



The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

January-February 2010



<http://www.herronisland.org>

President's Message

At the December Board meeting we received notice that Mr. Pat Pitt resigned from his HMC Board position. The Board looked for volunteers to serve on the Board filling the position until the June elections. At the January Board meeting the Board selected Mark Anderson to be a Board member. Mark is a practicing attorney and has served on both the Land Use Committee and the Technology Committee. He has provided legal counsel to the Board in the past regarding issues associated with land use and will be a great asset to HMC. The Board would like to thank those members who also volunteered to fill the position.

The Board also received notice that Eric Bergson wished to resign as Chair of the Rules Committee. Max Hochanadel (a retired labor attorney) agreed to chair the committee and we thank him for stepping up to this task. As usual, it is many volunteers who continue to allow the Island to run and be the community that we all desire. The Board would like to also thank Steve Chapin who is chairing the Water Project Committee and all those who are participating. They are currently investigating opportunities for government loans that have opened up for funding our water system upgrade and are in the process of defining all our options.

HMC is currently in negotiations with the Inlandboatmen's Union for a new contract with the ferry crew. The ferry crew elected to join the union last year and HMC has retained a labor attorney to negotiate a new contract. None of the Board members or Transportation committee members has sufficient experience in the negotiation process to justify trying to negotiate ourselves. There are many legal issues and procedures that must be addressed. We have been advised (and reiterated by Max Hochanadel, who is very familiar with this process, at the January meeting) that all mem-

bers and especially board members should not engage in any contact with the ferry crew regarding items that address working conditions, wages, benefits, etc. All contact on these issues must be through the union by our labor negotiator.

It was discussed at the January Board meeting that our legal costs have increased due to questions and legal challenges regarding drainage on HMC roads, encroachment by HMC on several member properties, labor negotiations, and delinquent member collections. We budget for collection costs assuming that delinquent members pay the collection costs when they pay off their assessment debt. When properties are obtained by HMC due to foreclosure, HMC does not recover the collection costs until the property is sold. As the market for such properties is still soft, HMC has not sold those properties and has incurred all the collection costs. When the properties are sold in the future, there will be a recovery of these costs. Other legal costs are harder to anticipate and budget for so we will probably have to use some of our legal reserves to cover a portion of these costs this year. We encourage members to help reduce these costs by trying to work out issues before creating legal challenges.

HMC is still working on a plan to solve drainage and encroachment issues at the South end of the Island. We have had contact with Pierce County at several levels and have hired an engineering firm to provide exhibits to detail solutions to both issues. There are costs associated with all options and HMC is trying to minimize both its costs and impacts on all the affected members. We are making progress and will continue to hold meetings with all the impacted members before a final solution is selected.

The committee looking at our dolphin replacement has issued a request for proposal to engineering firms to assess our options, time frames, and costs. We intend to let a contract by March to gather this information to update our reserve contribution requirements and establish realistic plans.

(Continued on Page 3)

Important Phone Numbers**Island Manager**

Claudia Ellsworth (253) 884-9350

HMC Board of Trustees

Fred Fath, President/Treasurer (206) 246-7016
 Kathy Deuster, Vice-President (253) 884-6898
 Janet Podell, Secretary (253) 874-2452
 Judy Greinke, Assistant Treasurer (253) 857-5463
 Mark Anderson, Member-at-Large (253) 677-3900

Additional Responsibilities

Mike Shettlesworth, Transportation Chair (253) 884-6919
 Mike Davis, Water Operations (253) 884-1423
 Dick Mowry, Water Field Examiner (253) 884-7663
 Dick Zottman, Water Field Examiner (253) 884-9071
 Scott Schultz, Water Repair (253) 884-3196
 Max Hochanadel, Rules Chairman (253) 884-1948
 Tracy Anspach, Parks Chairman (253) 588-1921
 Allen Moren, Roads Chairman (253) 884-2721
 Mike Davis, Emergency Prep. Chair (253) 884-1423
 Kathy Deuster, Land Use Chair (253) 884-6898
 Eric Bergson, Technology Chair (253) 830-4413
 Carolyn Snyder, Office Manager (253) 884-9350
 Ken Freeman, Beachcomber/Webmaster (231) 544-2456

Herron Island Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The office is CLOSED Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and after 2:00 PM on Fridays before board meetings.

