



## June 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2024

**Time:** 5:32 – 7:17pm

**Location:** Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room  
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

### **Members Present**

LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles; Chair), Ann Soule (District 2; Vice Chair), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Katherine Frazier (Port of Port Angeles Alternate), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Mike Doherty (District 3), Tim Cochnauer (Community At-Large), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environmental Interests), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environmental Interests Alternate), Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate)

### **Others Present**

Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Brandon Sampson (Surfrider Foundation), Emily (Surfrider Foundation)

### **Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions**

**Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:32.** A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting. Those present introduced themselves, including two members of the Surfrider Foundation who are potentially interested in joining the MRC. LaTrisha Suggs noted that many items were planned to be addressed during Good of the Order.

### **Pigeon Guillemot Project Update**

The pigeon guillemot project update was moved earlier in the agenda. Ed Bowlby said that the project is in week 3 of at least 10 weeks for 2024, with 40 volunteers. Guillemot presence is off to a slow start. \*Ed will follow up with Amelia Kalagher by email to clarify what support is needed for this project in early July.

### **Public Comment / Approval of May Minutes**

There were no public comments.

**Ed Bowlby moved to approve the May CC MRC minutes; Nancy Stephanz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Announcements

- Volunteer hours: Amelia Kalagher reminded members that volunteer hours for April through June must be recorded by July 7<sup>th</sup> at the link she has provided by email. \*Amelia will continue reminding members as the deadline approaches.
- River and Ocean Film Festival: LaTrisha Suggs recommended poster options for the upcoming table presentation at the River and Ocean Film Festival in July. Amelia described the schedule of events for the evening. \*Amelia will send out a form to members to sign up for 2-hour shifts to present at the table.
- Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners: Tim Cochnauer volunteered to present in August. \*Rebecca Mahan will reach out to the Board of County Commissioners for available dates in August. \*Tim will reach out to project leads for new data to include in the presentation.

## Northwest Straits Commission Update

Alan Clark was not present for an update on the most recent Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Clallam County will host a Northwest Straits Commission monthly meeting in 2025 – details to be determined. LaTrisha recommended that arrangements begin in January 2025, which Rebecca has already relayed to the Commission. Mike Doherty recommended that the meeting could coincide with the annual Intertribal Canoe Journey, hosted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in 2025.

## Aquaculture Subcommittee

Rebecca Mahan has reached out to Jim Parsons (Jamestown Seafood) about a possible follow-up presentation. The aquaculture subcommittee is compiling and refining a list of questions. \*Amelia will share a link with members that compiles aquaculture resources to facilitate further research.

## Field Project Updates

- *Olympia Oyster*: Chris Burns said that 4,000 bags of Pacific oyster shell were spread, and broodstock was collected to grow oyster seed for placement later this year. Nancy Stephanz mentioned an article on obtaining oyster shell from restaurants. \*Rebecca will share this article with members by email. Rebecca said that Annie Raymond (Shellfish Biologist, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe) is submitting an abstract to the Annual Shellfish Growers Meeting in Georgia on the Olympia Oyster restoration project.
- *Forage Fish*: Tim Cochnauer said that no eggs were found at Cline Spit in May, which is surprising because May is usually the peak. Monthly sampling continues.
- *Elwha Beach Stewardship*: Helle Andersen said that she has continued surveying dog and person use of the beach, and is compiling data. A new sticker was printed showing the MRC funding of the Sanican and giving a QR code for the survey, which \*Helle will place on the inside of the Sanican. Helle also suggested placing the sticker on top of the current signage. Members discussed the contents of the routine survey. \*Tim Cochnauer offered to collect car counts, time and date when he visits the area for forage fish sampling.
- *Sound Toxins*: Nancy Stephanz said that weekly sampling continues. She clarified that the purpose is to contribute data to a central Sound Toxins database that helps determine when additional sampling is needed for harmful algal blooms. Nancy invited any members to join for weekly sampling if they wish. LaTrisha Suggs suggested creating a coaster based on plankton.

- *Shellfish Biotoxins*: Bob Vreeland said he is continuing to sample shellfish at Pillar Point, but cannot access any of the resulting data. Chris Burns said he is on an email list to get this data, and \*will share the relevant information.
- *Pinto Abalone*: Alan Clark and Jeff Ward were not present for updates. Rebecca Mahan said the Quality Assurance Project Plan has been approved, and dives are expected to start at the end of summer.
- *Kelp Surveys*: Alan Clark and Jeff Ward were not present for updates. Rebecca said that Alan has gone on a scouting trip to Freshwater Bay, and the summer surveys are being scheduled.

### Education / Outreach

- *Coasters*: LaTrisha said several local establishments are enjoying the coasters. She suggested a coaster focused on recruitment of MRC members and volunteers, including a photo of people enjoying fieldwork. Ann Soule suggested this idea would work well, as soon as a landing page is established for interested volunteers that could be linked to a QR code. \*Bob Vreeland volunteered to work with Ann on coasters.
- *New displays*: Ann Soule has four posters in hand for the film festival (kelp, Sound Toxins, Olympia oysters, forage fish), and is gathering information for two or three more. LaTrisha suggested pigeon guillemot, and Rebecca Mahan suggested pinto abalone. Ann said that the next posters were already determined at a previous meeting, and \*she will share a list with Amelia to include on future agendas.
- *Interns*: Tim has compiled a list of potential projects for an intern, which exceeds the college requirement of 33 work hours per credit hour. The administrative process for paying an intern and getting academic credit processed was discussed. An intern could potentially be recruited for the fall quarter, which starts September 19. Rebecca Mahan stated that next steps are a form provided by the college to process academic credit and pursuing the possibility of paying the intern's tuition directly through an invoice. \*Tim will work with Rebecca and Amelia on these next steps.

