



November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 21, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ed Bowlby (Academic Community Representative), Mary Sue Brancato (At Large Alternate), Chris Burns (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Geoff James (Port of Port Angeles Commission Alternate), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Cathy Lear (Clallam County), Ann Soule (District 2 Alternate), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Brooke Friesen (Northwest Straits Foundation [NWSF]), Lisa Kaufman (NWSF), Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County [CC] Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Haley Sherman (NWSF), Alisa Taylor (CC MRC Intern)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. Rebecca Mahan added a presentation on the Shore Friendly program from Lisa Kaufman to the beginning of the agenda.

Public Comment / Approval of October Minutes

There were no public comments. ***Alan Clark moved to approve the October CC MRC minutes as written; Mike Doherty seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Presentation: Shore Friendly Program

NWSF Director of Programs Lisa Kaufman presented on Shore Armor Reduction Outreach and Incentives through the NWSF’s Shore Friendly program. It is a regional social marketing program that focuses on outreach to landowners to help them make more environmentally friendly decisions. The program encourages natural shorelines or alternatives to hard armor with a focus on private properties. There is a regional group in every county along Puget Sound from Whatcom County in the Straits down to Thurston County in Olympia. The NWSF has several core programs: nearshore restoration, derelict gear removal, Shore Friendly landowner outreach, and citizen science monitoring. The Shore Friendly program is growing due to the net change in permitted shoreline armor in recent years. Because of efforts around the Sound, there is a net reduction in new armor being put in under Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Hydraulic Project Approval permits. However, there is still shoreline armor being installed that is not permitted, so the Shore Friendly program works directly with private landowners to help reduce that. The funding currently comes from WDFW and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Armored shorelines deplete natural habitat by limiting riparian vegetation,

narrowing beaches, and impacting tidal habitat. The primary focus is on protecting forage fish habitat, with other targets being increasing the sediment supply, preserving pocket beaches and estuaries, and connecting habitats. The goals of Shore Friendly are to protect and improve coastal processes, beach habitat conditions, and prey availability for salmon, seabirds, and orca, and to build upon ongoing long-term outreach and incentives. Objectives include reducing barriers, alleviating erosion concerns, motivating landowners to use Shore Friendly approaches, providing technical assistance, and creating partnerships with local planners. Barriers to change can be social and cultural, psychological, timing, physical, land use planning, lack of knowledge, fear of decreased property values and sea level rise, or cost. Structural barriers include insufficient setbacks, septic systems, roads, wells, and stormwater management. The program uses a two-pronged approach: reduction of armor demand by keeping natural shorelines, and the removal or reduction of existing armor. The outreach methods include Shore Friendly Living Workshops, a Shore Friendly Living Video series, Your Marine Waterfront booklet and handouts, community beach walks, free site visits, engineering design and permitting assistance, and cost-share opportunities. Lisa encouraged the CC MRC to reach out to landowners in their communities with information on the Shore Friendly program.

Discussion: Homeowner Outreach

NWSF Environmental Technician Haley Sherman led discussion on outreach efforts to landowners on the topics of sea level rise and drainage management. They are in the planning process for developing those workshops, which are the first in a series that they hope to hold in person in combination with other outreach components like beach walks. Lisa Kaufman added that the program has long-term funding, so they intend to make this an ongoing community effort for years to come. Rebecca Mahan suggested considering working this in to the next grant cycle if the CC MRC was interested in participating. Nancy Stephanz proposed incorporating a Shore Friendly workshop into Earth Day events. Discussion followed on County and MRC involvement. Mike Doherty emphasized the importance of climate change in terms of sea level rise, and the need for public discussion and disclosure between policy makers and property owners. *Ed Bowlby, Mary Sue Brancato, Mike Doherty, and Bob Vreeland volunteered to participate in a Subcommittee to help identify targeted shorelines and areas of concern, assist with outreach, and help schedule workshops and site visits. *Rebecca Mahan will follow up with the Subcommittee and get in touch with new Director of Community Development Bruce Emery.

Clallam MRC Retreat

Rebecca Mahan brought up the idea of scheduling a CC MRC Retreat to get the Committee together to reinvigorate the group after the pandemic and hash out plans for the next couple of years. There is a potential for more congressionally-directed spending funds for the current round, and the next funding cycle to plan for. Ideas included scheduling the retreat as a longer meeting, having a short CC MRC meeting with a planning retreat to follow, having a potluck, holding a quick planning meeting in December with a retreat later in the winter or spring, and inviting local policy makers. The group agreed to think about this topic until the next CC MRC meeting in December and then plan next steps. *Send ideas to Rebecca.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update from the 10/28/22 NWSC meeting. The meeting included a welcome by Representative Debra Lekanoff, and a presentation from the University of Washington Applied Physics Lab on a backyard buoy project that deploys smaller buoys from smaller boats to retrieve real-time data for relatively inexpensive cost. The 2023 NWSC Conference is scheduled for 11/3/23 and 11/4/23 in Port Townsend. Bob Vreeland suggested that Port Angeles would be in position to host the 2024 conference. The next NWSC meeting is scheduled for 12/9/22.

Project Updates

Kelp Bed Project

Alan Clark gave an update on the Kelp Project. They are working on smoothing out the GIS data from Clallam and Freshwater Bays. There was a major reduction in the giant kelp beds in Freshwater Bay.

Biotoxin Survey

Bob Vreeland announced that the biotoxin surveys were completed for the year. The last sample was taken on 10/10/22. Sampling will start again in April or May of 2023.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer reported that sampling was completed this month. WDFW is about three months behind with certifying samples, so there were no major trends to report other than that abundance looks to be typical.

Education/Outreach

Ann Soule notified the group that the coaster project was on hold until funding was worked out. Rebecca Mahan added that the printed coasters had all been distributed; new designs will need to be decided. Website hits still need to be broken down to determine how effective the outreach has been. This was added as a topic for discussion for the next CC MRC meeting.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby stated that he and Mary Sue Brancato were still entering the data in the WDFW database, but should be wrapping up shortly.

Other Projects

Rebecca Mahan reached out to Washington Sea Grant's European green crab project manager Emily Grason, who would be happy to meet with the CC MRC if they were interested in volunteering with local tribes. Robert Knapp reported the first European green crab captured in Discovery Bay this year; he suggested volunteers connect with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe project lead Neil Harrington to see how best to help. Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato discussed their participation with Emily's and Neil's European green crab projects. *Rebecca Mahan will touch base with the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha, and Makah Tribes to find out how to participate. Ed requested a presentation from Emily and Neil and coordination with tribes before the spring trapping season begins. Mike Doherty proposed a European Green Crab panel discussion. Mary Sue suggested coordinating with the North Pacific Coast MRC on volunteer efforts. Discussion followed on education and outreach opportunities. Lance Vail announced that Neil Harrington was giving a talk on European green crab on 12/4/22 at Fort Worden.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty informed the group of an upcoming meeting on escort tugs from the Department of Ecology, and an offshore energy webinar from the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Action Items:

****Ed Bowlby, Mary Sue Brancato, Mike Doherty, and Bob Vreeland volunteered to participate in a Subcommittee to help identify targeted shorelines and areas of concern, assist with outreach, and help schedule workshops and site visits.***

****Rebecca Mahan will follow up with the Subcommittee and get in touch with new Director of Community Development Bruce Emery.***

****Send CC MRC Retreat ideas to Rebecca.***

****Rebecca will touch base with the Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha, and Makah Tribes to find out how to participate in European green crab trapping efforts.***