



August 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 18, 2025

Time: 5:36 – 7:05pm

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	
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Chelsea Korbolic	X
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson		Helle Andersen	
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>)		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), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Caitlyn Blair (Northwest Straits Commission), Jonathan Strivens (CC Environmental Health), Pamela Wood, Patricia

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Chair Alan Clark called the meeting to order at 5:36. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Rebecca Mahan shared that Chair LaTrisha Suggs would not be able to attend due to an emergency.

Approval of Minutes

- ***Mike Doherty moved to approve the June and July 2025 minutes, Nancy Stephanz seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- ***Northwest Straits Initiative 2025 conference:*** Caitlyn Blair (NWSC) described conference registration and accommodations. Conference website and details have been emailed to MRC members. The registration deadline is October 7th.
- ***General NWSC update:*** Alan Clark described the most recent meeting, including a visit to Whatcom MRC's eelgrass preservation project at Wildcat Cove and several other topics. The MRC discussed the Blue Schools initiative and some ideas for collaboration.
- ***2025-2027 grant proposals with Northwest Straits Commission:*** Rebecca Mahan gave an update on the 2025-2027 grant cycle, including receiving the NODC grant for the Elwha Stewardship project, the latest budget for 2025-2027, and oil spill response training. The MRC discussed project prioritization, particularly regarding pinto abalone and oil spill response training.
 - Ann Soule suggested a motion for staff to make prioritization decisions using the discussion and survey results as guidance. The MRC discussed and the suggestion was kept informal.
- ***Habitat Biologist II position:*** Rebecca shared an update; 48 applications were received and the hiring process is in progress.
- ***End of year project reports:*** Rebecca and Amelia reviewed the needs for project leads to draft annual project reports by mid-September. Project leads should complete drafts and share raw data by September 19th, focusing on sections 6-8 of the report.

Committee and Project Reports

- ***Kelp monitoring:*** Alan and Chelsea gave an update. The kelp team is well prepared and has two surveys scheduled in the next week.
- ***Pinto abalone:*** Jeff gave an update. There was a meeting with Puget Sound Restoration Fund earlier today to confirm details for September abalone survey dives.
- ***Sound Toxins:*** Nancy gave an update. Sampling continues weekly, with stable and relatively low levels of toxin-producing plankton recently observed.
- ***Forage fish:*** Chelsea gave an update. Sampling was paused for the Elwha sites due to the fuel spill, but can now be safely resumed.
- ***Advisory:***
 - ***Rayonier Pier:*** Alan gave an update. A City of Port Angeles special meeting on the topic is recorded, and some MRC members submitted personal comments.

- *BOCC priorities memo*: Ann Soule commented on accelerating this effort because comprehensive plan development is underway.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on Monday, September 15.
- *Call for new agenda items*:
 - Nancy requested a reminder of signups for Streamfest and Riverfest.

Public Comment

- Jonathan Strivens tried to make a comment regarding education and outreach opportunities, but could not be understood via Zoom. Rebecca asked that he discuss with her tomorrow.

Good of the Order

- *Indian Creek fuel spill update*: Rebecca gave a brief update on follow-up meetings she has attended. Chelsea suggested visiting [Ecology's webpage](#) for more information.
- *Cline Spit beach parking*: Alan said that he witnessed people parking on the beach on Cline Spit, which could be a concern, particularly for forage fish habitat. The MRC discussed potential interventions for this site.
- *Escort rescue tug & Canadian oil projects*: Mike Doherty recommended that the MRC and NWSC should stay updated about the prospective rulemaking for an escort rescue tug and a number of planned Canadian projects that would affect tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Alan Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:05.