

CLALLAM  COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday March 19, 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	E Mike McHenry	P Sissi Bruch
P Kathy Cooper	P Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Ann Soule	Jesse Waknitz
E Lyn Muench	E Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	P Chris Burns	Greig Arnold

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

Jim Moran, City of Port Angeles Alternate; Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; John Gussman, presenter; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

**Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda**

None

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comment. The February minutes were approved as amended.

**John Gussman Drone Presentation**

John Gussman became interested in photography as a means to share the natural beauty of the places he travelled. After getting a degree in photography, he began working full time in 1973 as a staff photographer for a newspaper in San Francisco. In 1979 John moved to Washington State and in 1982 John began his own business, Doubleclick Productions. One of his most rewarding projects was making "Return of the River", a feature length documentary about the Elwha River dam. The project took 4 years to complete and with the help of his partner Jessica Plumb, John produced an award winning film shown worldwide. For the last few years John has worked quite extensively using UAV drones for both still pictures and video, as well as aerial mapping work. He is FAA licensed and is insured to fly any commercial application for clients. John gave a summary of the different drones he has used through the years and what is currently on the market – from a "make it yourself" version costing around \$10K in 2012 to present day state of the art drones. Currently, John is using a Phantom #3 drone which comes with a wide angle camera. John showed examples of his aerial still pictures, aerial mapping and films taken with the drone. Surveying 40-50 acres for aerial mapping takes about 10 min to do. One of the latest short films John has made is "the Return of the Kings" which is available online. The last part of the presentation was a discussion of potential Clallam MRC projects using a drone. Possibilities included surveys of the kelp beds, surveys of kelp beds or eelgrass beds using thermal heat or chlorophyll a cameras and Elwha Beach people count for the usage surveys. John pointed out that his current set-up is not suitable for work with birds because of the wide angle camera. The presentation included a brief demo of flying the drone. At the end of the presentation Sissi Bruch mentioned that Monday evening once a month people can fly their own drones outside the Vern Burton Center in Port Angeles.

**2018 Summer Intern Program**

Since the last MRC meeting in February Jamestown Tribe contacted the Clallam MRC to inquire about the possibility of an MRC intern helping Neil Harrington out with the upcoming green crab monitoring effort. Based on this request the Clallam MRC members were asked to select between two internship program options: 1) Hire three summer interns for 100 hours @ \$15/hr to be completed

between Monday June 18 and Monday August 20, 2018. The intern projects would be kelp bed monitoring, west Elwha Beach stewardship, and pigeon guillemot monitoring 2) Hire four summer interns for 80 hours @ \$15/hr to be completed between Monday June 18 and Monday August 20, 2018. The intern projects would be green crab trapping, kelp bed monitoring, west Elwha Beach stewardship, and pigeon guillemot monitoring. The Clallam MRC members selected the second option. *The following members volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to review the intern applications: Arnold Schouten, Alan Clark, Ed Bowlby and Jeff Ward.*

### **2019-2024 Draft Proposal for the National Oil and Gas Leasing Program**

On February 27, the Board of County Commissioners sent a resolution to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management against the 2019-2024 Draft Proposal for the National Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The outcome of a discussion of what the Clallam MRC should do in connection with the resolution was to send a letter of support to the County Commissioners. The letter should thank the commissioners for their work on the national oil and gas leasing program and then list two of three other current important maritime issues. Jeff Ward suggested running the issues by the NWSC so that Clallam MRC does not get ahead of the Commission. *The following members volunteered to be part of a subcommittee writing the draft letter: Ed Bowlby, Mike Doherty, Robert Knapp, Sissi Bruch and Jeff Ward.*

### **NTA Submittal**

Helle Andersen gave a brief summary of the NTA process. The draft oil spill preparedness NTA received a total score of 3 out of 4 by the local LIO reviewers. In their comments the reviewers provided feed-back on how to improve the NTA. *Helle will revise the NTA accordingly and submit it to Puget Sound partnership by the March 30, 2018 deadline.*

### **NWSC Update**

Jeff Ward gave a brief summary of the NWSC retreat held in La Connor. One of the biggest topics on the retreat was the potential of receiving no money through the National Estuary Program for FY18-19. Other funding sources were discussed of which the NWSF was identified as the best. Tarrell Kullaway, has been hired as the Director of Philanthropy for the NWSF. She has an excellent background increasing the funding for Cascade Bicycle Club. Tarrell will come to the Clallam MRC meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> to brainstorm on ways to increase funding for the MRCs. At the MRC Conference in November the NWSC will celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the Initiative. Jeff suggested that the Clallam MRC should look for financial support from 20 local businesses by 2019 as a way to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the Clallam MRC.

### **Project Updates**

**Oil Spill Preparedness:** March 6<sup>th</sup> the County Commissioners issue a proclamation announcing March 2018 as the oil spill preparedness month. Jeff Ward received the proclamation and gave a short thank you speech which was shown on the local TV station. March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> IOSA and Clallam MRC will host the annual oiled wildlife training. Because of lower participant numbers the members discussed the possibility of combining the two classes into one for 2019. In the discussion Kathy Cooper pointed out the travel time to Ediz Hook for the search and capture exercise and stated that that time could be better spent doing other activities at the fairgrounds. *The Clallam MRC members decide to propose the combined training to IOSA.*

**Forage Fish Monitoring:** Ed Bowlby gave a brief summary of the forage fish monitoring effort. At a conference call with WDFW February 6<sup>th</sup> Clallam MRC requested to move the two Sequim area stations (Pitship and Old Town) to new locations (Cline Spit and Washington Harbor) to expand our search for forage fish eggs. *WDFW promised to give Clallam MRC an answer before the sampling in April.*

**Shellfish Biotxin Monitoring:** The 2018 shellfish biotoxin effort will be led by Bob Vreeland and Jeff Ward. Bob V. will look into suitable tides and dates – the effort will likely start in May. *Helle Andersen*

*will provide the contact information on Coleman, a well-known volunteer in Clallam County, who has offered to help out with Clallam MRC project west of Port Angeles.*

**Good of the Order**

Jeff Ward brought up a “Wild Edible Plants and Seaweeds” field trip given by Mac Smith. The field trip is Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:45 am at Salt Creek Recreation Area for low tide exploration and discussion. After the tide pool exploration the group will hike around the trails of the park to look at the plants and discuss their various uses and preparation techniques. Cost: \$35.00.

Mike Doherty thanked Jeff and the Department of Ecology for the oil spill webinar March 14<sup>th</sup>. He thought the webinar provided a good overview of current oil transportation in Washington State.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.