



March 2026 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 16, 2026

Time: 5:32-7:16pm

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		Ioana Bociu	
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep, Vice Chair</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	Tim Cochnauer	X	[vacant seat]	---
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Nancy Stephanz	X	[vacant seat]	---
Development Community	Brian Hilderman	X	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule	excused	Lyn Muench	X
District III	[vacant seat]	---	Dann May	X
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller		Chelsea Korbolic	X
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Rob Casey		[vacant seat]	---
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>)	X	Jon Hamilton	X
Port of Port Angeles Commission	Jesse Waknitz		Katharine Frazier	X
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Kelly Burger	

Staff and Others Present

Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Chase O’Neil (CC Habitat Biologist, CCMRC Project Coordinator), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist Manager; CCMRC Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Annie Raymond (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Shellfish Biologist, presenter), Bev Burton, Tamara G

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. 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 the February 2026 minutes, Dann May seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Presentations

- Annie Raymond (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Shellfish Biologist) presented status and trends from the Olympia oyster restoration project in Sequim Bay. Her presentation included multiple maps and figures to describe population changes and recruitment over various years for each of three restoration sites. A major takeaway was that restoration outcomes can be very different between sites and years, and can take many years to refine for a particular project. She held a Q&A for the MRC.

New or Special Business

- ***NWSC new funding:*** The MRC plans to apply for an additional \$20k worth of funding that the Northwest Straits Commission is offering to each MRC. The application will be submitted 3/17.

Announcements

- ***Welcome new members:*** new member Brian Hilderman (representing the Development Community) and new alternate Jon Hamilton (representing the City of Port Angeles) introduced themselves.
- ***Northwest Straits Commission update:*** Alan Clark gave an update. He reviewed the history and mission of the Northwest Straits Commission as an introduction for new members. He shared updates from a couple other MRCs’ programs, as well as an invitation for MRCs to reach out to the Science Advisory Committee for project assistance.
- ***MRC officer elections coming in May:*** The officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Northwest Straits Commission representative will be up for election or re-election in May.
- ***Monthly meetings – discuss removing one month from the MRC schedule:*** LaTrisha suggested the MRC could remove one (or more) months from the schedule of meetings to give members and staff some time flexibility. The MRC discussed briefly, and July and December emerged as top possibilities. *This topic will return in April to pick a specific month.
- ***Reminder to track your hours:*** Members and alternates, please track your volunteer hours for the quarter ending at the end of March.
- ***SERN meeting 3/19:*** LaTrisha gave an FYI update that this meeting will include oil spill and oil spill response topics. SERN is aware of the MRC’s HAZWOPER training offerings and that a date has not been set for 2026 yet.

Committee and Project Reports

- *Project updates:* Tim C gave a short presentation on the forage fish project. He presented the numbers of eggs found across the sample sites in previous years, along with the history and conditions of the sites. Tim suggested the MRC may want to discontinue or change some sampling locations, especially the mouth of the Elwha. There was a short discussion, including Elwha Beach's status as a restoration site, the suggestion of several additional sites where surf smelt congregate and concerns about people driving on the beach at Cline Spit. *The MRC will discuss this again at the May meeting.
- *Advisory subcommittee:* no update at this time.
- *Education and outreach subcommittee:* Lyn shared an update. The subcommittee met, took an inventory of the storage unit, and brainstormed some outreach ideas for specific audiences. The subcommittee will meet again in late March. *Alan requested to be looped into the subcommittee's activities.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The next meeting will take place on Monday, April 20th, including a presentation from Julia Parrish of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST).
- *Call for new agenda items:* none at this time.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Good of the Order

- Nancy Stephanz suggested that Washington's restriction on catching and harvesting European Green Crab should be changed, as it is permitted in other states, and this could become a legislative priority for MRCs.
- Amelia Kalagher shared that she will be leaving her position with the MRC effective approximately at the end of April, as she is moving to Everett. Thank you all for being amazing to work with!

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm.