

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, February 22, 2021
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting
 Minutes prepared by: Alisa Taylor

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

- | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| P Bob Vreeland | P Robert Knapp | P Arnold Schouten | P Tim Cochnauer | E Jesse Waknitz |
| P Ann Soule | P Jeff Ward | P Mike Doherty | P Latrisha Suggs | Makah Open Position |
| P Lyn Muench | P Alan Clark | P Ed Bowlby | P Ann Stafford | LEKT Open Position |

Alternates present:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| P Chris Burns | P Lance Vail | E Lucas Hart |
| P Ioana Bociu | E Navarra Carr | E Mary Sue Brancato P Lisa Law |

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

Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Sasha Horst, NWSC Operations Manager; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow, Nancy Mills

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

Ed Bowlby shared that he would like to make some comments about the Pigeon Guillemot survey project, under good of the order.

Cathy Lear noted that, while the agenda states she will lead the discussion about grant applications, in fact Jeff Ward will be leading the discussion.

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

Under the discussion regarding the Executive Committee, it is stated that the former chair (to be involved in the committee) is Ed Bowlby; this was corrected to Jeff Ward, who is in fact the former chair.

The January minutes were approved.

Oil Spill Risk and Response

Ann Stafford shared that there will be a meeting held sometime in March to discuss the topic of oil spill preparedness, and it will be held at an outdoor covered space at Arnold Schouten’s property. Interested people were asked to email Ann so she can coordinate scheduling of the meeting.

MRC Executive Committee

It was decided that the executive committee shall consist of three core members: the Chair (Bob Vreeland), The Former Chair (Jeff Ward), and NWSC Rep (Alan Clark). The committee will meet once a month in advance of the MRC meeting. Any project leads whose project is of relevant discussion for the month, will be invited to intend the meeting as well.

Recording of Volunteer Hours

The members found the Google Sheets option for recording hours to be appealing. It was agreed that both forms (google sheets and google form) would be sent along to the committee, to decide which is preferable in the long run.

March Meeting

The members decided to hold the next MRC meeting on March 15th.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark shared about the NWSC's effort to create a tribal acknowledgement, honoring that the local Indigenous Tribes have worked very closely with our organizations in conservation and restoration efforts, and to encourage future work together on shared projects. A summary of the 2020 bull kelp monitoring data was provided by Dana Oster at the last meeting. There also was a kelp season review webinar with over 50 attendees, where an overview of all regions' various survey methods & results. The NWSC is reviewing and updating their communication plan, in order to be more effective and able to explain what it is the organization is doing, to the public, elected officials, each other, and so on.

Project Updates

Climate Change: Ann Soule shared that Mike Doherty has reached out to DCD Director Mary Ellen Winborn, and discussed some of the MRC's interests as far as climate action planning. Director Winborn is available to attend a monthly MRC meeting, or a climate subcommittee meeting; it was decided that the MRC shall invite Director Winborn to a monthly meeting soon. The Olympia development council grant has had no updates in the last two months. Lyn Muench shared notes about the DNR carbon sequestration advisory group. Ann noted that DNR's jurisdiction overlaps a lot with nearshore lands where the MRC does work related to various projects. Ed Bowlby suggested that it would be great to invite Director Winborn to a meeting when we will have a speaker to present on a topic relevant to the county. Bob Vreeland suggested that we invite Ian Miller to give a presentation, and Ann said she would pass along the info, though a final decision about inviting a speaker, or when, was not made.

Grant Applications: Jeff Ward explained the process of preparing to assemble a proposal and cost estimate, part of which is deciding what the MRC wants to do during the next funding cycle: Oct 1 2021 - Sept 30 2023. The estimate is \$94,000 per year, or \$188,000 for the two year cycle. The members discussed each of the current MRC projects, and decided to maintain the following projects: kelp monitoring, forage fish monitoring (including Tumwater creek), shellfish biotoxin sampling at pillar point, pigeon guillemot monitoring, oil spill preparedness, Olympia oyster restoration, the sanitation effort at Elwha beach, and education and outreach. There were no current projects which weren't planned to be maintained.

2021 Internship Program: Tim Cochnauer shared that the subcommittee has met, and proposed that the program continue in essentially the same fashion as it had last year. There will be two interns and three positions (one of the three positions is the Fellowship, which has absorbed the kelp monitoring internship). The two internships offered will be for the Tumwater Creek smolt trap, and green crab trapping with ecologists at the Makah tribe. The smolt trap internship will offer 80 hours, and the green crab 160 hours. The announcement will be revised and application deadline decided, with an aim to have the first interviews around the 1st of April. The internship program plan was approved as described.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby shared a brief update about the pigeon guillemot monitoring project. The new breeding season (and monitoring season) is coming up, and the signage to be posted at Port Williams educating the public about the birds and how to enjoy the beach without disturbing them, is being finalized. The aim is to have the sign finished and posted before the monitoring season begins. The cost of the signs should be approx. \$100/per. Bob Vreeland suggested that, in addition, the MRC could design hoodies for those involved in the monitoring effort, with logos for the MRC and its partners (as well as a QR code to the MRC site) on the front, and a pigeon guillemot with "for the birds!" on the back. It was agreed this could be a great idea, though plans to create the hoodies were not yet set into motion.

Jeff Ward briefly mentioned that the Clallam MRC Kelp webinar will be held in two days, on Wednesday at 7:00 pm, and invited everyone to join to hear the presentation with Dr. Tom Mumford.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.