

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday January 8, 2018

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: Commissioners' Large Conference Room

Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

P Bob Vreeland	P Robert Knapp	P Arnold Schouten	P Mike McHenry	Brad Collins
P Kathy Cooper	P Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Ann Soule	Jesse Waknitz
P Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	P Chris Burns	Greig Arnold

Ex-Officio Members / MRC staff/Members of the Public Present

Lucas Hart, NWSC Project Manager; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

During the introductions Robert Knapp and Chris Burns from Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe informed the MRC members that they would be sharing the role of representing the Jamestown Tribe. At the same time it was announced that Bob Campbell, due to health issues, had resigned from the MRC and the position is now open. *Jeff Ward suggested that a letter should be written to thank both Bob and Ralph Riccio for their time and contributions to the Clallam MRC. He also suggested that two cards should be purchased by next MRC meeting for the members to sign.* Jeff has contacted Albert Foster to see if he would be interested in joining the Clallam MRC. Jeff encouraged the members to identify other potential candidates and let them know about the opening.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

No public comment. The November minutes were approved.

FY 2017-18 Workplan

The draft workplan was reviewed at the November meeting and only one addition, finding a lead for the crabber outreach, was needed to make the workplan final and ready for submittal January 10, 2018. Ann Soule suggested that Peggy McClure may be interested in being the lead supported by Don Hatler and the MRC project coordinator. In her absent she was included in the workplan as the lead for the crabber outreach.

During the workplan discussion two other topics were brought up. Ed Bowlby informed the group that during the MRC conference he had a conversation with Micah Horwith from DNR about measuring water quality parameters near Olympia oyster beds as part of their ocean acidification project. DNR has the instrument and is looking for a suitable location and partner. Ed was wondering if Jamestown Tribe would be interested. Robert Knapp said that the Jamestown Tribe has been contemplating buying an instrument to measure WQ parameters near their geoduck farm because the geoducks were not growing as fast as expected. *At the end of the discussion it was decided that Ed should follow up with DNR and let Robert Knapp and Chris Burns know about the outcome.*

Lyn Muench asked why the biotoxin sampling was not part of the workplan. The explanation is that the 2017-18 proposal was written and submitted to the NWSC before the biotoxin sampling got underway in the early summer of 2017. The project could be included into the workplan but that would require an amendment to the current contract. Because the amendment process is very laborious and slow it was suggested to include the biotoxin project in the proposal for 2018-19. This proposal is expected to be due in April or May 2018.

FY2017-18 Educational Outreach Plan

Similar to the workplan the final education outreach plan was due January 10, 2018. The draft version, distributed among the members, outlined the different categories from public forum, trainings to school program and with the current planned events listed including proposed dates. In reviewing the draft plan the members came up with several proposals. The proposal included:

- Hosting a citizen science volunteer recruitment event with information on Clallam MRC projects, food and maybe a speaker or a film to attract the local residents. Any cost associated with the event could be covered by NWSF. *Jeff Ward suggested that he and Helle Andersen should start working on a rack card summarizing the projects.*
- For the big name event category Arnold Schouten suggested asking George Divoky to give a presentation about the Black Pigeon Guillemots and his work spanning 43 years on Cooper Island. His talk at Port Townsend in 2017 was packed.
- Host an event focusing on the President Trump proposal of opening up the coast of Oregon and Washington to offshore oil and gas drilling. The event could be co-hosted by other MRCs including the coastal MRCs.
- Host an event which gives a high ranked elected official the opportunity to thank the community and all the volunteers for the environmental work they have carried out the last year. Invite environmental organizations from the Olympic Peninsula to staff tables displaying the work they are doing thereby giving them an opportunity to reach out to community members and potentially gain new volunteers.

The educational outreach plan will be revised to include these suggestions before being submitted January 10th.

2018 NWSF Opportunity Fund

In anticipation of the release of the 2018 NWSF Opportunity Fund RFP the members discussed different potential projects to be included in the proposal. Ed Bowlby advocated expanding the pigeon guillemot project with more sites and was interested in having an intern helping out with coordinating the volunteers and managing the data. Ed thought that Island MRC would continue their pigeon guillemot monitoring and may be interested in pursuing funding for a coordinator similar to last year.

