

**CLALLAM COUNTY**  
  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

Date: Monday, March 15, 2021  
 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
 Location: Zoom Meeting  
 Minutes prepared by: Alisa Taylor

**Members present:**

**P = Present E= Excused**

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

**Alternates present:**

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

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

Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow

**Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comment was made.

The January minutes were approved without changes.

Next month’s meeting was approved for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Post Kelp Webinar Update**

Jeff Ward shared that [insert paper notes]

**Oil Spill Preparedness**

A meeting is scheduled for 4 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Arnold Schouten’s place, Ann Stafford will provide an agenda for the meeting. Topics covered will include what oil spill preparedness efforts the MRC has been involved in in the past, what’s in place currently vs where the gaps in knowledge/preparedness are, and how to proceed with marine resource mapping, educational outreach, and planning of future oil spill response preparedness efforts.

**Project Updates**

**Climate Change:** Ann Soule shared that the subcommittee reported to MRC membership a while back that the commissioners asked for more recruitment from the business community, as advisors or volunteers. The committee suggested follow through by asking Colleen McAleer with the Port of Port Angeles and the EDC, who she may know of to inquire with about potential interest. Members agreed to create a brief outline of what specifically is being asked of a potential new volunteer, or a general set of topics of interest to focus on. A subcommittee was formed to take on this endeavour (separate from the climate change subcommittee), and will include Ann Soule, Ed Bowlby, and Arnold Schouten.

**Letter to Commissioners Requesting to Present at Work Session in the Fall**

Alisa Taylor has agreed to help Ann Soule draft a letter inquiring with the commissioners about including a report about the MRC’s activities at a work session in the fall. Members will review and contribute

talking points, and Ann Soule will send the letter along to the executive committee for final updates. Members agreed to continue talking about this, with more details to come as fall approaches.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey: Ed Bowlby shared that the MRC partnered with OPAS (Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society) to create and fund signage to be posted within Clallam county parks, intended to inform people about the birds, and bring up individual responsibility in terms of conservation. The signs are cost-shared between both orgs, at \$125-500 per sign. Each sign will have a QR code which links back to the MRC website. It was inquired as to whether activity from people following the QR code link will be trackable; if so, following this for data about how people from the community interact with the posted information would be desired information. More questions will be asked of Sasha Horst and others, to determine if this is possible.

2021 Internship Program: The internship program is ready to begin the hiring process, and the announcement has been completed and shared with an application deadline of Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. There are so far no applicants, but there is still time to advertise and for people to apply. The announcement will be shared on the website, on the MRC's social media, as well as Northwest Straits and Fiero Marine Life center media.

### **Educational Outreach**

Latrisha Suggs shared about Billy Frank Jr, in honor of his accomplishments—BFJ day is March 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a Native American environmental and treaty rights activist. He focused quite a bit on marine habitat treaty rights, and Native American tribal sovereignty. He participated in the Elwha Dam removal project. His motto was “tell the truth, stay the course” and he applied this notion, for instance, when he worked to protect the environment for salmon, and to support education and outreach about this and other important topics.

Alan Clark shared that some outreach and education regarding native fisheries may be helpful, although potentially controversial, may help to alleviate the misunderstanding among the community that, any time salmon numbers decrease, fault lies with native fisheries. In the past, a lot of negative outreach had occurred from people in leadership positions, and that's something we could contribute positively to the clarification of.

### **NWSC Update**

Alan Clark shared about the NWSC's meeting highlights from the 26<sup>th</sup>. The WA Trust for Historic Preservation presented on Maritime WA National Heritage Areas, and the presentation is available to all MRC's—Alan can send it to anyone who would like to see it. Katie Harris of NWSC has moved on to take a job elsewhere, and NWSC will be announcing they're hiring for her position soon. Tom Cowan of External Relations Committee reported that funding is available up to the full \$910,000. Julia Parish is the new chair of the Science Advisory Committee. Puget Sound Partnership is putting the 2021 Virtual Puget Sound Day on the Hill back up, and it's going to be every Friday starting April 23, going till May 21, 1-2:30pm. It will include information about what legislators are doing in WA state, with some dialogue welcomed from the audience.

### **Good of the Order**

Cathy Lear shared that the county was able to, despite the hiring freeze, advertise for the MRC Coordinator/Floodplane Restoration Coordinator position. 50 applications were received, so someone is sure to be the right fit. The hiring committee (including Tim Cochnauer and Cathy Lear) is working on selecting applicants, and will proceed with the process in the coming month.

Chris Burns shared that tentative dates for the Olympia Oyster surveys at Jamestown, have been determined: 5/13 and 5/24-28.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 7:05 pm.