

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, October 15, 2018
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 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	P Sissi Bruch
P Kathy Cooper	P Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Ann Soule	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

John Cambalik, Strait ERN/LIO Coordinator; Debbie Schouten, resident; Peggy McClure, Alternate for City of Sequim; Dana Oster, NWSC Marine Program Manager; 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 comments. The September minutes were approved.

Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum

John Cambalik introduced himself as the Strait LIO/ERN coordinator before providing the summary of the Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum in Bellingham October 3-4, 2018. John handed out copies of the agenda http://oilspilltaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Forum_Agenda_PUBLIC_FINAL2.pdf Numerous First Nations such as the Makah Tribe were included in the 168 forum participants. One of the goals of the forum was to create a baseline knowledge of “who is responsible for what” with a focus on inland transportation and sources (not what the area receives by ships from for example Alaska). Dale Jensen, Director of WA Dept. of Ecology Spills Program, gave a very good presentation which provided a common understanding of how the 550 million barrels of oil move through the region. John highlighted two speakers, John Konovsky, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and Chad Bowechop, Makah Tribe, during a panel discussion about Tribal and First Nation Perspectives. John Konovsky emphasized that the First Nations want to be equal partners at the table. During the third session which focused on prevention, preparedness and response authorities Calvin Terada, EPA Region 10 Emergency Response and Planning Program Manager, stressed the importance of local planning committees and that the integrated plan should be better at incorporating local response plans. Before this session many attendees participated in an impromptu indigenous oil spill forum. One of the topics discussed was the creation of an integrated response plan for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The LIO/ERN and MRCs were very interested in participating in this effort. Finally John highlighted a breakout session focused on community engagement. The general consensus was that you have to have engagement before you can collaborate. Many participants express frustration about the many organizations and forums working on oil related issues. Many of the tribes felt “spread very thin” and they don’t know which forums to participate in or which organizations to engage with. John hopes that the LIO/ERN can become more engaged and tie the effort to the LIO recovery plan.

Introduction of NWSC New Marine Program Manager

Dana Oster has a Master in Environmental Science and has worked in the fields of geomorphology, water quality and marine shoreline ecology. For the last year or so she worked for NWSF helping out Lisa Kaufman with the landowner workshops.

Net Ecosystem Improvement Project

Dana Oster provided a summary of the Net Ecosystem Improvement project which has been renamed as "Action to Impact." The project came about as a response to the requirement of grant associated metrics. What are the outcomes and impacts from the actions taken by the MRCs? Ron Thom developed the Ecosystem Improvement approach based on Jefferson MRC eelgrass protection zones where he calculated the number of acreages of eelgrass protected and estimated the increase in Dungeness crab population. It is more difficult to apply the approach to other actions such as educational outreach and the approach has evolved a lot. The NWSC thinks the project is very important as it helps define the reason behind the MRCs and presents the seven MRCs as one entity. The NWSC has been reaching out to the MRCs to get their buy-in. During the following discussion Cathy Lear asked if the approach will be applied to all our projects. Dana said that she hoped to create a project database which included actions, statistics and links to the "action to impact" calculations.

Friendraiser Event at Harbinger Oct. 12

All members participating in the first Friendraiser event thought it was a success and that we should have a similar event annually. Suggestions of how to improve the event included inviting a keynote speaker for example one of the interns or a partner such as WDFW or a tribal leader. Another suggestion was to highlight our projects in the welcome speech to ensure that everybody leaving the event knows about the work carried out by Clallam MRC (not relying on the audience reading the poster display). One member suggested providing all the attending members with a generic name tag (Clallam MRC member) which would make it easier for the audience to identify the persons able to answer their questions. Several of the members were asked about how to volunteer for the MRC, so next time we should provide a sign-up sheet and other information about how to become a volunteer. Arnold Schouten emphasized that we need to advertise the event better by doing more outreach beforehand. Sissi Bruch and Peggy McClure suggested that efforts were made to reach out to the city councils and the County Commissioners. Jeff Ward informed the members that Clallam MRC staff was not allowed to work on spreading the word because of complaints at other MRC events about a state funded organization (NWSC) supporting the work of one specific non-profit organization (NWSF). *All agreed that a card should be send to H2O as a thank you for the wonderful hors d'oeuvres.*

