

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, August 19, 2019
 Time: 5:30 – 6:30 pm
 Location: Feiro Marine Life Center
 Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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

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

Alisa Taylor, summer intern, Chris Burns, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate; Carrol Hull, League of Women Voters; 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 July minutes were approved.

Approval of Purchases on the 2018-19 NWSC Budget

This year Clallam MRC has a surplus on the 2018-19 budget of about \$2,500. The surplus is caused by fewer interns paid through the NWSC grant (two of the five interns were paid through the NWSF Marine Debris grant from NOAA). The list of useful items to purchase, identified by the Executive Committee, and payment of \$400 to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for the Olympia oyster restoration effort (see below) were approved by the members.

Approval of Streamkeepers Support Letter

At the June meeting Robert Knapp expressed concern about the suspended Streamkeepers program and asked if the Clallam MRC would be willing to write a letter of support to be submitted to the commissioners. The members reviewed and commented on a draft final letter. The review process included a discussion of where the program should be housed – WSU or a Clallam County department and which organizations receive and use the water quality data collected by the volunteers. The letter was approved pending minor modifications to be done by Jeff Ward. Jeff also stated that, as a follow-up, he will request time at the Board of Clallam Commissioners’ meeting in October.

MRC Opportunity Fund and Olympia Oyster Restoration

Chris Burns informed the members that 850 bags of shells were purchased from Taylor Shellfish with funds from the MRC Opportunity Fund. Unfortunately, Taylor Shellfish was not able to deliver the shells to Blyn, so the tribe had to rent a truck and drive back and forth (twice) to get all the bags on the beach in Blyn. Because the boat ramp at Sequim Bay Park is closed due to repairs, the field crew had to operate out of John Wayne Marina which added to the effort. Almost all the shells have been distributed at the new restoration site. The Jamestown S’Klallam tribe is requesting \$400 in addition to the MRC Opportunity Fund because of the additional cost of renting a truck. The request is part of the 2018-19 NWSC budget amendment.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark provided a brief update on the NWSC WebEx meeting in July. The External Relations Committee has met with officials from Kilmer's office. The goal is to have elected officials visit MRC project sites and inform them about our partnerships and how we accomplish things at a low cost. Nicole Jordan and Dana Oster from NWSC have met with Ann Stark, staff for City of Bellingham, and Suzanne Shull to assess the features of SoundIQ and learn options in incorporating possible new features to the application. Commission staff plans to be involved in the 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in a variety of ways, including chairing and speaking at sessions and volunteering at the event. The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 in Snohomish County at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. A conference planning committee is developing the agenda. Contact Nicole Jordan for more information. National Estuaries Week is September 14-21. A toolkit is available that provides social media and event planning resources, and you can register local events online. The Puget Sound Partnership has launched an online platform for sharing information and stories called Puget Sound Info. The NWS Foundation is seeking long-term investment from the maritime industry, specifically businesses headquartered in Puget Sound. Suggestions can be directed to Caroline at gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org. The next in-person NWSC meeting will be held August 23rd between 10 am and 3 pm in the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Blyn. Intern Alisa Taylor will be presenting on this year's kelp monitoring efforts. All members are invited to participate.

Project Updates

Pigeon Guillemot: Jeff Ward informed the members that the monitoring efforts at the 12 sites between Freshwater Bay and Miller Point are winding down. This season 20 volunteers help with the effort.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland told the members that he and Coleman must have done a good job since shellfish harvesting is now closed along the Strait. They will continue the sampling effort into the month of September.

Forage Fish Surveys: Jeff Ward and Helle Andersen informed the members about the annual WDFW survey conducted in the week of August 12th. The Sequim crew, led by Jeff and Alan Clark, included three other volunteers: Bob Phreaner, Carol and Tim Fleming. The crew collected samples at six beaches including the index site at Cline Spit. The Port Angeles crew included Coleman and Helle Andersen and on the following day a Lower Elwha Tribe technician McKenzie Taylor. The crew collected samples at eight beaches making a total number of 14 beaches sampled by Clallam MRC during the annual survey. All the samples were delivered to the WDFW sampling crew stationed in Port Angeles.

Good of the Order

Dungeness Shellfish Permit: Robert Knapp informed the members that the WDFW has retracted the two letters stating that there was significant impact associated with the Dungeness Shellfish project. Instead the agency states that the data is inconclusive. The tribe has still not received the permits but at least no agency is blocking the process. Robert stated that there is no time table with the Corps of Engineers but the tribe hopes to plant next year. Regarding timing for Clallam MRC to show support Robert stated that we should think about how to frame it and maybe have Ron Alan talk with the NWSC External Committee.

Dungeness River Festival: Lynn Muench reminded the members that the Dungeness River Festival is coming up September 27. The festival will only be one day this year between 9 am and 2 pm. A short discussion followed whether the MRC booth display should be the traditional geoduck and WQ or educational outreach to recreational crabber or both. No decision was made.

Clallam MRC Retreat: Ann Soule told the members that the planning for the Clallam MRC retreat is slowly underway. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to confirm the date probably in late October. Location has not been confirmed yet but Mike Doherty has offered his cabin on Lake Crescent.

