

**CLALLAM COUNTY**  
  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

Date: Monday, November 18, 2019  
 Time: 5:30 – 6:30 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	P Ann Soule	Greig Arnold
P Sissi Bruch	P Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Tim Cochnauer	LEKT Open Position
P Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	Jesse Waknitz	T&C Open Position

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

Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

**Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda**

During the introductions Ed Bowlby informed the members that Pete Schroeder has resigned from the MRC.

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comments. The August minutes were approved.

**Clallam MRC Retreat – What Next?**

At the retreat two tasks rose to the top of the “what next list” – 1) establish a process for finding alternates and 2) process for adding new projects and phasing out old projects. Regarding the alternate process Jeff Ward asked for confirmation that under the NWSC and the County Clallam MRC could have alternates. This was confirmed by Cathy Lear and Helle Andersen. Helle informed the members that all new alternates have to fill the county volunteer application form and the applicants have to be confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners. The discussion then turned to possible sources of alternates including retirees from PNNL, OCNMS, the beach watchers program and specific individuals. Sissi Bruch informed the members that the City Council of Port Angeles is considering not having a representative on the Clallam MRC because of time limitations for council members and city staff. Jeff and others pointed out that former city employees would be able to represent the city on the MRC. *Actions: Helle will email the current list of potential MRC candidates to the members; the members will start looking for their alternates; and Helle will reach out to Adrienne Akmajian from the Makah Tribe and Matt Beirne from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.*

Regarding the project process Helle laid out the current process for adding new projects and phasing out old projects. Each new project requires a project lead and usually the project starts as a pilot project outside the NWSC grant. The following April and if the MRC deems it a good project, it will be rolled into the NWSC proposal usually submitted to the NWSC in early June. Requirements for the NWSC grant include a project lead and several deliverables (reports, QAPP, data dump, photos and more depending on the project). Phasing out a project should happen in the spring when the MRC is preparing the annual NWSC proposal (being dropped from the list of next year’s projects). If a project is being phased out during a grant period it will require a grant amendment to be submitted to NWSC and Department of Ecology. In the last five years the Clallam MRC has only phased out one project (marine debris in 2019). Arnold Schouten and others suggested evaluation of current projects on a quarterly basis to assess if the projects are effective/”money well spent” and in that process decide which projects should be

continued/discontinued. *It was suggested to add the project review process to the February or March 2020 agenda.*

### **Strait of Juan de Fuca GRP Update**

At the beginning of the discussion Jeff Ward summarized the status of the current GRP for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The GRP was written 20 years ago and needs updating. In 2016 with the help from an intern Jeff compiled a lot of new data into a spreadsheet. Jeff is willing to summarize the information that was compiled into a letter for the MRC members to review and approve. The update of the GRP was slated to be completed by December 2019, but staffing issues (Susan Vezeau the primary writer of the GRP has been promoted) have delayed the process. Currently NOAA is working on the update. Lyn Muench asked if the County would review the update and Mike Doherty informed the members that none of the current commissioners is interested. *Action: Helle Andersen will email the draft revised plan to the members; by the December meeting Jeff will summarize the information the MRC identified in 2016 in a letter and Ed Bowlby, Tim Cochnauer and Mike Doherty will help with the effort.*

### **Meeting in December?**

The members decided to have a meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>. Whether it will be a full meeting or an hour long meeting followed by a small Christmas party depends on the agenda. The members talked about having the meeting in another location such as the meeting room in the H2O restaurant. *Helle Andersen will look into the options.*

### **2020 Annual Workplan and 2020 Educational Outreach Plan**

Copies of the draft 2020 annual workplan were handed out to the members. The annual workplan is a deliverable to the NWSC grant due January 10, 2020. Helle Andersen asked the members to review the projects and especially the project leads. Lyn Muench questioned if the Olympia oyster restoration project would continue due to the difficulties finding new restoration sites. Robert Knapp stated the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is still completely behind the collaboration and suggested that the Clallam MRC continues the project. Lyn, Alan Clark, and Ed Bowlby confirmed that they would be willing to be the lead for the Dungeness River Festival, Ocean Science Program with OCNMS, and public forums and data sharing, respectively. Jeff Ward remained the secondary lead on the Ocean Science program and Ann Soule replaced Pete Schroeder as the secondary lead for the public forums. After a discussion Tim Cochnauer tentatively agreed to be the lead for the internship program with Arnold Schouten as the secondary lead. The workplan will be reviewed and approved on the December meeting.

