



May 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 16, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Hybrid Zoom / In-person meeting: Commissioner's Conference Room, Clallam County (CC) Courthouse, Port Angeles, WA 98362

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; NWSC representative), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Kathy Downer (Sequim City Council Alternate), Geoff James (Port of Port Angeles Commission Alternate), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schouten (Development Community), Ann Soule (Sequim City Council), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation/Environmental Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (Port Angeles City Council), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation/Environmental), Jesse Waknitz (Port of Port Angeles Commission), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Amy Wilcox (Northwest Straits Foundation [NWSF])

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. *The agenda was accepted as written.*

Public Comment / Approval of April Minutes

Ed Bowlby made a correction to the attendance list: he was shown to be present, but was not. Bob Vreeland clarified that although the water quality sample he collected was from the Pysht area, the site name is Pillar Point. *The April CC MRC Minutes will be revisited at the June Meeting after those changes have been made.

Amy Wilcox

Rebecca Mahan introduced Amy Wilcox, Director of Advancement for the NWSF. Amy presented on the process of how the Foundation works with the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and the MRCs. The Commission and the Foundation directors, Lucas Hart and Don Hunger respectively, meet every two weeks to discuss any overlap, big picture projects, and potential partnerships. The two organization staffs have started to meet monthly to connect on ways to collaborate; they also share a common board member, currently Nan McKay. As to working with the MRCs, there are steps that Don has laid out in a document that Amy can distribute if desired. It outlines the ideal way for the Foundation and MRCs to work together when the MRC has a potential project needing funding: 1: reach out to the Foundation and discuss the project; 2: determine the budget, roles, and goals; 3: design the project and timeline; 4: fundraise; 5: launch the project or pilot; 6: assess the process and report out to sponsors and funders; 7: proceed with reevaluation and more fundraising if the project continues. Amy went over a project with the Skagit MRC in which they designed and built a rain garden in the community. She pointed out that

initiative-wide projects between all seven MRCs are most efficient with the budget, timeline, and limited resources.

Amy asked how the CC MRC was doing with the Coaster Outreach project, and if they needed help with long-term planning or coaster distribution. She suggested that now would be a good time to start planning if the CC MRC was interested in making the Coaster Outreach project a more widespread effort. Discussion followed on legal limitations preventing MRC members from soliciting funds; *Amy will get clarification on those details from Don and Lucas. Ann Soule gave an update on the sub-committee working on the Coaster Outreach project: they decided not to use an intern this year, and it was now just a matter of deciding funding. She added that Lucas declared the project a perfect use of Commission funds. Alan Clark suggested fine-tuning the coaster usage. Amy mentioned that the Foundation would be interested in participating in the coaster project if it fit in with the rest of the Committee's projects. Lyn Muench asked whether the Foundation accepted targeted donations. Amy was aware of the Foundation accepting targeted donations for their own projects, but *will look into whether they can do so for partnered projects such as the Coaster Outreach project.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark reported that the Commission approved moving forward with contracting necessary for eelgrass protection zone expansion, which will include social marketing and site monitoring. Commission staff is working with MRCs to identify sites. Currently, the closest sites are in Port Townsend. The program tries to keep people from anchoring and pulling up eelgrass. It has been fairly successful, although it is expensive and requires assistance from divers. 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. The NWSC program coordinator position is open to applicants; there is an interview committee in process. There have been changes to the account for MRC State funds, now requiring half of the funds to be spent by 6/30; this may necessitate grant amendments, which Rebecca is working on with Sasha Horst. The NWSF is developing a Salish Sea Conservation Corps Program similar to the intern program, and will be reaching out to the MRCs. Discussion followed on past eelgrass restoration efforts in Port Angeles with collaboration between the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Battelle Laboratories; Rebecca reported that the eelgrass is being monitored and is doing great. *She will ask Tribal representative Justin Stapleton for an update on future plans, and will distribute more information on the project.

Nominations for CC MRC Board Positions

The CC MRC Bylaws state that elections of the chair, vice chair, and NWSC representative will take place every May. ***Ed Bowlby nominated the continuation of the current positions; Bob Vreeland seconded.*** Tim Cochnauer agreed to continue his position as CC MRC Chair. Alan Clark agreed to continue his positions as CC MRC Vice Chair and NWSC representative. ***Ed Bowlby moved to nominate the candidates as stated; Lyn Muench seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.***

CC MRC Updates

Derelict Vessels in Clallam County: Jesse Waknitz reported that after talking with Rebecca Mahan, he reached out to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and they provided him a list of derelict vessel statuses. There were no derelict boats on any beaches or tidelands that DNR was aware of. There are five to seven derelict vessels that have already been moved to the Port Angeles boatyard and will be demolished this summer. Over the past ten years, about 12 derelict boats have been demolished at a cost of about \$80,000. DNR reimburses the Port for about 90% of the cost. Rebecca Mahan has informed the Board of County Commissioners. Alan Clark added that there were a couple of derelict

small boats in Sequim Bay, and asked about how to get them removed since they are currently on private property. Tim Cochnauer confirmed that the John Wayne Marina harbormaster was aware of the boats. *Jessie will reach out to the harbormaster about taking photos and contacting DNR to dispose of the boats.