Office Phone: (253) 884-9350
 Office Fax: (253) 884-5047

Website: <http://www.herronisland.org>

Office Email: Office@herronisland.org
 Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org
 Beachcomber: beachcomber@herronisland.org

Emergency 911

Ferry Cell phone (253) 691-1457

(Cell phone to be used for scheduling heavy loads, big vehicles or having something in tow, and for information regarding ferry services.)

Delinquency List as of January 14, 2010

D ANDERSON - BALDWIN - FURGASON - KENNISON - KREBS - LAWRENCE - MARCINKO - SMITH II - TCHOCHIEV - WIEBE - WILLIS

Ferry Business

- **Call ahead if you are planning to use the ferry for a trailer, boat, or large vehicle!**
- **Only those guests with valid passes will be allowed on the ferry.**
- **Plan your arrival at the dock at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time of departure.**
- **Walks-ons are not to be on the dock or ramp when cars are being loaded. Watch crew for permission to board.**
- **Only service and delivery people may charge fares.**

WE HAVE EXPERIENCED GUESTS AND SERVICE PEOPLE EXPECTING TO COME OVER TO THE ISLAND WITHOUT GUEST PASSES. THIS VIOLATES THE ACCESS POLICY THAT WAS PUT IN PLACE FOR ALL OF OUR SECURITY. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR GUEST HAS A VALID GUEST PASS SIGNED BY YOU TO ENSURE THEY ARE ABLE TO RIDE THE FERRY. BLANK GUEST PASSES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AT THE OFFICE, BY MAIL, AND ON THE FERRY.

Beachcomber news items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday after the monthly Board meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Items **MUST** be emailed in electronic format to beachcomber@herronisland.org. Include your name and phone number in case any questions arise. Paid advertisements are to be arranged with the HMC office **PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.**

President's Message
(Continued from Page 1)

Pierce County Fire District #16 notified HMC last year that they were pulling both the fire engine and ambulance off the Island due to their budget shortfalls. Our Island Manager was able to negotiate with the district to at least retain the fire engine and to use their insurance for the building. Although HMC does not receive rent and must pay for the insurance, it is a lot less cost to us for insurance and we gain the benefit of having a fire engine on the Island (helping on member homeowners insurance and fire response times when the ferry is not available). Our thanks to our Island Manager for working all this out.

Finally, there has been a tremendous amount of Board activity and items requiring our Island Manager's time. Many volunteers and committees have come forward to help and it is greatly appreciated. Without this help, I don't see how we can move forward in addressing the many issues. Our Island Manager, Claudia Ellsworth, has been working diligently trying to cover all the cost saving opportunities and required activities needed to run the Island. Thanks to all of you for your participation.

Fred Fath
President

Board Member Email Addresses

HMCFredFath@herronisland.org

HMCKathyDeuster@herronisland.org

HMCJanetPodell@herronisland.org

HMCJudyGreinke@herronisland.org

HMCMarkAnderson@herronisland.org

Please use these email addresses for all future communications to board members. They can be accessed on our website (herronisland.org) under the HMC Board tab.

Welcome, New Islanders!

HMC welcomes the following new members to Herron Island:

- Jonathan and Melanie Ross
- DeGood Inc.

Free Website Ads

Ads for sale of personal, non-commercial items are accepted from HMC members by email to webmaster@herronisland.org and will be run at no charge. The ads may contain photos. Please notify the webmaster when the item is sold so that the ad may be removed.

Free Beachcomber Ads

Non-commercial ads of 100 words or less will be accepted for inclusion free of charge. Please email your ad to beachcomber@herronisland.org. Subject: Beachcomber Ad. The ad must be resubmitted for each issue in which it is to be printed.

