


CLALLAM COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday June 18, 2018

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: Commissioners' Large Conference Room

Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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

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

Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Chris Burns Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate; Al Bergstein, board member of Sound Action and presenter; Elizabeth Dunne, resident; Pete Schroeder, resident and applicant for the vacant Recreation & Tourism MRC position; Kennedy Cameron, 2018 intern; Rylan MacDonald, 2018 intern; Christopher Reis, 2018 intern; Collin Boe, 2018 intern; Griffin Hoins, 2018 intern; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Jeff Ward added an update of the Ocean Science Program under Good of the Order.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Dunne commended the Clallam MRC on their work at the West Elwha Beach and was interested in becoming a member of a West Elwha Beach subcommittee if such was formed. The May minutes were approved.

Introduction of the 2018 Interns

Five of the six interns located in the Port Angeles area came to the meeting and introduced themselves. Griffin Hoins graduated from the University of Washington last year with a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences with honors and minors in Marine Biology, Oceanography and Art History. He is just back after a year of traveling around the world and is now interested in getting engaged in work supporting our local waters. Collin Boe graduated from Port Angeles High School in June of 2016 under the Running Start program and earned an Associates of Arts degree from Peninsula College in June of 2017. He is currently attending the Evergreen State College taking courses focused on Chemistry, Biology, Geology, and Physiology. Cristopher Reis is a freshman at the Peninsula College completing his Associates in Science, with an emphasis on biology. He is planning to continue his education with a focus on microbiology. Kennedy Cameron grew up in Port Angeles and is currently a student at the University of Washington. Her future plan is to go into Marine Affairs and Education and hopefully working with public outreach or policy making. Rylan MacDonald is currently a junior at Port Angeles High School and a Running Start student at Peninsula College. He will graduate with his high school diploma and Associates of Arts degree in spring 2019.

Sound Action, WEC and Earthjustice Sue the Army Corp of Engineers

Al Bergstein, a board member of Sound Action, began his presentation with a short introduction of Sound Action. Sound Action is a non-governmental organization primarily focused on reviewing every nearshore development permit issued by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Sound Action has one fulltime employee. In Washington State, the primary law governing nearshore habitat protection is called the Hydraulic Code, and any in-water development work requires a permit

called an HPA which is under the jurisdiction of the WDFW. Unfortunately, there are significant gaps in the WDFW administration of the law with the department approving every permit, regardless of scale or impact. In Puget Sound more than a quarter of the natural shoreline has been lost to seawalls, bulkheads and other structures. Natural shorelines including soft sandy beaches provide crucial habitats for forage fish and armoring destroys that habitat. So it is not surprising that we are not seeing improvements in orca, salmon or forage fish populations, because of these regulatory gaps. Today the majority of shoreline-armoring projects in Puget Sound get no federal review. Not by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or any other agency mandated to protect threatened and endangered species. That is why Sound Action along with other environmental groups has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court seeking to expand the environmental review of shoreline projects. Since the 1970s, the Seattle District of the Corps has defined its Clean Water Act ("CWA") § 404 jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region to extend only up to the "mean higher high water" mark, which is an average of the higher of the two high water marks each tidal day observed over a nineteen-year period. Under the CWA's implementing regulations, however, the Corps' jurisdiction extends to the "high tide line" and this definition is used in all other states. Approximately one quarter of high tides in the Seattle District exceed the mean higher high water mark, meaning the Seattle District's CWA jurisdictional marker is significantly below the high tide line. As a result of this, the majority of shoreline armoring projects in the Puget Sound region escape federal review under the CWA, which in turn means that such projects are not evaluated under other federal laws for the protection of environmental values, including the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. A decision is expected to be released in about ½ year. More information on Sound Action is provided on their website <https://soundaction.org/>. *In response to Al's presentation the Clallam MRC members decided that Jeff Ward should send an FYI email about the lawsuit to the three commissioners.*

Planning of the July Meeting in Neah Bay

The July MRC meeting will take place Friday July 20th at the Makah Tribal Marina starting at 5 pm. The green crab survey starts at 11:15 am and ends around 3 pm. *Members interested in helping out with the green crab survey should let Helle Andersen know so that she can provide Adrienne Akmajian with a final tally. Further information will be provided interested members at a later time.* Jeff Ward informed the members that Clallam MRC has reached out to the North Pacific Coast MRC hoping that they would be interested in joining the meeting. Currently he is hoping a few of the NPC MRC members will come. During the discussion of potential topics for the meeting the following topics were suggested: highlights of the current work done by the Makah Tribe including the landfill cleanup, oil spill efforts, and green crab surveys; Clallam MRC West Beach Stewardship effort; a briefing of the Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum (suggested by Tami Pokorny NPC MRC coordinator) and an update and discussion of the NWSC strategic plan led by Lucas Hart, Executive Director of the NWSC.

