



September 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 15, 2025

Time: 5:36 – 7:04pm

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	excused	Ioana Bociu	
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep, Vice Chair</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	excused
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	excused	Lyn Muench	X
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	excused	Robert Knapp	X
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	
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Kelly Burger	

Staff and Others Present

Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County Habitat Biologist Manager; CCMRC Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Caitlyn Blair (Northwest Straits Commission), Jonathan Strivens (CC Environmental Health)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:36. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was not yet present at the beginning of the meeting, but was present shortly after.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Approval of Minutes

- A quorum was now present. ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the August 2025 minutes, Mike Doherty seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- ***Northwest Straits Initiative 2025 conference:*** Caitlyn Blair reminded members of the October 7th deadline to register for the conference. Caitlyn also shared information about the digital art show to happen at the conference, with submissions also due October 7th.
 - ***Networking lightning session:*** Rebecca described the Northwest Straits Commission's request for a lightning presentation and project information for the November conference networking session. The group determined that Jeff Ward and Alan Clark can present the pinto abalone project. *Amelia will email Jeff and Alan with the needed materials.
- ***Streamfest September 20th, Dungeness River Festival September 26th:*** LaTrisha Suggs reminded the group of these upcoming festivals. Signups for timeslots were reviewed and adjusted as needed. *Amelia will email Bob Vreeland to check if he's interested in joining to table.
- ***End-of-year project reports due September 30th:*** LaTrisha Suggs and Rebecca Mahan reminded project leads of the requirements for draft reports and the upcoming deadline.
- ***Oil spills & outreach:*** Alan Clark began a discussion on presentations to community groups and oil spill prevention & response outreach. The MRC considered the idea that oil spills could become an intentional part of its outreach and education, perhaps through community presentations. LaTrisha asked for specific ideas to be proposed at the November meeting.
- ***2025-2027 grant proposals with Northwest Straits Commission:*** The grant for 2025-2027 is fully funded and going through the County's legal process to be signed.
- ***Habitat Biologist II hired:*** Chase O'Neil has started as Habitat Biologist II, and the new MRC Project Coordinator.
- ***Membership changes:*** Helle Andersen and Alicia Amerson resigned from MRC; Tim Cochnauer and Stephen Crafton-Tempel in application process.

Committee and Project Reports

- ***Pinto abalone:*** Jeff Ward gave an update. The first week of surveys in September was a success, with 5 abalone found while surveying east and west of Port Angeles. A potential outplant site was also identified. Jeff shared some additional details from the fieldwork and showed some GoPro footage. More surveys are scheduled for next week.
- ***Kelp monitoring:*** Chelsea Korbolic gave an update. The final kelp surveys in September went well. The Freshwater Bay kelp bed is very healthy. She shared a Clallam Bay otter observation with Amy Olson of the Seattle Aquarium, who is interested in hearing future observations as well.

Cynthia Harbison (DNR), working on the statewide kelp & eelgrass health plan, would like to see kelp & eelgrass protections in the 2030 Clallam County SMP update.

- *Advisory sub-committee:* The subcommittee met on September 4th. They intend to complete the list of priorities for the Board of County Commissioners, and they would like to prioritize dialogue with the Commissioners. The subcommittee's next meeting is October 10th.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on Monday, October 20th.
- *Call for new agenda items:* none at this time.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Good of the Order

- *Indian Creek fuel spill update:* Thank you to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for the quick response during this fuel spill.
- *MRC member positions:* LaTrisha Suggs suggested the idea that MRC member positions could be general seats rather than specific roles representing various groups. There was some discussion, and LaTrisha suggested this topic could be discussed again next meeting.
- *Posters:* Mike Doherty shared some posters distributed by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:04.