

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

**Minutes**

Date: Monday, December 16, 2019  
 Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
 Location: H2O Restaurant, Port Angeles  
 Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

**Members present:**

**P = Present E= Excused**

P Bob Vreeland	P Robert Knapp	E Arnold Schouten	P Ann Soule	Greig Arnold
P Sissi Bruch	P Jeff Ward	E Mike Doherty	P Tim Cochnauer	LEKT Open Position
E Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	Jesse Waknitz	T&C Open Position

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

Carrol Hull, Clallam 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**

During the public comments Carrol Hull informed the members about the successful “Story of Water” project. The Story of Water is a collaborative project of the Clallam County League of Women Voters and local community partners, including the cities of Sequim and Port Angeles, Clallam County, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Dungeness River Audubon Center, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, North Olympic Land Trust, Clallam Conservation District, Public Utility District #1, and local hydrologists. The program is designed to educate the local community about the water challenges facing Clallam County in maintaining a healthy and sustainable water supply for personal, agricultural and business consumption. The current project focuses on the Dungeness Watershed with plans to move to other watersheds to the west in the next several years. More than 1,000 people have so far seen the 20 min video. Sissi Brunch suggested showing the video at a City of Port Angeles Council meeting.

The November minutes were approved.

**Recycle Plastics in Port Angeles**

Sissi Brunch started the recycle plastics in Port Angeles discussion with showing a video made by Precious Plastics [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KIW\\_WmV3Bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KIW_WmV3Bw). Sissi saw this video about 6 months ago and has been thinking of how Port Angeles could create such a recycling center and use it as an educational outreach tool for high school students by getting them involved in building the center and recycle the plastics. In her presentation Sissi also provided a very preliminary budget of approximately \$15,000 to get the project off the ground. In the following discussion the members supported the idea. Ann Soule had a question regarding potential toxic fumes created during the melting process. Helle Andersen suggested looking into the possibility of submitting a proposal to the NWSF MRC Opportunity Fund and Jeff Ward suggested asking Jefferson MRC if they would be interested in teaming up with Clallam MRC on this project. *Sissi will continue working on the project after her term as Port Angeles Mayor and MRC member expire at the end of December 2019. Helle Andersen volunteered to look into the issue regarding toxic fumes.*

**2019-2020 Internship Program**

Helle Andersen informed the members about a recent call with Caroline Gibson, Don Hunger, and Sasha Horst about funding of the video internship. Because of the timing of the internship, starting in April, the

NWSC and NWSF suggested that the internship gets funded through the NWSC grant not the NWSF Fellowship grant. Because of the increase in funds for the Educational Outreach category in the NWSC grant, Helle suggested that the members consider hiring the video intern and another intern for the spring in addition to the usual four interns in the summer. This will hopefully ensure that the MRC spends all the money in the Educational Outreach category by September 2020. Finally, Helle handed out a list of potential projects based on the discussion the members had at the meeting September 16, 2019. Questions were raised about the video internship such as access to the computer lab during the summer months and qualifications of the potential intern candidates from the Port Angeles High School. These are questions to be raised with Patric McInnis at the high school. *Five members agreed to participate in a subcommittee to develop the final 2020 internship program and present the program at the next meeting January 27, 2020. The members are: Ed Bowlby, Tim Cochnauer, Jeff Ward, Alan Clark and Arnold Schouten.*

### **Draft Final 2020 Workplan**

The members approved the draft final workplan. During the brief discussion of the workplan the members discussed the draft annual report to be submitted to the three County Commissioners at the end of the year or early in the new year. Recommendations included pointing out the connection between some of the projects we are currently doing and climate change, and making it clear who will benefit (learn) from the projects. The members also suggested including information on the Clallam MRC retreat in the last page of the annual report "On the Horizon." Submittal of the annual report to the commissioners was delayed until January 2020 and *Ann Soule volunteered to work on finalizing the report with Helle Andersen.*

### **Draft Final 2020 Educational Outreach Plan**

The members approved the draft final educational outreach plan. During the discussion Ann Soule handed out a summary of the outcomes of the retreat under the following retreat themes: clarify outside agency involvement and improve participation; and clarify workplan, directions and goals. The handout is attached to these minutes. Bob Vreeland suggested organizing three climate change forums (one in Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim) with a blue ribbon panel to help alleviate peoples concerns about climate change. To support his suggestion Bob handed out a summary about "Ecoanxiety" by Patricia Rockman. The handout summarized how climate change affects mental health, the definition of Ecoanxiety, and three ways to help cope with ecoanxiety. The handout is attached to these minutes. Cathy Lear suggested partnering with the Coastal MRC in organizing the forum in Forks.

### **Oil Spill Preparedness**

Dept. of Ecology, WDFW and their partners have decided to move the 2020 HAZWOPER training to Vancouver, WA because of low participation in Port Angeles and to address the shift in oil transport with the "oil by rail." Helle Andersen provided a summary of her conversation with Focus Wildlife about possible ways of still providing the HAZWOPER training in Clallam County. Focus Wildlife will be able to provide the training and the cost will be around \$3,000. One option would be to combine the HAZWOPER training with the oiled wildlife training and extend the duration to 1 ½ days. Jeff Ward told the members that he has promoted the idea of in-person training alternated with online course every other year to Dale Jensen from Dept. of Ecology, but with no luck. The members raised the possibility of organizing the HAZWOPER training in partnership with Jefferson MRC and Jamestown tribe. *At the end of the discussion the members agreed that Helle should pursue the possibility of hiring Focus Wildlife and collaborating with Jefferson MRC and Jamestown tribe.*

### **BOCC Letter regarding Climate Change**

A couple of days after the MRC meeting Ann Soule provided this very succinct summary of the discussion and what the MRC should do next regarding climate change and the BOCC. After the BOCC's debate started last month over International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) software I realized that a letter directly to BOCC is not the best first step on this unfortunately

controversial topic. I consulted a few folks who had volunteered to assist on the subject to bounce ideas around and the following is what I propose at this time.

- I. Finalize and adopt CMRC annual report (Dec-Jan)
- II. Helle draft a one-pager listing our past climate change-related outreach/education activities (Jan?)
- III. Committee\* review the NOPRCD Preparedness Plan (2015) for actions that could be initiated with low cost or controversy. (Dec-Jan)
- IV. Improve MRC strategic communications with BOCC through one-on-ones between all 3 district reps and their commissioner, by presenting items I, II and III and expressing in person:
  - a. climate action is the top concern of MRC members;
  - b. results of “III” – specific ideas for action tailored to each Com’s values and constituents; and
  - c. referring to preparedness as resiliency.
  - d. (Other reps do same with their councils?) (Jan-Feb)
- V. Follow weekly BOCC agendas and attend worksessions with topics that relate to our mission, with intention of listening and tracking discussion in non-threatening manner. This visibility should improve BOCC and public awareness of MRC and perhaps result in BOCC or County staff motivation to consult with CMRC. (starting Jan)
- VI. Track progress by BOCC and staff re GHG inventory, carbon reduction goal setting, and adaptation/resiliency planning; discuss potential next steps as a subcommittee and report at MRC meetings.

The subcommittee members working on this issue include Bob Vreeland, Ed Bowlby, Jeff Ward, Alan Clark, Mike Doherty, Lyn Muench, and Cathy Lear.

### **NWSC Update**

Allan Clark provided a brief summary of the last NWSC meeting. The kelp recovery webinar and the symposium January 8<sup>th</sup> have been placed on hold until Dana Oster is back. The NWSC Board has decided to hire a professional to work on a communication plan. The NWSC has submitted comments on the EPA funding model with recommendations that EPA fund stewardship and marine habitat, which encompass things such as volunteer training, public and elected education, native shellfish restoration, marine vegetation restoration etc. An overarching theme of climate resiliency should be stressed. The science advisory committee is looking into increasing their capacity to support the MRCs. The MRC members can still provide comments to the MRC Conference online. The 2020 NWS Initiative retreat is scheduled for March 26-27 at Padilla Bay Reserve. The NWSC project database is moving forward with support from Richard Austin, a volunteer recruited through Clallam MRC. If you are interested in joining Lucas Hart on Puget Sound Day on the Hill please email Lucas. NWSC Board member Cecilia Gobin indicated to the NWSC that tribal events will be opening up for participation by the commission and the MRCs. A WWU study has found that harbor seal do impact salmon populations in Puget Sound. The males can eat a lot of salmon whereas the females eat other fish. Reducing the numbers of harbor seals may help; however, currently studies indicate that their population is declining because of the increase presence of transient Orca whales (they eat pinnipeds not salmon). The next NWSC meeting may be held either in Jefferson or Clallam County.

### **Project Updates**

**Forage Fish:** Ed Bowlby and Tim Cochnauer gave a brief update of the forage fish sampling effort. In December Ed, Tim and Alan collected the sample at Cline Spit late in the afternoon and the following day Tim processed the sample at his house. In addition to the “official” sample Tim collected another sample and check both samples for eggs. He saw eggs in one sample but not the other. Helle Andersen informed the members that a new volunteer had contacted her regarding helping out with the forage fish

sampling effort. So Helle suggested that the MRC create an east and west team; the east team will sample Cline Spit and the west team will sample the two locations at Ediz Hook. Sampling at the two stations at East Elwha Beach will hopefully commence in the spring with assistance from the Lower Elwha Tribe.

### **Good of the Order**

**GRP Letter:** Before the meeting Jeff Ward had emailed a draft letter addressed to Matthew Bissell at NOAA regarding the Clallam MRC providing comments to the update of the Geographic Response Plan for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The letter was approved by the members and *Helle Andersen was tasked with submitting the letter and associated information to Matthew.*

**January Meeting Date:** The members decided to move the January meeting to January 27<sup>th</sup> (January 20<sup>th</sup> is a holiday).

**Salish Sea Conference:** Robert Knapp pointed out the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting coincides with the Salish Sea Conference in Vancouver, B.C. *Helle Andersen was tasked with finding out if NWSC had funds to send MRC members to the conference.*

**Pigeon Guillemot Presentation:** Ed Bowlby informed the members that he will be giving a presentation on the pigeon guillemot project at an upcoming OPAS meeting.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm.