



## January 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2024

**Time:** 5:32 – 7:12

**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                               | [vacant seat]                   | ---      | Ray Kirk          |          |
| Conservation & Environmental Interests | Robert Vreeland                 | X        | Nancy Stephanz    | X        |
| Development Community                  | Christopher Rumble              |          | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| District I                             | Jeff Ward                       | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| District II                            | Ann Soule ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) | X        | Lyn Muench        | X        |
| District III                           | Mike Doherty                    |          | Dann May          | X        |
| Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe              | Christopher Burns               | X        | Robert Knapp      | excused  |
| Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe              | Allyce Miller                   | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| Makah Tribe                            | [vacant seat]                   | ---      | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| Marine Related Recreation & Tourism    | Alicia Amerson                  | excused  | Helle Andersen    | X        |
| Port Angeles City Council              | LaTrisha Suggs ( <i>Chair</i> ) | X        | Navarra Carr      |          |
| Port of Port Angeles Commission        | Jesse Waknitz                   |          | Katharine Frazier |          |
| Sequim City Council                    | Meggan Uecker                   |          | Harmony Rutter    |          |

### Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boats Rental Comp), Eric Lesch (Community Boating Program), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission staff), John Worthington (Sequim resident)

### Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

**Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:32.** Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the December 2024 CCMRC minutes; Alan Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Announcements**

- *Strategic plan:* [2025-2029 strategic plan](#) is now posted to the MRC's website.
- *Recruitment:* There are several open positions available on the MRC, please share with any good candidates who may be interested.
- *Kelp kayak monitoring data review:* There is an end-of-season data review meeting with Northwest Straits Commission for the kelp monitoring project on January 30<sup>th</sup>. MRC members and kelp volunteers are welcome.
- *OPMA training:* MRC members who need OPMA training should attend the January 24th training at the County courthouse if possible. [Asynchronous online training](#) is another option.
- *Extra meeting:* February 24<sup>th</sup>, to allow the entire MRC to work together on project development.

### **Committee and Project Reports**

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

- *Northwest Straits Commission – Alan Clark:* The Commission has been working on reauthorization, but it did not come to a vote yet despite Patty Murray's support. Reauthorization efforts will continue. The Commission has been working on a new definition of the Northwest Straits Initiative which it will soon vote on, which would move away from the "three-legged stool" model and clarify the Northwest Straits Foundation as a partner and a separate organization.

### **Introductions Con't**

Additional participants on Zoom introduced themselves.

### **Committee and Project Reports – continued**

- *Ediz Hook revegetation – Allyce Miller, Helle Andersen:* Date firmed for March 6<sup>th</sup> planting. Local 5<sup>th</sup> graders will plant in the morning, and volunteer slots are open for the afternoon (1-3pm). Please [sign up on Clallam Conservation District's website](#) if interested. This will likely be the last planting for this project, and dunegrass will be the main species along with some other native beach plants. The site has had some mortality, but is doing well overall thanks to dunegrass' hardiness. The overall planting site is about one acre.
- *Pinto abalone – Jeff Ward:* The final report for 2024 has been submitted. Initial plans for 2025 dives have been made, for 8 dives west of Port Angeles in September.
- *HAZWOPER / oiled wildlife training – Rebecca Mahan:* An 8 hour training is scheduled for April 15 and 16 at the Elwha Heritage Center, and a flyer will be shared as soon as the contract is confirmed. The second day will be wildlife-focused, hopefully in the field.

### **New or special business items**

- *Roles and responsibilities:* Committee members reviewed the latest version of the roles and responsibilities draft document. All sections including Duties of the Chair, Duties of the Vice Chair, Duties of Project Leads / Co-Leads, Duties of Members, Duties of Alternates, and Duties of Northwest Straits Commission Representative were discussed and edited in real time. The Committee plans to bring this revised document to a vote for adoption at the next meeting, with a request for more info on one item (Vice chair item 4).
- *Project development for the next biennium:* A special meeting is set for February 24 as a work session to develop projects, which will have a hired facilitator. The Committee held a roundtable brainstorm of brief project ideas:
  - Derelict gear / crab pot removal (potentially with Blue ROV) (Helle / Rebecca / Allyce)
    - Blue ROV for other projects (Nancy)
  - Study tsunami impacts to the nearshore (Dann)
  - European green crab (LaTrisha / Chris B)
  - Keep current projects going (Lyn)
  - Education in new Marine Discovery Center in Port Angeles (partner opportunity) (Alan)
    - Potentially including pigeon guillemot exhibit already planned (Ed)
  - Eelgrass outreach, similar to Whatcom MRC's efforts at Wildcat Cove and Jefferson MRC's No Anchor Zones (Ann)
  - Kelp outreach similar to Snohomish MRC campaign re Edmonds kelp beds (Ann)
  - Trash removal from beaches (Allyce)
  - Monitor ocean acidification, potential partner with NWIFC (Allyce)
  - Remove noxious weeds at Hollywood Beach (Allyce)
  - Monitor Freshwater Bay water chemistry (adjunct to kelp monitoring) (Alan)
  - Shoreline armoring survey (similar to work by Island and San Juan Counties)
  - Address derelict pilings (LaTrisha)
  - Crab larvae study (Chris B)
  - Monitor ocean water quality, e.g. anoxic conditions (Dann)
  - Educational mural in downtown Port Angeles or Sequim (LaTrisha)
- *Presentation:* Alan mentioned he had been asked by the Yacht Club to present to them about the MRC, and suggested the MRC should have canned presentation elements ready for similar opportunities. \*Amelia will share the existing presentation from the Studium Generale with Alan to adapt.

#### **Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on February 20<sup>th</sup> – note this meeting is moved from the usual schedule due to the Presidents' Day holiday. A special meeting (work session) will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> for project development.
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

#### **Public Comment**

John Worthington from Sequim made a comment regarding the Olympia oyster restoration project, specifically its funding source, and concerns about transparency in the MRC's deliberation process.

Additional comments from Mr. Worthington, submitted as a letter prior to the meeting, are attached to these minutes.

**Good of the Order**

None at this time.

**Adjourn**

***Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:12.***