

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, June 15, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom – 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

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|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| P Bob Vreeland | P Robert Knapp | P Arnold Schouten | P Tim Cochnauer | Makah Open Position |
| E Ann Soule | P Jeff Ward | P Mike Doherty | P Latrisha Suggs | 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

Harold Kline, District III Alternate; Ioana Bociu, Academia alternate; Chris Burns, Jamestown Alternate; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Dan Stahler, OPAS and resident; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Cathy Lear mentioned that Mary Ellen Winborn, DCD Director, has suggested that the MRC provide a presentation or workshop for DCD staff on one of our projects such as the kelp monitoring or Olympia oyster restoration. She thinks that they will be a receptive audience. Harold Kline suggested that maybe our Fellow could participate in the presentation/workshop. Lyn Muench pointed out that it has to be done professionally.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved as amended.

MRC Virtual Symposium June 4th

Jeff Ward informed the members about the Clallam MRC symposium and the meeting with Mark Ozias. The symposium was number four of a series of symposiums produced by the seven MRCs. Cathy Lear provided a very good introduction to the Clallam MRC, Ann Soule followed by describing our approach to engaging Mark Ozias and then the symposium was open for all participants to answer five questions: 1) How important is an advisory role for County/City elected officials OR senior staff to your MRC? 2) Does your MRC have tools that have been effective? Have you tried anything that was not successful? 3) Do they 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? And 5) Any other advice? A couple of lessons learned were that Snohomish, San Juan and Island MRC have a strong role as an advisory body, other MRCs don't; and it is important to go get in front of the county commissioners on a topic. After the symposium the NWSC had the participant answer a survey (attached to these minutes).

The meeting with Mark Ozias went well. At the beginning of the meeting Jeff provided a brief summary of the retreat in the fall 2019 and how climate change was identified as the most important topic for the Clallam MRC. However, based on questions from Mark Ozias the conversation covered all major topics coming out of the retreat including oil spill preparedness, shoreline development and educational outreach. Jeff really liked the way Mark phrased educational outreach to the younger generation "it is not our world but theirs." Several action items came out of the meeting including data sharing with the county staff, inclusion of Mary Ellen Winborn, Director of the Department of Community Development, in the conversations, and planning for a meeting between the other two commissioners and the MRC. Alan

Clark, Ed Bowlby and Lyn Muench all thought that the meeting went very well. Ed stated that Mark Ozias was impressed with the knowledge present within the MRC members. Lyn informed the members that the subcommittee is currently working on outreach to Randy Johnson. Jeff mentioned that Dana Oster had suggested leading with a dialogue - not an issue. Get to know your commissioners. Jeff also stressed that the MRC should pay attention to the grant the NODC has received as a follow-up on the grant supporting the 2015 report. *Jeff requested that Helle Andersen or Cathy Lear provide a summary of the NODC grant to the members.*

Fellowship Program

Helle Andersen introduced Alisa Taylor as the new MRC Fellow. Alisa was the kelp monitoring intern in 2019. Alisa spoke briefly about her excitement of being hired and how she looks forward to continue working on the kelp monitoring project but also help out on a number of other MRC projects. Before the meeting Helle had emailed the members a list of tasks for the fellowship and asked if the members had anything to add. The tasks include working on all aspects of the kelp monitoring project, help out with data entry and datasheets compilation for the pigeon guillemot, assist with the two Olympia oyster population surveys, assist with any educational outreach event including crabber outreach and finally assist with admin tasks such as keeping the Facebook page current..

