

Minutes of the MICA Meeting January 18, 2021

The meeting started at approximately 7:06 PM, called to order by President Bud Ayres. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all, led by Bob Barrett. Following the pledge, Ayres offered thoughtful comments on the meaning of Martin Luther King Day.

Acceptance of Minutes, Treasurer Reports

Susan Petek noted that there was \$950.00 in the MICA account, \$ 17,236 in the Cemetery Fund and \$12,640 in the SAN?? As to membership, there are currently 25 paid memberships. Those wishing to pay for a membership can send their check to MICA at PO Box 163, Nordland, WA 98358. Individual memberships are \$ 10 and Family memberships are \$15. Ayres reported that the December minutes had been accepted at the Board meeting earlier in the month.

Island Events

Holdiing the Strawberry Festival this year will be dependent on how vaccinations go for our community. That will determine if large groups will be allowed to gather.

The Photography Exhibit effort is looking for help to get organized.

Patricia Earnest reported that with regard to the Bridge Naming effort the S'lallam Tribe has shown an interest in participating. She hopes to update with more information at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

No Cemetery Report was offered at this meeting

Mark Secord spoke on behalf of the Friends of Fort Flagler (FFF), noting that he had two (2) items of interest:

1. The fort has a place in the state capital budget for 4.136 million. He emphasized that advocacy is very important.
2. Urged people to join FoFF. There are only 40 official members for 2021 and there's work for 250. Memberships can be acquired by going online to: <https://friendsoffortflagler.org>.

Welcome to EJFR Chief Black

Introduced by Bud Ayres, the meeting officially welcomed Bret Black as the new Fire Chief for East Jefferson County Fire & Rescue (EJFR). He opened his remarks by acknowledging the challenge of meeting on Zoom. He then continued by offering a bit of background regarding raising his kids in the foothills of Yosemite National Park and his gladness to be working now on the Olympic Peninsula. He acknowledged the specific challenge of assuming command during a pandemic as it is difficult to get to know stakeholders. Despite such difficulty, he declared that his major priority for 2022 is completion of an EJFR strategic plan to include specific goals for underserved areas which, his noted, includes Marrowstone Island. Chief Black has put priority as well on performance improvement for all areas of his command. In response to a question regarding what the present situation is for improvements to the Firehouse and grounds on Marrowstone Island, Black was candid that it "changes day by day". The road vacation has been signed by the Judge and the septic permit has been requested. Jim Neurenberg is working on the project to identify a better building at a price that is affordable, including researching grants to fund a new structure.

With regard to training, Bud Ayres noted that there are 13 applicants including 2 from Marrowstone Island although some have postponed. Black spoke again to the challenge of Covid – how to best keep volunteer safe during training as it is very hands-on, close work. He is hopeful of more recruiting. In the meantime, he's organized efforts on the island to "keep a presence" such as cleaning engines, maintaining a 'reasonable routine'.

Bud Ayres offered a public announcement that a 30-year-old male with a 30-foot trailer and who expects to go through the EMT training and is in need of a place to park the trailer while doing so. If anyone has space to allow him a parking spot, let Ayres know.

Featured Speaker: Author Dahr Jamail, End of Ice

Linda Secord introduced the evening's featured speaker, author Dahr Jamail, whose book End of Ice was one of Smithsonian Magazine's top books of 2019. She noted he is now a resident of Port Townsend and emphasized her delight in to have him speak to MICA, believing that this island community can benefit from his work.

Dahr Jamail, after stating his thanks for being invited to speak, began by noting he was glad to talk about the climate crisis as he believes it has been "imperatively overtaken by current events" and, as a result, "pushed to the background". Over his ten years of climate reporting, Jamail has worked with leading scientists averaging 25 years' experience in areas including the Amazon with Thomas Lovejoy, the Great Barrier Reef, and Glacier National Park. In Jamail's view, what he has seen in these locations and others has been "hard to witness". His intention during this talk is to draw a clear bead on "what's going on and what's coming." Referring to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he noted "we're shocked at the speed [of change]", and referenced Dr. Peter Carter, an IPCC Expert Reviewer, who is conservative in viewpoint, yet whose 6th assessment observed that the heat added to the world's oceans is equivalent to five (5) Hiroshima bombs and, in addition, that of the 93.4% of the heat generated and absorbed into the ocean one-half of it has occurred since 1997, describing the climate crisis as an "existential threat to life on earth."

