



October 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 6:36pm

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, Vice Chair</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	[vacant seat]	---	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Nancy Stephanz	X	[vacant seat]	---
Development Community	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule	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	Chelsea Korbolic	X
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
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		Kelly Burger	

Staff and Others Present

Bruce Emery (Clallam County Director of Community Development), Chase O'Neil (CC Habitat Biologist, CCMRC Project Coordinator), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist Manager; CCMRC Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Jonathan Strivens (CC Environmental Health), Edward (member of the public)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the September 2025 minutes, Lyn Muench seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- ***Habitat Biologist II hired as new MRC Project Coordinator, Chase O'Neil:*** Chase introduced herself and her background, including a year in Kenya studying hyena behavior.
- ***Northwest Straits Initiative 2025 conference:*** The conference will be Nov 7 & 8. Members and staff briefly discussed carpooling.
- ***General NWSC update:*** Alan described the most recent NWSC meeting in the San Juan Islands, including a visit to the [restoration site at Jackson Beach](#). The Northwest Straits Commission's strategic plan is published, and a fundraising guidance document for MRCs.
- ***Volunteer hours reporting:*** Members and alternates should refer to an email from Amelia for details on reporting their volunteer hours. Hours for this quarter (October-December) must be reported by January 7.
- ***Clallam County boards and committees applications:*** Applications are due this Wednesday, October 22. Two applications have been received to date.

Committee and Project Reports

- ***Pinto abalone:*** There are two more dive survey days planned this week. Many abalone have already been observed so far this season, and quality habitat has been identified.
- ***Sound Toxins:*** The Sound Toxins team at Feiro Marine Life Center saw very high counts of multiple poison-producing phytoplankton three weeks ago. Levels have returned to normal, lower levels in the last two weeks. Chris Burns shared that toxin levels in mussels and geoduck were high approximately one week ago as well.
- ***Elwha Beach stewardship:*** Dann May volunteered to fill the dog waste bag dispenser twice per month. *Dann will get materials from Chase/Amelia for the dog bag dispenser.
- ***Advisory sub-committee:*** Ann Soule shared an update. The advisory subcommittee has divvied up sections of the prior draft priorities memo to the BOCC to work on them further. The subcommittee has another meeting scheduled in early December.

New or Special Business

- ***NOAA Marine Debris newsletter:*** The MRC briefly discussed the possibility of contributing to NOAA's Marine Debris newsletter. LaTrisha suggested sharing the opportunity with other organizations that are doing beach cleanups – Clallam Conservation District, CoastSavers. *Staff will share the newsletter opportunity as appropriate with those groups.

- *MRC member positions discussion:* The MRC discussed the possibility of making more positions “at large” or otherwise open to a broader group. This will be discussed further next month, intending to make a decision then.
 - *Further research is needed to clarify what positions are required (per bylaws, County resolutions, 1999 Northwest Straits Initiative creation, etc).
 - Katharine can do some outreach in the Port community for representation from the development community / marine trades.
 - *Staff will share recruitment materials/brochure with Katharine and others.
 - Member of the public Edward made a comment at LaTrisha’s invitation. He described his experiences and concerns related to the marine environment, particularly pollution.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on Monday, November 17th.
- *Call for new agenda items:*
 - *Clallam County DCD staff presentation on draft County Comp Plan changes:* Bruce Emery gave a brief summary. He plans to present at the MRC meeting next month.
 - *Proposal for education/outreach items for oil spill prevention & response:* Alan and Mike have not developed anything further on this topic. Nancy reminded the MRC of the upcoming Studium Generale presentation in January; she could present on this topic if slides are developed. *Alan and Mike will discuss, and this topic will be mentioned again at the next meeting.
 - *Education displays/posters, kid friendly ideas discussion:* The MRC discussed some ideas for activities that could actively engage kids at outreach festivals, particularly Dungeness River Festival.
- *Chelsea’s additions for marine debris and kayaking:* Chelsea added to earlier discussion that she is able to do a small writeup on the recent beach cleanups she helped facilitate for the Marine Debris publication. *Chelsea may draft a writeup and share with Chase and Amelia. Chelsea also may have recruited an additional kayaking volunteer.
- *Rebecca’s additions for public outreach:* Rebecca shared that the Commissioners recently commented on a need for greater outreach/awareness of the MRC itself. The MRC briefly discussed some ideas. Jonathan Strivens of Clallam County Environmental Health offered to share MRC updates on Environmental Health’s social media. LaTrisha suggested following up with the Commissioners for clarification on the requests.

Good of the Order

- *Good of the order will be moved before public comment in future meetings.
- Dann May was interviewed by KSQM and KONP for the Great Shake-Out, and [the video is available online](#).

Public Comment

- None at this time. One public comment was made during the earlier discussion on MRC member positions.

Adjourn

Dann May moved to adjourn the meeting, Lyn Muench seconded. Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 6:36.