Mr. Dearborn referenced the new submittal received on Thursday from WEAN that included two or three new species that had not previously been nominated that the County had not considered. The Board confirmed anything newly proposed has to go through the established process [GMA #6070].

Placed on the overhead was a three-page chart used during the hearing in applying the three tests for species nomination criteria to each of WEAN's nominations in order to come up with the agreed-upon species to be protected in Island County. Listed on the table were all of the plants from the list and marks in the first three columns were indicated to show known information. Those species with no locational information tend to correspond WEAN "watch species". WEAN's designations of species as threatened, endangered, sensitive or watch are not a Federal, State or local designation. The first column shows an X if there is location information; if there is no location information all the nomination criteria cannot be answered; those with zeros are the ones the Board needs to go through and consider with the rest of the criteria.

In the taxonomic verification column Ms. Zemke explained that the plant received an X if the identification of the plant was confirmed by someone in addition to WEAN. Even with the plants that just WEAN provided Ms. Zemke wanted to be sure those were reliable sources. If WEAN reported that Chris Chappell of DNR identified it, she also made sure with Chris Chappell that was correct. Some of the plants are relatively easy to identify in the field, while others are very difficult because the species differentiation is so fine there is such little distinction between species, and it is easy to make a mistake. Therefore, for Rocky mountain juniper and Sitka spruce there was no one other than WEAN that identified the plant, but these are easily identifiable plants; Garry Oak as well, although there was verification from Chris Chappell.

The second column is verification though independent sources or through WEAN's data that there has been more than one observation of that plant, more than one confirmation that the plant exists on Whidbey Island or Camano.

The Board agreed to move to the species nomination criteria looking only at the species that have three X's in the row showing there is location information submitted, taxonomic verification and is a native species. Species for which there is no locational information, cannot verify taxonomically or are not native, would not continue to be reviewed. This table was used to go across for those plants with three X's to determine the three species nomination criteria: (1) extirpation; (2) habitat specificity/manipulation issue; (3) locally rare. An X = yes; I = more information needed; and 0 = no.

Musk monkey flower.

Found in wetlands and wetland buffers but generally within 25 feet, pretty dependent on being wet so would not be far from a wetland. Not a plant seen very often and Ms. Zemke has never identified it in her 14 years of doing this work. WEAN's report indicated the plant was existing in a ditch near Greenbank but is no longer in that ditch. A Washington Native Plant Society member reported it was observed in a wetland at Deception Pass State Park in 1999. It has a specific habitat requirement – found in wetlands, is definitely rare and not a frequently discovered wetland species.

No data provided by WEAN to demonstrate that the wetland habitat in Island County has been declining to the point where this plant is in danger of extirpation since 1985. Staff view is that the County's wetlands regulation with buffers is an effective means of protecting the wetlands in the County and there is no danger of extirpating the habitat this plant is found in. With this plant there is no information or studies to indicate it is in danger of extirpation outside of Island County let alone in Island County. It does not appear this plant is in danger of extirpation outside of Island County. There is an Eastern Washington variety and a Western Washington variety supposedly, but the snapshot provided by WEAN that it was in a ditch in whatever year and now is gone is not enough information. There is no information that shows what is happening with this plant locally; and not recognized by the State or Federal agencies as needing protection.

Commissioner Thorn observed the problem of not having trend data or very little in this case as with many of the others; there is very little even current census information in what WEAN submitted; how that relates to several years back, 1985 or 1885 is anybody's guess.

Board Determination – Species Nomination Criteria

(1) danger of extirpation	(2) habitat specificity	(3) locally rare
0	x	x

Tapertip Onion. [WEAN's latest submittal refers to Hooker's onion]

A prairie plant, requires prairie and open conditions, relatively well drained in order to persist. It has a localized habitat specificity. According to WEAN it has been observed at Grasser's Hill, Partridge Point, Fort Ebey State Park and Ebey's Landing annually since 1986. It is not a disjunct population. It is all over Western Washington. WEAN's more recent submittal identifies it at Deception Pass and that Minor and Kermode observed it at Deception Pass. It is not rare because it is found outside of Island County or there are multiple locations within Island County where it's found. It is habitat specific to prairies. There is not enough trend information that would say that prairie habitat in Island County is on the decline since 1985. It has been observed annually since 1986 so it is fairly persistent.

Board Determination – Species Nomination Criteria

(1) danger of extirpation	(2) habitat specificity	(3) locally rare
0	x	0

Menzies' larkspur

Another prairie species. Sighted at Deception Pass and Ebey's Bluff, and there is more than one source. WEAN has also seen it since 1985 on Grasser's Hill and there is no other confirmation of the Grasser's Hill sighting that it was there between 1985 and 1994. The sightings on Deception Pass were 1992 and 2000. Sightings on Ebey's Bluff were 1979 and 1980 and nothing since 1980 on Ebey's Bluff. It is fairly wide spread. It would not seem to stand up under criteria #2 in that it says: coastal bluffs, prairies to lower lower mountains and mountain meadows. It has a fairly big elevational range and is not very habitat specific.

It is found in Western Washington and the coast of California. The Hitchcock reference is dated 1973, but is the only written recognized authority other than herbarium records that provide a comprehensive review of. For Menzies' larkspur general consensus was that there was not enough information in order to make a decision for the short run.

Board Determination – Species Nomination Criteria

(1) danger of extirpation	(2) habitat specificity	(3) locally rare
I	0	0

Narrow leaved desert parsley

A prairie species, and takes a dry open habitat (page 8 of WEAN's new submittal). This is a species for which there is only one location and a sighting in 1981. There is no herbarium specimen but is probably a verifiable sighting. It is a species in Eastern Washington pretty easy to find. Interpreting prairie and open to be somewhat synonymous; the issue with prairie species is that they do not react well to invading trees and shrubs. Hitchcock says dry to fairly moist soil, lowland to mid-montane so would not meet the habitat specificity criteria. Prairies on Whidbey are more moist than the ones in the South Sound. It has one specific habitat requirement which is open conditions; it is not as specific with regard to moisture -- it can be dry to fairly moist. One sighting in 1981 at Goose Rock; no other information. Plant lists from Deception Pass State Park do not list it. Although these plants were listed by Native Plant Society or State Park personnel, Ms. Zemke pointed out the need to be going on a plant walk at the right time of year to find these things flowering, if not a person could step right over it.

Hitchcock describes it as southern Alberta and British Columbia to Colorado. Ms. Zemke personally knows it only from Eastern Washington. She would not call it disjunct. Steve Erickson was familiar with it from South Sound prairies.

Commissioner Thorn noted that if this has not been seen since 1981 that pre-dates the window of time being looked at for trends. If someone wants to come forward at a future date with some substantiating information that would be fine.

Board Determination – Species Nomination Criteria

(1) danger of extirpation	(2) habitat specificity	(3) locally rare
I	I	I

Sickle-keeled lupine [Page 8 of WEAN's most recent submittal]

Found in only one location; apparently seen repeatedly at that one location. The Monkey Hill Road location now has more information about the hybridization issue. The general location information states the lowland Puget Trough south, western Cascades to California; therefore, not unique to Whidbey Island.

Page eight under *Lupinus albicaulis* says variation and density in abundance between years from a few to 10,000 plus individuals; Steve Erickson confirmed that was what he meant to list – that that was the seed population abundance before Spring.