The current status, for Jamail, is:

- that we are in the Sixth Mass Extinction Event and this one is caused by humans
- a 1.5 degree Celsius increase in ocean temperatures is an imminent "disaster", but we are currently registering a 1.3 degree Celsius increase
- a 2.0 degree Celsius increase is a "catastrophe"
- the worst case possibility, 5.5 degrees Celsius by the year 2100 – a measure that is unthinkable if 2.6 degrees Celsius is "impossible"
- "catastrophic climate" is occurring today and not something yet to come
- atmospheric carbon dioxide is currently the highest in 23 million years
- he and others are "doing what we can do to save the children, not grandchildren."
- carbon dioxide into the atmosphere has slowed in recent years
- the 2016 arctic report card shows a carbon sink, a net source of carbon emission – "we're seeing that in the Amazon"
- it is important to note that the findings are not a modelling process but rather actual, scientific measures
- the Great Barrier Reef is in its terminal stage although how many years it has with life remaining is unknown
- similarly, the Amazon wildfires have been many more than recorded -- coming heat waves will "trash our crops"
- unprecedented fires in the Arctic, burning year-round
- systems are accelerating with the biosphere in a state of collapse
- as a result, nature will not be able to support us and multiple crop failures will be seen across the world

Jamail noted he'd moved to Port Townsend in 2013 in part he suggests because of the location where climate impacts such as sea level rise, higher temperatures, fire potential, water availability are all "blunted" in part. He suggests that the US Forest Service may, within twenty years, may be operating under year-round fire seasons, encouraging people to keep fire buggers around homes, and increasingly routine air quality issues resulting from these fires. In another way, ocean acidification impacts fishing, and, in addition, water supplies are at risk. There is, Jamail contends, a

high likelihood that by year 2100, there may be no glaciers anywhere. To this end, a simple benefit may be for individuals to set up rain catchment systems as these may become water supplies.

With sea level rise “already baked in” to reach thirty or more feet in future, James Hansen [Columbia University adjunct professor known for 1988 congressional testimony on climate change] has suggested that it will rise ten feet by 2050, another worst case scenario. Western and Arctic ice sheet is disappearing which will adversely impact low-lying houses, roadways and bridges, as examples.

Adaptation is key. As examples, Port Townsend – while a politically progressive community – showed a ‘muscular response’ in rebuilding electrical/water infrastructure on Water Street but did so five feet above current sea level. As a comparison, the Quinault Tribe responded to this issue by moving two villages 100 feet above sea level. The former, in Jamail’s words, was “less good” while the latter was clearly “good”.

Marrowstone as an island is well-situated to take a lead in developing local resources such as a generator base, putting food systems in place, grow gardens for food, as examples. He encouraged island residents to take advantage of being on an island as with New Zealand and its approach to the pandemic. Marrowstone Island has the opportunity to do this.

Briefly, Jamail spoke to his understanding that these issues are “heavy material” but finds they recall an indigenous elder’s distinction of rights vs. obligations which are what we do for others: serving, caring, looking together at what’s best for the future. For Jamail, if “I can’t find something to do, that is a failure of my imagination.” His questions then become: how can I serve the planet, my community, future generations?

Quoting Vaclav Havel on “hope is not the conviction things will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. . . .” Jamail then quoted Wendell Berry’s thought that we ‘come to our real work’ when the next step is unclear and being uncertain may be the point: “The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.”

Having concluded his remarks, Jamail then took several questions offering the thought that the Biden Administration seems to be moving in a better direction but in a woefully late start. Also, he suggested that industrial agriculture’s increased CO² and methane are a giant source of the problem. The pesticides, feed lots and transportation demands have huge impacts that must be addressed. One hundred corporations emit 72% of CO² and that must also be addressed. As must the impacts of the US Military.

In addition there was brief discussion of Community Gardens increased in size and number as something everyone can do – and thereby create more local food sources. Add rain catchment to this and these are things people can do. Another question asked if he had a notion for water rise in this area and he suggested that it could be as much as 8.5 feet by 2100, then adding that from current data, trends are outpacing projects so, for example, the Western Arctic ice sheet collapse before 2100. These things are within the realm of possibility. Jamail then thanked MICA for the opportunity to meet with MICA.

Linda Secord thanked Dahr Jamail for his presentation, remarking that it had been wonderful to have him present.

Closing Remarks

Bud Ayres indicated that MICA would provide a Covid update in the near term or at the next meeting.

Linda Secord reminded attendees that the Jefferson County Health Officer, Tom Locke, speaks at the County Commissioners’ Monday meeting with his newest update. At this time, Jefferson County is vaccinating the age cohort of 80 years or older.

Adjourn

Bud Ayres then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Brantner