

CLALLAM COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday April 16, 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	E Robert Knapp	P Arnold Schouten	Mike McHenry	P Sissi Bruch
P Kathy Cooper	P Jeff Ward	E Mike Doherty	E 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**

Jim Moran, City of Port Angeles Alternate; Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Ralph Riccio, Shellfish Biologist Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Coleman, Clallam MRC volunteer; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

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

None

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comment. The March minutes were approved.

**2018 NWSF Opportunity Fund and Summer Intern Program**

Jeff Ward informed the members that the NWSF will be funding the Clallam MRC crabber outreach intern proposal. However, because Clallam MRC will also be doing crabber outreach under the NWSC grant there is some concern about overlap in the work proposed under the two grants. Sasha Horst, NWSC, and Caroline Gibson, NWSF, are currently reviewing this issue and the NWSF will get back to Clallam MRC with a solution. In the discussion Jeff has suggested funding the long-term intern through the Opportunity Grant and the summer intern through the NWSC grant. Until this funding has been confirmed Helle Andersen cannot start advertising the internships. We are on schedule for the four summer internships, but are running about one month late on the longer-term internship because of the delay with confirming the funding sources. As soon as the funding has been settled Helle will start advertising the five intern positions through the different social media, PDN, and most of all by going up to the college and distributing the information in Brian Hauge's and Barbara Blackie's classes. At the March meeting Arnold Schouten, Alan Clark, Ed Bowlby and Jeff Ward agreed to be part of the subcommittee reviewing the intern applications and *at this meeting Lyn Muench volunteered to join the subcommittee.*

**FY2018-19 MRC Grant Proposal**

The members discussed which projects should be included in the 2018-19 proposal to the NWSC using a summary list of the 2017-18 proposal as a starting point. In the 2017-18 proposal these are the projects grouped under major headers:

Administration; Monitoring: kelp monitoring, pigeon guillemot surveys, forage fish monitoring, environmental data compilation; Oil Spill Preparedness; Educational Outreach: outreach & education, reduction in lost crab pots, marine debris removal, and Elwha beach stewardship; Olympia Oyster Restoration.

The members decided to add the use of drones to the kelp monitoring project potentially working with Jon Gussman on a proof of concept approach/pilot study. Lyn Muench brought up that she thought

Lucas Hart in previous conversations had pushed back on this idea. *Need to get Lucas' input before including drones in the proposal.* The shellfish biotoxin project will be added to the 2018-19 proposal and Jeff Ward suggested to add a transboundary citizen science outreach project under the educational outreach header. The idea is to locate an organization in Canada doing similar work as the MRCs and then reach out to this organization to see if they would be interested in working on projects cross-boundary. This project would also be conducted on a proof of concept approach. The members agreed to include this project. Arnold Schouten pointed out that for the 2018-19 proposal the number of oiled wildlife trainings will be reduced to one, but in the future based on number of interested volunteers the MRC may want to increase the number of trainings.

### **July Joint MRC meeting in Neah Bay**

The Clallam MRC members discussed the different dates proposed for the joint MRC meeting in Neah Bay and settled on suggesting Friday July 20 to the NPC MRC and Makah Tribe, but being open to the any of the other proposed dates (7/16, 7/18, and 7/19).

### **Dungeness Bay Oyster Proposal**

Ralph Riccio, Shellfish Biologist at Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe, gave a presentation on their oyster farm proposal at Dungeness Spit. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe proposes to continue farming oysters using on-bottom culture methods on 34 acres of the 50-acre parcel. Sixteen acres will be avoided due to native eelgrass presence. Dungeness Bay is the location that the Tribe has been growing oysters and leasing this tideland parcel from DNR for 28 years. With recent improvements in water quality, the Tribe will harvest existing product and culture new product on identified areas within the parcel. Two oyster culture methods are proposed: 1) On-Bottom Bag Culture: Up to 34 acres will be used to grow oysters in mesh bags that are attached to a line and anchored to the substrate. Oysters will grow out for either 14 months in the bags, or be spread onto the beach after reaching a larger size and 2) On-Bottom Beach Oysters are oysters which are grown to maturity on tidal beaches with muddy, sandy or rocky bottoms. On-bottom beach oysters grow freely on the substrate with no need for equipment. They are harvested by hand and placed into oyster harvest bags. Oyster harvest bags are containers that can be easily lifted onto a marine vessel. Ralph went into detail about the history behind the farm, the location of the oyster farm, how the improved water quality was achieved and public concerns. Following the presentation the members had several questions including jobs, farming methods, non-native organisms and seaweed farming. Because the Clallam MRC is an advisory group to the three commissioners Jeff Ward asked what the members wanted to do and he proposed three options 1) submit individual letters to the commissioners, 2) form a subcommittee to draft a letter for the Clallam MRC and present this letter to the members at the May meeting and 3) no action. *The members agreed to form a subcommittee to write the draft letter. Alan Clark, Ed Bowlby, Jeff Ward, and Lyn Muench volunteered to join the subcommittee. The PowerPoint presentation was emailed to all Clallam MRC members.*

