled to Lopez Island to meet with Lopez Community Land Trust for a tour of their affordable housing community that utilizes an extensive water collection and re-use system with very low per person usage (40 gal/day/person) in response to limited water supply. In attendance was Commissioner Price-Johnson whom is now endeavoring to work with other jurisdictions on solutions such as this for communities with water use restrictions. The group engaged in a discussion on rainwater collection and use restrictions.

Karen Bishop reported the Whidbey Island Conservation District received NRCS funding to conduct a drought conservation planning project. Due to the short timeframe given (30 days), the focus of the plan is on drought mitigation for forest and agricultural lands as well as residential properties. The goal is to provide a document to landowners as a consolidated resource for drought response. She provided an outline of the plan for WRAC review and comment. Tom Fox suggested that this document is more of a drought management resource than a plan; Karen agreed. The group engaged in a discussion on the importance of drought planning, the unique situation of island water resources with respect to climate change/sea level rise, and water storage and associated water rights. Don suggested that perhaps the WRAC help initiate a county-wide drought management plan.

Matt reported on the results of the Critical Areas Ordinance update Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Report with respect to the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQMP). These reports identified/recommended a number of updates to the SWQMP. Based on these recommendations, County staff will be working to revise the SWQMP by updating County code and supplementing the water quality monitoring plan to more accurately reflect the direction of this program. He will be bringing proposed code and monitoring plan revisions back to the WRAC for review and input over the next several months.

## **Island Local Integrating Organization Overview and 2016 Near Term Actions**

Lori Clark provided an overview presentation of the Island Local Integrating Organization discussing the purpose, goals, funding, structure, membership and processes on regional and local levels in support of Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts. She defined local ecosystem recovery priorities and the 2016 Near Term Actions (NTAs) and how these fit into the regional recovery model. She also explained how the Island LIO and Lead Entity work collaboratively in order to avoid duplicative efforts, economize funding for and track successes of local recovery projects.

## **Public Comment**

No Public Comment

## **Meeting Closure**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

*Next Meetings:*

*July 07 (Camano Senior Center)*

*August 04 (Oak Harbor Public Works)*

*September 01 (Oak Harbor Public Works)*