

CLALLAM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, May 18, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: BlueJeans – 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	P Mike Doherty	Greig Arnold	LEKT Open Position
P Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	P Ed Bowlby	E 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; Dana Oster, NWSC Marine Program Manager; Chris Burns, Jamestown Alternate; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved.

Review and Comments to MRC Video Story Board

Unfortunately the two video interns did not call into the meeting, so Ed Bowlby, Jeff Ward and Helle Andersen provided a brief summary of the internships. All subcommittee members were impressed during the interview process, however it has proven a little harder getting them started. The first approach was to ask them to write a story board of the first video introducing the Clallam MRC. It appeared that they were not comfortable with that so the next approach has been to get them out into the field to film. They visited the smolt trap on Tumwater Creek with the two smolt trap interns and they went out to Point Williams with Ed to film pigeon guillemot at several of the survey sites along that bluff. Next they will be going on a trip out west visiting and filming at Elwha Beach, Freshwater Bay, Pillar Point, and Clallam Bay.

MRC Virtual Symposium June 4th

Ann Soule informed the members that all the MRCs are now signed up to do a symposium and Clallam MRC will hold our symposium June 4th. The topic for the symposium is engaging with elected officials on current topics such as climate change. The Clallam MRC subcommittee working on the symposium includes Ann Soule, Jeff Ward, Lyn Muench, Alan Clark, Cathy Lear and Ed Bowlby. Robert Knapp also contributed slides for our use. The plan is that the subcommittee gives a 20-minute presentation/lead in to the topic and then open the symposium for the participants to answer a number of questions developed by the committee. Ann shared the questions and asked for input by the end of the week via email. Questions 1) How important is the advisory role to your MRC? 2) Does your MRC have tools that have been effective? Have you tried anything that was not successful? 3) Does County commissioners/councils seek your input/assistance regularly or sporadically and if so how often? 4) Does an individual MRC member conduct the liaison work or is it a group effort? Do other community groups assist with the effectiveness of your advisory role? 5) Any other advisory role advice or comments?

As climate change was part of the symposium update Jeff Ward provided a brief summary of the process of the climate change subcommittee. The group will meet with Mark Ozias on June 2nd to talk about how Clallam MRC can support climate change adaptation in the county and how to promote what the county

is already doing. In preparation to the meeting the group has looked at the Climate Change Adaptation report published in 2015. In the appendix of the report there are a list of recommended actions to be taken. Several of the recommended actions the Clallam MRC is already doing such as identifying sensitive habitats in case of an oil spill event. Alan Clark added that this is a lot of process and is likely a multiple year effort. Ann pointed out that the label “advisory group” is a loaded term and the group just plans to share what the Clallam MRC knows as a multidisciplinary body. Alan stated that we need to work with senior staff at the county level on issues such as net pens and shellfish culturing to establish a connection.

2020 Clallam MRC Fellowship

The Clallam MRC received two applications for the Fellowship submitted by Alisa Taylor and Kennedy Cameron; both applicants are old MRC interns and well qualified for the position. The subcommittee is currently deciding which candidate should be hired.

Helle Andersen informed the members that the planned summer green crab/crabber outreach internship has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and she questioned the attractiveness of the proposed pigeon guillemot internship. In its current format the tasks the intern will be doing are primarily administrative tasks such as data entry and keeping track of volunteers. She proposed that these tasks be a part of the fellowship workload as this person will be more mature and therefore more likely able to perform these tasks without supervision and administrative tasks were part of the fellowship job announcement. Ed Bowlby stated that he thought both options would work; but he emphasized that he needs the help. After a short discussion of upcoming workload the members decided to include the tasks under the fellowship and then wait and see if the MRC should hire more help later in the season.

Electron of Clallam MRC Officials

Bob Vreeland and Robert Knapp were elected as chair and vice-chair and Alan Clark as the NWSC representative.