Clallam MRC Strategic Plan Subcommittee

The current Clallam MRC strategic plan expires by the end of 2018. Jeff Ward suggested forming a subcommittee to draft the next strategic plan for 2019-23. *He was hoping to present an annotated outline at the July meeting with the goal of completing the strategic plan by October 1, 2018.* Jeff volunteered to be the chair of the subcommittee and the following members agreed to join the subcommittee: Sissi Bruch, Robert Knapp, Ann Soule and Alan Clark. Despite not being present Ed Bowlby and Bob Vreeland were also included in the subcommittee.

Presentation to the NWSC

Alan Clark led the discussion of the West Elwha Beach Stewardship presentation to be shown for the NWSC June 29th. The members came up with several good suggestions including adding the following goal statement for the project "secure long-term stewardship to address emerging issues at the West Elwha Beach." Other topics included the lack of a governing entity for the newly formed beach and delta and useful education outreach to the public including creating a video about free-running dogs on the beach. *Peggy McClure volunteered to help with finalizing the presentation.*

Project Updates

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Chris Burns has longlined the clutch bags with the Olympia oysters so that they are ready to be moved to the new restoration site on the DNR leased tidelands. The work will be done using the skiff and Chris was looking for one or two volunteers to help out. Possible days included Friday June 22, Tuesday June 26 and Wednesday June 27. He expected the effort will take about 2 hours and would prefer to do it on Friday June 22. *Chris will email all the members with the information asking for volunteers.*

Forage Fish Monitoring: Helle Andersen informed the members that WDFW is planning their intensive sampling effort July 16-19 and they are looking for volunteers similar to last year. Clallam MRC will focus on the beaches near Sequim and Port Angeles and because WDFW will process the sediment samples all the members would have to do is collect the samples on the beaches. *Let Helle know if you are interested in volunteering on any of the days July 16th through 19th.*

West Elwha Beach: Arnold Schouten informed the members about the situation at the beach. After the beaver was found dead on the dike road there has been a lot of frustration about free-running dogs (the cause of the death is still not known). One new landowner has suggested that if dogs are not kept on a leash the dog owners will be denied access to the beach. Currently, there is an effort underway to make a sign stating that and mounting it at the trailhead. When Clallam MRC got involved in the signage at the trailhead last year the goal was to reduce the number of signs. With this new potential sign Arnold suggested that we take down the four small signs with the Burma Shave rhyme. Another issue that has raised the question about allowing the public on the beach is a recent beach fire where one of the driftwood sheds was set on fire. In June a skiff went aground at the mouth of the river. The skiff was broken up and contained a gas can and a bag of cosmetics. Members of the Surfrider Foundation called different agencies to see if they would be willing to remove the skiff. Nobody was willing, so the Foundation decided to take on the task. Tyson Minck led the effort and with the help of several volunteers they were able to slide the skiff on plywood all the way up to the parking lot and get it loaded into a truck and taken to the landfill.

Good of the Order

Alan Clark provided a brief summary of the Ocean Science Program which took place Friday June 15th in Clallam Bay. The program was led by NOAA and included a classroom visit and a field trip to Slip Point at a minus tide. Alan and Jeff Ward participated in the field trip and handed out the seaweed guides to the students. The students were tasked with finding the seaweeds in the guide, and take pictures of the seaweeds. The best pictures of the seaweeds will replace the pictures currently in the guide and the guide will be handed out to the students participating in next year's field trip. Approximately 30 kids and 20 adults participated in the program.

Jeff Ward informed the members on the plans to have a Friendraiser event in either September or October. Jeff, Arnold Schouten and Helle Andersen are working on this together with the NWSF.

Jeff Ward also told the members that Lyn Muench is doing well and is now home recuperating from her broken femur.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Dunne proposed to include a discussion/presentation of the four dams on the Lower Snake River on the September agenda.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.