Video Internships

The members discussed the draft topic list which the two interns had provided. Arnold Schouten was concerned about the duration of the video – reduced from the originally 4-5 minutes proposed by the members to about 3-3.5 minutes by the interns. Arnold was also concerned about the number of projects to be covered in the shorter time. Helle Andersen asked the members how they want to end the video and Alan Clark thought ending with a statement about if the viewer wants more information or would like to volunteer to go to our website or contact the MRC (provide contact information). Ed Bowlby stressed that we should end on a positive note by, for example, stating the that the viewer by participating could make a difference in Clallam County.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan for Field Work

Jeff Ward summarized the efforts going into writing the Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan. Jeff first looked at the guidance provided for landscaping and Sea Grant green crab safety plan since these plans covered similar field activities. Then Jeff received input from Ed Bowlby, Alan Clark, NWSC and Frances Wood based on Island MRC pigeon guillemot work. The current final version was approved by Andy Brastad from CCEH. Jeff has later received guidelines for fishing trips from WDFW and he was thinking that we should incorporate that into the Health and Safety Plan before the kelp monitoring boat surveys. Ed Bowlby and Harold Kline thanked Jeff for his efforts and suggested showing it to other organizations. Mike Doherty suggested sharing it with the NWSC and the tribes. Jeff stated that Dana Oster will be sharing the plan with the other MRCs.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave a brief summary of the NWSC meeting. The Executive Committee has postponed the joint executive committee meeting until August. All meetings that were previously planned to be in-person will be held via WebEx due to COVID-19 guidance and the meetings will be reduced to 3 hours. The External Relations Committee is tracking Washington Senate races. The Science Advisory Committee continues to work on the Actions to Impacts project. Cecilia Gobin reported that the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission signed onto the Puget Sound Kelp Recovery and Conservation Plan vision statement. The NWIFC is updating the State of the Watersheds report to reflect what has happened since 2016. The Puget Sound Day on the Hill has been converted to a virtual event. Next event will be Friday June 19th; members interested in joining should email Alan. The Foundation secured funding to continue their shoreline monitoring work for the next two years. The planned Orca Forum will be held online. During the NWSC meeting four MRCs presented their projects. The projects were

Snohomish- Snohomish Estuary pilings project, Whatcom – North Sounds Stewards, Skagit – Pinto abalone restoration and Clallam – Internship program.

July and August MRC Meeting

Helle Andersen asked the members how/where they want to conduct the July and August meetings if the county goes into phase 3 under the Covid-19 response. The members quickly agreed on having the July meeting online. They also agreed to try to find an outdoor venue for the August meeting which is the Intern Celebration. Suggestions included the City Pier, the County Fairground, Dungeness River Audubon Center, one of Jamestown’s conservation areas and the field next to Dungeness Hatchery. Cathy Lear offered up her canopy and Helle Andersen pointed out that the MRC has two booth tents. *Helle will inform Melissa Williams at Feiro Marine Life Center that the MRC will not be using the classroom as planned for the Intern Celebration.*

Activity Updates

Smolt Trap Internships: Tim Cochnauer provided a brief summary of the smolt trap internships. The trapping effort is now over and the trap has been dismantled. Less Coho was captured this year compared to last year; good Coho runs are often seen every other year. Helle Andersen added that next tasks for the interns include identifying their individual projects for the Intern Celebration, performing an outfall survey of the lower 1 mile for the City of Port Angeles, and assisting Jamestown tribe with a snorkel survey in the end of July. .

Forage Fish Surveys: Tim Cochnauer told the members that sampling was conducted at Cline Spit June 10th and samples will be collected at two locations on Ediz Hook June 24th. Tim added that the sample from Cline Spit contained lots of eggs. Alan Clark mentioned that during the field effort the crew talked with a couple of crabbers about forage fish sampling, Jamestown oyster project and the kelp monitoring project and that Tim had suggested that we somehow track these conversations as they are educational outreach to the community. The members thought this was a great idea and mentioned that we could be handing out our business cards during these interactions.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys: Ed Bowlby informed the members that the pigeon guillemot surveys are now in their second week of monitoring. About 30 volunteers from the MRC, OPAS and local residents are conducting the surveys. New volunteers are teamed up with old volunteers. All sites have been visited. The project will continue the next 10 weeks.

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None

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.