



June 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 27, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom meeting only

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community At Large; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Geoff James (Port of Port Angeles Commission Alternate), Cathy Lear (Clallam County [CC]), Ann Soule (Sequim City Council), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Justin Stapleton (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation/Environmental Alternate), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Jesse Waknitz (Port of Port Angeles Commission)

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

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Ed Bowlby asked for an addition to the agenda to discuss CC MRC meeting announcements in the Peninsula Daily News (PDN). Rebecca Mahan requested the addition of some updates at the end of the meeting. ***The agenda was accepted with those additions.***

Public Comment / Approval of April Minutes

Ed Bowlby moved to approve the April and May CC MRC minutes; Nancy Stephanz seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

NWSC Update

Rebecca Mahan gave an overview of the last NWSC meeting. The Commission has requested that the congressionally directed spending funds begin in January so they will have 12 months to allocate the funds. There will be a Forage Fish Training on 7/13/22 in Port Townsend; for more information contact Leah Robinson at robinson@nwstraits.org or Rebecca Mahan. A zoom meeting portion of the training has been added, which will take place on 7/12/22. *Rebecca added that there were more updates from the meeting that she would distribute tomorrow.

CC MRC Updates

Derelict Vessels in Clallam County

Jesse Waknitz reported that he and Rebecca Mahan attended a NWSC webinar about derelict boats, which addressed the identification of derelict vessels by the various MRCs and tribes, who would work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to remove them. Rebecca asked about the two abandoned vessels that were noted by Alan Clark at the May CC MRC meeting. Jesse said that one was

located on private property, and is a good candidate for the DNR program. He was unable to locate the second vessel. Alan said the second boat was sitting in the lagoon behind the bridge west of Sequim Bay. Jesse thought that would be on private property as well, which would make the boat another good candidate for removal. *Jesse and Rebecca will follow up with DNR on the vessel removal.

Summer Interns

Rebecca Mahan gave an update. Out of an initial five applicants, three pulled out prior to interviews. After the interviews, two more applicants withdrew. The remaining applicant was tentatively offered a 160-hour position, but the logistics could not be worked out, so there are no interns for the summer. The group discussed the intern advertising and hiring process. Suggestions included starting the process earlier, offering a year-long fellowship, presenting to University of Washington students, and better clarifying the positions being offered. *Ann Soule volunteered to participate in a subcommittee to brainstorm ideas for next year.

Tumwater Trap was Removed June 21

Tim Cochnauer reported that the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Washington Conservation Corps crew removed the smolt trap on Tumwater Creek successfully. It was a dismal year without the usual Coho, steelhead, or Pacific lamprey that have been seen in past years. Rebecca Mahan said that the Tribe had approached the CC MRC about putting a trap in on Ennis Creek, which is an important creek to monitor for many reasons, including the recent culvert replacement and cleanup at the mill. It is expected that a smolt trap on Ennis Creek would capture a lot fish, so staff and materials would be necessary.

Ann Soule: Chat

Ann Soule noted in the Chat that she had to leave early, but wished to be kept in the loop on the CC MRC logo refresh, and as an education-focused member. *Rebecca Mahan said she would make sure of that.

Kelp Presentation by Alan Clark to Sequim High School

In early June, Alan Clark gave a presentation to the Olympic Peninsula Academy to talk about kelp, sea star wasting disease, and invasive species. The kids were very interested in zombie urchins. He noted that having something to distribute to the students would have been very helpful.

“Catch More Crab” Kits

With the recreational crabbing season starting on 7/1/22, Lance Vail and Rebecca Mahan installed covered card boxes at several County Park locations, Freshwater Bay, and Ediz Hook. They have been in touch with the Olympic Peninsula Anglers, who are doing all the right things and are providing the same education materials. There is a lot of interest in European green crab, so they distributed some green crab cards. People seem to be understanding that they need to take photos and release any suspected green crab. Rebecca will be going out next week to install more card racks at Port Williams, Cline Spit, and the Dungeness Park area. Lance suspected that green crab might start to show up in Dungeness Bay.

