

**CLALLAM COUNTY**  
  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

Date: Monday, November 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 | Arnold Schouten | P Mike McHenry   | P Sissi Bruch |
| P Kathy Cooper | P Jeff Ward    | P Mike Doherty  | E Ann Soule      | Jesse Waknitz |
| Lyn Muench     | P Alan Clark   | P Ed Bowlby     | P Pete Schroeder | Greig Arnold  |

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

Nessa Goldman, resident; Joanne Sparks, resident; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

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

Jeff Ward added a NWSC request for a supporting letter.

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comments. The September minutes were approved as amended.

**Streamkeepers**

Ed Chadd started his presentation with a short summary of the history of Streamkeepers. Twenty years ago Streamkeepers was created as a WSU entity with one part-time employee (Ed). For two years Streamkeepers was part of WSU at which point it was moved to Department of Community Development. In 2012 Streamkeepers was transferred over to the Road Department and it has since then been funded by this department because Streamkeepers helped the Road Department comply with State requirements. Since 2005, when the City of Port Angeles was asked to comply with the NPDES Phase II requirements, Ed thinks that Streamkeepers has saved the Clallam County about \$100K each year. The reason for this is that the bug or BIBI data collected by Streamkeepers has documented that the urban streams are healthy as they meet the city limit. The decline of stream health only occurs after the streams pass the city limits. The current work performed by Streamkeepers can be divided into two parts. Under the first part Streamkeepers functions as an advisory committee based on long-term monitoring of streams within the county. The monitoring is conducted quarterly and covers the streams between McDonald and Salt Creek. When possible an annual assessment of the streams is conducted using the BIBI approach. Because of all the volunteers and equipment owned by Streamkeepers the committee is really good at leveraging nothing into something. The second part of Streamkeepers workload consists of work requests from different people or entities. Good examples of this is the coliform bacteria sampling effort of the City of Port Angeles, the PIC project for the Clean Water Group, the bug and WQ project for the Quileute tribe and the monthly monitoring of Hoko River by kayakers.

After the introduction Ed focused his talk on Port Angeles’ urban streams. The reason for this is an upcoming meeting with Futurewise, a Seattle non-profit organization which has received \$250K from PSP for their Greenlink NTA. Ed along with three MRC members and staff and other planners and scientists will meet Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss which streams in Port Angeles should be included in the NTA. Ed started his summary of the streams by stating that all the streams have different restoration and public access potentials. Peabody Creek has the most potential for neighborhood recreation. This creek runs right through the center of the densest population in town, near to many offices, businesses, residences, and other amenities such as the Salvation Army kitchen. The stream has had many neighborhood uses

through the years. Valley Creek has the most potential for destination recreation. This creek has at times been the subject of a community-based effort, involving the City, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the County, WDFW, service clubs, and private citizens, to restore and ultimately daylight the creek and build a trail alongside it that would wind its way all the way to the Olympic National Park. The principal driver of that effort, Jeff Bohman, still lives in Port Angeles and is currently the President of the Peninsula Trails Coalition. The potential for this creek to host restored salmon runs and boast a trail that would lead from downtown Port Angeles up into the National Park is enormous, from a recreational, educational, and tourist-development point of view. Part of this trail system is already in place. Tumwater Creek has the most potential for habitat restoration. The creek's mouth and lower reach is squarely within the Port Angeles industrial zone. There's only a small section that's inside a culvert (compared to Peabody and Valley), but daylighting the creek in this section is complicated by the number of major thoroughfares that interact with it, including a skyway that brings Tumwater St. from downtown up to the bluff. This creek has the largest flow of the three and still has steelhead, cutthroat and Coho runs. The habitat upstream of the City Limits is generally pretty good, though it could be improved. It's unlikely that even with restoration activity in this creek many urbanites would walk along it because of the Truck Route detour to Hwy 101. Ed then asked Mike McHenry to talk about Ennis Creek. Ennis Creek is undergoing a Natural Resources Damage Assessment because of the Rayonier Mill which was built at and on the lower section of the creek. The NRDA process has been very slow, but Mike expects that a large cleanup and restoration project of the lower section of the creek will soon be underway. Other issues are still associated with the creek including the culvert at HWY 101 which block the fish passage and water quality. In the discussion that followed the presentation Sissi Bruch mentioned that the city is currently working on a vision for the Port Angeles streams including water quality improvement and public access. Sissi would like to see installation of raingardens as community projects not city projects. *Cathy Lear stated that a lot of work was done on Valley Creek and she would look for the information and share it with the MRC members.* Ed rounded out the discussion by stating that he hoped a programmatic approach could be developed that addressed the homeless living by the creeks and public health and access.

