



December 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, December 16, 2024

Time: 5:31 – 6:57

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room

Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

	Member	Present?	Alternate	Present?
Academic Community	Ed Bowlby	X	Ioana Bociu	
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	Timothy Cochnauer	X	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Robert Vreeland	X	Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Rumble	X	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	
District II	Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	X	Lyn Muench	excused
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	X
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	excused	Robert Knapp	excused
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Justin Stapleton	
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson	X	Helle Andersen	X
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>)	X	Navarra Carr	
Port of Port Angeles Commission	Jesse Waknitz		Katharine Frazier	X
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Harmony Rutter	

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (Ex-Officio, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC MRC Coordinator, CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery, Jeff Whitty

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:31. Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the November CC MRC minutes; Dann May seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- *Training for Open Public Meetings Act / Public Records Act:* Amelia announced that members who have not taken training for these acts in the last 4 years must train in person or online. There is a training scheduled in January, and details are available by email.

Committee and Project Reports

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

- *Pinto abalone – Jeff Ward:* Draft report is in hand from Puget Sound Restoration Fund based on last month's dive surveys. This should be final by the end of December. An abalone restoration partners' meeting will take place 12/17 in Seattle, which Jeff and Rebecca will attend virtually and present the MRC's work.
- *Olympia oysters – Rebecca Mahan:* The Olympia oysters are doing well at the Point Whitney hatchery, and are approximately half an inch, though growth is slow this time of year. Growth should start speeding up now that oysters are in FLUPSY bins in John Wayne Marina.
- *Sound toxins – Nancy Stephanz:* Today's sampling saw two *Dinophysis* of two different species. Concentrations of harmful algae continue to be low during winter.
- *Forage fish – Tim Cochnauer:* Surf smelt eggs were recently observed after a long absence. The final sampling of the year will take place this week.
- *Education (HAZWOPER) – Rebecca Mahan:* The HAZWOPER project includes a grant deliverable due January 14th, which includes a plan for 2025 trainings. 2025 deliverables include a training, which should be booked soon due to the partner International Bird Rescue's busy schedule, and 4 educational videos. An MRC lead for this project is needed. ***Ed and Alicia chose to co-lead this project.***
- *European green crab – Allyce Miller, Rebecca Mahan:* Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has been surveying, and recently found 2 green crabs in the Ediz Hook lagoon and 10 at Salt Creek. There could be potential to develop a project with the MRC related to invasive European Green Crab.
- *Comprehensive plan subcommittee – Alan Clark, Bob Vreeland:* Subcommittee members, other MRC members and alternates, and DCD Director Bruce Emery discussed the comprehensive plan status and how the MRC might provide input.
 - Subcommittee members are concerned that they do not have the bandwidth to provide effective guidance on comprehensive plans.
 - Per Ann, comment is open for the hazard mitigation plan through the end of December, and the first priority for the comprehensive plan subcommittee should be finding out the status of comprehensive plans.
 - Bruce Emery shared significant insight on the status of Clallam County's comprehensive plan development. The hazard mitigation plan is well ahead of everything else and the same consultants are working on a climate element for the comprehensive plan. The public engagement process will take place from January through March, sharing the range of options with the community for input. Bruce and DCD have some relevant

- documents from the consultants, particularly a gap analysis from the critical areas code, which could be shared with the MRC for review. *Bruce will put a package together.
- *Ann Soule will share links with the group regarding the hazard mitigation plan and a [toolkit from the North Olympic Development Council \(NODC\) 2015 report](#).
- *State policy on rescue tug – Mike Doherty:* The rescue tug is still in a rulemaking phase. Members of other MRCs have been communicating since the conference to get involved in this effort. Mike shared some materials of interest: an [article regarding water quality standards and the obligations of polluters](#), the [obituary of Chris Morganroth](#), Quileute Tribal leader influential in water quality, BC's recent annual oil spill meeting ([some archived materials here](#)). Canadian tanker increases were justified by necessity for access to Asian markets, but in fact are often routed to California, so there may be more to come on this.

New or special business items

- *2025 workplan:* Staff has produced a draft workplan for the 2024-2025 grant year. *Submit comments to Amelia by Jan 3, as the final workplan will be submitted in mid-January as a grant deliverable.
- *2025 – 2029 strategic plan:*
 - ***Alan Clark moved to discuss the strategic plan, Bob Vreeland seconded.***
 - Members, alternates and staff discussed the strategic plan and made minor changes as a group. Discussion related to the kelp project, pinto abalone project, and future staffing and budget.
 - ***Bob Vreeland moved to approve with the agreed changes, Nancy Stephanz seconded. The motion passed unanimously, adopting the 2025-2029 strategic plan.***
- *Roles and responsibilities:* *Members and alternates, please review the draft roles and responsibilities document attached to this month's agenda and provide comments to Amelia by January 3.
- *Project development for the next biennium (9/2025 – 9/2027):*
 - Thursday 12/19 will be an MRC lead staff meeting with details on project planning.
 - \$200k per year will be available for the next biennium. This is roughly \$100k per year for staff and \$100k per year for projects. Thinking big and spending more money per project will maximize impact while minimizing the load of reporting and coordination.
 - The MRC may establish a subcommittee for the purpose of project planning.
 - Project design "wheel" (handout) available for use at request of the NWSC Science Advisory Committee.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 16th due to the holiday**. All meeting dates for 2025 are now available in agenda footers and on the MRC website. *[Members and alternates, please note these on your calendars](#).
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Good of the Order

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 6:57.