

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, April 20, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: WebEx – the meeting agenda was reduced in scope and conducted online due to Covid-19

Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

P Bob Vreeland	P 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

Harold Kline, District III Alternate; Ioana Bociu, Academia alternate; Sasha Horst, NWSC Project Manager; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

Introduction of Video and Spring Interns

Three of the five spring interns, Anika Avelino, Malleck Braun and Tyler Diltz, called into the meeting and presented themselves. Anika is a high school senior at Port Townsend High School, and also a full-time running start student at Peninsula College. Next year she plans to attend Western Washington University with the majority of the classes taken through the Huxley College of the Environment. Anika has already worked with salmon - as a 5th grader raising/monitoring salmon eggs to be released into the Quilcene River, and as a 8th grader volunteering for salmon surveys through the North Olympic Salmon Coalition. It is her personal goal to work with salmon at each stage of the cycle in addition to preserving its habitat, so the smolt trap internship is a perfect match.

Malleck and Tyler are Port Angeles High School students and both have been taking classes in video production taught by Patric McInnis. These two students were two of three students recommended by Patric for the video internship. Following the introductions there was a short discussion of how to proceed with the first video – an introduction to the Clallam MRC. It was agreed upon that Malleck and Tyler should produce a draft story board and then provide it to the members.

2020 Internship and Fellowship Programs

Ed Bowlby provided a brief summary of the interview and hiring process for the three internships: green crab catch and removal with Makah Tribe, Tumwater Creek smolt trap with the Lower Elwha Tribe, and the video internship. This year all the applicants were highly qualified and the selection process was difficult. The Internship Subcommittee decided to hire an intern living in Neah Bay for the green crab internship to ensure that the intern could work with Adrienne as soon as the stay-at-home order was lifted on the reservation. The committee decided to hire two video interns to facilitate a team effort and the two only applicants for the smolt trap internship were so good that it was decided to hire them both. Tim Cochnauer, as one of the smolt trap mentors, interjected that he had reached out to WDFW to see if Anika could help out on the trap in Snow Creek (to avoid the long drive to Tumwater Creek). Unfortunately, the trap on Snow Creek has been closed down because of Covid-19.

Jeff Ward provided a brief summary of how the Clallam MRC Fellowship came about. In the 2019-20 budget a sum of money was set aside to hire a County temporary employee to help out in the busy summer season. Because of Covid-19 the County instated a hiring freeze in early April. So the Internship Subcommittee decided to create a Fellowship Program and run it through Feiro Marine Life Center similar to the internship program. The hourly rate will be the same as for the planned County hire (\$20/hr) but the number of hours will be less (60 hours per month instead of 79 hours). The reason for this is less educational outreach and other efforts done by the MRC (so less work for the hired person) due to Covid-19. Alisa Taylor, the kelp monitoring intern in 2019, has been contacted for the position and she is interested.

During the discussion of funds Helle Andersen pointed out that the Clallam MRC has funds not earmarked for any specific task/item both in the Admin task and the Educational Outreach task. She mentioned that Sasha Horst from the NWSC has suggested purchasing a laptop for the Clallam MRC for some of the funds. Another useful item would be a laminator. *The members supported both purchases and it was decided that Helle should get a quote for a laptop and email it out to the members for approval.* Another suggestion for spending the additional funds was to increase the number of hours for the 2020 interns.

Outreach to Recreational Crabbers

Helle Andersen provided an introduction to the topic, outreach to recreational crabbers in Port Angeles Harbor, and the evolution of the current draft crabbing map. The problem is that despite contamination and high risks of entanglement and high traffic a lot of people crab in Port Angeles Harbor. This sparked a long discussion about what map would best convey DOH's restricted crabbing guidelines for the harbor, contamination in the harbor and the risks of entanglement and high traffic areas. In the end it was decided to table the decision for an in-person MRC meeting. The interim solution could be to include the DOH restricted crabbing guidelines with the crabber outreach kits to be distributed to stores selling crab pots this summer.

2020 Clallam MRC Workshops

Two workshops have been proposed by the Clallam MRC members: 1) deep-handshake partnership workshop and 2) small workshops across the Olympic Peninsula focused on OA impacts to Treaty resources. Maybe Clallam and Jefferson MRCs could collaborate on these workshops and invite the local tribes. The members were asked if there is anything the MRC could do right now under Covid-19. The answer was no.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark provided an update on NWSC news. The MRC Conference in November 2020 has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and limited funds. The seven MRCs have been impacted in different ways. Island MRC has been shut down completely and other MRCs hold meetings online but conduct no fieldwork. In place of the MRC Symposium the NWSC has proposed to have a MRC Virtual Symposium series which would include online meetings twice a month. Each MRC would host a symposium. The first virtual symposium will be hosted by Jefferson MRC and Dana Oster this week. Robert Knapp has raised the question if the work the Climate Change Subcommittee has done could be the topic of the symposium hosted by Clallam MRC. The members thought that the symposium could be formatted as a round-table discussion but the members questioned if we could fill the proposed allotted time of 1.5 hours. Finally, Alan informed the members that Clallam MRC has to present on one of our projects on a NWSC meeting either in May or June. The meeting will be online.

Project Updates

Climate Change Subcommittee: Ann Soule and Jeff Ward provided a brief update. Because of Covid-19 the meeting with Mark Ozias is on hold. At the meeting Ann and Jeff had planned to discuss climate

change talking points and how Mark can approach the two other commissioners to promote county-wide activities.

Clallam MRC Booth at Festivals: Helle Andersen informed the members that the Maritime Festival in June has been cancelled and that she has submitted an application for a booth in the Dungeness Crab Festival in October. She has not received any information from the Dungeness Crab Festival.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby informed the members that the forage fish sampling had been cancelled for the month of April due to Covid-19 and that future sampling is a work in progress. Ed was asked if the pigeon guillemot surveys will be conducted this summer and he was still planning on leading the effort. Lyn Muech asked if the volunteers would need a special permission now that all County parks are closed. *It was decided that Helle Andersen should contact Clallam County Parks and ask for permission to access the monitoring sites in County parks for the pigeon guillemot and kelp bed projects.*

Jeff Ward recommended that the members on Facebook read the posts by Mark Ozias. Jeff thought that the Covid-19 information provided by Mark was very good.

Robert Knapp reminded the members that the Virtual Salish Sea Conference is taking place April 22 and 23. The online conference is free.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.