### **Clallam MRC 2019-24 Strategic Plan**

Jeff Ward started the discussion of the strategic plan by thanking the members who had provided comments. Peggy McClure had been a great help with her comments to focus the document on what the MRC plans to do in the next five years and move the historical description of the MRC and the Initiative to an appendix. Ann Soule wanted to expand the section on emerging issues. The members discussed what should be included as an emerging issue and came up with the following topics: Orcas, GRP updates, increase in tanker traffic and potential for oil spills, and climate change. Sissi Bruch suggested that the plan should emphasis collaboration with other organizations on community outreach including how to involve kids. *Sissi and Alan offered to help with revising the education outreach text in the plan. Jeff ended the discussion by stating that the MRC members will be voting on the strategic plan at the January meeting. When the plan has been approved Jeff wants to summarize the main points in the plan and present the information for the county commissioners, city councils and the three tribes.*

### **MyCoast App.**

Jeff Ward introduced the newly launched statewide MyCoast app (<https://mycoast.org/>) and asked the members if they thought Clallam MRC should participate in the effort. MyCoast compiles pictures taken by residents, combines the pictures with background information such as tide and weather and offers the data to state and municipal employees, planners, developers, business owners, and others to make better decisions. The members thought it was a good idea and the discussion turned to which beaches to include in Clallam County. Helle Andersen mentioned that Ian Miller, Sea Grant, has suggested three beaches in Port Angeles including the outside and inside of Ediz Hook and one of the two new pocket beaches in the harbor. Allan Clark suggested 3 Crabs Beach and Dungeness Spit near Sequim. Jeff Ward suggested writing an article for the PDN to help roll out the MyCoast in Clallam County. *He will contact Kathleen at Snohomish MRC after the holidays to get additional information for the roll out effort.*

### **No Anchorage Zone in Clallam County?**

After a brief discussion the members decided to not pursue the no anchorage zone in Clallam County mostly because of limited places to anchor within eelgrass beds and few boats anchoring in Clallam County.

### **MRC Conference Nov. 16-17, 2018**

A total of 165 people participated in the conference of which 10 were Clallam MRC members and staff. Jeff Ward initiated the briefing of the conference by stating that Lyn Muench and Ed Bowlby were mentioned as legacy members. In addition, Andrew Shogreen was also present as a legacy member. Sissi Bruch emphasized the Ignite presentations and all thought that Ann Soule did very well as the Clallam MRC presenter. It was the first time Robert Knapp, Sissi Bruch and Ann Soule participated in the MRC conference and they all liked it a lot and learned a lot. The participants highlighted four sessions: southern resident Orca recovery, looking forward: the next 20 years, marine debris, and sea level rise and citizen science. Jeff Ward pointed out Senator Kevin Ranker statement of “don’t waste a good crisis.” *Pictures and videos of the conference will be available on the NWSC website.*

### **December 17 MRC Meeting**

The members decided to meet December 17<sup>th</sup> for an abbreviated meeting followed by a social gathering with light treats.

### **NWSC Updates**

At this point the meeting was running over time so Allan Clark provided a very brief update. The NWSC is currently focused on increasing the visibility of the Initiative and finding more sustainable funding.

### **Project Updates**

Postponed to next meeting due to lack of time

### **Good of the Order**

Jeff Ward brought up Lucas Harts request for a supporting letter. In an effort to obtain continued state funding support the NWSC has developed a strategy which entails that each of the seven MRC counties sends a letter to their state legislators expressing the importance of the MRC and the importance of state funding. The intention of the letter is to raise awareness of MRCs as we enter the next legislative session. The NWSC has provided a letter template and requested that the MRCs insert the projects they would like to highlight. The next steps are to have the letter approved by the County Councils, Commissions or Executives and then have them send the letter to the legislators. *Jeff will bring the letter to the next MRC meeting for approval.*

Bob Vreeland suggested the members should read the book published by New York Times: DRAWDOWN The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming (2017).

### **Public Comment**

Nessa Goldman and Joanne Sparks provided the following public comments: the meeting had been very informative and they were glad they came. Before the meeting (or the Friendraiser event) they had no idea that Clallam MRC existed. They would like to help with spreading the word about the MRC. They also suggested that we should provide information on our projects in “bit sizes” and not a 2 hour meeting. Another suggestion was that we should use the internet more (as they said “Clallam MRC should have gone viral”).

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.