



July 2022 Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, July 18, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom meeting only

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ed Bowlby (Academic Community Representative), Mary Sue Brancato (Community at Large Representative Alternate), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Coleman Byrnes (Clallam County [CC] Citizen), Kara Cardinal (Strain Ecosystem Recovery Network), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Alternate), Lyn Muench (District 2), Sandy Seligmiller (CC Citizen), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (Port Angeles City Council), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative), Jeffrey Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Rebecca Mahan requested the addition of an update from the NWSC, and Ed Bowlby asked to include an update on CC MRC advertisements in the Peninsula Daily News. ***The agenda was accepted with those additions.***

Public Comment / Approval of June Minutes

Ed Bowlby moved to approve the June CC MRC minutes; Lyn Muench seconded. The motion passed with one abstention from Bob Vreeland.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update from the last NWSC meeting. Instead of the November conference, the NWSC is going to hold an outdoor, in-person Collaborative Conservation Workshop on Friday, 9/16/2022. All MRC members, County commissioners, and Commission members are invited and encouraged to attend. Rebecca Mahan added that the CC MRC has been asked to set up a booth featuring one of their projects at the workshop. A one-page summary of the project is due by Friday. The other MRCs will be doing the same thing. Alan suggested presenting the smolt trap project, because it is unique to Clallam County, has been a successful partnership, and has utilized interns. The timeline may be doable, but will be rushed and will require staff and/or volunteer time. Rebecca brought up her wish list for purchased items to display and distribute at like events. Ideas included a table cloth, posters, rack card holders, a banner, and kids' items. Discussion followed on the presentation and event, items for distribution, and carpooling options. *Anyone who is interested in helping prepare the presentation or attending the workshop, please let Rebecca know so a subcommittee can be formed. Alan continued with NWSC

updates. NWSC staff have submitted budget guidelines for the next round of congressionally directed spending funds. The planned timeline for the spending is 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration must approve it. The Northwest Straits Foundation has put together a Passport to Marine Adventure app, which is now live and available for download. Rebecca announced that a representative for Passport to Marine Adventure will be speaking at the next CC MRC meeting, and offered handouts on the app. The next NWSC meeting is scheduled for 7/29/2022.

CC MRC Updates

Derelict Vessels in Clallam County

Rebecca Mahan reported that two derelict vessels were located and added to the initial NWSC list of vessels for potential removal with the interagency agreement. Jesse Waknitz collected all of the pertinent information on the boats and worked with Alan Clark to locate them.

Committee Members Needed for Congressionally Directed Spending Funds

A subcommittee was formed to look at how to spend the congressionally directed spending funds. Alan Clark, Tim Cochnauer, Ann Soule and Jeff Ward volunteered to be on it. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, 7/22/2022 at 11 AM. *If anyone else is interested in participating, please contact Rebecca Mahan.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe oyster surveys took place from 5/31/2022 to 6/2/2022. Chris Burns announced that there were no results from the surveys yet, but they might be ready by the next CC MRC meeting.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer reported about 100 eggs collected at Cline Spit, and that spawning was later in the year than usual, occurring in July rather than May. Rebecca Mahan attended the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Forage Fish Training for certification on 7/12/2022 to 7/13/2022 in Port Townsend. She said it was great to meet people in person and learn the protocol hands on. There were a lot of folks in attendance from Jefferson and Island Counties, but no other CC MRC members attended.

Education/Outreach

Rebecca Mahan still has 1500 coasters at her office waiting to distribute to local establishments; please bring a container to take them home in. She distributed some coasters at the Forage Fish Training, and took some down to Feiro Marine Life Center. Ed Bowlby has handed some out to pigeon guillemot volunteers. Tim Cochnauer suggested approaching the libraries about distribution. *Nancy Stephanz offered to ask the Port Angeles Library; Ed offered to talk to the Sequim Library about it.

Biotoxin Sampling

Bob Vreeland has continued to sample at Pillar Point; the beach is closed for varnish and butter clams, but is open for geoducks, horse clams, and cockles. He last sampled on Wednesday, 7/13/2022, and will sample again next week. Coleman Byrnes is assisting with sample collection at Freshwater Bay. Discussion followed on species and sampling methods.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby gave an update on the surveys, which are on week seven of a 10-week program. There are 40 volunteers, 20 of them new. He is having the new volunteers shadow the experienced ones so that they

can hand things off to each other for vacations. Volunteers post signage about the project when they are out conducting surveys. Coleman Byrnes is a volunteer for Freshwater Bay surveys, where six active burrows are being observed this year. He noted that the season appears to be slower than the last couple of years, but data is needed to confirm that. Chris Burns added that there are additional burrows that aren't visible from the beach, which he has seen from his canoe. Discussion followed on observations and sightings.

Additional Updates

Rebecca Mahan announced that she would be presenting on the CC MRC and its projects at the North Pacific Coast MRC meeting on Tuesday, 7/19/22. Ed Bowlby asked about CC MRC notifications in the Peninsula Daily News (PDN); he had not seen any. Rebecca sent the information in by the deadline, so she will ask the PDN about it. Discussion followed on where the notifications should be in the paper. After consulting the Sunday edition of the PDN, Lyn Muench agreed with Ed that the notification belongs with the other government, business, and advisory board meetings in the Eye on the Peninsula section under Clallam County. The group discussed various outreach methods including KONP radio, social media pages, [My Clallam County](#), hiring a public outreach coordinator or intern, [Peninsula Area Public Access - Peninsula Area Public Access \(papaonline.tv\)](#), outreach to the West End communities, and reaching out to the Peninsula College and high school journalism programs. *Rebecca will follow up with the PDN, and will start on other outreach efforts as time allows.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty announced the next Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting on Friday, 7/22/2022, in La Push. More information can be found at: [Olympic Coast - Get Involved - Sanctuary Advisory Council \(noaa.gov\)](#). The Sea Grant advisory group will meet at the 7 Cedars Hotel in Sequim from 9/21/2022 to 9/22/2022. For more information, see: [Washington Sea Grant – It's the water, and a lot more](#). Mike has been following a house bill involving two studies on oil spill risk for the past several months. The deadline for the final reports is 9/1/2023, and new regulations must be adopted by 12/2025. He distributed information that included a long list of workshops and meetings, and suggested inviting the Department of Ecology project lead to present at an upcoming joint CC MRC and Jefferson County MRC meeting. Rebecca Mahan reported that she gave an interview to the Makah Hershman Fellow last week about Geographic Response Plans and the transboundary issue with Canada and the First Nations. They discussed roadblocks and ideas for improvement. The main challenge is communication.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Action Items:

****Anyone who is interested in helping prepare the presentation or attending the NWSC Collaborative Conservation Workshop, please let Rebecca Mahan know so a subcommittee can be formed.***

****If anyone else is interested in participating in the subcommittee for congressionally directed spending funds, please contact Rebecca. Alan Clark, Tim Cochnauer, Ann Soule and Jeff Ward have volunteered.***

****Nancy Stephanz offered to ask the Port Angeles Library; Ed offered to talk to the Sequim Library about coaster distribution.***

****Rebecca will follow up with the PDN, and will start on other outreach efforts as time allows.***