Helle pointed out that, as a NWSC grant deliverable, the MRC has to organize or be present at four local outreach events. This took the discussion into the 2020 educational outreach plan; copies of which were distributed to the members. Ed informed the members that the Celebration of Science and Technology will be held March 14<sup>th</sup> in the Vern Burton and that he assumed the MRC would have a booth at the event. The members came up with several other ideas for public outreach events including collaborate with other organizations interested in making the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day a big event (Earth Day is April 22, 2020); a climate change forum; reach out to League of Women's Voters to collaborate with their watershed information campaign. Currently they are working on the Dungeness River watershed near Sequim and they are considering the Elwha River watershed near Port Angeles; participate with a booth in the Crab Festival; and starting an effort to recycle plastics in Port Angeles. *Sissi Bruch agreed to lead the discussion on the recycling of plastics at the next MRC meeting. The draft 2020 workplan and educational outreach plan have been revised based on the discussion and attached to these minutes. Approval of the two plans will be on the December meeting agenda.*

### **2019-20 Internship Program**

This topic was postponed to the December meeting.

### **NWSC Update**

Allan Clark began his update with acknowledging the success of the MRC conference. Everybody enjoyed the conference and the keynote speaker Kirk Johnson, Director of the Smithsonian National

Museum of Natural History, was amazing. Alan encouraged the participating members to fill out the survey. Richard Austin, who joined the conference with the Clallam MRC members, has agreed to create a database of all the MRC projects. Nicole Jordan is leaving the NWSC; her last day is December 11, 2019. Dana Oster is going on maternity leave April through August 2020; the NWSC is looking for a temporary replacement. Some of the other MRCs have several openings on their committees; Jefferson MRC is one example but they filled six seats in less than a month. Tom Cowan of the NWSC is willing to come to a Clallam MRC meeting to talk about how you reach out and communicate with the BOCC. Finally Alan told the members that at the last NWSC meeting Cecilia Gobin, Conservation Policy Analyst with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, provided an update on the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Tribal issues. Lucas Hart was invited to the tribal salmon meeting November 5<sup>th</sup> and in that connection Lucas stated that the NWSC is currently in the listening phase.

### **Project Updates**

Dungeness River Festival: Lyn Muench thought the festival and the MRC booth were a success. The crabber outreach game went very well and she through the booth presented a focused display. The other MRC members present at the festival agreed. About 1,400 students, teachers and local residents came to the festival.

### **Good of the Order**

Oil Spill Task Force 2019 Annual Meeting: Jeff Ward gave a brief summary of the annual meeting which was the 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The goal of the meeting was to share and celebrate successes in spill prevention, response and preparedness by Task Force members and partners. The members also discussed future directions – how emerging issues and changes in the energy landscape are shaping the Task Force’s work and how to build relationships among participants.

2019 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum: Jeff Ward gave a brief summary of the forum. The goal of the forum was to exchange information to enhance oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to minimize impact of oil spills to the Salish Sea (the shared waters of Washington and British Columbia). The forum was intended to advance our collective knowledge about current policies and practices in place and discuss safeguards to protect our shared waters and resources. The Makah Tribe received a legacy award for their work.

Comments Letters: Bob Vreeland informed the members that he was going to comment on two important topics on the peninsula: cleanup of the Rayonier property in Port Angeles and net pens in Port Angeles. The deadlines for providing comments on the two projects are Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, so too soon for the MRC to agree and approve on comments. On Thursday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm the BOCC will have a meeting about the Jamestown oyster farm. Bob encouraged the members to provide comments or go to the meeting as an individual member of the community.

Climate Change and the BOCC: At the end of the meeting Ann Soule, Ed Bowlby, Bob Vreeland and Alan Clark agreed to collaborate on writing a letter to the BOCC advising the board to act on climate change.

Fewision – University of Northern Arizona: Sissi Bruch informed the members that Port Angeles will be a pilot project for this effort. FEWSION is a data fusion project that maps the food, energy and water supply chains for every community in the United States. For more information go to <https://news.nau.edu/fewision-release/#.XdbbYK97I9M>

Streamkeepers New Coordinator: Arnold Schouten suggested that the MRC invites Noelle Nordstrom to one of our meetings.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.