

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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# Minutes

Prepared by Dan Pedersen

## Feb. 1, 2011

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

**PRESENT:** Vice-chair **Joe Hillers** (presiding), chair **Ian Jefferds**, **Barbara Bennett** (alternate for Tim Lawrence), **Sarah Haynes**, **Sabrina Haswell Ozturk**, **Angie Homola**, **Chris Jerome**, **Steve Mitchell**, **Dick Toft**, **Ken Urstad**, **Stan Walsh**, Communications Manager **Dan Pedersen**.

**ABSENT:** **Marshall Bronson** (family health), **Lenny Corin** (traveling S.E. Asia), **Leal Dickson** (traveling Africa), **Tim Lawrence** (traveling on business - East Coast), **Linda Rhodes** (traveling on business - Oregon), **Frances Wood** (off island), **Todd Zackey** (work conflict), Executive Director **Rex Porter** (traveling on business).

### VISITORS

**Mike McVay**, Langley, speaker, Islanders for Public Beach Access.

**Elliott Menashe**, Clinton, Island Citizens for Public Beach Access.

**Sarah Schmidt**, Coupeville, MRC contractor.

**Scott Chase**, coordinator, WSU Island County Shore Stewards, Camano Island

**Karen Stewart**, Island County Planning – Shoreline Master Plan program

**Barbara Bennett**, Coupeville, coordinator, WSU Beach Watchers

**Jill Hein**, Coupeville, WSU Beach Watchers

**Peg Urstad**, Greenbank, WSU Beach Watchers Advisory Council

**Nancy Waddell**, Clinton, Administrative Coordinator, Whidbey Watershed Stewards

**Robin Clark**, Watershed Program Manager, Whidbey Watershed Stewards

**CALL TO ORDER:** 3:31 pm. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Approved, with an item of correspondence pertaining to oil spill legislation deferred until after the speaker's presentation.

**MINUTES** of Jan. 18, 2011: Approved, motion by Urstad, second by Toft, carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Deferred until after the speaker's presentation.

## Action Items / Decisions

**Oil spill legislation.** Pedersen will e-mail the entire MRC the correspondence Nancy Waddell provided about oil spill legislation, HB 1186, currently pending in Olympia. At the Feb. 15 meeting, the committee will consider whether to send our legislators a letter of support for this bill.

### SPEAKER

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## Issues of Public Beach Access on County Right-of-Way

Mike McVay, Island Citizens for Public Beach Access

Pedersen explained that Mike McVay represents a large and rapidly growing citizens' group working to assure the public's right to reach public beaches on Whidbey and Camano islands via county right-of-way. In many cases this right-of-way is simply a road-end that opens onto publicly owned tidelands. He pointed out that several years ago the MRC and WSU Beach Watchers collaborated on the book, *Getting to the Water's Edge*, which identified 67 places on the two islands that offer public beach access. He emphasized the book's list is not a complete record but rather a compilation of the larger and better-known points such as parks and boat launches that typically offer some amenities such as parking, restrooms, launching ramp or picnic tables. Many additional points of access exist, but including them would have been problematical and time-consuming for a variety of reasons such as dangerous terrain, disputed ownership, poor documentation, lack of parking, obstructions, encroachment, lack of facilities or other limitations.

McVay said he became involved in this effort after a neighbor told him about a nearby public beach access the county had essentially forgotten and abandoned. Nearby landowners had fixed it up with steps and maintained it for one another as a way to get to the beach. He then met Glen Russell of Greenbank, who showed him a road-end his family had used for 40 years that now was blocked by a landowner's newly-built rock wall. In further discussions, McVay said he came to realize that in many places, property owners have gradually taken over county rights of way and made them their own, as much as possible.

McVay pointed out that respect for property rights is a two-sided issue. "If we are going to respect private property – which I believe is essential – then the owners of private property also need to respect public property. It's reciprocal."

McVay cited many examples of confusion about public access. At Site 43 in *Getting to the Water's Edge*, Mutiny Bay Shores (Limpet Lane), McVay said a neighboring landowner has been challenging people who use the county right-of-way to reach 950 feet of adjoining public tidelands. He said signs have been posted warning against trespassing. When people approach, the landowner comes running and says, "Get off my place." A particularly extreme example of encroachment by property owners is on Marissa Lane at Sandy Point near Langley. Marissa Lane is not well known because for many years it was called an alley, but it's a county road 20 feet wide that runs between Crab Alley and the beach on the south edge of the Sandy Point Development. Neighboring landowners have effectively narrowed the 20-foot road in a variety of ways, including the placement of mailboxes, to make it appear as minimal as possible.

Many organizations and interest groups have asked to be on McVay's e-mail list including five fishing groups (about 600 members), kayakers (150), sailboarders (150-some), and others.

Four laws in the Revised Code of Washington address issues of beach access:

- **RCW 4.24.220-210** (no liability if allowing public to use beach, unless a fee is charged)
- **RCW 7.28.090** (no adverse possession of public property allowed)
- **RCW 35.79.035** and **RCW 36.87.130** (no vacation of public property allowed by cities, towns and counties)

McVay pointed out that determining public beach access in the county's files is complex because each department seems to use a different numbering, naming and classification system. He has found the best resource is the Assessor's Office. He said the people who staff the front desks in county offices are like sacrificial lambs sent forward to suffer the frustration and impatience of the public. The real power is in the hands of those in back. The front-desk people have no authority but are remarkably helpful if approached in a spirit of civility.

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McVay pointed out the sheriff's department could do more to help resolve misunderstandings. He said the sheriff's department stated that all the land in front of Scatchet Head is private property, but in fact it is state tidelands right up to the property-owners' walls. At Limpet Lane, McVay said a sheriff's deputy ordered a fisherman off public property and threatened to arrest him for not obeying an order. The fisherman said he wanted to be arrested for *trespassing*, but the deputy would not do that. The law when it comes to beach rights in Washington is so complicated the deputies don't want to get into that area.

"I don't want to open that monstrous can of worms," McVay said. "My thing is look at the map, go there, find the spot, see if it's really there, and then go to the county assessor to see if it was vacated earlier or ignored, or if something transpired. If it's still in the public domain, then you can write it down and say, 'It's still there. That's our place.' This has become a mission. I really like the idea of identifying these places."

McVay said Mercer Island in 1970 conducted an inventory of street ends and found many had been taken over by neighbors who had incorporated them into their yards or put up private boat houses and docks. Working through the courts, the city cleared up all of this. The city's website mentions 20 street ends and describes 10 as developed and six as undeveloped: <http://www.mercergov.org/page.asp?navid=1448>.

When Bainbridge Island became a city, a group of citizens formed a Road Ends Committee. Equipped with cameras and GPS units, they located some 45-75 road ends that were public beach accesses. The volunteers wanted to clear brush and other obstacles from these rights-of-way. The city said the volunteers should pay for a permit to do this work, but the city wouldn't issue a permit unless the volunteers could define the extent of what needed to be done. Island County Commissioner Homola said the city's concern about volunteers may be one of liability. In Island County we have an Adopt-a-Parks program but cannot have volunteers working on county land unless they are covered for liability.

McVay asked if the Island County Commissioners might be receptive to having Road Ends Committees here do the same thing. Homola said, "I think so, but it would be like Adopt-a-Parks and you'd still have to be covered." She said the way to set it up would be to approach Public Works.

Homola said she believes all county property now has been mapped. *Note: After the meeting, Homola reported she had checked with Bill Oakes and learned the Parks Plan Property Inventory did not locate all road ends and public property. This will be a much larger project to be conducted as part of the Shoreline Master Plan update.*

McVay said the MRC could help in this effort simply by being aware of the issues and using its influence to smooth the way for communication and resolution. McVay's goal is to locate all the accesses, confirm their existence, and get signage installed so they are clearly marked.

Jefferds said publication of *Getting to the Water's Edge* was a good first step for Island County. The next step might be to put all the public access information on the MRC's Sound IQ database when we get it launched.

Sarah Schmidt says it's exciting to see this effort unfold. "I discovered this whole issue of the road ends when I was researching *Water's Edge*. That book is an outgrowth of a 1977 study, followed up by one in 1981 that tried to look at all the road ends, and that was done under the Planning Department, but those just became things sitting on a shelf. You've heard how hard it is to verify that a place actually is public access. That's why we stopped where we did – because it's so complex. When people would ask me, 'What about all these other places?' I just said I hope some citizens step forward someday and adopt all these places because that's what it's going to take."

McVay said what he'd like from the county is a place he can take his report and say, "Here's my report. Please verify these and put them on the list."

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“You’ve got that right here,” Jefferds said, explaining that the MRC is building an online database right now that, we hope, eventually will integrate all the MRC’s studies onto a map that has been developed for the assessing and planning departments, and he believes this information could be stored on that map.

Haynes predicted that if we install signage on these road ends, neighbors will be inclined to take the signs down because they’ll be so unhappy about having the places identified. “It’ll take education,” she said.

Jerome, attending today for the first time as representative of the Port of South Whidbey, said he attended a public meeting McVay called in December at Neil’s Clover Patch Restaurant, which was attended by Commissioner Helen Price-Johnson and Bill Oakes. He reported back to his fellow commissioners, who were quite receptive. “When you get to the point where you have a concrete proposal that needs funding, such as for deploying signs, I’d encourage you to approach the port. We’d be really interested, I think.” The port accepts grant requests twice a year, in March and September.

Homola suggested that when the group has something concrete to share, they approach the Island County Council of Governments and ask to be on the agenda. “You’d be addressing Langley, Coupeville, Oak Harbor, the county and the port districts all at once.” She explained that McVay also is welcome to address the entire board of county commissioners at one of their Wednesday staff sessions. He would just need to ask to be placed on the agenda, which is widely distributed and will be seen by many people.

McVay said one of the issues that needs to be addressed is the legitimate concerns of the property owners themselves. “They have good cause to dislike some of the people who come down and use their property. One of the biggest things that could solve that issue is putting in a porta-potty and a garbage can at each of those accesses.” He said some of the organized groups of shoreline users have expressed willingness to help fund such amenities. “I’m always trying to think of ideas that won’t cost the county anything,” he said.

Homola said the comment about the need for education is dead on, and suggested McVay also reach out to WSU Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards for help with that. Barbara Bennett, coordinator of WSU Beach Watchers, said WSU Extension, Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards are natural partners to help get this information out.

Elliott Menashe stressed that the single most important need is to have every public access identified, located, catalogued and mapped. “Once you know where they are, it takes care of a whole suite of recurring problems that just waste everyone’s time and money.”

Menashe said the Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife all have this information in their databases and on their websites for their own departments, but none of them are talking to each other.

## CORRESPONDENCE (deferred from earlier)

**Oil spill legislation.** Pedersen introduced Nancy Waddell to summarize an e-mail she had sent the executive committee regarding a bill in the state legislature to strengthen the state’s oil spill response preparedness. Waddell said Whidbey Watershed Stewards is part of a group of nonprofit organizations belonging to The Environmental Caucus. Right now the group is focusing on environmental priorities in the state legislature. The caucus is soliciting letters of support for House Bill 1186. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Pedersen will forward the background information by e-mail to the entire MRC so we can be prepared to discuss this at our next meeting.

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## ONGOING BUSINESS

**Data archiving and access.** Jefferds reminded the group we have signed a contract with the City of Bellingham to begin putting our data on an archiving and access software system called Sound IQ. He encourages members who know of datasets that should go on this website to make Rhodes aware of them so they can be incorporated onto the map. Jefferds mentioned that Hillers had attended a forage fish meeting in the last two weeks with scientists from British Columbia. During the meeting he learned from one of the Canadians that they have the same problem we do. They have a ton of forage fish information and don't have a place to store it. Discussions are under way whether we might be able to incorporate some of their information into our database, or link to it.

**Coastal Volunteer of the Year Nominee.** On behalf of Lawrence, Barbara Bennett reported the selection committee met and chose a winner. The winner will be named and honored at Sound Waters University on Feb. 5. She said every nominee deserved to win. The committee reached their decision by consensus. She said about 600 people are registered for Sound Waters, an all-time record.

**Sandlance video.** Toft mentioned that Sarah Woehrman and Mark Plumberg have recorded a new sandlance video that is remarkable. There was much interest. Pedersen said he would share the YouTube link with the committee.

