

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, December 17, 2018
 Time: 5:30 – 7:10 pm
 Location: Commissioners’ Large Conference Room
 Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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

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

Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Chris Burns, Jamestown Tribe Alternate; Blythe Ward, resident; 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 November minutes were approved.

2018-19 Annual Workplan

Jeff Ward and Helle Andersen walked the members through the 2019 draft workplan revising the primary and secondary project leads when needed. All agreed that the responsible persons may change throughout the year depending on workload and other commitments. In 2019 Clallam MRC will be funded through both the NWSC and the NWSF. A column was added to the workplan to clearly identify the funding source for each project. *The 2019 workplan was approved and is a NWSC deliverable due January 11, 2019.*

2019 Internship Program

Jeff Ward opened up the discussion about the 2019 internship program by briefly summarizing the 2018 program and pointing out the program partners. Jeff has already contacted Adrienne Akmajian from Makah tribe asking if they would be interested in an intern in 2019. Adrienne replied by saying she needs to look more into next year’s projects, but suggested that maybe the intern could work on several projects for the tribe. All the members present agreed that more or longer internships would be great. Mike Doherty mentioned Washington Sea Grant’s internship program for graduates. About 10-12 students participate in the program and the students often end up working full-time for their mentor organization. Mike suggested that our program could be the equivalent for undergraduate students. Pete Schroeder suggested monitoring projects which could turn into longer-termed student driven projects. Other projects which were suggested included crabber outreach, Pinto abalone surveys, smolt trap on Tumwater Creek and looking at the Orca Task Force to do list to see if there would be a good fit with any of the proposed actions. Cathy Lear also mentioned that the paid internships are a very big plus as many of the students have to work during the summer to pay for school and can therefore not afford taking an unpaid internship. Mike Doherty suggested that we contacted different agencies that would benefit from the internships and ask if they could provide any funds. *It was decided that the members should come with a list of proposed topics for internships at the next meeting January 28th and Helle Andersen should look into the different funding sources (application process and deadlines).*

NWSC Updates

Alan Clark, who is now the NWSC Vice-Chair as well as Clallam MRC NWSC representative, provided a summary of current NWSC news. A joint retreat with NWSF is planned for March 21-22; a facilitator will be hired for the event. A main topic on the NWSC agenda is securing better long-term funding. Given the political situation the NWSC is focusing their effort on increasing state funding. Senator Kevin Ranker has been promoted to a more senior position on the Ways and Means Committee. He is a long supporter of the NWS Initiative so hopefully he will be able to promote the work done by the Initiative and increase the state funds. In a supporting effort the seven MRCS have been asked to work with their local officials to write a letter in support of the Initiative and have the local officials sending the letter to their representatives in the state legislation. On the topic of funding the PSP seems quite comfortable with the agreements they have reached with EPA and they do not foresee any impacts from a potential partial shutdown of the government. The effort to document the outcomes of the projects conducted by the MRCs and NWSI (called "Action to Impacts") is now being led by Dana Oster, the new NWSC Marine Program Manager. Currently they are looking for a social scientist to join the effort so if any of the members know of a potential suitable candidate let Dana know. Caroline Gibson may be on medical leave for 5 months and currently the NWSI is looking for solutions to support the staff. The MyCoast app is now ready to be promoted by all seven MRCs. The effort done by Clallam MRC was briefly discussed including the selection of the two locations, Hollywood Beach and 3 Crabs restoration site, to be promoted as photo locations. The members also agreed that the Clallam MRC should submit a press release to the PDN about MyCoast. The final topic Allan mentioned was an excellent presentation given at the last NWSC meeting about Pinto Abalone. The presenter, Henry Carson, gave a status overview of the abalone including the failure to reproduce and interventions currently being discussed.

State Funding Letter

Jeff Ward has led the effort to write a letter in support of the Initiative and have the local officials sending the letter to their representatives in the state legislation. Lucas Hart, the NWSC Executive Director, has pointed out that 40% of our current funding is coming from the state and the NWSC is lobbying for that to become a more permanent funding source. Lucas provided a template for the letter and Jeff has revised the template to reflect the work done by the Clallam MRC. Jeff has received comments from several of the members and he would like the members to approve the letter at this meeting with the intent of incorporating any new comments from the members. Sissi Bruch has suggested to stress "local people for local solutions" which could be added to the first paragraph. Peter Schroeder suggested adding a list of all our partners and Ann Soule asked if it would be possible to state the amount of work leveraged through the grant. *The members approved the letter with the proposed revisions.*

January Meeting

The members decided to have the first meeting in the new year on Monday January 28, 2019.

Good of the Order

The public comments period for the Jamestown's oyster permit application ends January 11, 2019. Chris Burns has reviewed the announcement and pointed out that it included several mistakes such as inaccurate coordinates.

Pete Schroeder pointed out that the Shoreline Masterplan Update is out for review and that Steve Gray is the local contact person in Clallam County.

Mike Doherty handed out the Sea Star publication by Washington Sea Grant.

As the last topic on the agenda Jeff Ward thanked Kathy Cooper for the time she has served on the Clallam MRC.

Public Comment

None

Christmas Celebration

The members enjoyed the shared treats until about 8:30pm.