Clallam MRC Strategic Plan

Jeff Ward has taken on the task of updating the Clallam MRC strategic plan. The next version will cover the years 2019-2024. Jeff has revised the current version and included changes based on comments from Robert Knapp and Bob Vreeland. About a week ago Jeff emailed the red-lined version to the MRC Strategic Plan Subcommittee (Ed Bowlby, Robert Knapp, Ann Soule, Alan Clark, Bob Vreeland and Sissi Bruch) asking for comments. Ann suggested extending the comments period until after the MRC Conference giving us the opportunity to incorporate ideas and outcomes from the conference. Jeff was fine with extending the comments period but would like to have the strategic plan approved at the next MRC meeting November 19th.

MRC Conference Nov. 16-17

Ed Bowlby went through the draft Ignite presentation which this year focuses on our intern program. The members provided comments to the presentation. Because Ed may have scheduling conflicts with the MRC Conference Ann Soule and Alan Clark offered to be back-ups in case Ed can't attend the conference. *Helle Andersen will revise the presentation based on member feedback and email the draft final to Jeff Ward, Ann, Ed, and Alan to work out the final version.* The members also had a brief discussion about the Clallam MRC display. Depending on space limitations the members would like to have a similar display as at the Friendraiser event which included all 2018 five intern posters and the project map. *Helle will contact Sasha Horst to clarify the size of our display area.*

Project Updates

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Alan Clark and Ed Bowlby along with Helle Andersen and Jamestown shellfish biologist Liz Tobin met at 6:30 am October 5th to establish two test plots at the Dawley Road site. The Clallam MRC applied for a Special Use Permit in September 2017 and was awarded the permit in

September 2018. The two plots were established at the southern end of the Dawley Road restoration site right around the mean low water. One bag was left unopened and the shells from the other bag were spread in a radius of about 1 m. Counts of dead and alive and size measurements were taken of a subset of the Olympia oysters on the shells. The plan is to revisit the test plots in spring of 2019 to assess survival and growth of the Olympia oysters.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland provided a summary of the 2018 sampling season. The bimonthly sampling effort started in April and ended in September. Jeff Ward and Jacob Melly from CCEH participated in the first sampling event; the following nine sampling events were carried out by Bob Vreeland and Coleman (one of our volunteers). Bob did the last sampling effort on his own and he struck the “mother lode” of clams. To support his claim Bob had brought all the shells of the 18 clams and a couple of jars of canned clam chowder. He also brought a couple of jars of Italian plum chutney to “dull” the taste of the clam meat. Based on the sampling effort the beach was kept open for clamming all year.

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.

Forage Fish: Helle Andersen gave a brief summary of the forage fish sampling effort. The sampling efforts at Ediz Hook and Elwha Beach have stopped for the time being. The efforts may be resumed in spring of 2019. The beaches at Ediz Hook have been sampled for 18 months whereas the locations at Elwha Beach have been sampled for 15 months. The index site effort has been moved from the two sites, Pitship and Old Town, to Cline Spit in April 2018. So far we have seen surf smelt eggs in all samples collected between April and July (the remaining samples have not been analyzed yet) at Cline Spit.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty brought up that the Phase II municipal stormwater report for the unincorporated Port Angeles Urban Growth Area is in the public review phase and encouraged the members to review the document and submit comments. One suggestion was to assess whether climate change has been address adequately. The comments can be submitted online at <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=JWY6h> or by letter to: Abbey Stockwell, WA Department of Ecology PO Box 47696, Olympia WA

Sissi Burch brought up the City of Port Angeles efforts to improve public access to and knowledge about the urban streams. Mike Doherty suggested inviting Ed Chad from Streamkeepers to talk about their efforts.

Dana Oster asked the MRC members if they would be interested in having a beach in Clallam County listed in the MyCoast app. Jeff Ward suggested Elwha Beach, but Arnold Schouten discouraged that idea because of the issues with the landowners along the beach who would like to restrict public access to the beach. It was decided to include this topic on the November agenda.

Dana Oster also asked the members if they would be interested in supporting a no anchorage zone in Clallam County and if yes which area(s). It was decided to include this topic on the November agenda.

Helle Andersen informed the members about the all-day shoreline real estate workshop to be held in Port Hadlock Friday October 26th. The workshop targets shoreline realtors, but any MRC member is welcome to join.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.