



## May 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, May 19, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 – 7:00pm

**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.</i> )	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	[vacant seat]	---	Ray Kirk	X
Conservation & Environmental Interests	[vacant seat]	---	Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	X	Lyn Muench	excused
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	X
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Chelsea Korbolic	
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		Kelly Burger	X

### Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Angela Glore (Strait ERN Coordinator), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Jonathan Strivens (Clallam County Environmental Health, Water Quality Specialist), Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boats), John Worthington (Sequim resident)

### 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 March minutes; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.***

#### **Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and NWSC Representative**

- Nominations
  - Chair: LaTrisha Suggs nominated herself for another term as Chair.
  - Vice Chair: Alan Clark nominated himself as Vice Chair.
  - NWSC Representative: Alan Clark nominated himself for another term as NWSC Representative. Alan mentioned that he will be NWSC Chair this year.
- Elections
  - Chair: ***Dann May moved for LaTrisha to remain as Chair, Nancy Stephanz seconded. There was no opposition, and LaTrisha will serve as Chair.***
  - Vice Chair: ***There was no opposition to Alan's nomination as Vice Chair; Alan will serve as Vice Chair.***
  - NWSC Representative: ***There was no opposition to Alan's nomination as NWSC Representative; and Alan will serve as NWSC Representative.***

#### **Announcements**

- ***Open MRC seats:*** Several seats are open. Nancy Stephanz suggested to invite Phil Parisi to be a member.
- ***Interview by Pepper Fisher:*** LaTrisha and Ann recently participated in a now-published interview regarding sea level rise and the 3 Crabs Rd area.
- ***Clallam County Environmental Health seeking shellfish sampling volunteers:*** Please contact Cathy or [reach out to Jonathan Strivens of Environmental Health](#) if you are interested in volunteering.
- ***Olympia oyster surveys: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>:*** MRC members and alternates reach out to Cathy if you plan to join.
- ***NWSC meeting in Clallam County May 30<sup>th</sup>***
  - The meeting will be held at the Dungeness River Nature Center, beginning at or shortly after 10am.
  - Presentation: The MRC discussed content and presenters for this upcoming meeting. Alan Clark shared that Jefferson and Island Counties are interested in hearing about Clallam MRC's advisory work and recent letter. Bruce Emery thought that would be within the appropriate purview of the Committee. An open discussion format was suggested, with no or minimal supporting slides. Ann suggested the addition of a handout briefly describing CCMRC's projects. Cathy invited Bruce to participate in the discussion on that day as someone who received the letter, and Alan mentioned that Commissioner Randy Johnson may still be present during this discussion as well.

LaTrisha, Alan, and staff will collaborate to produce this presentation on the MRC's advisory work.

- Caitlyn Blair is the appropriate contact at NWSC for any questions.
- Those who would like to share well wishes for Bob, Tim or Chris R were asked to email them to Amelia by Wednesday to be added to cards.
- Port Angeles Maritime Career Festival: June 7<sup>th</sup>, with associated "Flounder Pounder" fishing tournament. Bring extra coasters to Barhop, they will be serving pizza and beer during the event.

### **Committee and Project Reports**

- *Education & Outreach opportunities:* Forever Streamfest (Sept 20) and Dungeness River Festival (Sept 26) are currently planned as the MRC's two tabling events for this year. Nancy Stephanz asked that six volunteers be present for each events (2 per shift). Helle, Nancy, Dann, and Ann volunteered. Amelia will provide signup sheets now so we know if we have coverage. Pinto abalone dives are scheduled for Sept 24-26.
- *Northwest Straits Commission update:* Alan Clark shared that the reauthorization bill was introduced by Senator Murray. The Impact Report has been published. The NWSC is looking into contingency options for funding in the uncertain funding environment.
- *Policy Subcommittee / Advisory – Ann Soule:* Public outreach for Clallam County's comprehensive plan will be conducted June-August. Bruce Emery suggested giving comments on the earlier end, to give time for meaningful consideration.

### **New or special business items**

- *Project selection for the next biennium:* The MRC discussed the list of projects to be proposed for 2025-27. Mike Doherty has volunteered as co-lead for Ediz Hook, Ann Soule volunteered for outreach, Ed Bowlby volunteered for Olympia oysters, and Alan Clark was clarified as co-lead for forage fish. The derelict gear removal project was set to the side given funding and capacity concerns.
  - Derelict Gear Removal (ROV)
  - Elwha Stewardship
  - Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring
  - Olympia Oyster Monitoring
  - Kelp Monitoring
  - Forage Fish Monitoring
  - Pinto Abalone Monitoring
  - HAZWOPER / oiled wildlife response
  - Education & Outreach
  - Ediz Hook Debris Removal (pending City of PA's project plans)
- *Staff transitions:* Rebecca will be returning as MRC Coordinator at the beginning of June, following Cathy's retirement.

### **Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

### **Public Comment**

- John Worthington of Sequim made a comment inquiring about the relationship between Strait ERN and the MRC. He also suggested that a comparison to Jimmy-Come-Lately Creek be added to the MRC's upcoming presentation regarding sea level rise, stating he doesn't think rivers are managed fairly. He also asked about any plans to test contaminant levels near boat havens due to silicone sealant use.
- Jonathan Strivens commented that Environmental Health is still seeking volunteers for shellfish biotoxins sampling, particularly Cline Spit.

### **Good of the Order**

None at this time.

### **Adjourn**

***Dann May moved to close the meeting; Alan Clark seconded. Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:00.***

### **Action Items**

- LaTrisha, Alan, Ann and staff: collaborate to produce a presentation for the May 30<sup>th</sup> NWSC meeting.
- Those who would like to share well wishes for Bob, Tim or Chris R: email them to Amelia by Wednesday to be added to cards.
- Amelia: provide signup sheets now for Streamfest and Riverfest.