



Minutes

Date: Monday, April 19, 2021

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes prepared by: Alisa Taylor

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

P Bob Vreeland	P Robert Knapp	E Arnold Schouten	P Tim Cochnauer	E 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	P Ann Stafford	LEKT Open Position

Alternates present:

P Chris Burns	P Lance Vail	? Lucas Hart
? Ioana Bociu	E Navarra Carr	P Mary Sue Brancato ? Lisa Law

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

Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow; Rebecca Paradis, Biologist with Lower Elwha

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Ann Soule requested time during Good of the Order to discuss updates from the climate subcommittee.

Chris Burns requested some time to give an update about the Olympia Oyster Survey effort.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

No public comment was made. The minutes were approved.

Project Updates

Kelp Monitoring: Alan Clark explained the plans for the upcoming season's kelp monitoring effort. The two kelp beds at Freshwater Bay, and the one at Clallam Bay will be surveyed by kayak between June-September. A pair of temperature monitors will be placed in the large Freshwater Bay kelp bed, from late May through September. The motorized boat survey of the North Olympic Coast, looking for presence/absence of kelp along the shoreline, will again occur in August-September. The goal is to cover a greater stretch of the Straits this year, if possible. The gopro will be employed to take photos and video, both during kayak and motorized surveys—the kelp team are investigating possible cameras/equipment with which to capture better quality underwater photos from the motorized boat. The kelp team are also looking into creating an improved plankton sampling system, to be operated from the motorized boat. Jeff Ward shared that the kelp webinar series is in the planning phase, and will resume by September 2021. Helen Berry and Max Calloway have been in contact with the webinar planning team as potential presenters, but at this time they are handling staffing issues and, while interested, may not be available immediately to participate.

Smolt Trap: Tim Cochnauer gave an overview of the plan for the smolt trapping effort on Tumwater Creek. The project is in partnership with the Elwha tribe, and is planned to be set up and in operation on April 29th. WCC and Rebecca Paradis also will help with the installation. The trap will be checked regularly with the MRC intern once one is selected, and it will be removed sometime in the middle of July.

Oil Spill Preparedness: Ann Stafford shared about last month's oil spill preparedness meeting, which was very successful. Members agreed at the meeting that they want to facilitate public education about oil spill risk and response, and if possible (and if the public is receptive in sufficient numbers) bring back in-person HAZWOPR and Oiled Wildlife trainings, to Clallam County. There is also talk of setting up a program similar to WSU's Beach Watchers/OSARS. Ann has reached out to San Juan County MRC (response pending) to inquire about the process and cost of their recent appraisal, which produced an estimate of [insert \$\$ from other notes] in damages, in the event of an oil spill. Chris Burns has put forth a valuable effort toward updating the GRP database, which shows the location of important environments and species distribution in the Straits of Juan De Fuca. The database will be updated following upcoming seasonal surveys, which will be conducted throughout this year. Chris also suggested that Jefferson MRC may be interested in participating in/helping to host training classes, and Ann and others agreed that they should be contacted. Rebecca Paradis shared that some of the tribes are working on getting HAZWOPR training as well, and recommended that the MRC reach out to the tribes to find out if they could collaborate with hosting, as well as whether they have connections to the Dept. of Ecology, to set up the trainings.

Forage Fish: Tim Cochnauer brought up the conversation from several months ago, regarding purchase of a microscope to be used for identification of forage fish eggs, as well as for other potential uses with other projects (such as plankton sampling for the kelp monitoring project), and as a tool for education and outreach. After talking with Lisa Hillier at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tim received the specs for a particular microscope which seems to suit our needs. It is a stereo microscope with a camera attachment, allowing for easy capture of photos and videos of the subject, and which can be attached to a computer (windows or mac) to be broadcast to an audience. The price is under \$600, marked down from the usual \$1100 (limited sale time). Tim asked the group if they might approve funding to purchase the scope, for no more than \$700 (to accommodate for tax, etc). It was determined that the scope will be stored with the county, at the office of the coordinator or in the care of Cathy Lear. The motion was made, and passed, to purchase the microscope, at the price of up to \$700.

Olympia Oyster: Chris Burns shared that the next upcoming survey of the area where oyster seed was planted a couple of years ago (where, exactly?), will be on May 13 at 9:30am. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact him by email at cburns@jamestowntribe.org. Additionally, there will be a survey of the entire beach at Blyn, to produce a heat map showing presence/absence of Oly oysters, identify/show where the "hot spots" are, and give an idea of how the restoration effort has fared. This will take place on May 25-28. Anyone who is interested to participate can email Chris, and it's recommended to bring good boots- at least hip waders.

