



July 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 15, 2024

Time: 5:39 – 6:55pm

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Members Present

Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Alternate), Ann Soule (District II; Vice-Chair), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ioana Bociu (Academic Community Alternate), Katharine Frazier (Port of Port Angeles Commission Alternate), Lance Vail (District I Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (Port Angeles City Council; Chair), Mike Doherty (District III), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation & Environmental Interests Alternate), Ray Kirk (Community-at-large Alternate), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Timothy Cochnauer (Community-at-large)

Others Present

Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Caitlyn Blair (Northwest Straits Commission Program Coordinator), Allie Simpson (Northwest Straits Commission Ecosystem Project Coordinator), Brandon Sampson (member of the public; Surfrider Foundation; Wet Dog Boats), Emily (member of the public; Surfrider Foundation), Charlie (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:39. Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Pigeon Guillemot Project Update

Ed Bowlby gave an update. Monitoring is underway, and fewer guillemots are being seen so far this year than previously.

Public Comment / Approval of June Minutes

A guest introduced his boat rental business, Wet Dog Boats.

Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the June CC MRC minutes; Ioana Bociu seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- *Film festival*: Rebecca reviewed the details of the upcoming Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 30th anniversary film festival. Plenty of MRC members have volunteered to table, and the event is open to the public for any additional members that wish to attend.
- *Annual presentation to BOCC*: Tim Cochnauer is prepared to present on August 5th.

Northwest Straits Commission Update

- Alan Clark was not present for an update, but Northwest Straits Commission staff member Caitlyn Blair was present and gave an update on the most recent Northwest Straits Commission meeting.
- The November 2024 Northwest Straits Conference is upcoming in Snohomish County. *LaTrisha set the end of August as a suggested deadline for MRC members to decide about attending the conference.
- LaTrisha asked if the Commission could work to coincide a NWSC meeting in Clallam County with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe hosting the annual canoe journey August 1-5, 2025. However, Caitlyn found that the Northwest Straits Commission meeting is already scheduled for Clallam County on May 30, 2025.

Advisory Role

- *Aquaculture subcommittee – Tim Cochnauer*: The subcommittee is on hiatus, as no definitive plans or permits have been submitted for projects.
- *Informational items – LaTrisha Suggs*: Information is available in the agenda for the PNNL micro-grid project, Project Macoma, and comprehensive plan updates for Sequim, Port Angeles, and Clallam County. *Amelia will send out an updated agenda with functional links for these items.
- *Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mike Doherty*: The plan will have public hearing / public comment, which may be shared with MRC members for information. *Rebecca Mahan will ask tomorrow if a date is set for this process.
- *Comprehensive plans – Ann Soule*: Ann reminded that Commissioner Ozias suggested that the MRC should get involved with comprehensive plan input. *Ann offered to help with LaTrisha's suggestion of emailing the points of contact with a request to engage, and including Mark Ozias.

Field Project Updates

Only project leads with substantive updates were asked to provide them.

- *Tim – forage fish*: No surf smelt eggs have been seen yet this year at Cline Spit, though May and June are normally the peak spawning months.
- *Nancy – Sound Toxins*: All beaches are currently closed to shellfish, and today's sampling showed high levels of harmful phytoplankton.

Education / Outreach

- *Coasters – Ann Soule*: Ann is organizing coaster ideas and content by email. *An order is expected by next month.
- *New displays*: Display work is on hiatus, except for a toxins poster which is being prepared for the July 26th film festival.

- *Interns – Tim Cochnauer:* A list is in progress with intern duties for the fall, and project leads can reach out to Tim with any additions.

Other Updates / New Topics

- *Rescue tug letter:* Mike Doherty gave an update on oil spill response capabilities and planning.
- *Green crab update:* Ioana Bociu shared an update. Ioana suggested that *MRC members who would like to share green crab updates should email them to her in advance of meetings.
- *Recruiting for open MRC members:* LaTrisha Suggs suggested that a subcommittee should be put together to define roles and responsibilities, and to recruit new members. *Interested members should email Rebecca if they would like to join this subcommittee.
- *Northwest Straits Commission conference:* This was discussed during the Northwest Straits Commission update section of the agenda.
- *Strategic plan:* It is time for the MRC to develop a new strategic plan for 2025-2029, which Rebecca suggested was previously done by subcommittee. LaTrisha set the plan for a subcommittee, which LaTrisha and Ioana will participate in. *Any additional members who wish to participate should email Rebecca and Amelia.

Good of the Order

- *WA Climate Resilience Strategy:* Mike Doherty stated the comment period for this draft has passed.
- *Useful tools for data gathering:* LaTrisha described the BlueBoat surface vessel as a potential tool for kelp and pinto abalone surveys. Mike Doherty suggested that someone should present on this option; ideally someone from the company. Phil Parisi (Blue Robotics) or Ted Nowak (PNNL) are other potential presenters. This tool may also work to find derelict crab pots for removal. Brandon Sampson suggested airborne drones as a possibility for kelp or marine mammal surveys. Discussion ensued on the projects this could potentially be used for, and what the MRC's overall intentions are for incorporating new technology. Technology could potentially be incorporated into internship opportunities, and into the 2025-2029 strategic plan.
- Rebecca Mahan stated that *project leads should provide a draft of their annual reports by August 12th to ensure fall deadlines can be comfortably met.
- Kelly Green (US Forest Service) can be available to present in early fall on eDNA.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 6:55.

Action Items

- LaTrisha suggested the end of August as a deadline for MRC members to decide about attending the Northwest Straits conference in November.
- Amelia will send out an updated agenda with functional links.

- Rebecca Mahan will ask about dates set for public engagement with the Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
- Ann offered to help with LaTrisha's suggestion of emailing the points of contact for the County Comprehensive Plan with a request to engage, and including Mark Ozias.
- A coaster order is expected by next month.
- MRC members who would like to share green crab updates should email them to Ioana in advance of meetings, going forward.
- Interested members should email Rebecca if they would like to join a recruitment subcommittee.
- Interested members should email Rebecca if they would like to join a strategic plan development subcommittee.
- Project leads should provide a draft of their annual reports by August 12th to ensure fall deadlines can be comfortably met.