Vehicle Stickers

All island vehicles, including boats and boat-trailers need a (FREE) HMC sticker. If the sticker for your Boat, Golf Cart, ATV, or Boat Trailer is not either Brown or Blue, please obtain a new sticker from the HMC office.

**HMC Management
Island Manager Report
Board Meeting
January 9, 2010**

Administration

- Insurance: The Island's insurance broker, Wells Fargo, will send three representatives January 19 to review our insurance plan. Judy Greinke will join me at the meeting. HMC currently budgets over \$68,000 for various coverages, most of which involve marine facilities and the ferry.
- Facilities: The driveway in front of the community building garage is damaged and presents a potential hazard. We are looking at options to have it repaired, as well as replacing broken windows in the garage doors. Steve Kramer and Jack Wells are assisting on this. Please watch your step!
- Other facilities issues include future painting and repair of the employee sheds on the mainland and island side, and the mounting of "No Smoking" signs in compliance with State law.
- Committee Charters/Board Policies: Kathy Deuster and Judy Greinke have volunteered to comb through and assemble previously adopted Board policies and Committee charters that are scattered among the Island records. They plan to assemble these into binders for the Board, and HMC Office, and post some content on the web site. Committees that do not have written charters have been requested to develop them.

Legal

- There are thirteen delinquencies at this time; five are already with our attorney.
- As a general comment on legal expenses, HMC's job of protecting member assets while attempting to keep assessments stable is made more difficult when members or other parties retain legal counsel without first contacting the board or manager to resolve differences. In the case of the S. Herron Road encroachment issue, three members used legal approaches or retained attorneys, forcing HMC to respond through an attorney. The two parties whose properties are actually encroached upon have chosen to try negotiated resolutions and have not as yet hired attorneys. We urge all members to use administrative or negotiated options before employing legal counsel.

Fire

- We returned the signed agreement to FD#16 with a cover letter, and anticipate they will retrieve the ambulance from the Community Center very soon. FD #16 has also been informed of the access code change.

Roads.

- Drainage: A "walkthrough" of drainage on the south end of the Island took place on Friday, January 8. Neighbors adjacent to the S. Herron Blvd/E. Madrona Blvd. Intersection were invited to join in, along with the Roads Committee, Board members, and Baseline Engineering. We will report on the outcome at the Board meeting.
- Tree Removal: Archon will return to the Island on January 11 to complete its share of the work. Peninsula Light will also be sending its arborist to view the trees near the power line and determine whether, and how, they should be removed or trimmed. As is Island practice, debris will be chipped and left on site; wood will be cut into 4 foot lengths and left for the first members to retrieve it.

Transportation

- Committee Report: Mike Shettlesworth
- Oil Spill Containment: No progress this month.

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Special Offer for Herron Island Members

The new coffee table book Celebrate the Key Peninsula is available, through special arrangement, at a discount for Herron Island members - \$40 rather than the retail price of \$50. Beautiful photographs of Key Peninsula scenery and people, and a page on Herron Island with a photo of the ferry. All proceeds go to the Key Peninsula News, whose volunteers produced the book. Email cathy-andlen@yahoo.com prior to Feb 16, 2010 if you would like to reserve a copy.

Tide Tables

Plots of the monthly tide tables are available on our website (herronisland.org). The plots are for nearby McMicken Island, which is the NOAA data point closest to Herron Island.

Census Workers Needed

Includes Herron Island. \$17.50/hour plus mileage. Pay starts when you leave your home. Call 1-866-861-2010.

A Unique Opportunity for The Herron Island Community

Envirocorps has proposed that the Herron Island community adopt the 2 mile section of Herron Road (on the mainland) from the ferry landing going 2 miles inland to 195th Ave. Signs would be put up by Pierce County at each end of the road recognizing The Herron Island Community as the sponsor. All that is needed to have Herron Road picked up once a quarter is \$150(5 people @ \$10/mo.) per quarter/\$600 per year. The motivation is simple; to show that we are good neighbors that CARE, and to improve our environment and community. NOT to say that Herron Islanders are the ONLY ones who litter or speed, but rather to show that we are DOING something about it. If more than \$600 is donated, the road is picked up more often or until we reach \$1800/year, when the road is picked up EVERY month. I personally think this is a GREAT and UNIQUE opportunity and so do some others. You can go to www.envirocorps.org and make a SPECIFIC donation to Herron Road by The Herron Island Community. Some HMC members have signed up already. My name is Doyle Parnell and my wife and I reside at 605 W. Herron Blvd. If you have any question, Please contact me 253-884-1111.