Logo Refresh

Rebecca Mahan brought up the continuing conversation about refreshing the CC MRC logo. Tim Cochnauer was interested to hear what Ann Soule wished to say about it, so he suggested readdressing the topic at the July CC MRC meeting.

New Dog Waste Bag Dispenser

Tim Cochnauer installed a new dog waste bag dispenser on Place Road to replace the old one that was broken.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

Chris Burns gave an update on the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe oyster surveys, which took place from 5/31/22 to 6/2/22. Thanks to volunteers, the surveys were completed successfully. The data is still being worked up, so there were no results to report yet, but Chris anticipated some negative impacts from last year's heat dome. The eastern subsistent beach populations looked a little better than the rest. Nancy Stephanz volunteered with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Technician Casey Allen, who noted that the total count was what they would have expected to see in one sample in previous years. Chris said that he was not too discouraged as some ups and downs in populations are normal, and the area that Casey and Nancy were working in was the location that got hit the hardest in the heat. Discussion followed on similar surveys conducted in Jefferson County.

Forage Fish

There will be a Forage Fish Training for certification on 7/12/22-7/13/22 in Port Townsend; if interested, contact Leah Robinson at robinson@nwstraits.org. Rebecca Mahan offered to resend the information if needed. Tim Cochnauer announced that the forage fish surveys were completed, with Cline Spit coming out the winner as usual; no eggs were found at the other three beaches that were surveyed.

Education/Outreach

Rebecca Mahan reported that 1500 more coasters arrived last week and are available for pick up. She asked Committee members to bring containers to take them home in, and to keep track of where and how many are distributed. Rebecca also gave an update on Stream Fest, which took place at Peninsula College last weekend. Jefferson County and CC shared a booth to promote MRCs. They distributed many coasters, and did a lot of educating on European green crab. Over 87 interactions were recorded, but many were missed. She made a list of items she thought the CC MRC needed for similar events to make it more professional and influential. Jefferson County had a good setup with dog waste bags, stickers, and tattoos, and the Garden Club offered a scavenger hunt for the kids. Overall, the event went well.

Biotoxin Sampling

There was nothing new to report.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby gave an update on the surveys, which are on week four 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. Ed is still tabulating information on where people found out about the program. He noted that seasonality can impact things differently each year; this season is a little later for seeing the pigeon guillemots returning to the bluffs, and they were offshore more than normal.

PDN Announcements

Ed Bowlby brought up the issue of past CC MRC announcements in the PDN to inform the public of the meetings. Rebecca Mahan has been in touch with PDN staff and will notify the Committee when she hears back. She might be able to get an announcement in the Sunday edition.

Quarterly Reports

*Rebecca Mahan asked for CC MRC members to input their own volunteer hours as that greatly helps with the quarterly reports. They are due on 7/15/22.

Oil Spill Geographic Response Plans (GRP)s

Justin Stapleton said that site visits with the Marine Spill Response Corporation were being conducted this week to update Geographic Response Plans. The plans are required to be updated every five years.

Additional Updates

Mile Doherty gave an update on risk analysis and rescue plans, *which he will send to Rebecca Mahan for distribution. He announced that Washington Sea Grant would be holding its annual meeting at the Seven Cedars Hotel on 9/21/22-9/22/22, and that the Makah Cultural and Research Center reopened on Saturday. Discussion followed on potential outreach efforts and possible collaboration with the North Pacific Coast MRC. Chris Burns added that the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has a new oil spill response vessel, which they have taken out for test runs.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby wished everyone a happy summertime.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Action Items:

****Rebecca Mahan added that there were more updates from the NWSC meeting that she would distribute tomorrow.***

****Jesse Waknitz and Rebecca Mahan will follow up with DNR on the derelict vessel removal.***

****Ann Soule volunteered to participate in a summer intern subcommittee to brainstorm ideas for next year.***

****Rebecca Mahan will keep Ann Soule in the loop as regards the logo refresh and education and outreach.***

****Rebecca Mahan asked for CC MRC members to input their own volunteer hours.***

****Mike Doherty will send the risk analysis and rescue plans to Rebecca Mahan for distribution.***