



May 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024

Time: 5:34-6:57 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community at Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Katherine Frazier (Port of Port Angeles), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (Port Angeles City Council), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Ed Chad (CC), Amelia Kalagher (CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Administrative Support), Cathy Lear (CC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC MRC Coordinator), Karen Teig (North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity), Leah Skare (NWSC), David Trimbach (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW])

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting. Tim moved the election of officers to the end of the meeting so that there would be no confusion about who should chair the meeting. ***The agenda was approved by consensus.***

Public Comment / Approval of April Minutes

There were no public comments. ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the April CC MRC Minutes; Helle Andersen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

Social Science Research Proposal Focused on Kelp

Conservation Social Scientist with WDFW David Trimbach presented on his project proposal for social science research on the ecosystem services provided by kelp. If funded, the proposal will help to provide a better understanding of the human dimensions of kelp monitoring and restoration. The project was developed in collaboration with multiple partners, including the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the NWSC, Asia-Pacific harvest managers, and organizations across Puget Sound. The project will focus on eight to 10 workshops across Puget Sound that will be designed to help define the human dimensions of kelp and integrate that understanding into restoration plans. The community workshops will include three main groups: restoration and monitoring, recreational harvest (with a focus

on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages), and residential communities. Because there is a lack of information about geographical locations, there will also be a mapping exercise. David was at the CC MRC to gauge interest and find out how involved the CC MRC might want to be in the project if it is funded.

Discussion on Presentation

The CC MRC discussed David Trimbach's project proposal and their potential involvement as a project partner. David explained some of the project elements, including work with DNR in Island County, updating brochures in other Asian languages, and helping WDFW better understand marine vegetation permitting and update signage and other outreach materials. He stressed the importance of co-creation and making things mutually beneficial to everyone's needs. The CC MRC expressed their interest in the project but advocated for continued discussion within the CC MRC before making any commitment to the project. They requested that David let the CC MRC know if the project received funding and what any next steps might be. David welcomed contact and said he would keep the CC MRC informed.

Announcements

- Rebecca Mahan announced that volunteers were needed for oyster shell spread events on 5/28/24 and 5/29/24 from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Email Annie Raymond at araymond@jamestowntribe.org to sign up. A Washington Conservation Crew is also coming to help.
- Amelia Kalagher announced that the annual report was now available on the CC MRC website. She asked for as many project photos as possible for the next annual report.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. He reported that the San Juan County MRC had 14 derelict vessels removed. The Northwest Straits Initiative is working with consultants to plan a fall leadership retreat; it will be a time to review what has been happening, what expectations are from the various MRCs, and how to best meet those expectations. The NWSC MRC Meeting will be held in November; Alan will pass those details on as they are forthcoming. More information can be found on the NWSC website: <https://nwstraits.org/>.

Advisory Role

- Subcommittee Status: Tim Cochnauer announced that the Advisory Role Draft Procedures were finalized; copies have been distributed. There was a signature page included for CC MRC representatives and alternates to sign. ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the Advisory Role Draft Procedures; Helle Andersen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*** Jeff Ward thanked Chris Burns, Ann Stafford, Alan Clark, LaTrisha Suggs, Rebecca Mahan, Amelia Kalagher, Ann Soule, Tim Cochnauer, and Holden Flemming for their help with the Advisory Role process.
- Aquaculture Subcommittee: Tim Cochnauer reported that the Aquaculture Subcommittee had a meeting and did some research on net pen culture. They should have more information at next month's CC MRC meeting. Subcommittee volunteers included Ed Bowlby, Lyn Muench, Tim Cochnauer, and LaTrisha Suggs.
- Project Macoma: Helle Andersen sent out some information on the project, a pilot project from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory that is designed to help remove excess carbon dioxide

from the atmosphere by treating seawater in the Port of Port Angeles. She noted that it did not appear that the biological assessment had been conducted in the field. Amelia Kalagher added that there would be workshops on responsible carbon removal in June; she received permission to take detailed notes to share with the CC MRC in case all are not able to attend.

Field Project Updates

Olympia Oyster

Chris Burns announced that a Washington Conservation Corps crew will be helping spread oyster shell on 5/28/24 and 5/29/24. There will also be seed to put out. Volunteers can contact Annie Raymond at araymond@jamestowntribe.org to sign up.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer reported that it had been a month since the survey team had seen any forage fish eggs.

Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen said that NatureBridge was on the beach during her last survey; she counted 88 people on the beach that day. She has been in contact with the Clallam County engineer who installed the road counter last fall. He plans to install it in August this year in order to track the beach use during the busiest season.

Sound Toxins

Nancy Stephanz noted that the survey team had seen a lot of Pseudo-nitzschia in the last couple of weeks, but no surges of anything dangerous yet.

Shellfish Biotoxins

Bob Vreeland announced that surveys started again on 4/24/24. He sampled on 5/8/24 and is scheduled to go again on 5/22/24. He had no news to report. Rebecca Mahan noted that the shellfish biotoxins contact position with Clallam County was in transition.

