



March 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:51

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

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Don Hunger (presenter; Executive Director, Northwest Straits Foundation), Kelly Burger (City of Sequim, soon to be alternate on MRC) Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boat Rental Company, Surfrider Foundation)

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.

Presentation

Don Hunger (Executive Director, Northwest Straits Foundation) presented on the work and operations of the Northwest Straits Foundation. He introduced the Foundation's staff and board members. He listed the five core programs: nearshore restoration and stewardship, derelict gear removal, shore Friendly landowner outreach, citizen science monitoring, and scholarships. The Foundation keeps a running list of private grant opportunities and looks for relevant partnerships with MRCs, accepting requests for project support year round. The Foundation has a request form including information like lead contact info, funds requested, and project description. Don clarified who to contact with project ideas: himself for general ideas, Lisa Kaufman for nearshore project ideas, and Jason Morgan for derelict gear and monitoring projects.

Discussion and Q&A continued with Don and the MRC. Some topics included intern funding, stewardship project examples, the Foundation's role as a partner, reporting requirements especially related to projects with small fund amounts, and matching funds.

Approval of Minutes & Policy

- Nancy Stephanz moved to approve January, February and February special work session minutes; Chris Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.
- The MRC briefly discussed the proposed roles and responsibilities document. Bob Vreeland moved to approve; Ed Bowlby seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the roles and responsibilities were approved.

Announcements

- *Welcome: Chelsea Korbolic (alternate representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Kelly Burger (alternate representing City of Sequim):* Chelsea and Kelly introduced themselves.
- *Open MRC seats: member representing Community-At-Large, member & alternate representing Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community:* encourage those who may be a good fit to apply
- *HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th:* there is still time to sign up. [flyer link](#), [signup link](#), Facebook event link
- *MRC Chair, Vice Chair & NWSC Representative elections upcoming in May*
- *NWSC April retreat, meeting in Clallam County May 30th:* April retreat solely for Commission members & staff, Alan planning to report back. [NWSC's regular meeting](#) will take place in Clallam County in May at Red Cedar Hall, the Clallam MRC is invited.
- *New Zoom link next month:* will be provided with next month's agenda
- *[Indigenous cinema climate showcase](#):* March 20th at Peninsula College

- [World Water Day](#): March 22nd at Hollywood Beach, S’Klallam and Lummi speakers followed by forest walk

Committee and Project Reports

None at this time.

New or special business items

- *Project development for the next biennium*: The MRC reviewed the projects that have been proposed, along with the requirements for the upcoming grant application in May. Possibilities for various projects were discussed, with an emphasis on using time and staff capacity resources widely. Alternative funding sources (particularly Strait ERN’s recent RFP) were also discussed. The Dungeness Refuge green crab project was removed from consideration by the proposed lead (Chris Burns), and all other projects are still under consideration.
- *Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter proposed for discussion, redirect to WDFW and Ecology*: Ann Soule reviewed the recent and upcoming policy actions related to Three Crabs Road, and suggested that the MRC share a letter with WDFW and Ecology. Discussion included additional MRC members/alternates to consult and decision to advise the County Commissioners and County DCD Director. The MRC came to a consensus that Ann Soule, in consultation with MRC staff, will finalize the draft letter and send to the County Commissioners, DCD Director, WDFW, WA Ecology, DOE, and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on Monday, April 21.
- *Call for new agenda items*: None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:51.