

AICAB REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
January 10, 2014 @ Anderson Island Community Clubhouse
(AICAB Approved)

Members Present: Joe Howells, Carol Pascal, Rich Sullivan, Dave Jacobsen, Ed Stephenson, Dr. Charlene Holt, Pat Owen. Bobbi Sullivan. **Members Absent and Excused:** Ann Dasch.

Special Guests: State Representative Dick Muri, County Councilmember Doug Richardson, County Council Assistant Alice Sniffen, Director Daniel Hull of the Nisqually Nature Center, and Superintendent Kathi Weight, Finance and Operations Director Jim Brittain and former School Board President Michael Winkler of the Steilacoom School District.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: The Secretary called the roll and the Chair excused member Ann Dasch. A quorum was confirmed and the Regular Meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 7:01 P.M. The Chair welcomed our special guests. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was observed.

Seating of 2014 Officers: The Chair seated the AICAB officers for 2014 including Chair Joe Howells, Vice Chair Carol Paschal, Secretary Dave Jacobsen, Treasurer Rich Sullivan. The Chair also recognized Dave Albertson, the nominee from the Fire District to replace Steve Woolley.

Adoption of Agenda: The proposed agenda was unanimously approved as written.

Approval of Prior Meetings Minutes: It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Public Forum – Steilacoom Historic School District Levy Request: Michael Winkler, Vice Chair of the District's 2014 Levy Committee presented a Power-Point overview of the District's levy request that will be before voters on February 11th. Mr. Winkler shared a number of recent awards and recognitions received by the District and its individual schools. He noted that the current and proposed levy rates are the lowest among all area Districts. The State pays about 80 percent of the overall Operations and Maintenance costs and the O&M levy pays the other 20%. This includes textbooks and instruction materials, transportation, special education services, technology, student activities including sports, security and safety, facility maintenance, and staff training and development.

The levy covers 2014 to 2018, and essentially continues the current 4-year levy which was approved in 2010. Mike commented on the significant impact of the recent recession on levy rates. As assessed property values drop, the rate per \$1000 must rise to provide the same level of funding. He shared examples of the impact on actual homeowners in communities in the District, including Anderson Island. So while the rate increased, the actual dollar impact on homeowners actually remained very nearly the same. Mike noted that there is a Senior and Disabled Tax Exemption available for those seniors with modest incomes.

State Legislative Outlook: State Representative Dick Muri is now on both the State Legislature's Education Committee and the State Higher Education Committee. Supplemental transportation funding for projects including reducing the congestion near JBLM is also on the docket. Another key challenge for

the Legislature this year will be finding moneys to fully fund basic education as ordered by the State Supreme Court. The Legislature will also be addressing both education accountability reform and mental health reform as mandated by the Federal government.

Pierce County Outlook: County Councilmember Doug Richardson noted that the County 2014 budget was approved, including the proposed ferry fare structure. On Tuesday, the Council will elect new officers and makes new committee assignments. The revisions to the County's Shoreline Management Plan are still in the works. Revisions were sent back to the Planning Commission and will be back out for public review and comment soon. Councilmember Richardson did note that the Council approved a ferry fare exemption for the food service van that comes to the Island daily. To stay informed, citizens can now sign up for an electronic newsletter on Councilmember Richardson's website. This is much more cost effective communication than the mailings of the past.

Reports to the Board:

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Sullivan reviewed the 2013 year-end financial report prepared by Member Dasch. In 2013, AICAB expended \$760.00 on rent for the use of the Community Clubhouse, \$142.86 on copying of meeting materials, and \$94.32 for the AICAB web-site. The year-end checkbook balance was \$650.45.

Secretary Jacobsen read a proposed Resolution of Expediency to authorize Chairman Howells and Treasurer Sullivan as signatory on the AICAB bank checking account. Approval was moved by member B. Sullivan and seconded by member Holt, and approved by voice vote without descent.