Pinto Abalone

Jeff Ward gave an update. The Quality Assurance Plan was submitted through the NWSC. Surveys will start in late September or early October when visibility is a little better for the divers. Rebecca Mahan added that she was working on the Personal Services Agreement with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund.

Pigeon Guillemot

Ed Bowlby said that the surveys would start in the first week of June. They had a few new volunteers and many returning volunteers this year. CC MRC member volunteers include Ed, Mary Sue Brancato, and Lance Vail. They are still looking for a few substitutes to cover vacations; interested parties can contact Ed. Rebecca Mahan requested some information from Ed that is needed to approve fieldwork.

Projects Inactive this Month:

Kelp Surveys

There was nothing new to report. Information on the Kelp Plan can be found at <https://www.nwstraits.org/our-work/kelp/>.

Ediz Hook

Helle Andersen noted that the Ediz Hook vegetation project was completed for this year.

Education/Outreach

Coasters

There are still some coasters available in Rebecca Mahan's office for distribution to known and new venues. Amelia Kalagher noted that a new round of designs could be ordered in time for tourist season.

New Displays

Ann Soule has been in touch with the project leads for Crab, Olympia Oysters, and Pigeon Guillemots so that the posters can be completed before the fall festival season. Alan Clark noted that because of the concern about poaching, no poster would be designed for Pinto Abalone at present.

Interns

Ann Soule and Rebecca Mahan were pursuing intern possibilities but had nothing new to report yet.

Website

Amelia Kalagher asked project leads to review the uploaded website content. She has been busy with behind-the-scenes work but *will be sending out emails soon to ask about any desired changes.

Other Updates/New Topics

Rescue Tug Letter and Other Updates

Mike Doherty said that Department of Ecology staff were still holding stakeholder meetings. They were starting to work on the methodology for the draft Environmental Impact Statement. More information is available here: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2308009.html>. The Trans Mountain Pipeline project is progressing in Canada. It would increase tanker traffic through the San Juan islands from six per month to one per day.

Green Crab Update

Volunteers Ioana Bociu and Joann LaBaw were not present for an update.

River and Ocean Film Festival

The Film Festival is scheduled for 7/24/24 at the Port Angeles Field and Events Center. Rebecca Mahan sent out the link: <https://wsg.washington.edu/community-outreach/outreach-detail-pages/river-and-ocean-film-festival/>. Nancy Stephanz and Katherine Frazier volunteered for the film scoring committee. Katherine reported that she was almost done reviewing the films.

\$500 Donation to Pigeon Guillemot Network

Ed Bowlby explained that there is a coordinator who works for the Pigeon Guillemot Network. All groups have been asked to contribute \$500 this year to pay for that position. Rebecca Mahan noted that \$300 is budgeted in, and that the additional funding was available but required a vote. ***Nancy Stephanz moved to contribute \$500 to the Pigeon Guillemot Network; Alan Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

Recruiting for Open MRC Member Seats

There are open seats for Development Community, Marine Related Recreation and Tourism, the Makah Tribe, and District 3 Alternate representatives. Rebecca Mahan announced that Chris Rumble with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory applied. LaTrisha Suggs suggested bringing the membership opportunities up at the Yacht Club.

Upcoming Annual Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners

Rebecca Mahan went over the available dates, which were 6/24/24, 7/15/24, and 7/29/24. The Chair usually presents the annual reports, but since the officers would be changing at the end of this meeting, *Tim Cochnauer offered to present this year.

Possible Future Presentation Topics

Rebecca Mahan said that she has been in contact with a robotics engineer with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, who is interested in using a robot equipped with sonar for derelict gear removal. There is the possibility of collaboration during the next grant round cycle.

Good of the Order

Election of Officers

This was moved to the end of the meeting to avoid confusion about who would be leading the meeting. Tim Cochnauer noted that one year was not long enough in his opinion; he recommended a three-year term.

Officer Nominations and Elections for CC MRC Chair, Vice Chair, and NWSC Representative

Tim Cochnauer nominated Alan Clark for continuing as NWSC Representative; this was agreed to with all in favor. Tim Cochnauer nominated Ann Soule for continuing as CC MRC Vice Chair; this was agreed to with all in favor. Ann Soule nominated LaTrisha Suggs as CC MRC Chair. LaTrisha explained that she did not have the capacity to spend the quality time that the role deserved, but that she could fill in the gap for a time if no one else was available. *Tim volunteered to work with LaTrisha. ***The CC MRC approved of the nomination and LaTrisha Suggs was elected as CC MRC Chair with all in favor.***

*LaTrisha said she would reach out to Rebecca Mahan and Tim before the next meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Action Items:

****Amelia Kalagher will be sending out emails soon to ask about any desired changes to the CC MRC website.***

****Tim Cochnauer offered to present the annual report to the Board of County Commissioners.***

****Tim Cochnauer volunteered to work with LaTrisha Suggs in her position as CC MRC Chair.***

****LaTrisha Suggs will reach out to Rebecca Mahan and Tim Cochnauer before the next CC MRC meeting.***