### Other Updates / New Topics

- *Rescue tug letter*: Mike Doherty shared an update. The Trans Mountain pipeline has continued construction and was expected to begin pumping oil, but has not yet begun pumping. The pipeline will be sold to a private party for operations, which Mike suggested is cause for concern regarding low safety and maintenance investments. The Department of Ecology adopted their new administrative law regarding financial responsibility which governs smaller infrastructure such as articulated barges. This was despite hundreds of pages of public comments focused on outdated 1990's data for the expected costs of a major spill. The escort tug plan is still in a scoping phase for the Environmental Impact Statement, with another [work session open to the public scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup>](#). The Department of Ecology is holding [three public listening sessions in June and early July regarding climate change resiliency policy](#). Clallam County just ended public comment period on a hazard mitigation plan update, and Mike suggested that the MRC may want to comment to the Board of County Commissioners on that plan during its development.

- *Geographic Response Plan*: Rebecca Mahan stated that she reviewed the [Strait of Juan de Fuca Geographic Response Plan \(GRP\)](#) and found errors and omissions that she commented on. The comment period is now closed. Chris Burns said his thoughts on the GRP were similar, and elaborated on the purpose of a GRP. Ann Soule noted she is thankful for tribal biologists and planners creating these documents.
- *Green crab update*: Ioana Bociu and Joann Labaw were not present for an update.
- *Options for working calendar of events*: Amelia Kalagher presented two options for a shared, internal calendar of events for MRC members – a live word document listing events, or an embedded Google Calendar on the MRC website. Multiple members commented that they preferred the embedded Google Calendar for ease of access and visual appeal, with the caveat from Ann Soule that specific names and places should not be included on this public-facing calendar to retain privacy. \*Amelia will publish this calendar to the MRC website and email members to let them know it's available.
- *Removal from MRC for nonparticipation – Lisa Law*: LaTrisha Suggs shared that Lisa Law, on the MRC as Development Community Alternate, has never participated in MRC meetings or events. Rebecca and Amelia have reached out to check if she is interested in participating, with no response. **Bob Vreeland moved to recommend that Lisa Law is removed from the MRC; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** \*Rebecca Mahan will submit this recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners' agenda.
- *Recruiting for open MRC members*: Helle had been expecting a flyer to post at the yacht club for member recruitment, but Amelia recommended this wait since the list of available positions is in flux. Rebecca suggested materials like the application and a general MRC pamphlet could be provided. Ann Soule offered to meet with the two Surfrider Foundation members in attendance, as they consider their interest in joining the MRC. LaTrisha requested an updated list of members and open positions, which Amelia said is up to date on the [MRC website](#).
- *Possible future presentation topics*: Nancy Stephanz suggested a presentation on eDNA techniques, and suggested that Sean McAllister (NOAA) offered to speak to MRCs on this topic. Bob Vreeland suggested Jim Parsons could present to the MRC at large, which the aquaculture subcommittee is already considering. Bob also suggested the ocean alkalinity enhancement project as a potential topic. Mike Doherty suggested sea level rise and community resilience, especially related to the Jamestown Beach area, and potential liability for building permits issued when these conditions are known.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was disrupted by vulgarity from multiple Zoom accounts. The disruption could not be quickly removed, and **Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:17**. The disruption was reported to Clallam County IT, who reported the following day that they identified the individuals responsible and reported to appropriate authorities. The items planned for discussion during Good of the Order will be moved to July's agenda.

## Action Items

- Ed Bowlby will follow up with Amelia Kalagher by email to clarify what support is needed for the pigeon guillemot project in early July.
- Amelia will continue reminding members as the volunteer hours reporting deadline approaches.
- Amelia will send out a form to members to sign up for 2-hour shifts to present at the table at the film festival.
- Rebecca Mahan will reach out to the Board of County Commissioners for available annual presentation dates in August.
- Tim Cochnauer will reach out to project leads for new data to include in the annual presentation.
- Amelia will share a link with members that compiles aquaculture resources to facilitate further research.
- Rebecca will share the article recommended by Nancy Stephanz regarding oyster shell from restaurants with members by email.
- Helle Andersen will place the new funding and survey sticker on the inside of the Elwha Sanican.
- Tim offered to collect car counts, time and date when he visits the Elwha Beach for forage fish sampling.
- Chris Burns will share information about the shellfish biotoxin data he receives on an email list.
- Bob Vreeland volunteered to work with Ann Soule on coasters.
- Ann will share a list of planned new posters with Amelia to include on future agendas.
- Tim will work with Rebecca and Amelia on next administrative steps for an intern.
- Amelia will publish an embedded Google Calendar to the MRC website and email members to let them know it's available.
- Rebecca will submit the recommendation for the removal of Lisa Law from the MRC to the Board of County Commissioners' agenda.