Stock your first aid kit with an Epi-Pen for severe life-threatening allergic reactions.

By Laurie West, Dana Gruber, and Opal Hochanadel

Fine print: The items below are personal opinions and you should talk with your own doctor or primary care provider about how to prepare for health emergencies while on Herron Island.

What is the medication most likely to make a difference between life and death on Herron Island? Epinephrine for severe allergic reactions.

What is a severe allergic reaction? Severe allergic reaction or **anaphylaxis** is the body's immune response to such things as bees, foods, or grasses – things common to all of us on Herron Island especially in the summer. Although, some people know that they have allergies and carry first aid medications, anyone can have his first severe allergic reaction at any time. Even the best response from 911 takes time. Symptoms of a mild allergic reaction may only be an itch, red rash or hives. Signs of serious allergic reaction or anaphylaxis are tongue swelling, shortness of breath, throat tightening, wheezing, blue lips, sweating, faint or weakness in addition to itch, redness, rash, or hives.

What is an Epi-Pen? An Epi-Pen is epinephrine or adrenaline that is administered from a pen-like device with a needle in it. It is used for severe allergic reactions only.

How do I use an Epi-Pen? The auto-injector can be used to inject epinephrine into the thigh.

How do I get an Epi-Pen? Ask your primary care provider, doctor or nurse practitioner, to prescribe your Epi-Pen.

Can something go wrong using an Epi-Pen? Yes, if you put your thumb over the wrong end, your thumb - instead of the allergy victim - gets injected with adrenaline. Ouch, be careful out there. Epinephrine can be dangerous in someone with heart problems. However, anaphylaxis is immediately life-threatening so go ahead and use the Epi-Pen in life threatening anaphylaxis.

What emergency medications at home can be used for severe allergic reactions?

1. Epi-Pen is the primary drug for anaphylaxis.
2. Benadryl or generic diphenhydramine is an over-the-counter anti-histamine. Allergic reactions are all histamine reactions such that Diphenhydramine is a good additional medicine to use for major allergic reactions. It is good to use as the sole medicine for minor allergic reaction, too. Diphenhydramine is also used as a sleeping pill so you should not drive a vehicle if you take it.
3. Albuterol. If you also have asthma, you've probably already used albuterol to help with wheezing. Albuterol is also terrific for wheezing from an allergic reaction. If you have emphysema, you may have used other breathing inhalers like Combivent and these can be used to help if you have wheezing from the allergic reaction, too.

What does an Epi-Pen cost? \$50-\$100. (\$61 at Walgreen's today.)

How do I store an Epi-Pen? Keep it in a warm place, out of the light, and not in the refrigerator.

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What is the shelf life? Epi-Pen does expire. Most medications do not lose effectiveness even after the expiration date. However, Epi-Pen is an important exception. It won't hurt to use an expired Epi-Pen but it may not be as effective. So if all you have is an outdated Epi-Pen and you can't breathe, Call 911 and go ahead and use that old Epi-Pen while you wait for the ambulance or airlift.

Is there a special sized Epi-Pen for children? Yes. Do not use the adult dose on a small child. BUT an adult dose can be used on a large adolescent.

Links to learn more:

EPI-PEN Auto-Injector (<http://www.epipen.com/>)

WIKI HOW. How to use an auto-injector (<http://www.wikihow.com/Use-an-Epipen>)

MAYO CLINIC Anaphylaxis First Aid
(<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/first-aid-anaphylaxis/FA0003>)

WEB MD Understanding Anaphylaxis – Diagnosis and Treatment
(<http://www.webmd.com/allergies/understanding-anaphylaxis-treatment>)

Airlift Northwest (<http://www.airliftnw.org/aircare/faq.htm>) might be activated for anaphylaxis since it is life threatening.

In case of severe allergic reaction, CALL 911 and get out your Epi-Pen.

Island Defibrillator

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) will be mounted on the exterior rear wall of the Community Building in the next few weeks, and is available to islanders in case of emergency. The instrument is simple to use, even without training. If you would like to have training, contact the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

AirCare Program Offered by Airlift Northwest

Airlift Northwest offers a membership program that helps provide communities in Washington and Alaska with high-quality air medical service at an affordable cost. Under the program, Airlift Northwest is requested by a medical facility or an emergency response team to fly a critically ill or injured patient to appropriate medical care. The portion of the Airlift Northwest bill that isn't covered by insurance or Medicare is paid through the membership. A membership in AirCare is \$79 a year and covers all members of a household.

More information and background on the program can be obtained at the website www.airliftnw.org. Airlift Northwest Membership Services: 1-888-835-1599.

The following story was written by Riley Lanfear- age-12 years – Son of Pat and Amy Lanfear, Grandson of Bill and Beth Lanfear

HERON ON HERRON ISLAND

“Ring!” “ring!” “ring!”

My Alarm clock went off between six and six thirty a.m. I poked my head out of my big red sleeping bag on the floor and hit the annoying alarm clock until it silenced. Shockingly the rest of my family was still asleep.

Once I’m dressed in my plain white shirt and still wearing my pajamas, I opened the door and slipped on my big black boots. The screen door shut with a loud “Bang!” and then bounced a couple times off of the wall.

I walked over to the old wooden shed, still half asleep, and grabbed an empty bucket, a rusty old hammer, and a fishing pole. As I walked down to the beach with the hammer bouncing up and down in the bucket and the fishing pole bending with each step, my hands froze what I was holding because of the cold air surrounding me.

The water was still and looked like glass because it was so motionless. The air was cold and had a slight haze of fog in it. It smelled of salt and seaweed. Barnacles crunched and smashed under my feet as I walked down the sharp rocky beach.

I set the bucket down and started smashing and chopping away at the barnacles on the pilings. There I found bait and threw it in the bucket. With a bucket full of bait, a hammer covered with barnacle guts and a fishing pole, I continued on down towards the dock.

Finally I arrive at the dock and drop my baited hook to the bottom of the deepest part of the water on the dock. As I sat there with my legs hanging over the water, waiting for a fish to bite on the hook, I looked up at the sky that was still almost completely black and saw a huge heron soaring across the water. I ignored the heron and continued to fish.

“Swish” I heard behind me. I was too tired to turn around. “Splash” Now I knew that there was something behind me. I slowly stood up and turned my head around without making a sound just as I caught a fish.

It was a heron! The bird saw that I had caught a fish and was determined to get it. He slowly walked towards me staring at me with his big orange eyes and the pitter patter of his orange webbed feet sticking against the dock. I stuck out my hand holding the fish by its tail hoping that the magnificent bird would grab it with his beak and then leave me alone. He cocked back his head and within a split second he lunged it forward thrusting his sharp beak into the fish.

Thinking that he was hungry for more, I quickly dropped the line to the bottom. Right when I had caught another one I turned around but the heron was gone. I watched him flying away in the sky.

I watched him until I could not see him anymore. I walked back to my cabin with my bucket, my fishing pole, and my hammer with dried barnacle guts on it.

Herron Island Water: Notes from the Water Manager

For all water emergencies, repairs and water quality problems, please call the office first. If the office is not open, then call one of the parties listed below.

1. When leaving the Island for more than a couple of days, remember to shut your water off at the road.
2. If you have a leak, HMC will shut your water off and there will be a charge to you for the service.

HMC Office: 253-884-9350
Scott Schultz: 253-884-3196
Mike Davis: 253-884-1423

USDA FUNDING IS HERE!!

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE AVAILABLE TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WATER/WASTE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

USDA FUNDING WORKSHOP

HMC Island Manager, Claudia Ellsworth, along with two Board members - Kathy Deuster and Judy Greinke, and two Water Project Committee (WPC) members- Steve Chapin and Allen Moren, attended the Washington State Department of Health presentation. The workshop provided information about new government funds available to local water systems like ours, and the urgency to make application for this funding source. The presentation covered:

FUNDING

- The Federal government has billions of dollars in water and waste funds under direct and recovery.
- The ARRA (stimulus) monies must be obligated by 9/30/2010 for recovery.
- The projects must start within 1 year of obligation unless they are phase projects which are contingent on one phase being completed before proceeding to another phase. The earlier the better for applications to be submitted.
- The maximum term on all loans is 40 years or the useful life of the improvement or facilities to be financed, whichever is less.
- No penalty for early payments or early pay off
- Direct loan interest rates determined by median household income from year 2000 census statistics.
- Poverty Rate 2.500% Intermediate Rate 3.375% Market Rate 4.250%

TYPES OF PROJECTS

- Telemetry
- Water rights, replace lines, new lines, meters
- Sewer plants, lines meters, storm water
- Collections systems

APPLICATIONS

- May be submitted at any time
- Funds will be obligated by 9/30/2010
- Costs incurred prior to the date of funding approval can be included.
- Application must include Engineering and Environmental Reports.
- Assistance in preparing application is available.
- Prospects for funding are good!
- USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.
- www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa

If you need further information or have questions, please contact HMC Island Manager, any Board member or WPC member.

WINTER FERRY SCHEDULE (10/1 through 3/31)

MON		TUE		WED		THUR		FRI		SAT		SUN	
IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.
6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00				
7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00				
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								8:30	9:00				

Thanksgiving and
New Years:

Lv. Island 8:30, 11:30, 6:30
Lv. Mainland 9:00, 12:00, 7:00

Christmas:

Lv. Island 8:30, 6:30
Lv. Mainland 9:00, 7:00

Ferry Reminders

- **Package Delivery**
 - The ferry crew is not responsible for the security of FEDEX or UPS packages that are delivered for members to the mainland ferry landing. While the crew does its best to provide safe delivery, members should understand that they bear the risk for delivery.
- **Ferry Access Policy**
 - Maximum gross weight is 40,000 pounds and maximum vehicle length is 60 feet. Advanced scheduling is required.
- **Loading Procedures**
 - Cell phone use during ferry loading or unloading is prohibited.
 - During hours of darkness, there are to be no lights on a vehicle save for parking lights while on the ferry, ramp, or pier during loading or unloading. This is to prevent the crew from being blinded.
 - Foot passengers shall not board during loading/off-loading of vehicles and shall remain within the ferry cabin until directed by a crewmember.
- **Ferry Cell Phone**
 - 253-691-1457
 - Use the cell phone for information regarding ferry services, to schedule heavy loads or to make arrangements for any combination of vehicles (in tow) and any single vehicles longer than 25 feet. Advanced scheduling is required.

Island Manager Report
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- **Pierce County Wharf Easement:** We have not yet received the revised wharf easement from the County. Insurance requirements are also still an issue. We received three proposals to complete the dock inspection, from Sargent Engineers, KPFF, and Integrity Structural Engineering. Sargent's proposal cost was less than half that of the others, and we telephoned to clarify with them that they could do the work within that budget.

While the mainland dock has been periodically inspected, because of the County requirement, the island side dock does not appear to have been inspected in recent years. Sargent agreed that they could also inspect the island side dock, at less cost than the mainland side, since the visit would be consolidated.

So, for a cost of less than \$5,000, HMC could have both docks inspected and satisfy the County lease requirement. This is an unbudgeted, but necessary expense, which can be funded from Transportation Reserve funds.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board authorize the Island Manager to execute an agreement with Sargent Engineers, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to perform and properly document inspections of the mainland and island side docks.

