

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Notes

Date: Monday, September 16, 2019
 Time: 5:30 – 7:30 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	Mike McHenry	Jesse Waknitz
E Sissi Bruch	P Jeff Ward	E Mike Doherty	E Ann Soule	Greig Arnold
P Lyn Muench	E Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	E Pete Schroeder	Open Position

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

Jacob Melly, Clallam Co. Environmental Health WQ Specialist; Tim Cochnauer, resident; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Tim Cochnauer introduced himself as the applicant for the vacant At-Large position. Tim has been involved with aquatic sciences for over 50 years, with a 3-year stint with the US Army. He has worked with a myriad of state, federal and tribal agencies involved with anadromous fisheries and has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College. Tim retired in 2003. Since moving to the Olympic Peninsula in 2015 he has volunteered with Orca network and COASST.

No changes to the agenda.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

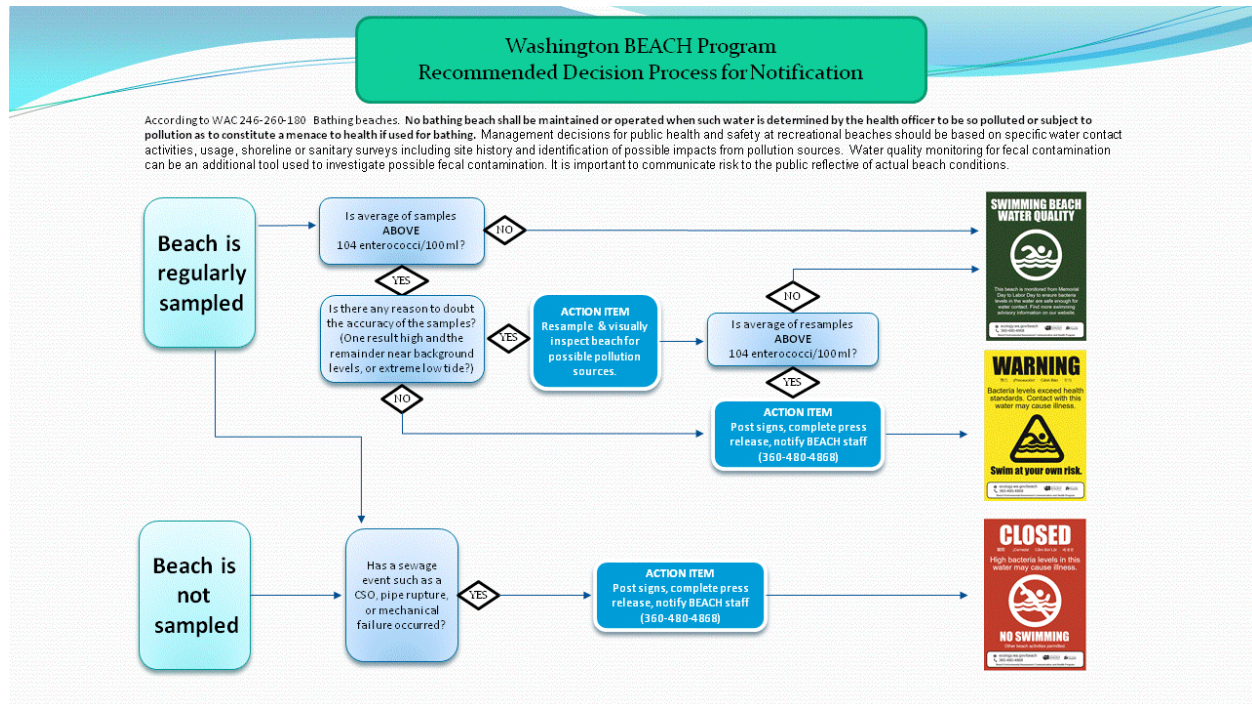
No public comments. The August minutes could not be approved because of lack of a quorum.

Clallam County Environmental Health Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program

Jacob Melly, Clallam Co. Environmental Health (CCEH) WQ Specialist, gave a presentation about the Clallam County BEACH program. The program runs between Memorial Day in May and Labor Day in September. Three beaches, Cline Spit, Hollywood Beach and Salt Creek, are being monitored by the county assisted by volunteers. The volunteers collect weekly samples at three locations on each beach. The samples are brought to the county lab and Sue Waldrip analyzes the samples for enterococci and fecal coliform. The flow chart below shows the decision process for beach notification. Only two exceedances were observed in the summer in samples collected at Salt Creek. In one case only one out of the three samples was high and in the second case resampling the following day found nothing. A warning sign was placed at the beach for about a week. In a couple of instances the sewage treatment plant has experienced power surges; however nothing was detected at Hollywood Beach. The Makah Tribe conducts a similar BEACH program in collaboration with Department of Ecology and Department of Health.