Coast Guard Request

The members discussed possible projects for the ten Coast Guard volunteers. Bob Vreeland suggested that they help with the carbon footprint project by entering data from the City of Port Angeles. Bob is in charge of the data entries associated with water and waste water. Another possibility was volunteering on the pigeon guillemot project. Ed Bowlby informed the members that the volunteers had to take the online training which will be available in the near future. *It was decided that Helle Andersen should contact Kelly Yost, the volunteer coordinator at the Coast Guard and offer up these two possibilities.*

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave a brief summary of the NWSC meeting. Senator Liz Lovelett provided an update on two bills enacted in the Washington State Legislature’s 2020 session: Antifouling paints on recreational water vessels (SB 6210) and Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 6528). Senator Lovelett is focused on three additional areas: carbon pricing and low carbon fuel standards, hybridize and electrify the ferry system, and land use planning. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission host presentations on hatcheries and pinnipeds, two key focus areas of the Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Coalition, to better understand their importance to salmon restoration and treaty rights. NWSC Staff are organizing MRC project presentations to the Commission for the May and June meetings. Alan will present for Clallam MRC about the internship program.

The NWSF has closed the Opportunity Fund. Foundation leadership reported that the organization is changing their approach to seeking funding for individual projects that MRCs want to take on. The Foundation is working with Commission staff to develop a unified training program for kayak safety training for kelp monitoring. The training will be online. The Foundation is working on a presentation

about the Shore Friendly project and the second Salish Sea Fresh video. They are also considering developing a video series for the crabber outreach program.

Activity Updates

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland told the members that the shellfish collection is now up and running. Last Tuesday he did the first sampling and he will continue to collect every other Tuesday through September. The clams are sent to Seattle for laboratory analysis.

Smolt Trap Internships: Tim Cochnauer provided a brief summary of the smolt trap internships. The two interns jumped into the project with a good attitude. Besides staffing the trap on Tumwater Creek twice a week the interns have visited traps on Little River, Seibert Creek and Matriotti Creek with staff from Lower Elwha and Jamestown Tribes.

Forage Fish Surveys: Ed Bowlby told the members that the sampling is back on track after being cancelled for the month of April due to Covid-19. Tim Cochnauer, Alan Clark and Ed sampled Cline Spit keeping correct social distance and Tim and his wife processed the sample. The sampling effort will continue as long as the county parks remain open to the public. Tim interjected that Kathe Smith, Helle Andersen and he collected samples at two locations on Ediz Hook in May.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys: Ed Bowlby informed the members that the pigeon guillemot project will commence June 7. Required online volunteer training will be available shortly.

Good of the Order

Jeff Ward informed the members that he has drafted a Covid-19 field safety protocol which is currently being reviewed by Clallam County Department of Environmental Health. As soon as it has been approved Jeff will distribute it among the MRC members and volunteers working in the field.

Helle Andersen informed the members that the oil spill subcommittee has decided to move the oil spill preparedness task under the education and outreach task for the NWSC grant period 2020-21. The reasons for this are that the HAZWOPER training provided by WDFW, Ecology and others moved to Vancouver, WA and the subcommittee questioned the usefulness of offering the oiled wildlife training by itself. Arnold Schouten would like a discussion among the members in an in-person meeting. Jeff Ward suggested waiting and see how the oil spill training offered in Snohomish this fall works out. The members approved moving the oil spill preparedness task under the education and outreach task for the 2020-21 grant cycle.

Nicole Harris from OCMNS has contacted the MRC to ask if the members would be interested in partnering on a virtual event around a screening of The Story of Plastics. During the week of June 15, 2020-June 19, 2020 free viewing will be offered of the movie. In combination with that the third annual Rethink will take place which will offer numerous short videos for viewing online. On June 19th, there will be an online trivia night for participants to attend. Questions will be related to the videos posted and there will be a prize for the winners! Nicole also mentioned that there would be a panel discussion and that OCMNS were looking for suitable panel members. The members supported the event but none of them were sure that they could be a panel member. *Helle Andersen was tasked with following up with Nicole.*

Robert Knapp reminded the members that the Virtual Whatcom Symposium takes place May 21 at 3:30 pm.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.