



October 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, October 21, 2024

**Time:** 5:30 – 6:40

**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	Timothy Cochnauer	X	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Robert Vreeland	X	Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Ruple		[vacant seat]	
District I	Jeff Ward		Lance Vail	
District II	Ann Soule ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	X	Lyn Muench	
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Justin Stapleton	
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]		[vacant seat]	
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	[vacant seat with one applicant]		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), Keylani Suggs, Leah Skare (Northwest Straits Commission staff)

## **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 September Minutes**

**Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the September CC MRC minutes; Mike Doherty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Announcements**

- *Northwest Straits Commission conference – Rebecca Mahan:* The conference is upcoming November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- *Members calendar – Amelia Kalagher:* A calendar is [available on the website](#) for all events that may be relevant for MRC members.
- *Rescue tug and oil spill response – Mike Doherty:* Mike gave an update, including the Trans-Mountain pipeline and rescue tug. Two public events are being held for rescue tug planning.

## **Committee and Project Reports**

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

- *Strategic plan subcommittee:* LaTrisha gave an update. The subcommittee met today and is making good progress towards a new 5-year strategic plan.
- *Comprehensive plan subcommittee:* LaTrisha requested that \*subcommittee members work with Amelia to ensure an initial meeting is scheduled.
- *Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation update:* Alan gave an update. Due to staff constraints and organizational challenges, the Commission and Foundation have decided to move apart but remain strategic partners. This will not impact Clallam MRC funding at this time. Mike suggested an update from Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission Director) on these changes especially in light of potential political change. Mike also suggested an update from the Coast Guard on western terminals.
- *Intern – Tim:* A potential intern is being deferred to spring quarter.
- *Olympia Oysters – Chris:* Oyster seed will be picked up Wednesday and put on the beach.
- *Kelp – Alan and Amelia:* The three beds at Freshwater Bay were surveyed. A fringing bed was observed to the west of Freshwater Bay, and the large bed in Freshwater Bay appeared to rebound slightly versus the last two years.
- *Pinto Abalone – Rebecca:* Surveys have been delayed to early November due to an injury to Puget Sound Restoration Fund's lead diver. Due to marina availability and safety concerns, this resulted in a change to the QAPP for the first survey location.
- *Biotoxins:* Last survey of the year at Pillar Point took place on September 27<sup>th</sup>. As of October 16<sup>th</sup>, all Clallam County beaches remained closed to shellfish.
- *Sound Toxins:* Nancy gave an update. Observations of toxin-producing plankton are declining overall in the past month as autumn sets in.
- *Education:* Riverfest and Streamfest were well attended and went well. Rebecca brought just under 500 coasters to Crabfest, and the MRC received some compliments.
- *Green crab:* LaTrisha shared that one adult female green crab was recently caught at the McKinley mill pond; since it's private property, it's not as easy to monitor.

## **New Business**

- *Studium generale presentation on Dec. 5:* Tim is willing to be the presenter. The August presentation of yearly accomplishments can be reworked for the Studium Generale. \*Amelia will send a copy of the presentation to Tim and work to redevelop for the Studium.

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

- *LaTrisha – next meeting:* The meeting will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup>, with a presentation from Dr. Kellie Carim (US Forest Service) on environmental DNA monitoring techniques.
- *Call for new agenda items:*
  - A presentation from PNNL on the micro-grid and renewable energy projects has not yet been requested. \*Rebecca will reach out to PNNL to inquire about this. An environmental assessment for PNNL's activities is underway, and public comment opportunities were emailed to MRC members and alternates.
  - Rebecca recommended a presenter from PNNL (Jess) on ocean carbon removal strategies.
  - Lucas Hart, Northwest Straits Commission, was requested to speak about future funding given elections outcome.
  - Discussion/approval of list of concerns requested by BOCC.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

## **Good of the Order**

- Rebecca shared that Mary Sue Brancato and Lance Vail are stepping down from their MRC positions, and those positions will be advertised. Ed Bowlby said Mary Sue will continue to participate in field projects, particularly pigeon guillemot.
- Working list of concerns for BOCC: The group discussed development of the list. \*LaTrisha, Ann, Rebecca and Amelia will work to refine these notes into final wording. \*Members or alternates who have comments on content or wording of this list before the draft is created should send them by email to Rebecca and Amelia by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mike: On Saturday a maritime heritage lecture took place in downtown Forks, which happens annually.

## **Adjourn**

***Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 6:40.***

## **Action Items**

- LaTrisha requested that comprehensive plan subcommittee members work with Amelia to ensure an initial meeting is scheduled.
- Amelia will send a copy of the August Commissioners' presentation to Tim and work to redevelop for the Studium.

- LaTrisha, Ann, Rebecca and Amelia will work to refine the notes into final wording for the list of priority concerns for the Board of County Commissioners.
- Members or alternates who have comments on content or wording of this priority concerns list before the draft is created should send them by email to Rebecca and Amelia by November 1<sup>st</sup>.