**Forage fish conference.** Hillers reported that on Jan. 25 he attended a forage fish conference organized by Caroline Gibson of Northwest Straits Commission and Joe Gaytos of SeaDoc Society. "It knocked my socks off," he said. Twenty-seven scientists from Washington and British Columbia were seated at the table. Eight attended from the University of Washington, as did representatives of the Puget Sound Partnership, Sea Doc Society, NOAA, USGS, DNR, DFW and Pew Environmental Group, Coastal Watershed Institute and Friends of San Juan. Dan Pentilla also attended. He is a forage fish guru, retired from the DFW. Six attendees came from British Columbia. One of the BC people mentioned an educational video about forage fish that might be available for us to show to Shore Stewards participants. The purpose of the conference was to explore whether forage fish populations are increasing, decreasing, remaining stable or fluctuating cyclically. Hillers said it appears we simply don't know; it is extremely hard to determine the population. It appears they move for large distances. For example, Dan Pentilla pointed out forage fish are found at Cornet Bay, even though no evidence whatsoever has been found that they spawn there. Hillers said he attended the conference because of the interest and support of Wayne English of Camano Island. He contributed financially to the conference. Hillers said within the next month or so, there may be a proposal to the MRC for a local forage fish project. He said he will share the minutes of the conference with our group when he receives them.

**New MRC members.** Jefferds invited our two new members to tell us about themselves.

Sabrina Haswell Ozturk said she moved to Whidbey Island in July. She is originally from Oregon, lived for 10 years in San Diego and holds a degree in environmental law. She worked for the California Coastal Commission on many projects related to shoreline development, dealing with public access and environmental issues. She also worked for the County of San Diego on their multiple species conservation program, working to preserve areas of high habitat value for endangered species and to focus development on areas that were less sensitive. "I'm very interested in public access," she said.

Chris Jerome said he's been a commissioner for the Port of South Whidbey for a year. "I have a sailboat in Langley harbor and kayak around here." He grew up in England and was trained as a veterinary pathologist and now works as a consultant from home in the area of drug or device development for bones -- orthopedic devices. He has lived on South Whidbey since 1997.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments from the audience, Hillers declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

<b>Winter Schedule</b>			
<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Business Meeting:</b> Continued discussion of 2011 – 2013 grant
<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Educational Meeting:</b> UW Program on the Environment final out-brief on water quality, phytoremediation and soils experimentation – Dr. Sally Brown (Porter/Hillers introduction) and update on Island County Shoreline Master Plan update – Stewart (Porter introduction)
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Business Meeting:</b> Final discussion of 2011 – 2013 grant
<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Educational Meeting:</b> WSU Beach Watcher Eelgrass Monitoring Team presentation on 2010 monitoring results and recommended plan for 2011 (Urstad introduction)
<b>Apr 19</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Educational Meeting</b>

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# Minutes

Prepared by Dan Pedersen

## Feb. 15, 2011

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

**PRESENT:** Chair **Ian Jefferds**, **Marshall Bronson**, **Sarah Haynes**, **Joe Hillers**, **Chris Jerome**, **Tim Lawrence**, **Steve Mitchell**, **Sabrina Haswell Ozturk**, **Dick Toft**, **Ken Urstad**, **Stan Walsh**, **Frances Wood**, **Todd Zackey**, Executive Director **Rex Porter**, Communications Manager **Dan Pedersen**.

**ABSENT:** **Angie Homola** (conflict), **Lenny Corin** (traveling S.E. Asia), **Leal Dickson** (traveling Africa), **Linda Rhodes** (work conflict).

### VISITORS

**Scott Chase**, coordinator, WSU Island County Shore Stewards, Camano Island

**Barbara Bennett**, Coupeville, coordinator, WSU Beach Watchers

**Peg Urstad**, Greenbank, WSU Beach Watchers Advisory Council

**CALL TO ORDER:** 3:30 pm. **QUORUM:** Declared. **AGENDA:** Approved.

**MINUTES** of Feb. 1, 2011: Approved as amended by Pedersen to remove the hyphen from Haswell-Ozturk. Motion by Toft, second by Walsh, carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Jefferds noted that we had received an e-mail from Hi Bronson asking if we'd like to staff an MRC booth at CamOcean Day, to be held later this spring at Cama Beach State Park on Camano Island. Scott Chase explained that CamOcean Day was held for the first time last year. It's an all-day event at which organizations are invited to give talks, demonstrations and beach walks, and to set up booths. Last year Shore Stewards and Waste Wise shared a booth adjacent to one staffed by WSU Beach Watchers and the MRC, and about 1,100 – 1,400 people attended. Haynes has volunteered to help staff an MRC booth this year and Chase said he also would help.

