**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: County Council February 7, 2023**

The Council approved correspondence to federal elected officials in support of **postal services on Shaw Island,** to state legislators on **special education funding,** and a grant on Courthouse renovation. Councilor Minney is sending a letter in support of an **SJI Library grant** application.

The Council issued a **proclamation in support of Southern Resident Killer Whales**. Several members of the public spoke in support of the proclamation. San Juan County has piloted several policies to support the whales that now are applied statewide. The Council agreed to support a bill that would increase the mandated boater distance from whales to 1000 yards.

The Council approved a **lease of the Coffelt Farm property.**

The Council approved 2-1 to **purchase land and a building on Lopez** adjacent to an existing public works site. Councilor Fuller supported the purchase in principle but opposed the motion on the grounds that the constituents on Lopez needed more public input on concerns about expanding the public works site near MacKaye Harbor. Contrary to public concern, the public works director said **the project would not change access to the MacKaye Harbor Landing.** Council noted the need to move staff from Fisherman’s Bay Road to address **worker safety** and allow **expansion of the solid waste facility**. Public works would be looking at both an existing well and desalinization for water supply at the site.

The Council approved several **staffing** actions **for the Prosecutor’s Office** with budget implications, including the addition of an attorney position, which will help handle litigation in-house currently managed by outside counsel.

The San Juan County Conservation District provided an update on its programs supporting natural resources stewardship working with farms and forested properties. They are doing **riparian restoration** projects, **Garry Oak** and **Marble Butterfly** projects, and **eelgrass and kelp restoration,** San Juan County has the highest level of eelgrass loss in the state.

The Council agreed to hold a meeting on Feb 9 to develop **a coordinated process for managing the legislative agenda.**

Appointments were approved to boards and commissions.

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.