



November 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 18, 2024

Time: 5:30 – 7:25

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>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	Timothy Cochnauer	X	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Robert Vreeland		Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Rumpel		[vacant seat]	
District I	Jeff Ward		Lance Vail	
District II	Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	X	Lyn Muench	X
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	X
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller		Justin Stapleton	
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]		[vacant seat]	
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson		Helle Andersen	X
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		Harmony Rutter	

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (Ex-Officio, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC MRC Coordinator, CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission staff), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission staff), Dr. Kellie Carim (US Forest Service), Keylani Suggs, Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boats)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Public Comment / Approval of October Minutes

Ed Bowlby moved to approve the September CC MRC minutes; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation – Dr. Kellie Carim, eDNA and Lamprey

Dr. Kellie Carim was briefly introduced, and she presented her work on lamprey and eDNA. Members and attendees followed up with a few questions for Dr. Carim.

Presentation – Lucas Hart, funding outlook

Lucas Hart, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission, presented to the group on the status and outlook of funding in the political landscape. The current strategic plan will decide the upcoming biennium of funding, and approximately \$200k of funding per year will be available for each MRC. The federal FY25 budget will determine whether another round of funding is available from NOAA, and NWSC is investigating the possibility for more state resources as an alternative. The group discussed various possibilities to develop political will for NWSC and MRCs.

Announcements

- *Northwest Straits Commission conference recap:* Several members and staff attended the conference on November 15th and 16th, and positive reflections were shared.
- *Studium Generale presentation:* The presentation will take place on December 5th. *All members, especially project leads, are encouraged to attend to represent the MRC and help answer potential questions.
- *Training for Open Public Meetings Act / Public Records Act:* Training is required for all new members or those who require a refresher. *Amelia will provide an email with details.
- *Welcome new member and alternate:* Dann May (alternate representing District III) and Alicia Amerson (representing marine related recreation and tourism) have joined the MRC.

Committee and Project Reports

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

- *NWSC monthly update:* *Rebecca will distribute the link to Northwest Straits Commission digital conference materials.
- *Strategic plan subcommittee:* LaTrisha gave an update. The subcommittee plans one more meeting in early December and will then present the draft plan to the entire MRC.
- *Comprehensive plan subcommittee:* The subcommittee plans to distribute a letter to jurisdictions to seek a place at the table in comprehensive planning discussions, but the current timing in these planning processes has made this difficult. The subcommittee needs to establish an additional meeting and next steps.

- *Pinto abalone*: Rebecca Mahan relayed an update from Jeff Ward, who was out sick. Dives took place on two main areas of interest, which found potential habitat though abalone were not found. Divers got great quality footage with a GoPro camera. 2025 dives will focus on areas west of Port Angeles, where there is anecdotal evidence of abalone sightings.
- *Olympia Oysters*: Chris Burns gave an update, including counts of spat in bags at the restoration site and single oysters still being raised for the restoration site.
- *Sound Toxins*: Nancy gave an update. There have been a few recent observations of harmful genera, particularly *Dinophysis* and *Alexandrium*, but not at extreme levels. Chris Burns noted there have been some recent toxins in mussels.
- *Education*: Ann shared that *a new lead is needed for the oil spill response training project, to plan HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife response trainings in 2025. Videos also need to be produced and shared for this project. Ann reminded the group that the oil spill task force meeting is taking place on December 5th.
- *Priority concerns list for BOCC*: LaTrisha reintroduced the draft list of concerns, opening the floor for discussion and comments by the MRC at large. Several MRC members and alternates shared and discussed specific feedback to be addressed in the next iteration. *The executive officers will incorporate this feedback into the next draft.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on December 16th.
- *Call for new agenda items*:
 - The 2025 draft workplan will be presented for comment in December.
 - Projects for the next biennium can begin to be planned. Rebecca pointed out the flowchart attached to the agenda as a guide for project planning.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Good of the Order

There were no good of the order items at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:25.