


CLALLAM COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, April 15, 2019
 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	P Robert Knapp	P Arnold Schouten	Mike McHenry	Jesse Waknitz
P Sissi Bruch	P Jeff Ward	Mike Doherty	P Ann Soule	Greig Arnold
Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	P Pete Schroeder	Open Position

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

Lucas Hart, NWSC Executive Director; Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Chris Burns, Jamestown S’Klallam Alternate; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Review of Notes

No public comments. Jeff Ward requested a revision in the draft notes. The notes did not need approval from the members.

Projects for 2019-2020 Grant Cycle

The discussion of the 2019-20 projects continued from the March meeting. Because the MRC in the application has to answer specific questions Helle Andersen posed some of these questions to the members. This again sparked 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. The members had a longer discussion about the HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife training and whether the MRC should offer these every year. Peggy McClure suggested asking for a registration fee to ensure people showed up at the trainings. To be able to charge a fee Clallam MRC would have to partner with NWSF (the county has no mechanism to receive money directly from the participants). Another suggestion was to ask the participants to volunteer their time as a “payment” for the free training similar to the Beach Watcher Program. Ann Soule raised the question if the \$4K could be better spent on another project such as a regional database for environmental data. Jeff Ward mentioned that people at the Forks Business meeting had seen the article in Sequim Gazette and that Jenny Schlieps had received a call from CBC about an interview (the interview was later cancelled because the radio didn’t think there would be a big enough interested audience). This initiated a conversation about how to get information in the Peninsula Daily News. Peggy suggested paying for an ad and Ann said that doing so increased the likelihood that the paper would publish an article. At the end it was decided to continue one more year and see how the oiled wildlife training with Focus Wildlife is received by the public. Another topic was whether the MRC should continue funding the Sanikan and dog waste bins at West Elwha Beach. Peggy was against continuing the project and Ann stated that it is ultimately up to the county to provide a facility. There was a short discussion of the usage data which has been collected over the last three years. Pete Schroeder suggested that the MRC write a summary report and another member suggested that we hire an intern to do this work. Sissi Bruch pointed out that the county needs time to be able to include it in their allocation discussion. At the end it was decided to keep the Elwha Stewardship project for another year, hire an intern to work up the data and present it for the county before the next budget cycle. Ann suggested that one of the topics for the Clallam MRC

retreat in the fall, if it takes place, could be a more in-depth discussion of the projects carried out by the MRC, how new projects are introduced and old ones removed and the allocation of funds (see Good of the Order). Helle gave a brief summary of the progress of marine debris project for the last 3-4 years and the latest changes in Clallam Bay. Based on this information the members decided to discontinue the marine debris project and move \$300 to the pigeon guillemot project to pay for the website and \$300 to the educational and outreach overall category. *Based on the discussion Helle will finalize the first draft proposal and email it and a summary of the proposed budget including budget assumptions to the MRC members before the meeting May 20th. This meeting is the last before the submittal deadline June 7th and the members will finalize and vote on the 2019-20 NWSC proposal.*

NWSF 2019 MRC Opportunity Fund

Chris Burns and Helle Andersen provided a summary of the proposal to be submitted to the MRC Opportunity Fund. The Clallam MRC is asking for \$6,778 to buy and distribute 850 bags of clean shells at the new restoration site in Blyn. The members approved the proposal (Robert Knapp, as the representative from Jamestown Tribe, abstained from voting). *The proposal will be submitted to NWSF by May 1st.*

NWSF 2019 Fellowship

Jeff Ward provided a summary of the proposed video fellowship to be submitted to the NWSF 2019 Fellowship "competition." All seven MRCs have the opportunity to submit a proposal; three fellowships will be awarded. In an effort to raise MRC's visibility within the community beyond our current outreach efforts by utilizing new messaging techniques and technology the MRC is requesting funds to support one video fellowship. The fellowship is a collaborative effort with Mr. Patrick McInnis of the Port Angeles High School and entails selecting one of his video production students to create a series of short videos that highlight our work. The timing of this fellowship coincides with the beginning of our spring/summer field work which will offer many opportunities for filming. The members approved the proposal. *The proposal will be submitted to NWSF by May 1st.*

Marine Trade Position

The members had a short discussion about finding a Marine Trade candidate. Pete Schroeder reported that the Whale Watching Company in Port Angeles did not have any suitable candidates. Jeff Ward pointed out that a suitable candidate from the marine trades could still apply for the At-Large position. *It was decided to start the process of changing the position from representing the Marine Trades to an At-Large position.*

Orca Forum Planning

Ed Bowlby provided a brief summary of the planning efforts. Clallam MRC and its partners were awarded the lodging tax grant for \$1K which will pay for advertisement in the Seattle Times and other media. The NWSF liked the Orca forum proposal and it is assumed that the MRC and its partners will receive the funds which will cover honorariums, lodging and travel for guest speakers. The goal of the forum is to better inform the public on current status of Southern Resident Orcas. The speakers are Dr. Rich Osborne (Whale Museum/Soundwatch/UW; Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership board, Science Seat on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council), Dr. Todd Hass (Chair, Puget Sound Partnership, Vessels Task Force Lead), Dr. Scott Veirs (Chair, Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Marine Mammal Work Group), and Donna Sandstrom (Founder and Executive Director, The Whale Trail) and Ann Murphy (NWSF Executive Director) will be the facilitator. 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 at the Elwha Heritage Center to be linked with the May 11 Celebration of Science & Technology Event at the City Pier and Feiro Marine Life Center. The next step is to make a flyer and start advertising the event. *Ann Soule volunteered to make the flyer to be posted on Clallam MRC website and to be used in the advertisement effort.*

Good of the Order

NWSC Update: Lucas Hart gave a brief update on the NWS Commission. Lucas is working closely with the External Relations Committee to double the amount of funding to the NWS Commission for this state budget cycle. The effort is still undergoing budget negotiations. The NWS Commission held its annual retreat in March on Camano Island. Retreat highlights included Anne Murphy providing a summary of the history of the NWS Foundation, discussion on an operation plan to support the new strategic plan and discussion on defining and further strengthening relationships in the NWS Initiative.

Clallam MRC Retreat: Ann Soule raised a question about the Clallam MRC retreat mentioned in minutes from the last meeting. Jeff Ward clarified that it had been taken off the agenda because of time restrictions and a limited interest shown at the last meeting. The members decided to postpone a retreat to the fall of 2019 after Labor Day and Ann Soule, Sissi Bruch and Arnold Schouten expressed interest in helping out. It was mentioned that Mike Doherty has offered up his cabin on Lake Crescent as a possible meeting place for the retreat.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.