Ferry System Activities Report. Member Jacobsen advised that he and members Owen and Dasch attended a County Ferry Committee meeting on December 19th. Things that are underway with the County include scoping for a new automated ticketing system, preparation for a repeat of the Ferry Rider Preference Survey, and contracting for a new Waterborne Transportation Study. The AICAB request for a review of the feasibility of going back to dedicated Anderson and Ketron runs, that is elimination of the triangle runs, will be a part of this study. The proposed changes to the Steilacoom ferry loading lanes to incorporate an in-lane ticketing booth is still in the community review process with the town of Steilacoom.

Copies of a **Ferry Service Evaluation Report**, prepared by Pierce County Ferry Administration were provided to AICAB members. The evaluation looks at the impact of the "trial" schedule changes made for 2013 as well as the feasibility and cost of potential additional schedule changes. In general summary, the report concludes that the 2013 changes were successful and well received, and that adding more runs or significantly expanding the length of the service day would be logistically challenging and expensive.

The Chair noted that the former role of "ferry liaison" will be expanded to include roads, which has been handled by a member of the Anderson Island Association. It was noted that this is subject to a vote by the AIA membership. Member Jacobsen will handle this role for 2014, backed-up by member R. Sullivan.

Unfinished Business:

Update on McNeil Island Use Planning. David McGoldrick noted that when the Federal Government turned McNeil Island Over to the State, it was with the understanding that it would be used for a prison, which it no longer is. The Federal Government has shown no interest in taking back McNeil Island and

the State has no interest in moving the Special Commitment Center from McNeil. What has changed is the Special Commitment Center is now run by the Department of Institutions rather than the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Legislature has allocated moneys to maintain the unused prison facilities for now. Supervised “honor prisoners” from other institutions are now working on McNeil Island to maintain the facilities and operate the systems, including the boats.

Update on Dumping Between Anderson and Ketron. Chairman Howells noted that Bob Lyden has been monitoring the activity with the dredge material dump site on behalf of AICAB. Bob indicated that the Washington Department of Natural Resources had provided notice that dredging of the Olympia Yacht Club site would begin about December 4th and be completed by January 31, 2014. Contaminated materials will be dredged first and will be disposed of in an uplands site. Non-contaminated dredge material as to be dumped between the Islands during nighttime hours as the actual dredging must occur during daytime hours. The activity is monitored by the Coast Guard. It is expected that there will be twenty barge loads disposed of at the site. In 1989 the site was originally researched as an area suitable to this kind of dredge material disposal. In 2005 research of the area showed minimal sea life, but it was not directly linked to the dumping. In 2011, as part of the establishment of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve, it was initially intended that the use of the site as a dredge disposal site be terminated. However, an exception was made to continue that use.

While the dredge material is tested for contaminants, and only relatively contaminant-free material is brought to the dump site, the impact of dispersion of the silt into the water is a concern of many Islanders. The experience we have with the sand waves that contributed to the failure of our power cable suggests strong currents are a real possibility in the area, and that sediments can move from the site. There is also strong evidence that both crab and shrimp populations have been on the rebound in South Puget Sound, followed by the Dall’s Porpoise and other marine mammals. This raises new questions about the impact of further dumping. New research on the impacts of the dumping are needed. Mr. Lyden also expressed concern that the invasive New Zealand Snail that is being flushed from Capital Lake may find its way into this dredge material. On a positive note, it appears that the authorities have voluntarily restricted dumping to “slack” tides at our request through Councilperson Richardson and Representative Muri.

Chairman Howells invited Nisqually Reach Nature Center Director Daniel Hull to respond to the question of why this dumping is allowed to continue inside the new Reserve. Mr. Hull commented on the Center’s response to the dredge material dumping concerns. The Center, along with other stakeholders agreed that this disposal site, given the science available at the time, is acceptable given that the dumping is minimally harmful to habitat. Realistically, we know very little about the habitat at 420 feet of depth. Prior notification of this particular activation was inadequate, but assurances have been given that will be corrected for future activations. Also, there will new scientific research using new technologies around the impact of this particular dumping cycle. The Center will be issuing a letter expressing concerns about the shortcomings with this recent activation.