Forage Fish: Pete Schroeder raised a question regarding forage fish populations in Puget Sound. Has the number of forage fish improved? Do we have enough data? Jeff Ward stated that the forage fish egg

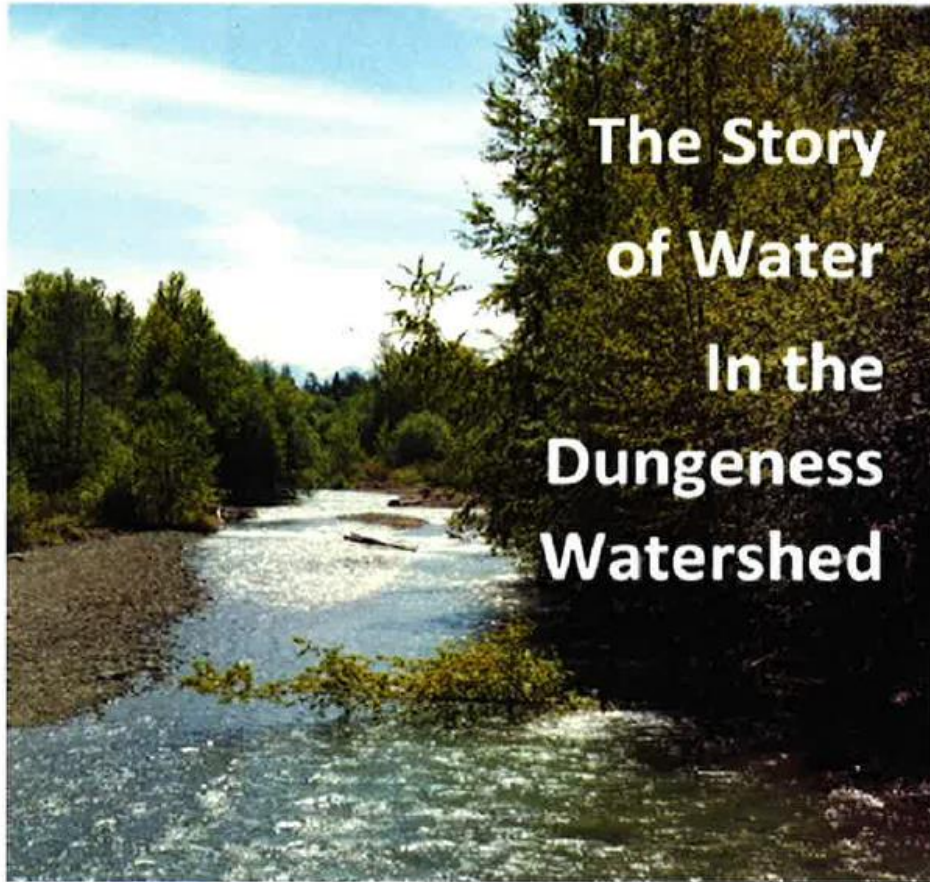
surveys carried out by the MRCs only document presence/absence. Jeff also said that the forage fish program may be included on the agenda for the MRC Conference in November.

Public Comment

Carrol Hull, League of Women Voters, handed out a small flyer about an upcoming lecture series focusing on “the story of water” (see attached flyer).

Intern Celebration

The Intern Celebration commenced at 6:30 pm. Alisa Taylor presented on the kelp monitoring project and Alisandra Baccus on the Olympia oyster restoration efforts in Blyn and the green crab removal project. Raven Sharpe introduced the audience to a new crabber outreach game.



The Story of Water In the Dungeness Watershed



Part 1: “The Story of Water: An Introduction”
For Presentation at Community Organizations

A presentation that highlights the beauty and the dynamics of the Dungeness Watershed and the challenges for our community.

Part 2: “The Story of Water: In-Depth” *October 2019–June 2020*

A lecture series with experts that explores the many aspects of this critical resource and the future of the Dungeness Watershed.

To request “The Story of Water: An Introduction” for your group,
contact Carrol Hull at hullc892@gmail.com



“Story of Water: In-Depth”

Lecture Series October 2019–June 2020

Clallam County

6:30 PM Sequim City Hall Council Chambers

October 23, 2019 How Our Water System Works: The Hydrology of the Dungeness Watershed Ann Soule, *City of Sequim* and Carol Creasey, *Clallam County*

November 13, 2019 Olympic Mountain Glaciers and Snowpack: Changes and Future Challenges Bill Baccus, *Olympic National Park*

December 11, 2019 Tribal Treaty Rights and Water: “From Time Immemorial” Hansi Hals, *Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Natural Resources*

For 2020 Dates, Times and Locations: Check lwwcla.org/story-water

March 2020 Storm Water and Water Quality: What Steps Are Being Taken to Guarantee Safe, Usable Water? *City of Sequim and Clallam County Environmental Health*

January 2020 Water Law in Washington: Who Owns the Water and What Are Our Rights? *WA Department of Ecology and Shearwater Law PLLC, Port Angeles*

April 2020 Safeguarding Our Natural Resources: What Is Endangering the Future of Salmon? *Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe*

February 2020 Irrigators and Protectors: Rights and Conservation Actions Exercised by Our Farmers *Clallam Conservation District*

May 2020 Conserving and Storing Water: What Are Our Choices? *Local Water Managers*

June 2020 Our Water Future in Clallam County *Panel of Experts and Stakeholders*



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