

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Draft Notes

Date: Monday, March 18, 2019
 Time: 5:30 – 7:10 pm
 Location: Commissioners’ Large Conference Room
 Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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

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

Craig Cornell, MRSC Area Response Manager; Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Chris Burns, Jamestown S’Klallam Alternate; Coleman Byrnes, 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 January minutes were approved with one minor revision. No approval was needed of the February notes.

MSRC Oil Spill Preparedness along the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Craig Cornell, the Area Responses Manager for the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), gave a presentation on the company with a focus on its capabilities in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. MSRC is the biggest national not-for-profit response company. The MSRC is funded by the big oil companies through the Marine Preservation Association. MPA was established in 1990 as a privately funded, not-for-profit membership corporation. Working on behalf of petroleum transportation and energy industries, MPA's exclusive purpose is to help these industries address the problems caused by spills of oil and petroleum products on water. The MSRC is available 24/7/365 as a first responder. MSRC's area of responsibility encompasses all U.S. coastlines, including the U.S. Caribbean and the Hawaiian Islands. About 70 employees work in Washington, Oregon and Hawaii and about 400 employees work nationwide. The company has a lot of resources including 14 responder class oil spill response vessels and 23 other vessels, 14 oil spill response barges, 5 fast response vessels, 26 X-band radar and/or infrared systems, 610,000 feet of boom, 298 skimming systems, 68 shallow water barges, 22,500 feet of fire boom and 4 dedicated dispersant spray/spotter aircraft. These resources are distributed throughout the nation with Port Angeles being the largest storage site. The MSRC also owns responder oiled wildlife units; however they hire experienced crew to perform the rehabilitation work. Every three years the MSRC along with other US partner companies and companies from Canada conduct a large scale training. This year the training will be held May 22 and 23. On May 22nd the training will take place in Freshwater Bay and the following day on the Canadian side in Becher Bay. With the expected increase in tanker traffic Canada has started to scale-up their efforts.

Update of the HAZWOPER Training and Oiled Wildlife Training

During the 2019-20 project discussion (next topic on the agenda) Jeff Ward provided a brief update of the HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife training and the difficulties with having sufficient volunteers participate in the trainings.

Projects for 2019-2020 Grant Cycle

Helle Andersen handed out a summary table of projects in 2018-19 and proposed projects in 2019-20 along with the funds designated to each project (the 2018-19 projects) and proposed for each project (the 2019-20 projects). Because we did not have a quorum the discussion of the potential 2019-20 projects turned more into a conversation about allocation of funds to the different overall project categories (admin, monitoring, education and outreach, and restoration) and the different tasks going into the individual projects e.g. plankton sampling and exploring use of drones as part of the kelp monitoring project. When Jeff Ward mentioned the difficulties attracting enough volunteers to the annual HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife training Ann Soule suggested that we would offer the training every other year. *The selecting of the projects to be included in the 2019-20 proposal will be decided on the April 15th meeting.*

NWSF 2019 MRC Opportunity Fund

Topic delayed until next meeting April 15, 2019.

Orca Forum Planning

Ed Bowlby handed out a brief document summarizing the planning efforts. The goal of the forum is to better inform the public on current status of Southern Resident Orcas, by enlisting at least four expert speakers from the Orca Task Force. The plan is to have a facilitator to ensure orderly progress. The speakers will have roughly 25 min. for individual presentations followed by a panel discussion with audience Q&As for another 50 min. for a total of approx. 2.5 hrs. The forum will be held in the afternoon of May 10 to be linked with the May 11 Celebration of Science & Technology Event at the City Pier and Feiro Marine Life Center. Ed and Pete Schroeder provided a list of 13 potential. Several venues have been checked out including Lower Elwha Heritage Center, PA Senior Center, and PA City Council Chamber. Other possibilities are Peninsula College Longhouse, and Vern Burton. Venues not available include Red Lion and Jamestown S'Klallam Red Cedar Room. *Ed and Pete will be working on the following critical action items: decide on and then contact potential speakers, decide on and contact facilitator, decide on and then reserve venue, and ask if Jefferson MRC wants to co-sponsor with us to develop a 2 MRC proposal for the NWS Foundation grant funding.*

Marine Trade Position

Members who were not present at the February meeting expressed concerns about changing the Marine Trade position to an at-large position so it was decided to do yet another outreach to potential candidates. *Ann Soule would think about it and report back with potential candidates in a week or so and Pete Schroeder would reach out to the Whale Watching Company in Port Angeles.*

2019 Video Fellowship

Jeff Ward provided a brief update on the meeting with Patric McInnis, the Video Production Instructor at Port Angeles High School. Friday March 8th Arnold Schouten, Ed Bowlby, Jeff Ward and Helle Andersen met with Patric in his production studio at the high school to talk about the possibility of offering a video fellowship, funded by the NWSF new fellowship program, to a senior high school student. To give an idea of what the students are capable of Patric showed several examples of the videos the students have made for City of Port Angeles (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITHXu6ryuCW&list=PL3-TxC0afrOT031wmQ6C9phyAm7HTXyo8>). Jeff explained the idea of having one or several short videos made about the Clallam MRC in general (what we do) and then focus on some of our projects (e.g. pigeon guillemot or the internship program). Based on information from the NWSF the fellowship would likely be 200 paid hours for one student over a span of 4-6 months. The fellowship would likely start before the end of the school year (depending on when the RFP is released and if the Clallam MRC is awarded one of the three fellowship positions) and continue into the fall. Patric was very supportive of the idea and said that he will provide the MRC with a list of the senior students that he thinks will be capable of making the video(s). He was also willing to be available throughout the summer as an advisor for the student.

Good of the Order

Clallam MRC Retreat: Delayed until the April meeting.

NWSC Funding: Jeff Ward gave the members the good news that the NWSC had apparently succeeded in their effort to secure repeated funding through the legislators for approximately twice as much as in the previous funding cycle.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.