

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, September 17, 2018
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 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
E Kathy Cooper	E Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Peggy McClure	Jesse Waknitz
E Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	Pete Schroeder	Greig Arnold

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

Elizabeth Dunne, Resident; Tyson Minck, Resident; Jim Waddell, Resident; James Roubal, WA CoastSavers Coordinator; Deborah Moriarty, OCNMSF Coordinator; Carrol Hull, League of Women’s Votes; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Ed Bowlby added a discussion of end of year budget. He also encouraged the members to stay after the meeting to hear about the NWSF Friendraiser event.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

No public comments. The August minutes were approved.

New National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Chapter and CoastSavers

Deborah Moriarty, Coordinator of the new National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Chapter for the Olympic Coast, gave a brief introduction of the new chapter. Currently they are working on identifying priorities which will include educational outreach in connection with marine debris, ocean acidification and replacement of the educational vessel. Another focus of the chapter is the Marine Discovery Center to be built at the corner of Oak and Front Street along with the Port Angeles Waterfront Art Center and a building erected by the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe. Partners for the Marine Discovery Center include the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Feiro Marine Life Center. The three partners have been working through all tasks associated with how this center will be run and they have now reached an agreement. Currently a study is being conducted to assess the feasibility of building such a center. The partners have signed a 40 year lease agreement with the art center (who owns the land) with an option of an additional 40 years.

Deborah also briefly described the Surfrider Foundation video competition before she introduced James Roubal, the new CoastSaver’s coordinator. The competition invites students grades 9-12 to submit a two minute video about people who inspire them in their community by Oct. 1st. The title of the completion is “My Coast, My Community Hero Video Competition.” The submitted videos will be judged by the MRCs in the different counties. The winners selected by the MRCs will be shown at the coastal MRC conference where the final winner will be selected.

James Roubal is the new CoastSavers coordinator. He will be working on the marine debris removal projects and also for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The ICC event was a success with about 450-500 volunteers removing 4-5,000 lbs. debris from 50 beaches. Deborah and James are planning to apply for the NOAA Marine Debris grant and were asking the MRC members for ideas. Currently they are thinking of requesting funds for curriculum development. Peggy McClure suggested that they look into the MyCoast app and Helle Andersen told them about the newly awarded NOAA grant to the NWSF which will

focus on crab pot removal in Sequim Bay and educational outreach to recreational crabbers. Sissi Bruch suggested looking into ways of reusing the plastic and James informed the group about the Million Waves project which creates artificial limbs with recycled plastic. The process was shown on one of the beaches during the ICC event.

Removal of Dams on Snake River

Tyson Minck Jim Waddell, Elizabeth Dunne gave a presentation on the current efforts to remove the dams on Snake River. The four dams on Snake River were constructed between 1962 and 1975 by the Corps of Engineers. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is in charge of selling the electricity created by the dams. Since 2014 the numbers of customers and direct service industry loads have declined and currently the dams produce a surplus of electricity between 15 and 50%. So the BPA has to sell the electricity on the open market often at a loss.

In 2002 the Corps of Engineers published the "Improved Salmon Passage" the Final Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement. Four different alternatives to improve the salmon passage were evaluated in the report: 1) maintain existing conditions, 2) maximum transport of juvenile salmon, 3) major system improvements, and 4) dam breaching. Carrying out Alternatives 2 and 3 has failed to improve the salmon populations and the dams have reached their expected lifespan. Hence, breaching of the dams is the only alternative left. Often when people think about dam removal they expect a large price tag associated with the effort. This is not the case with the dams on Snake River. BPA can save \$38-83 million dollars allocated for the 2019/2020 operation & maintenance fees and they can mitigate the cost of the breaching via the Endangered Species Act which will reduce the cost of breaching the dams to \$0 for BPA. Breaching the dams would involve making a notch in the earthen embankment section of each dam and let the river do the rest of the work.

The decline in the resident Orca population has refocused the effort to have the dams removed. Each year these whales leave Puget Sound and travel south along the coast to feed. Historically Orcas would spend weeks each winter feeding on adult Chinook salmon in the Pacific, especially off the mouth of the Columbia. One of the biggest factors affecting Orca nutrition is the tremendous decline in Chinook salmon coming out of the Columbia/Snake River basin. On top of this the successful removal of the dams on Elwha River has proven that dam removal is possible. At the end of the presentation Tyler, Elizabeth and Jim encouraged the audience to share the information. In the following round of questions Mike Doherty asked about the Governor's Orca task force. Tyson has participated in two of the task meetings and was generally disappointed with the outcome. The task force includes a large number of stakeholders and not all of them are interested in saving the Orcas. Ed Bowlby suggested that the three speakers present at the upcoming MRC Conference in November.

Last Planning of the Dungeness River Festival

The sign-up sheet for staffing the MRC booth at the festival was passed around to the members and a couple more signed up. Arnold Schouten, Cathy Lear and Helle Andersen will meet at 1 pm Thursday afternoon to set up the booth. The display will again this year focus on water quality and shellfish and display geoducks and oysters.

Project Updates

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Jeff Ward and Kathy Cooper helped spreading the seeded oyster shells at the new restoration site in Blyn. The restoration site is a parcel of tidelands that Jamestown S'Klallam tribe leases from WA Department of Natural Resources. The site is approximately 700 ft. east of the current restoration site and covers an area of ½-¾ acre. Helle Andersen told the members about the Special Use Permit granted by the US. FWS for establishing test plots at the Dawley Road site. Because we received the SUP so late in the season we only have one suitable day, October 5th, to establish the plots. Interested members should meet Helle at Sunny Farms at 6 am and carpool to the site. *Helle will send out an email to the members.*

Shellfish Biotxin: Postponed to next meeting because Bob Vreeland was not present

Pigeon Guillemot: Ed Bowlby gave a brief summary of the 2018 season. Fifty volunteers monitored 16 colonies between June and September. One of the summer interns helped out with the project ensuring that the data was correctly entered into the shared database with Island MRC. Ed and the intern visited a UW graduate student who is working on a model using all the data which has been collected in Puget Sound. The plan is to continue next year and Jeff and Ed will provide the volunteer training.

Kelp Monitoring: Alan Clark stated the goals for 2018 season were met. Three kelp beds in Clallam Bay and Freshwater Bay were surveyed and the crews conducted experimental plankton sampling – first using the NWSC protocol and later using a plankton pump sampler created by Jeff Ward. Next year's effort may include using drones and airplanes and then having the kayakers ground truth the information.

Intern Program: All the members present at the Intern Celebration agreed that the event was a success. Six of the seven interns presented their work to more than 40 local residents at the Feiro Marine Life Center August 20th.

Good of the Order

The end of the year budget estimate from Lori Kennedy indicates a surplus of about \$5K. During the discussion funding of the following items was suggested: lamination of the intern posters, reimburse members for mileage and other transportation costs, purchase of baseball hats with MRC logos to be used in next year's intern program, and paying Cathy Lear and Lori Kennedy for their time. The members agreed to fund all proposed items.

Cathy Lear provided a brief summary of the Sept. 14 LIO meeting. The funding process for the NTAs submitted in 2018 is similar to the last round. Approximately \$100K will be awarded to one NTA based on recommendations from the task force and steering group. The selected NTA will focus on education and outreach.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.