

CLALLAM **COUNTY**
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 20, 2021
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Location: Zoom meeting
Minutes prepared by Rebecca Paradis

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

P Bob Vreeland	P Robert Knapp	P Arnold Schouten	P Tim Cochnauer	? Jesse Waknitz
P Ann Soule	P Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Latrisha Suggs	Makah Open Position
P Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	E Ann Stafford	

Alternates present:

E Mary Sue Brancato	P Chris Burns	P Lance Vail
E Ioana Bociu	? Navarra Carr	

Ex-Officio Members / MRC staff/Members of the Public Present

Rebecca Paradis, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Cathy Lear, Clallam Habitat Biologist Manager; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow; Sasha Horst, NWSC; Jonathan Hallenbeck, NWSC; Elizabeth Stanley Clallam County Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Rebecca wanted to add discussion of Annual presentation to BOCC for Ann Soule. Rebecca also wanted to add the discussion topic of helping with WDFW's mussel cages project at Port Angeles Yacht club.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

No public comment was made. The minutes for August were approved as written.

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Stanley

Elizabeth gave an overview of the Open Public Meetings rules and Public Records requirements. Some bullet points from her presentation:

- Zoom links must always have the number to call.
- "What constitutes a meeting?" If a quorum is present then it's considered a meeting and needs to be in the public eye. Committees and sub-committees cannot have a quorum.
- No secret ballots. There are penalties if the rules are violated.
- Work at side meeting is null and void.

Clallam County's public records request person is Kelly Gonzales. Tim asked about County liability for volunteers. Cathy mentioned Streamkeepers volunteer form and Rebecca mentioned Clallam Conservation districts online release of liability forms for CMRC to look at.

Attached to these minutes are the resources Elizabeth shared with the CMRC.

NWSC Update

Alan gave an update on the 8/27/21 meeting highlights. Barb Bennett asked about Clallam's SMP.

Virtual retreat is scheduled for 9/23 and 9/24. He also mentioned the "State of our Watersheds Report" and that CMRC should get one. Rebecca let everyone know she has a copy in her office.

Caroline Gibson's Memorial is Oct. 24th at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. Masks and vaccination cards are required.

WDFW Purple Sea Urchin project: Taylor Frierson, WDFW reached out to CMRC asking if we would be willing to collaborate with them on the Purple sea urchin monitoring project. Tim, Alisa and Rebecca meet WDFW crew 4 morning to process the Purple sea urchins that were gathered the day before. The WA Purple sea urchin monitoring was initiated due to the kelp barrens in CA. Below are some highlights of their 2020 survey work.

- Sea urchins are native nearshore invertebrates with ecological, cultural, and commercial importance in Washington.
- In response to factors such as ocean warming and the loss of predatory sea stars, intense grazing by purple sea urchins have shifted dense kelp beds to extensive urchin barrens in northern California and its nearby regions, leading to the collapse of kelp ecosystems and the species that depend on them.
- To better understand urchin-kelp dynamics in Washington, the WDFW and WDNR have partnered to examine existing large-area survey data on kelp, and how it relates to targeted observations of abundant purple sea urchins.
- The focal area is the western Strait of Juan de Fuca, where the WDFW shellfish dive team began monitoring four distinct areas with abundant purple sea urchins in 2020, some of which corresponded to low kelp abundance, and poor urchin gonad condition. This monitoring effort is planned to continue through 2022.
- There are no signs of widespread loss of canopy-forming kelps along the Strait of Juan de Fuca or open coast in recent years. Kelp canopy area remains similar to the long-term mean.

Budget Updates: Fiero just submitted invoices so after they are paid we may be only looking at having approximately \$1,500 to spend on Education/Outreach cards. Lyn moved and LaTrisha seconded giving Rebecca ok to spend up to \$1,000 on the cards.

Project Updates

Olympia oyster Restoration: Robert mentioned that Sequim and Discovery Bay didn't have as much mortality from "heat dome" this past summer. Final report will be forth coming.

Forage Fish: Tim told the MRC that it appears that bulk of the spawning occurred in August, two months later? He also has a six page manual for taking pictures with the microscope.

Kelp Survey: Alan and Alisa were finally able to survey the Clallam Bay kelp bed. Freshwater Bay is also completed. Motorized boat surveys postponed.

Pigeon Guillemot: Ed said the 10 week monitoring of all sites have finished and working on final compilation. CMRC is was asked to contribute \$300-500 to regional data effort. Clallam 1 site on NWSC website this coming year.

Education/Outreach: Rebecca gave an update on the "Outreach cards". The original vendor could not print in color but did print around 35 cards for the MRC to look at. The black and white cards are nice but do not have the pop or wow fact the MRC was looking for. Rebecca is going to look into other quotes from other vendors for two-sided color cards.

Biotoxin: Rebecca got an extra “emergency” shellfish sample from Pillar Point at the DOH asking. There was “hit” from shellfish sample at Slip Point that was impetus for extra sampling event.

Good of the Order

Rebecca passed along Ann Soule’s request for CMRC to give a presentation to the BOCC. It was decided to look at annual report to BOCC and start putting together a presentation for Jan. BOCC work session. It was decided to be a short Power Point presentation possibly titled “What we did, Where we are going”.

Mike Doherty mentioned the draft Storm water ordinance going to DOE. He also mentioned that it was the comment period on DOE’s website for Floating Tankers Proposal. He mentioned San Juan County MRC’s recommendations and could CMRC make similar comments?

Public Comment

Lucas Hart shared that Caroline Gibson’s memorial will be held on October 24th at 4-7:00pm, at the Northwest maritime Center in Port Townsend. There will be a vaccine mandate at the event. Lucas will send out an email with the details.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Attached is a PDF of the Open Public Meetings Act tips from the MRSC. More tip sheets and other OPMA resources are available on the MRSC webpage. Here is a link: <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Legal/Open-Government/Open-Public-Meetings-Act.aspx>

The Attorney General’s Office has also has some great OPMA resources, including a training video and a deck of powerpoint slides. That is available here: <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Legal/Open-Government/Open-Public-Meetings-Act.aspx>