MRC Internship Program

Ed Bowlby shared that he, Ann Soule, and other members have discussed the possibility of creating an internship for the educational/outreach effort focused on creating and distributing MRC coasters to public venues. The internship would be set not to exceed 50 hours. The intern would help with designing, and arranging distribution of the coasters. Tim Cochnauer offered a review: in addition to the fellowship focused on the kelp survey, currently filled by Alisa Taylor, the MRC has only two other internship positions available in 2021: Green Crab trapping & removal, and the Tumwater Creek smolt trap project. Interviews of four different candidates have been conducted last week, and an intern has been selected for the Green Crab position. The internships will start imminently, and continue through the end of July or beginning of August. More interviews will be held in the coming weeks, before a decision is made for the other two internships. Ed Bowlby made a motion that the new internship, focused on creation of "public outreach items," will be offered (pending sufficient allowance by the budget), not to exceed 50 hours. The motion was passed.

Volunteer Recruitment

Mary Sue Brancato asked of the MRC, would you want more citizen science volunteers for your projects? Ed Bowlby said that the PIGU project could use more volunteers. Alan said that about 2-3 volunteers to help with the kelp survey project would be good, especially those with some kayaking and swimming experience. Alan said he would be willing to train people and to provide kayaks/equipment. Tim Cochnauer said that both the forage fish survey and Tumwater smolt trap project are fairly brief in the field, and there's not a lot for many volunteers to do. He said that, on days when there are a lot of fish at the smolt trap, that may be a good time to include some citizen science volunteers. Bob Vreeland said that shellfish biotoxin monitoring can take anywhere from 5-30 minutes to conduct, and it's quite far to drive for most people (at Pillar Point). Due to the closure of highway 112 this season, the only way for Bob to get to Pillar Point will be to drive around to Sappho and drive down to 113, which is not practical in terms of time, and fossil fuel burned. Lyn Meunch asked, what if the MRC could find a volunteer who lives on the other side of the highway closure, to conduct this survey? Bob and Jeff Ward both agreed this would be helpful. Someone from Clallam Bay or Sekiu could serve as a contact point/representative from that area, and help with sampling clams. Mary Sue said she would start by inquiring with the other MRCs who already have volunteer programs, to learn about how they are run. Mary Sue concurred with Jeff Ward's recommendation that she contact Lucas Hart and Dana Oster at NWSC about this as well.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark said that, despite having been working short staffed since January, the NWSC admin position is anticipated to be hired in May or early June. The NWSC are also creating some new project assistant positions, and will plan to have 1 more intern through the veterans conservation corps, working on expansion of green crab trapping and monitoring. The tribal acknowledgement is being adapted with Cecilia Gobin from Northwest Tribal Fisheries, and will be included in the meetings this or next month. State funding for the year is looking good, the green crab and kelp projects are both covered in the budget. The NWSC is looking at working with a few charitable trusts. As the NWSC rep, Alan is brainstorming for the upcoming MRC presentation to the NWSC. The presentation will be no longer than 10 minutes, and will focus on one of the projects that would be relevant, interesting, or that Clallam MRC would like to get people's input on, from Northwest Straits and from other MRC's. Alan's potential topics of discussion include: 1) the process of forming the climate action committee, what they are trying to accomplish, successes and setbacks; 2) the Tumwater Creek smolt trap project, how it works, what is the goal, and interesting data/info yielded from the effort. After some consideration, it was decided that Alan would ask Sasha at NWSC if Clallam MRC can give the presentation at the June meeting, which will be on the 25th. This provides at least four weeks for collaboration, planning, and practicing of the speech, which will be finalized at the Clallam MRC May meeting.

NWSF Internship Program Survey

Alisa Taylor filled out the survey accordingly via screen share, as the Members collectively discussed and agreed on the best answers to each of the questions.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby gave an update about the Pigeon Guillemot monitoring project. The monitoring teams will begin surveying in the first week of June. The signage for the project at Port Williams will be installed sometime soon. The virtual training has been improved and updated since last year. Ed said there may be a request of the MRC to fund the running of an ad in the newspapers, to recruit volunteers for the project.

Cathy Lear shared a brief update about climate action planning, from an email sent by Ann Soule. From Ann's email:

Climate Action Planning:

- Clallam County: No news from our connections there except they intend to coordinate with City of P.A. greenhouse gas emission inventory efforts (for entire county).
- City of P.A.: Bob and Ann (and maybe Mike and Ed) are on email list. Cascadia is hired consultant; still in organizing mode for GHG inventory.
- North Olympic Development Council (NODC): Ann, Bob, Cathy, Mike are on email list. Soon to post an RFQ for consultant to assist local jurisdictions with climate planning work.

Forestry and sequestration

- Attached Lynda Mapes article from late March on differing proposed approaches to conservation vs logging rotation of old growth forest.

Bob Vreeland shared that Cascadia said they would need a number of volunteers, but as of this week he had not heard any updates about this.

Mike Doherty quickly shared that, on the 27th of April, there will be a workshop on Washington National Maritime Heritage concept. They are looking for people's opinions about what they would expect out of a new program, to help coastal communities. For more information, visit their website and/or sign up for the monthly newsletter. Part of the work of the Sanctuary Advisory Committee is to come up with ideas to implement the Biden Administration's idea of conserving 30% of public lands and water, for which a second workshop is happening this week.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.