Summer Interns

Rebecca gave an update. She has distributed the advertisement for student interns to multiple local entities, including Peninsula College science classes and the Huxley Program. So far, there are two applicants. The due date has been extended to 5/27/22, so applications will be reviewed after that.

Earth Day Booth

Rebecca reported a successful Earth Day event at the Port Angeles City pier; a list of volunteers who signed up at the event has been distributed.

Rebekah Brooks Contracted

Rebekah Brooks has been contracted to take and write up the CC MRC minutes.

Tumwater Trap

The trap was successfully installed with the help of the Washington Conservation Corps, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and the CC MRC. Rebecca said the numbers have been low so far, but the trap will continue to be checked until June.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

During the conference, DNR gave a presentation on purple sea urchins, in which the CC MRC was recognized for its contribution to the research. DNR will be looking for volunteers to help again this summer.

Kelp Presentation by Alan Clark to The Surfrider Foundation

Alan gave a great presentation on kelp to Surfrider last week, which Rebecca also attended. She talked to Surfrider about the CC MRC internship program. Alan added that he will be giving another presentation to the Olympic Peninsula Academy to talk about kelp and invasive species on 5/26/22. He suggested that a more directed outreach approach might be a good addition to future CC MRC efforts.

Stevens Middle School Presentations

Rebecca gave five presentations to middle school STEM classes, tied into her Pacific lamprey research, tracking, and GIS. The students had lots of unique questions and comments, which was fun.

MRC Project Presentation to the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (ERN) Local Integrating Organizations (LIO)

Rebecca was asked to give a presentation on the CC MRC to the Strait ERN LIO at their quarterly meeting, which she gave last week.

“Catch More Crab” Kits Ordered

Rebecca has been in touch with contacts about acquiring more crab kits and rack cards for the “Catch More Crab” program. There is an additional opportunity to place covered card boxes at locations like County parks and Ediz Hook. Rebecca reached out to the City of Port Angeles and the County, and is waiting on some permissions before installing the card boxes.

Logo Refresh

Lucas Hart and Sascha Horst had brought up the idea of refreshing the CC MRC logo. If the Committee wishes to consider that, there are funds that could be used to cover the cost.

Work Plan

Ann Soule asked about the timeline for revising the CC MRC work plan. Rebecca has been working on it, and has a template borrowed from another MRC that can be used. Discussion followed on the budget cycle and timeline, the best approach for starting on a work plan review, and how to prioritize education and outreach. *Rebecca will distribute the most recent work plan and put it on the agenda for next month's CC MRC meeting. A sub-committee may be formed to start the process; *Ann volunteered to be on it.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

Chris Burns gave an update on the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe survey dates, which will be from 5/31/22 to 6/2/22 starting at 9:00 AM at the restoration site. The heat map survey has been delayed in hopes for intern involvement; at some point it will need to be scheduled because it is tide dependent.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer gave an update; sampling continues at Cline Spit in Sequim. There will be a Forage Fish Training for certification on 7/13/22 in Port Townsend; if interested, contact Leah Robinson at robinson@nwstraits.org.

Biotoxin Sampling

Bob Vreeland confirmed that surveys started in April at Pillar Point and Freshwater Bay. Samples are taken every other week in coordination with the Department of Health in Port Angeles. The sample sites are difficult to access because Highway 112 is out, and Highway 113 is undergoing construction. Rebecca Mahan added that she was in touch with contacts at the Department of Health; the last sample came back clean.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby said that the surveys will start on 6/5/22 and go through August or September. They have 22 returning volunteers and 21 new volunteers, including some who signed up on Earth Day. Ed had a training session with two of them, who are also interested in kelp monitoring. He is in the process of assigning volunteers to sites, and asking them how they heard about the CC MRC. Ann Soule asked Ed to specifically ask if they have ever seen the coasters so the Committee can start gathering information on how effective the coasters are at outreach. *Ed will include that question in his distribution.

Additional Project Updates

Tim brought up the question of cooperating with the Jefferson County MRC on upcoming festivals. Rebecca suggested collaborating with the Jefferson County MRC on a booth at Crab Fest from 10/7/22 – 10/9/22. Stream Fest is scheduled for 6/25/22 at Peninsula College; Mike McHenry and Randy Johnson are keynote speakers, and other exhibitors will present on flora and fauna and natural resources. The CC MRC will share a booth with the Jefferson MRC to represent MRCs.

Good of the Order

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

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

Action Items:

- *The April CC MRC Minutes will be revisited at the June Meeting after corrections have been made.*
- *Amy Wilcox will get clarification from Don Hunger and Lucas Hart on the details regarding MRC members soliciting project contributions.*
- *Rebecca Mahan will ask Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe representative Justin Stapleton for an update on future eelgrass restoration plans, and will distribute more information on the project.*
- *Jessie Waknitz will reach out to the John Wayne Marina harbormaster about taking photos of the derelict vessels in Sequim Bay and contacting DNR to dispose of the boats.*
- *Rebecca will distribute the most recent CC MRC work plan and put it on the agenda for next month's meeting.*
- *Ann Soule volunteered to be on a CC MRC work plan revision sub-committee if one is formed.*
- *Ed Bowlby will include a specific question about the CC MRC coasters in his distribution to volunteers.*