Wharf Easement, Part II: Kraig Shaner of Pierce County Public Works, informed me that it might be the County's preference to develop a plan for a land swap that would remove the necessity of having a lease (and meeting the County's separate insurance requirement). He asked me to test the attitude of the Board towards such a land swap, which might involve the southern half of Tract B on the mainland side, possibly including the wetland, but not the parking area.

- **Marine Facility Survey:** The Board approved issuance of the Request for Proposal at its November meeting. A site visit was set for January 8, 2010 in the morning, guided by John Farris. Proposals are due January 25th for review, possible interviews of candidates, and contract negotiations. Board approval should occur at the March 13, 2010 meeting. Thanks to Jean Mellor for helping us clean up the old files in December, and to Benn Burke for his continued help on this project.

Emergency Preparedness: Mike Davis will report.

- **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Lou Dooley from Pierce County and I have set a meeting for January 11 to pull together the pieces of our plan draft, and work through their data, which doesn't match our own. The next step will be to have the Committee review the contents and offer revisions, then forward it to the Board for adoption. The advantage to HMC of engaging in this plan process is that the corporation will be eligible to apply for pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to mitigate our identified vulnerabilities. Mike Davis has also been working on this plan for several months.

Parks

- **Derelict Boats:** No report at this time.

Rules:

- **Board report.**

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Island Manager Report
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Technology:

- Ferry Fare Collection: Terry Fletcher has joined the committee and taken on the task for exploring automation of part of the ferry fare collections. Fred Fath has begun work on specifications for the system. A small group will meet after the Board meeting to accompany the deck hand in fare collections and view the procedure first hand. Deck hands will be included in the planning for the system. Terry has also generously offered to help iron out some HMC Office technology issues.

Land Use:

- With the help of Judy Greinke and Kathy Deuster, we are pursuing removal of a derelict truck from HMC property (Tharp). At their request, PCResponds promptly sent a code enforcement officer to the Island, who confirmed the vehicle's identification, as required by law. This code enforcement officer, Mark Luppino, then toured the island and identified at least one other site where he is pursuing removal of junk vehicles. We were impressed with the quick response of this officer from the County and urge other members to use PCResponds at 253-798-INFO if concerned about abandoned or inoperable vehicles on private property. The truck will be removed January 14th.

Water:

- Mike Davis reports another full year of clean water samples!

Water Project Committee:

- Water Project Committee: Steve Chapin will report on activities of the Water Project Committee.
- Water Distribution System: Since the December meeting, Board members have been reviewing the potential for water distribution system funding from the USDA-ARRA grant and loan funds. As a result of those discussions, we solicited a proposal from Northwest Water Systems, of Port Orchard. Northwest Water Systems (Todd Krause) conducted the July 2009 Engineering Overview and Analysis of the Herron Island Water System (posted on HI website). Todd believes that the system design can be better tailored to HMC needs with an accompanying construction cost reduction of as much as \$300,000. With better information on construction costs and future rates, it will be less difficult for members and the Board to make an informed decision about financing, and financial impacts.

WATER PROJECT COMMITTEE (WPC) Report: 1/11/10

This past fall the State and County agencies dealing with community water systems approved a "Water System Plan" for Herron Island. A copy of the approval can be viewed at the HMC office if members are interested. The approval of this plan allows us to move forward to review the various options available to our community for updating our water distribution system. Fred Fath invited Steve Chapin to head up the Water Project Committee with the purpose of presenting *all* options to the Board and, ultimately, to the members. The WPC has received Board approval for its Charter and Mission Statement. This will allow the Board and the committee to closely coordinate efforts as we move this important project forward. We also, in the interest of full transparency, are in the process of redesigning our Water Project website to communicate our activities to the membership. Once this is complete we will publish the link on the HMC website. The new design for this website will offer a "member comments" section where members may submit comments and opinions to the WPC. Currently the WPC, with Claudia Ellsworth's experienced assistance, is looking into funding options possibly available through the USDA "Stimulus Funds". We are also reanalyzing whether funds may be available through private financial institutions. We will continue to update the Board on a regular basis on the findings of our committee.

Happy New Year Islanders

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