## Action Items / Decisions

**Oil spill legislation letter. Motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, carried unanimously except for one abstention by Lawrence, to authorize Jefferds to send a letter to our state legislators and members of the House Environment Committee expressing our support of HR1186, oil spill legislation, providing the bill includes the points we stated in our letter that are important to us.**

**Motion by Walsh, second by Bronson, carried unanimously except for one abstention by Lawrence, authorizing Jefferds to send a similar letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee, assuming the Senate bill mirrors the House bill in wording and intent.**

### NWSC GRANT REPORTS

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**Shore Stewards.** Scott Chase reported that just prior to the last MRC meeting, Shore Stewards held the first meeting of its Whidbey Island advisory committee. They will meet again March 15, and a Camano Island committee also will meet.

**MRC website.** Pedersen reported that several updates need to be made to the MRC website. He is working with Jerome and Ozturk right now on their biographies and portraits, so we can add them to the membership page.

**Shoreline signage.** Pedersen said our Iverson Spit and West Beach signs are being manufactured right now by Pannier Graphics in Gibsonia, Penn. We should receive the completed signs in about a month.

**Data archiving.** Jefferds said he was hoping Rhodes would be in attendance today to provide an update. He reminded members we are working with the City of Bellingham on a prototype of the Sound IQ data archiving system.

## OTHER REPORTS

**Derelict gear.** Urstad reported the Northwest Straits Commission is finished for now with the derelict gear program, having used the available funds. They retrieved 2,493 nets representing 232 acres. Dead creatures recovered from these nets included 139,000 animals -- 12 mammals, 153 birds, 576 fish and about 138,000 invertebrates. The nets are estimated to have entangled 1.5 million animals every year. He said the NWSC is looking for additional funding at this time. Jefferds mentioned that a huge number of additional nets were discovered in the process of retrieving these. Urstad pointed out the divers in the program can only work to a depth of 105 feet.

**Creosote removal.** Urstad reported the Department of Natural Resources carried out creosote removal projects until the latter part of last year. He is not sure if any additional funding is available to continue the program.

**WRAC's Salmon TAG.** NOAA Population Recovery Approach. Zackey reported the Island County Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has sent a letter to the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) criticizing NOAA's Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Population Recovery Approach. He said the letter was sent through the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and signed by its chair, Don Lee. Lee expressed the view that the report may undermine local recovery efforts by establishing priorities that would effectively divert all funding elsewhere. Zackey said it appears NOAA generated the document internally and did not take into account local input under the Salmon Recovery Plan. NOAA listed some population groups they consider priorities for restoration without considering the local process and the importance of the Island County nearshore to salmon populations. Walsh said NOAA's report tends to deemphasize a number of salmon stocks and put the recovery emphasis on other stocks. "You can't really achieve ESA compliance and recovery by writing off a number of stocks. You have to include basically everything in the ESU, the Evolutionarily Significant Unit." Protection matrix. Zackey noted that when Kim Bredensteiner was Salmon Recovery Manager for the county, Whidbey Camano Land Trust engaged her to develop a matrix of all the drift cells in the county and assign a score to each for restoration and protection opportunities. Zackey said the TAG is finalizing the matrix right now, making sure the supporting information is referenced for each cell. Scott Chase said the people who participated in building the matrix, along with Bredensteiner, were himself, Lynda Lyshall of Puget Sound Action Team, Steve Seymour of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pat Powell of Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Barbara Brock of the Salmon TAG, and several other individuals.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

**Continued Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Discussion.** Jefferds briefly outlined the budget proposal Porter had laid out at a previous meeting, which included a scenario envisioning a 10 percent cutback in the biennium beginning July 1, 2011. Jefferds commented that the outlook for Congressional funding of

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the Northwest Straits Commission remains uncertain. In the past, NWSC funding came through a Congressional earmark, but Congress probably will not be using the earmark system this year. Funding for the NWSC may be available through other sources if Congress does not fund it.