### **Celebration of Science April 28th**

Last year's successful Celebration of Science event will take place again this year Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 4 pm. The event will be called Celebration of Science and Technology and will take place on the Port Angeles City Pier and at Feiro Marine Life Center. The event is free and will celebrate the essential role science and technology play in our daily lives. There will be booths, posters, kid's activities and presentations. Ed Bowlby is part of the planning committee and he asked the members if Clallam MRC would be interested in having a booth again this year. The members agreed that this would be a good idea and *several members including Jeff Ward, Lyn Muench and Peggy McClure agreed to help out with the event. Ed agreed to make a sign-up sheet for booth volunteers.*

### **Salish Sea Conference**

Ed Bowlby gave a summary of the 2018 Salish Sea Conference which took place April 4-6 in Seattle. The conference was large with about 1400 people attending and about 14 concurrent sessions. The

conference opened with Ray Harris, Chemainus First Nation & Chairman Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish Tribe welcoming the attendees. Other speakers at the welcome ceremony included Chairman Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe, Dow Constantine, King County, the keynote speaker Sally Jewell, US Secretary of the Interior under President Obama, and Washington Governor Jay Inslee. The sessions covered a lot of topics including water quality, vessel traffic, oil spill, ocean acidification, marine mammals and the impacts of underwater noise, and transboundary issues. Other MRC members and staff participating in the conference included Robert Knapp, Chris Burns and Cathy Lear. The general consensus among the attendees was that the conference was overwhelming. There were just too many interesting sessions. A short discussion about underwater noise followed the summary. Sissi Bruch suggested that underwater noise measurements taken in Port Angeles Harbor would be interesting information to see what the harbor contributes and maybe from the data make noise contour maps. Jeff Ward mentioned that a lot of work has been done of tidal turbines and the noise impacts to fish. Ed stated that a lot of effort is currently underway both in Canada and in the US.

### **NWSC Update**

Alan Clark informed the members that Lucas Hart will be the new Executive Director for NWSC. Lucas was chosen unanimously out of the three final candidates. All three candidates were really strong but Lucas's last interview was very impressive and he also had the full support from the NWSC staff.

### **Project Updates**

Oil Spill Preparedness: Arnold Schouten provided a brief summary of the oiled wildlife training conducted in March. The participation was down this year with 16 volunteers taking the first class and 13 the second class. Because of the reduced number of volunteers and overlap in the information provided in the two classes it has been decided to offer one combined oiled wildlife training in 2019. If this training proves to be popular the Clallam MRC and its partner could consider providing two trainings of this combined class in 2020.

West Elwha Beach: Helle Andersen provided a brief overview of the West Elwha Beach Sanikan and dog waste situation. The small dog waste bin is always full (overflowing) at the weekly service and dog owners take about 400 bags a month from the dog bag dispenser. The bimonthly dog poop surveys find between 6 and 28 along the 300 yard dike path weighing between 0.6 and 4.5 lbs. The dog use of the beach is expected to increase in the spring and summer months. *The Clallam MRC members agreed to provide a second small dog waste bin and to buy bags for a year based on the estimate of 400 bags/month.*

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Lyn Muench informed the members that it is time to check the two Olympia oyster plots at Bob Phreaner's place on Cline Spit. Good tides are coming up April 18 – 20 and again May 1<sup>st</sup>. *It was decided that a small group including Liz Tobin and Chris Burns, Jamestown Shellfish Biologists, Ed Bowlby and Helle Andersen would conduct the survey Wednesday April 18 starting at 11:00 am.*

Shellfish Biotoxin: *The crew will go out and sample May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Coleman, the new MRC volunteer, will join the crew.*

Forage Fish Monitoring: The sampling efforts near Sequim will move to Cline Spit starting in April. Clallam MRC has received permission from WFSW to also sample in Washington Harbor, but we also need permission from PNNL which could be difficult to obtain. For the near future we will only be sampling at Cline Spit.

### **Good of the Order**

Arnold Schouten reminded the members that this coming Saturday is Earth Day cleanup and that while the CoastSavers registration for most of the beaches are full there are still a few beaches near Clallam Bay that need cleanup volunteers.

Helle Andersen informed the members that Liam Atrim, retiree from OCNMS, has asked if she would be interested in joining the Washington Coastal Cleanup Alliance (the group that funds CoastSavers) as a representative for Clallam MRC. As a committee member she will participate in the annual meeting (5 hours) and the rest of the work will be done by emails and phone calls. *The Clallam MRC agreed that Helle could join spending about 10 hours per year on the committee.*

Speaker series reminders: Microplastics at Port Angeles Yacht Club April 17 at 5:30 pm; Center for Whale Research at Port Angeles Library April 22 at 3:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.