

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, February 24, 2020
 Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
 Location: Large Commissioners’ conference room,
 Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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

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

Ioana Bociu, Academia alternate; Harold Kline, District III alternate; Tom Butler, resident; Burt Foote, resident; Alex Hirsekorn, resident; Jim Jewel, resident; Jac Cumming, resident; Pat Nachreiner, resident; Chris Kopf, resident; Tien Vo, resident; Emily Grason, WA Sea Grant; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

The January minutes were approved as amended.

WA Sea Grant Green Crab Trapping and removal Project

Emily Grason, Marine Ecologist and Crab team Program Manager for the WA Sea Grant, gave an excellent presentation on the European green crab removal project with a focus on findings from Clallam County. The project is currently monitoring 56 stations in the Salish Sea and the green crab has been ranked as the number 2 aquatic invasive species in Washington. She also discussed the recent findings in Drayton and Lummi Bay (Whatcom County) and how this influences the management landscape for green crab across the Salish Sea. After the presentation the audience had numerous questions one of which was “what’s the end game of the project.” Emily answered this with saying that she thinks there will be an on-going trapping effort to keep the numbers low and monitoring for emerging new population areas; she does not expect the project to eradicate green crabs from the Salish Sea. Because Emily was going back to Seattle the audience was encouraged to email her any additional questions to egrason@uw.edu.

Oil Spill Preparedness Outreach in 2020

At the January meeting the members decided not to offer oiled wildlife training in 2020. This decision generated the question “how should the MRC spend the \$4,200 dedicated to the training.” Helle Andersen provided a budget summary to facilitate the discussion. Inspired by Emily Grason’s presentation several of the members suggested that the Clallam MRC get more involved with the project and looked into staffing a monitoring station. It was also suggested that the MRC use some of the money to buy the traps needed to monitor a new station. The members also discussed whether the funds should go into the monitoring task or the education & outreach task and how to achieve the most flexible budget so that we will not have to write another amendment. Arnold Schouten raised the point that the MRC should not remove all the funds under the oil spill preparedness task. In that connection, Ed Bowlby informed the members that a representative for Department of Ecology will come to the Celebration of Science and Technology event March 14th and speak about oil transport in Washington State. Since Ed

reached out to the Department of Ecology and organized the speaker, the Clallam MRC will be able to take credit for the presentation and fulfill one of the 2019-20 grant deliverables. The members agreed to staff a booth at the event and a sign-up list went around the table. Harold Kline suggested that the MRC consider having a booth at the Maritime Festival in June. *The final outcome of the discussion was that Helle Andersen should contact Emily and talk to her about the MRC staffing a new monitoring station and the cost of traps. At the next meeting, based on the conversation with Emily Helle will provide a budget proposal most likely splitting the \$4,200 between the oil spill preparedness, education & outreach and monitoring tasks.*

NWSC Retreat Agenda and Questions

Alan Clark informed the members that the 2020 Northwest Straits Initiative Retreat at Padilla Bay, on April 3rd, will bring the NWSC representatives from all MRC's together to discuss some issues that all of our MRCs seem to be facing or have faced recently, such as:

- Working with county leadership on the need for full-time MRC staffers.
- Getting county elected officials to attend or sit on MRC staff meetings
- Working with Tribes
- Development of education and outreach tools for MRC use in the community.
- Recruiting local, state, federal elected officials to serve on subcommittees or projects
- New member recruitment and retention issues

In that connection NWSC has provided a list of questions looking for feedback from the MRCs (attached to these minutes). Dana Oster has requested comments back to her by March 20th at the latest. Alan liked project ideas which create interest in the local community including potential voters. This will get the attention of the elective representatives. A good example is the "Story of Water" video produced by the Clallam County League of Women Voters and community partners. Ed Bowlby commented that the Clallam MRC is better connected with the three commissioners than with staff at Department of Community Development. He suggested that we reach out to staff members, inviting them to our meetings or talking with them on a one-on-one basis. Jeff Ward stated that the DCD doesn't come to the Clallam MRC about issues - instead we often find out late in the process. Latisha Suggs suggested that Clallam MRC should let DCD know about the knowledge residing with Clallam MRC and ask to get more involved in drafting the planning documents. However, this raises the question "how involved does the MRC want to get in the work carried out by DCD?" During this discussion Helle Andersen provided a summary of all the boards and committee under the county, how they are staffed by county employees, and the vacancy rate. She also provided a list of all the boards and committees each commissioner is a member of (attached). Several other topics were raised during the discussion such as funding of a full-time coordinator position. In larger MRCs some of this funding comes from county budgets in addition to the NWSC funds. This may cause issues with securing the position under budget cuts. Other issues were how to get people to serve and in that connection Jeff stated that the seven MRCs go through cycles from functioning very well to struggling with member participation. Ann Soule (who was on the phone) provided this comment later "I am listening to the MRC discussion on this via phone tonight and have one suggestion: the climate crisis is a major concern so can retreat participants explore how to encourage and/or assist our county governments in making progress toward meaningful mitigation and adaptation."

Port Angeles Harbor Crabber Outreach Map

Postpone to the March meeting.

Project Updates

2020 Internship Program: The subcommittee informed the members that the two spring internships, smolt trap and green crab with Makah Tribe, have been advertised and Helle Andersen mentioned that she will be visiting classes at the Peninsula College tomorrow. Application due date for the two

internships is March 9th. Patric McInnis from the Port Angeles high school has recommended three students for the video internship and Helle has reached out to them to set-up interviews. Lyn Muench suggested that we start advertising the summer internships at the celebration of Science and Technology event. *Latisha Suggs requested that Helle email the spring internship brochure to all the members.*

Climate Change Subcommittee: Ann Soule provided this summary of the subcommittee's efforts: After our January meeting the workgroup members were active via email, summarizing talking points for district rep meetings with their Commissioners and offering various lists of activities the MRC has been involved in related to climate change research, education, etc. Next step is to meet again for a Dry Run and decide exactly who will approach each Commissioner. Additional activities but not yet planned include tracking BOCC agendas for marine and/or climate topics and attend those, to be more visible.

Kelp Monitoring: Alan Clark informed the members that Jeff Ward, Alan and Helle Andersen had breakfast with Tom Mumford on February 19th to discuss the kelp monitoring projects. Lots of ideas were discussed including conducting boat kelp surveys and better documenting the distribution of Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis*). On another note Alan has contacted Alisa, the 2019 summer intern, and she will be interested in applying for the kelp monitoring project again in 2020.

Good of the Order

Ann Soule asked the members if the MRC would be interested in purchasing Chico bags as a way to raise funds and awareness while avoiding plastic and single-use bags. For more information Ann provided this link <https://chicobag.com/pages/about-us>. If yes, should the MRC ask for partners such as Feiro, OCA, Surfrider? (since CMRC doesn't have a real logo to put on there)? Lyn Muench thought it was a good idea, but knew from other experiences that it could be difficult to get the bags. Arnold Schouten asked how it would work as a fundraiser. Ann said that we can sell the bags with a little profit. That raised the question of how the MRC would be able to receive the money. *Alan Clark volunteered to contact Don Hunger at the NWSF to see if we could receive the money through the NWSF. Ann said she will bring more information to the next meeting.*

Ioana Bociu informed the members that the USACE is working on a nearshore programmatic to expedite bulkhead and dock projects. Part of it will include a section for mitigation. She proposed that the MRC looked into how we could work with project proponents to provide mitigation options. The programmatic is still under development so there isn't much information about it but we will know more about it around May or June.

Tim Cochnauer told the members that the March Issue of the National Geographic had a very good article about recycling of marine debris.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm.