

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, May 20, 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 | P Arnold Schouten | P Mike McHenry | P Jesse Waknitz |
| E Sissi Bruch | P Jeff Ward | P Mike Doherty | P Ann Soule | Greig Arnold |
| P Lyn Muench | P Alan Clark | P Ed Bowlby | Pete Schroeder | Open Position |

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

Melissa Williams, Executive Director Feiro Marine Life Center; Carol Bernthal, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; Peggy McClure, City of Sequim Alternate; Paul Gottlieb, PDN; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

No public comments. The April minutes were approved.

Feiro Marine Life Center and the New Waterfront Center

Melissa Williams, Executive Director Feiro Marine Life Center (Feiro) and Carol Bernthal, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) gave an update on the new Marine Discovery Center (MDC). First part of the presentation summarized the historical background of the center. Several years ago Feiro and OCNMS partnered to look into the possibility of a joint facility. Lots of work has happened since then including finalizing strategic plans for both Feiro and OCNMS and an evaluation of possible co-located sites in Port Angeles by Miller Hull. The evaluation identified the property on the corner of Oak Street and front Street as the best suited site. This property was later bought by the Port Angeles Waterfront Center (PAWC) which invited Feiro and OCNMS to be a part of the new Arts, Science & Culture Waterfront Campus. Carol pointed out the OCNMS will not completely relocate, but continue to have their offices in the Landing Building. The City of Port Angeles has invested millions of dollars revitalizing its downtown waterfront over the last decade. The PAWC is the campus land owner, and the MDC partners have signed an MOA to lease up to 20,000 ft² of space on the western end of their property, adjacent to the City’s Waterfront Park development. The MDC is currently negotiating a partnership agreement with the PAWC and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who intends to build a cultural and a performance venue on the site. In the winter 2018-19 the MDC leadership team hired MIG/Portico, an architecture and design firm from Seattle, to develop building layout, features/amenities, and cost. The goal is to create a visitor center with classrooms highlighting emergent science and offering a gathering place for the community. The conceptual design phase is expected to take 4-5 months. During this phase the community will be asked for input. Other tasks include designing the seawater system and getting all the appropriate permits. After the design has been completed the capital fundraising campaign will commence. The campaign is expected to take 2-3 years. The Sanctuary Foundation led by Dan Evans is the primary fund raiser. The Performing Art Center plans to commence construction this fall. After the presentation the members posed a few questions including 1) “have the impacts of tsunamis been considered?” – the answer was yes and several vertical escape routes are planned for the downtown. 2) “Has sea level rise been considered?” – the answer is yes; the facility is not predicted to be impacted by sea level rise. 3)

“What will happen to the old Feiro building?” – Feiro is expecting to leave it and it will be up to the City to decide its future use. Another issue touched during the Q&A session was the desire to develop a carbon and waste zero facility.

Final NWSC Proposal

Jeff Ward provided a brief summary of the 2019-21 budget which will be increased by \$16K per year for the next two years. The budget was approved by the members. The proposal is due June 7th and the members were given until Friday May 31st to provide final comments to the written draft proposal. The kelp monitoring project was selected for the June 28th NWSC presentation. Alan Clark will give the presentation. *Robert Knapp and Ann Soule volunteered as reviewer of the draft presentation and to help out with any maps and graphics.*

2019 Internships

Jeff Ward provided a brief summary of the 2019 internship program. Seven candidates were selected out of ten applications for the interview process; Four have been interviewed and the last three candidates will be interviewed on Wednesday May 22nd. The five candidates will then be selected and Helle Andersen will offer the internships to these candidates. It is the hope that the two crabber outreach interns, funded through the NOAA Marine Debris grant, will be able to commence June 10th; the other three interns will commence June 24th after school is out.

NWSF 2019 MRC Opportunity Fund and NWSF 2019 Fellowship

Helle Andersen provided a brief summary of the MRC Opportunity Fund and NWSF Fellowship proposals. The proposals were submitted to NWSF May 1st. At the NWSC staff meeting April 29th the submittal process for the two proposals was discussed. Clallam MRC and one other MRC were the only two MRCs prepared to submit on May 1st; the other MRCs were happy to hear that the deadline had been extended to June 1st. When Helle pointed out that especially the Clallam MRC Fellowship proposal was time sensitive (school is out June 21st) Tarrell Kullaway took note and brought it to the attention of Don Hunger. An email from Don later stated that Clallam MRC will be notified by June 1st whether the proposal will be funded. The same promise was made for the MRC Opportunity Fund proposal.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark provided a brief update on the NWSC. Alan is now Chair of the NWSC and Elsa Schwartz from Island MRC is the Vice-Chair. Sheida Sahandy has resigned as the Executive Director for Puget Sound Partnership. Her prospective replacement is Laura Blackmore. Puget Sound Day on the Hill was held May 14th – 16th in Washington DC. Once again, leaders from the Pacific Northwest representing businesses, academia, tribal, state and local government, and the nonprofit community met with key legislators to educate them on the need for continued investment in Puget Sound recovery. NWSC participated in a joint Puget Sound and Salmon Days on the hill with salmon recovery leaders from five states. A joint NWSF and NWSC meeting will be held June 7th. The 2019 MRC conference will be held in Everett November 15-16, 2019 and the planning committee is looking for volunteers. Lucas Hart has worked a lot on an operation plan to supplement the NWSC 2019-23 Strategic Plan.

Election of Clallam MRC Officers

Jeff Ward initiated the discussion by informing the members that Alan Clark and Sissi Bruch are willing to be the NWSC representative and alternate for yet another year. Both Jeff and Ed Bowlby were hoping that two other MRC members would step up and become the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019-20. After a discussion of the tasks associated with these two positions no other candidates stepped forward and both Jeff and Ed agreed to continue filling these two positions until the end of the fiscal year (September 2019) at which point they would reassess their time commitments. The members were also informed that the Marine Trade position has been changed to an At-Large position with the hopes that it would increase the pool of candidates. The members approved the four candidates for the Clallam MRC officers.

Project Updates

Oiled Wildlife Training: Arnold Schouten thought that the training held April 27th was the best in the last 10 years. The training was held in Pioneer Park in Sequim and the facility was a great improvement over Clallam County Fairgrounds. A total of 45 community members participated in the training.

Pigeon Guillemot: Ed Bowlby gave a brief summary of the workshop which took place May 9th. The workshop went well with a lot of returning volunteers. Ed will be gone 2 weeks in June so Jeff Ward will be the lead on the project until Ed returns. The goal is to cover the same stations as last year which will depend on the number of volunteers. Jeff is also working on integrating the Whidbey Island MRC's database with the regional database which covers all of Puget Sound.

Forage Fish Monitoring: Jeff Ward told the members that the sampling effort at Cline Spit is ongoing and that we have found surf smelt eggs every month. Helle Andersen informed the members that the sampling effort with the Lower Elwha Tribe has commenced again and that sampling will be conducted during the spring and summer months at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland informed the members that the first sampling of the summer would happen this coming Wednesday. The sampling will be conducted every two weeks until end of September (depending on good tides).

Orca Forum: Ed Bowlby gave a brief summary of the Orca Forum held May 10th at the Lower Elwha Heritage Center. Four speakers from the Resident Orca Task Force gave presentations to an energized audience of more than 50 people. The forum ended with a one hour Q&A session. Jeff Ward stated that it was the best forum he had been to in years. Lessons learned from the effort included getting the advertisement started as early as possible and being aware early of any requirements from the funding sources (Shell was very particular about how their logo could be displayed). The outside advertisement had mixed results; no newspaper covered the event (local or in Seattle) and it was only posted as a paid add on Facebook and in the PDN. Arnold Schouten also pointed out that having the event in the afternoon precluded working people to participate in the forum.

Celebration of Science & Technology: Jeff Ward told the members that the event was very poorly attended and the MRC booth was taken down around 2 pm – two hours before the event ended. The poor attendance raised the question as to whether the event will continue in 2020.

Olympia Oyster Restoration: On May 20th Lyn Muench along with Ed Bowlby went with the tribal crew to conduct a population survey at the new restoration site in Blyn. Lyn was very impressed by the effort and stated that the restoration would never happen without the Jamestown Tribe.

Good of the Order

Clallam MRC Retreat: Ann Soule volunteered to help out with the Clallam MRC retreat which is tentatively proposed to be held in October or early November 2019. One topic mentioned for the retreat was how to initiate a new project which would include identifying a lead at the onset of the project.

Volunteer Hours: the members were reminded to provide all their volunteer hours (not just for attending the meetings).

CANUSPAC (Joint Canada-United States Marine Pollution Contingency Plan Pacific) Training: Mike Doherty and Jeff Ward have been invited to join the observation boat for the upcoming training in Freshwater Bay May 22nd.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.