After the presentation the members had a few questions. Arnold Schouten asked if it was possible to conduct year-round sampling at especially Salt Creek as exceedances are more likely in the rainy season. Jacob Melly informed the members that the budget is quite small; the combined budget for Hollywood and Salt Creek is about \$5,400 and Cline Spit, alone, is about \$4,700. If the budget was to increase, Lower Elwha Beach would be a likely location to be added to the program. However, the NEP funds are limited to beaches next to commercial shellfish beds. In response to another question Jacob told the member that in the current program it is not possible to identify the source of the bacteria. The CCEH has proposed a Microbial Source Tracking (MST) study for the Dungeness Bay and it is currently

under consideration by the Manchester Laboratory. If the laboratory decides to take on the project they will cover the lab analyses and CCEH would only have to organize the collection and transportation of the samples to the lab.



Clallam MRC Retreat

Alan Clark and Sissi Bruch were not able to come to the meeting so Jeff Ward and Helle Andersen reminded the members about the retreat which will replace the October meeting. The retreat will be held October 26th in Mike Doherty's cabin on Lake Crescent. In preparation for the retreat Ann Soule has emailed four questions to the members and Jeff encouraged them to respond. *Helle was tasked with resending the questions to the members. An invitation to the retreat will be sent out once the agenda has been further developed.*

Dungeness River Festival

The Dungeness River festival has a new format this year. The festival will be held on only one day September 27th between 9 am and 2 pm. Lyn Muench passed around the sign-up sheet and the members discussed the MRC display – should it be the usual WQ and geoduck/oyster display or the crabber outreach game. The decision was to use the crabber outreach game and expand the display with the green crab poster made by Cole Svec. The volunteers decided to meet at 7:30 am to set up the booth and display.

2019-20 Internship Program

Jeff Ward summarized lessons learned from the 2019 summer internship program. He would like to see more MRC members involved in the interview and selection process of the interns and he suggested that we in the future did the interview in-person. These two recommendations were supported by Arnold Schouten and Helle Andersen. As described on the agenda the 2019-20 NWSC budget has earmarked a total sum of \$10,350 for the category Education & Outreach. Of this sum \$6,210 has been set aside for the Internship Program based on four internships of 90 hours (about \$2,000 more than the 2019 Internship Program). The discussion then turned to the 2020 internship program. Lyn Muench mentioned that maybe we could attract better interns if each internship had more hours (so fewer internships with more hours). Because of the additional funds Helle suggested starting the program with a couple internships in the spring in addition to the summer internships. Additional funding could be awarded through the NWSF Fellowship Program. Jeff mentioned that we still have a proposal for the video

fellowship which was well received by NWSF last spring (the Clallam MRC withdrew the proposal because funding would have been awarded in the summer of 2019 after end of the school year). Arnold suggested expanding the BEACH program by collecting samples at Salt Creek through the winter months (covering the months not sampled by CCEH). The Internship Program will be on the agenda for the retreat in October.

Clallam MRC Leadership

Jeff Ward informed the members that he will step down at the end of October. At the May meeting during the selection of officers nobody stepped forward to fill the chair and vice-chair positions, so Jeff and Ed Bowlby agreed to continue through the summer months. The Clallam MRC leadership will be on the agenda for the October retreat to give the members an opportunity to discuss how best to move forward. Jeff will step down after the retreat. Ed also would like to step down, but he is concerned about who will step up. Even though Ed would prefer not to continue as vice-chair he is willing to continue if somebody takes the position as chair to ensure a smooth transition. Jeff pointed out that the Executive Committee which includes the chair, vice-chair, NWSC representative and the outgoing chair is a great support for the two positions. The discussion then turned to how the MRC could be strengthened by adding alternates to all positions (not just the appointed positions). Having alternates would be an excellent recruitment tool to fill future member openings.

NWSC Update

Because of family medical issues Alan Clark could not come to the meeting. Jeff Ward reminded the members about the MRC Conference November 15-16 in Everett. Jeff also mentioned that Alan is considering talking with Lucas Hart about the high number of reports required from each MRC to comply with the NWSC-EPA grant (this fiscal year Clallam MRC is submitting 58 reports).

Project Updates

Marine Debris: Helle Andersen told the members that Saturday September 21st is the International Coastal Cleanup Day and that Clallam MRC, in collaboration with CoastSavers, is organizing the effort between Pillar Point and Dungeness Spit. Site coordinators will be at three locations; Joyce Depot, Ediz Hook and Dungeness Spit, between 9 am and noon. Based on the members decision made at the May meeting 2019 this is the last time Clallam MRC is involved in the marine debris removal effort along the Strait.

Good of the Order

Orca Task Force Meeting: Ed Bowlby provided a brief summary of the Orca Task Force meeting held in Port Angeles. Ed found the meeting discouraging but very educational. The task force members sat around tables forming a large square with an open space in the middle used for "work sessions." The task force has finalized their recommendations and it will be dissolved at the end of the year (November). No funding will be available after 2021. Numerous people provided comments including Ed Chadd who rapped about taking down the Snake River Dams. Another contentious topic was whale watching.

Vessel Traffic Handout: Helle Andersen handed out a summary sheet of Salish Sea vessel traffic projections provided by Friends of the San Juans.

Board of Health Meeting: Jacob Melly invited the members to the Board of Health meeting to be held in the large commissioners' conference room Tuesday September 17 at 1:30 pm. On the agenda is a proposal by CCEH for a septic system fee to help with managing and enforcing compliance with county regulations.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.