

## San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

Meeting via Zoom

9:00 a.m. MAC Chair Jamie Stephens provided a welcome and gave a brief introduction to Zoom and best practices. The MAC members in attendance were Chair Jamie Stephens (Local Government), Tracey Cottingham, Erin Corra (Education/Interpretation), Del Guenther (Wildlife/Ecological), Ruth Milner (Wildlife/Ecological), Amy Nesler (Recreation/Tourism), Sam Barr (Tribal), Richard Wigre (Public at Large), and Tom Reeve (Cultural/Heritage).

9:03 a.m. BLM District Manager Kurt Pindel welcomed the group and expressed many updates were coming.

9:05 a.m. The MAC members introduced themselves and mentioned their interest areas. Then BLM members introduced themselves. Then Jamie reviewed the agenda, and the MAC.

9:13 a.m. Kurt gave an explanation of the split between Cour d'Alene and Spokane BLM districts.

9:31 a.m. The MAC discussed upcoming intern positions, new hires and gave an update on seasonal workers being hired.

9:48 a.m. The MAC discussed what the RMP is, why it's required and explained hard copies of the RMP has arrived and will be provided to the members. They went on to explain the vision and two distinct goals of the RMP which is protecting the cultural and historic values for which the monument was designated, and protecting the ecological values for which the monument was designated.

10:05 a.m. The meeting commenced with emphasizing the importance of recognizing the high tide level as the boundary for land management authority. It was noted that collaboration with relevant water management authorities is crucial for effective coordination. The discussion then shifted to the current staff composition, which includes the addition of new personnel. There was consensus that potential expansion of the staff and establishment of partnerships would enhance operational capacity.

10:12 a.m. The MAC emphasized that the RMP is a dynamic document, subject to amendments in response to changing conditions or new information. These changes could be made through plan revisions or amendments, often triggered by new scientific findings or failure to meet original plan standards. Gratitude was expressed for the assistance in compiling audio sheets, a crucial step in this maintenance effort. The meeting then shifted focus to the content of the RMP.

10:23 a.m. The collaborative effort between stakeholders and the Monument Advisory Committee in crafting the vision statement was praised. The RMP's goals were outlined as safeguarding both cultural and historic values, as well as ecological values, aligning with the monument's designation. It was emphasized that the RMP exclusively applies to public lands managed by the team, clarifying its limitations.

10:30 a.m. The content of the RMP was further discussed, emphasizing its role in establishing a vision and framework for site management and decisions. The collaborative effort between stakeholders

and the Monument Advisory Committee in crafting the vision statement was praised. Goals of safeguarding cultural, historic, and ecological values were aligned with the monument's designation.

10:40 a.m. The MAC discussed outreach strategies and education efforts. Suggestions included leveraging influencers and engaging with user groups' leadership along with involving communities in decision-making processes and ensuring presentations are informative and inclusive.

11 a.m. The conversation centered around Camp St. Mary's property on Lopez Island, emphasizing land access and environmental considerations. While acknowledging the potential role of herbicides, a cautious, transparent approach, focusing on landscape-scale restoration. The commitment to responsible herbicide use was underscored, emphasizing adherence to state directives, safety protocols and public visibility.

11:12 a.m. Current landscape management practices were clarified, focusing on minimal intervention and trail maintenance. The MAC reaffirmed their commitment to collaborative management, emphasizing coordination with other land management entities.

11:25 a.m. The MAC discussed the absence of specific rules for Iceberg Point. The process for Meadow Restoration projects was unveiled. The extensive timeline for the Meadow Restoration process was discussed, spanning public meetings, surveys, and environmental assessments.

11:32 a.m. The MAC emphasized the need for synchronized efforts to avoid contaminating areas with noxious weeds. The discussion touched on the potential for field trips to partner sites, contingent on compliance with regulations and liability concerns.

11:40 a.m. The session concluded with a brief exploration of herbicide use and concerns regarding its potential impact. They emphasized the importance of thoroughly evaluating the underlying scientific basis for such practices.

12:05 p.m. Meeting end.