**Discussion and Decision on Oil Spill Legislation Letter.** At our Feb. 1 meeting Nancy Waddell suggested the MRC consider sending a letter to the state legislature in support of HR 1186, a bill being discussed in the House Environmental Committee intended to strengthen oil spill response. Following that meeting, Rhodes did some research and drafted a letter for the MRC to consider approving today. Walsh reported the bill has been through a hearing, is still in committee, needs to go to executive session and then through one additional step before it is presented to the floor for a vote. He said he understands only two weeks remain for the legislature to act on all proposed bills. Walsh said he understands the MRC's letter should be addressed to the committee chair with a cc to every member of the committee, and it would be appropriate to do this for both the House and Senate committees, which are considering nearly identical versions. Copies also should go to our county's legislators. Jefferds and Toft both expressed reservations about putting our name behind the bill if we do not know all the details, but Toft said it would be good to let our representatives know we consider oil spill safeguards important. Lawrence said the committee might consider supporting the bill in concept. Jefferds said he'd like to discuss the proposed legislation and the MRC's letter with some of his professional associates and get their impressions before going forward. Bronson pointed out no plan is perfect but these are easy principles for us to support. **Motion by Bronson, second by Urstad, carried unanimously except for one abstention by Lawrence, to authorize Jefferds to send a letter to our state legislators and members of the House Environment Committee expressing our support of HR1186, oil spill legislation, providing the bill includes the points we stated in our letter that are important to us.** Lawrence recommended that when Jefferds writes the final letter he soften some of the wording currently in the draft letter with respect to how much improvement we expect the legislation will bring about in oil-spill response. **Motion by Walsh, second by Bronson, carried unanimously except for one abstention by Lawrence, authorizing Jefferds to send a similar letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee, assuming the Senate bill mirrors the House bill in wording and intent.**

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

**Chair's Report.** Jefferds reported he was in Washington, D.C., last week on business related to the shellfish industry. He met with many local members of Congress and their staff people. The consistent refrain everywhere was that no money was available. When Jefferds met with Sen. Murray's staff he thanked them for the senator's support of the Northwest Straits Commission. They said she would continue to support it but just did not quite know how. The commission's budget is a bit tenuous, having been provided in the past through a Congressional earmark.

### County Lead's Report.

**Decision process.** Lawrence said he has been feeling some concern that the MRC may, on occasion, move a bit too fast in making decisions. He said he was not objecting specifically to any particular MRC decision but simply feeling we do not always, immediately, have all the information we need to arrive at an informed decision when someone comes before the committee with a request for funding or action. This concern could be resolved if we adopted a formal policy requiring requests to be brought up twice, at two meetings, before the committee took action. Jefferds and others said they do not feel this has been a significant problem over the history of the committee. "I understand your point exactly," Jefferds said, "but I'd be reluctant to make this a formal policy." Bronson agreed. "If everything must have two hearings, then you hamstring yourself." He pointed out members of the committee are not shy about speaking up if they are uncomfortable with something.

**Sound Waters.** Lawrence reported about 615 people participated in this year's Sound Waters University. The lighthouse gift shop had \$2,100 in sales, up sharply from the previous high of \$1,316. He said there

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were some complaints about the display area being overcrowded due to the large number of displays. The Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award went to Barbara Brock of Camano Island.

**Tidal energy discussion.** Having completed the meeting's business early, Jefferds asked for a candid discussion of members' thinking about tidal energy generation, since a presentation on this topic is scheduled tomorrow evening in Freeland by a University of Washington professor. Until now our presentations on tidal energy all have been given by Craig Collar of Snohomish Public Utility District. In the wide-ranging discussion that ensued about green energy, several members expressed the view that it is almost impossible to assess the ultimate impact of tidal energy technology on marine resources. Initial research will be done using one or two pilot generators, but if a tidal energy installation is carried to full buildout in Admiralty Inlet it could employ 200 – 300 turbines. The environmental impact of such an extensive array could be quite different than the impact of just one or two. Jefferds pointed out that our discussion of tidal energy is timely in light of ongoing worries about the transportation of oil so close to our shoreline, and the risk of a spill.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further comments from the audience, Jefferds declared the meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

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