An audience member asked what can be done to stop the dumping in the future. Mr. Hull stated that it will have to be based on substantial scientific evidence that strongly demonstrates it is harmful. Chairman Howells challenged Mr. Hull to work with the Stewardship Committees to come up with a plan of action to bring back to AICAB to stop future dumping. Member Paschal encouraged more membership and involvement by Islanders on the Stewardship Committee. Councilmember Richardson noted that the current County-issued Shoreline Significant Development permit expires in September of

2014, so there will need to be a new application to the County. The Island community will want to be a “party of record” in that permit application proceeding. That is the time to say, “we need to look at the science again – it has been years since the research has been done.”

Update on Revisions to the Shoreline Master Plan. The Chair contacted Debbie Hyde with Pierce County. She indicated there is not much new going on at this time with the Master Plan revisions.

Suggested Changes to AICAB Nominating Organizations. The Chair noted that at the November AICAB meeting, strong interest was shown for the Island’s American Legion Post to have nominating authority for a member of the AICAB. However the Post has been working through some leadership challenges since then. Rich Sullivan has now assumed the role of acting Post Commander. It may be best to defer this request to a future date. Richard Sullivan concurred that a deferral is appropriate.

A.I. Ferry Landing Traffic Safety Issue. Member Jacobsen noted that while there is an established “No Parking” zone along both sides of Villa Beach Road adjacent to the Anderson Island ferry dock, vehicles still frequently stop there to drop off or pick up ferry passengers. Because of the narrow shoulders, this effectively reduces Villa Beach Road to one very narrow path down the middle of the road for traffic. This safety concern was discussed at the December 19th County Ferry Committee Meeting, where it was agreed to refer the concern to the Pierce County Engineer.

Member Paschal noted that the lights of improperly parked vehicles can additionally be blinding and interfere with seeing people in the crosswalk.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunity. Member Owen noted that the Pierce County Department of Community Connections is recruiting new members for its Allocation Committee for Prevention Programs. If interested, contact Stephanie Bray at (253) 798-6917.

Committee and Liaison Assignments. The Chair reiterated the appointment of member Jacobsen as the liaison to the County on ferry and roads issues, with member R. Sullivan acting as his back-up. Committees may be established on an “ad hoc” basis during the year for a specific purpose, and then will be abolished when the assignment is complete. The Chair appointed member Owen and community member Christopher Frye to an ad hoc committee to work with Pierce County Ferry Administration on the scoping of a new ferry ticketing system.

Coyote Concerns. Member Jacobsen noted that there had been a number of postings about coyotes on the Anderson Island Facebook page. Members and audience members were provided with copies of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Living with Wildlife publication on coyotes. These highly intelligent and aloof animals are often misunderstood. For individual "dangerous", sick or injured animals, contact Fish and Wildlife immediately. For an assessment of the health and size of the coyote population, contact USDA Wildlife Services. USDA does charge a significant fee, so Islanders will want to be sure we do have a problem before calling them in. Coyotes may be hunted or trapped year-round with a proper license from WDFW. That hunting is subject to established hunting and firearms regulations.

The coyote population adjusts to the availability of prey and other food sources. We recognize the value coyotes provide in "managing" the rodent, rabbit and deer populations. Raccoons, mink, feral cats, free-roaming dogs and even bald eagles are also Island predators. Coyotes are naturally wary of humans, and problem interactions are almost always attributable to human "error" (e.g. providing food, approaching a den, dogs not under control, cats running loose, livestock not adequately fenced, etc.). Like other wild animals, coyotes can become "human habituated" if we are careless and make their life easier in our world than in their natural environment.

Member Paschal emphasized that if you wish to raise poultry on the Islands, you will need to take steps to properly and adequately fence them in. Her neighbors raise poultry and have indicated that predation by mink and dogs are the larger problems. Chairman Howells added that he had lost his entire flock of chickens to mink. Member Holt asked if there was an open hunting season now on the Island as she has heard recent gun fire. It was noted that it is duck and other waterfowl season.

Issues and Comments for the Floor:

None.

Announcements and Adjournment:

Member Paschal announced that there will be an art show on Friday and Saturday, January 17 and 18. It is sponsored by Island Arts and will be held in the Martha Smith room at the Riviera Community Club.

The AICAB January 10, 2014 (1st Quarter) Regular Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 8:46 p.m.

The next AICAB Regular Meeting (2nd Quarter) is scheduled for Friday, April 11th beginning at 7 p.m.