Jeff Ward suggested that Clallam MRC perform educational outreach to crabbers similar to last year and include funding of a longer-termed intern in the proposal. Another suggestion was to include the citizen science outreach event in the proposal.

As soon as the RFP becomes available it will be forwarded to the members. Caroline Gibson, NWSF Executive Director, has mentioned that the proposed deadline for the proposals is 60 days after the release of the RFP. *The RFP became available January 8th during the MRC meeting and the deadline is February 28, 2018 (giving us 50 days). The RFP was forwarded to the members January 9th.*

NTA Submittal

Ed Bowlby gave the members a summary of the oil spill related NTA that John Cambalik registered December 22, 2017. The intent of the NTA is to have a person from the Strait at the “big boys table” during oil spill planning events. John Cambalik will be the main person at these meeting and Ed Bowlby, Mike Doherty and Jeff Ward will be alternates in case John can’t make it.

Clallam MRC reregistered the “oil spill trainings to increase preparedness of the local community” NTA. In addition, Clallam MRC is included as partner in a NTA, registered by NWSF, which focuses on educating landowners about armoring. Helle Andersen has been in conversation with Chrys Bertolotto from Snohomish WSU and they are planning to submit an NTA as an extension of the “model volunteer program for oil spill response/assessment” NTA they submitted in 2016. The model volunteer program was funded and the current NTA will include trying out the program in other locations of which Clallam County would be one.

Lucas Hart informed the member the NWSC did not register any NTAs because the current projects do not line up well with the Puget Sound Partnership's priorities. The NWSF has registered two regional and four local NTAs – all focused on armor removal and prevention.

Robert Knapp informed the members that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has registered several NTAs as a way to increase the odds of funding from other sources than the Puget Sound Partnership program by being on the Action Agenda.

NWSC Update

Lucas Hart gave a brief summary of the hiring process for the new Executive Director. The announcement will go out in the next week and will be posted for 2-4 weeks. There will be two rounds of interviews and it is expected that the decision will be made and the new Executive Director hired by late March/April. The staff and commission members will fill in during the transition period between Rich Childers leaving January 15th and the new hire. Lucas also mentioned that the NWSF is in the process of hiring a Development Director.

Alan Clark and Lucas provided these additional highlights:

- The committee is working on a strategy to a secure long-term funding in the 2019 state legislative session.
- The Governor's office will be announcing the formation of an Orca Task Force in early January 2018 - Sheida Sahandy is currently involved and would like to see the NWSC involved. The Governor is announcing a Maritime Innovation Task Force on December 12 - Sheida Sahandy will represent the PSP on this task force that is looking at fostering innovations and employment in the maritime sector.
- The Science Advisory Committee has recommended using the ecosystem project funds to support a temporary Ecosystem Coordinator position, which will support the Net Ecosystem Improvement project. Lucas is working with the Committee to develop a position description.
- NWSC is working on identifying ways to measure how the work the MRCs are doing contributes to the Puget Sound recovery.
- Lucas is planning a kelp recovery team workshop on March 20 in Seattle. The workshop will include Helen Berry, DNR, who will give a summary of the status of kelp in Puget Sound. The workshop will be held at Sandpoint and space may become an issue because the room only holds 20 people. The kelp condition assessment has been dropped after extensive talks with Helen and Tom Mumford. Instead Helen will go out with the MRCs in 2018 to see what useful matrices could be collected.
- #CatchMoreCrab2017: All seven MRCs participated in the 2017 catch more crab outreach campaign. Survey results showed that just over two-thirds of respondents changed one or more crabbing actions as a result of the campaign.
- 2018 MRC Conference is the 20-year anniversary of the Northwest Straits Initiative. The MRC Conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018 and will be held at Fort Worden in Port Townsend. Sasha Horst is looking for ideas on how to showcase our work and celebrate this milestone year.

Project Updates

Educational Outreach: Jeff Ward briefly summarized the effort to organize an oil spill webinar with Linda Pilkey Jarvis from the Department of Ecology. The webinar will take place in February 2018 depending on Jarvis' schedule.

Forage Fish Monitoring: Ed Bowlby informed the members that during the 15 months of monitoring at the two index sites we have still to find the first egg. Similarly the monitoring effort at Ediz Hook and Elwha Beach has to date not found any eggs. Based on conversations with Lucas Hart and staff from other MRCs it has been decided to continue the sampling effort at the index sites for a total of 18 months at which point new locations may be identified in collaboration with WDFW. Helle Andersen

pointed out that during the extensive sampling effort in 2017 Clallam MRC found eggs at Cline Spit (a new potential index site).

Oil Spill Preparedness: The annual HAZWOPER training will be held February 10 in Port Angeles City Council Chambers. Surfriders will provide the refreshments and Clallam MRC will help hosting the workshop. *Dates are currently being identified and the facility at the county fairgrounds reserved for the two oiled wildlife trainings. The members will be informed about the dates as soon as they have been finalized.*

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Lyn Muench suggested that Clallam MRC should check the two pilot plots at Cline Spit installed last fall. A good time is coming up March 31st. Lyn will talk with Chris Burns and Liz Tobin from Jamestown Tribe about participating in the effort. In September Liz Tobin performed the population assessment in Blyn and Chris Burns told the members that at that point additional clean shells were spread at the site. Chris also asked about Olympia oyster restoration in Washington Harbor. The members filled him in on the unsuccessful attempt in 2016, but all agreed that maybe it was time again to approach the landowners. *Chris will reach out to the Burrowes.*

Elwha Beach: Arnold Schouten told the members that the new Sanikan and dog waste disposal bin were installed at the West Elwha Beach December 29th. On Thursday January 11 Arnold, Jeff Ward, Helle Andersen and Chuck Janda will install the new large sign at the trail head. Chuck is working for Malcom Dudley the owner of the access point to the beach.

Biotoxin Monitoring: Lyn Muench shared a map showing the monitoring sectors in the Strait of Juan de Fuca established by Department of Health. The Pillar Point monitoring site covers a large sector and continuing the effort is therefore important. When all of the Strait of Juan de Fuca sites are being monitored on their regular schedule, DOH has a good representation of what biotoxin levels are within the Strait and they are therefore not looking for any further sample sites. DOH and CCEH are interested in talking with Clallam MRC about last year's results and the upcoming monitoring season. *A suggestion was made that maybe DOH or somebody from CCEH could talk at the next MRC meeting. Helle Andersen will look into this possibility.*

Good of the Order

Update of Clallam MRC strategic plan: The last strategic plan was written for 2013-18 and Clallam MRC's work has changed quite a lot. Jeff Ward suggested at the next meeting a subcommittee be formed to take on the task of writing the strategic plan for 2019-2023.

February Meeting: The third Monday in February is President Day. The members decided to move the meeting to February 26th.

Net Pen Meeting: Sen. Kevin Van De Wege and Rep. Mike Chapman will discuss legislation dealing with Atlantic salmon net pens at a meeting in Sequim. The meeting is set from 4 pm to 5 pm. Friday, Jan. 19 at the Sequim City Transit Center, 190 W. Cedar St.

BioBase EcoSound Demo: Jeff Ward informed the members that Ray Valley, a BioBase associate, will be hosting a conference call this Friday, January 12, to discuss the technology and answer questions. The call begins at 11:30 am. Last summer, Albert Foster and Jeff tried out the BioBase technology to map eelgrass beds in Port Angeles Harbor.

Climate Change Lecture: Sea-Level Rise's Impact on Humans and Habitat in the Salish Sea by Eric E. Grossman, Research Geologist at U.S. Geological Survey. Sunday January 14 at 3 pm in Fort Worden Chapel in Port Townsend. Admission: \$5.

Orca Add in Seattle Times: Mike Doherty shared an ad in Seattle Times about Orcas and the removal of the dams on Snake River.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.