

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

**Minutes**

Date: Monday, May 17, 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	? Jesse Waknitz
P Ann Soule	E Jeff Ward	P Mike Doherty	P Latrisha Suggs	Makah Open Position
P Lyn Muench	P Alan Clark	E Ed Bowlby	P Ann Stafford	LEKT Open Position

**Alternates present:**

P Chris Burns	P Lance Vail	? Lucas Hart
P Ioana Bociu	? 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; Rebecca Paradis, Biologist with Lower Elwha; McKenzie Ginther, MRC Education & Outreach Intern; Sasha Horst, NWSC; Jonathan Hallenbeck, NWSC

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

A section was added under project updates, for Chris Burns to give an update about the Olympia oyster surveys.

**Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comment was made. The minutes were amended to reflect that Arnold Schouten had an excused absence in April. The minutes were then approved.

**Project Updates**

Pigeon Guillemot: Alisa Taylor gave an update for Ed in his absence. The PiGu monitoring team are still recruiting new volunteers, and are hoping some members of Clallam MRC may consider volunteering. There is a need for trained volunteers who can take the place of other volunteers, who may not be able to make it to a survey on occasion. PiGu monitors aren't required to have previous birdwatching experience, so anyone is welcome to contact Ed if they are interested. Ed can be reached at [edbowlby2@gmail.com](mailto:edbowlby2@gmail.com).

The sign to inform the public about pigeon guillemot breeding habitat is still in the works—the first sign was misprinted, so it is delayed as it is being re-printed. It is planned to be finished this month, or at the latest by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Crabber Education & Outreach: Cathy Lear shared about this outreach effort, and having had good success with it in previous years. Lance Vail has offered to help by leading the materials distribution effort. Jeff Ward is a point of contact for Lance regarding how this outreach effort has worked in the past, and approximately how much material will be needed— Jeff is not present at today's meeting, but will be in contact soon; update pending. Alan Clark pointed out that materials could be ordered and then, if in excess, stored to be used for future years' outreach efforts.

Forage Fish: Tim Cochnauer and Cathy Lear briefly discussed the previously mentioned goal of purchasing the microscope, and agreed that as it is ready to be purchased, further facilitation of the relevant information and purchasing of the scope will be done via email.

Olympia Oyster: Chris Burns shared that the recent oyster survey went very well, and quickly. Although there are no results as of yet, the data is being processed and will be available sometime soon. Further oyster surveys will occur early next week, and Chris will send out an email detailing the exact dates and times of these, as well as the incoming results from the recent survey. Sequim Bay is doing quite well—surveyors were seeing about 1-2 oysters per shell, per stack!

### **MRC Internship Program**

Tim Cochnauer informed the committee that all three internships have selected an intern for this season. The interns are as follows:

Tumwater smolt trap: Vita Olson. Vita is from Sequim, and is studying at University of San Diego. She is pursuing a double major in the fields of business and environmental conservation. She has been helping the MRC out already for about a week, and will start picking up more time after finals conclude at the end of this week.

Education and outreach (coasters project): McKenzie Ginther. McKenzie is an environmental science student of both Peninsula College, and National University of Ireland. She has relevant previous experience in the field of kelp forest studies, and has previous experience with data acquisition for marine food web studies, as well as marine seed bank mesocosm experiments.

Green crab removal project: Laila Greene. Laila is working with Adrienne Akmajian in Neah Bay, and will be trapping green crab, as well as catching and marking green and Dungeness crabs, and recording some video footage to document the process. Laila will begin working on the project on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Leadership Elections**

Bob Vreeland, the current MRC Chair, expressed that he feels someone younger and more technology-familiar, may be a better fit for this role and could likely bring some fresh enthusiasm to the Committee and its various endeavours. Robert Knapp, current MRC Vice Chair, said that as he has other necessities to focus on presently, he would prefer not to run for leadership again at this moment. Alan Clark, who has served as the MRC's NWSC representative for the past 4-5 years, volunteered to continue in the representative role, as nobody present seemed interested to take on the position, and he has completed his term as Chair of the NWSC, leaving him with some more available time. The MRC members all thanked Bob, Robert, and Alan for their support and help to the MRC!

After some discussion and consideration, positions were volunteered for and voted upon. Tim Cochnauer was elected as the new Chair of Clallam MRC. Alan Clark accepted dual roles: Vice Chair, as well as maintaining his previous role of NWSC Representative. Everyone thanked and congratulated Tim and Alan!

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

As Mary Sue is taking an excused absence today, Alan Clark led the discussion of volunteer recruitment. One way Mary Sue has been brainstorming about recruiting more volunteers, is considering how to put together a program via which volunteers could receive some basic training, similarly to the one developed by Salish Sea Stewards. Alan expressed that there is a need for someone to be the leading coordinator for such a program, as well as funding. Ann Soule stated the importance of being able to specify exactly what projects and efforts the MRC would like volunteer help for, and to develop trainings for. Alan shared about Skagit MRC's programs, Salish Sea Stewards, and Kids on the Beach. Mike Doherty reminded us about Clallam's Beachwatchers program also, organized by Jeff Ward. These

programs recruit and organize people from the local community, to get them involved in marine and nearshore education and restoration. Alan said that Pete Hasse, who organizes Stream Stewards, may be willing to come to the MRC to give a presentation about these types of programs—Alan said he will inquire about this. Alan pointed out as well that, if the MRC doesn't have the leadership capacity or the funding for such a volunteer program, we could potentially seek partnership with other organizations, such as Feiro Marine Life Center. Alan asked anyone with ideas, experience, questions, and so on, is welcome to email him at [alankayaks@q.com](mailto:alankayaks@q.com).

### **NWSC Update**

Alan shared that the commission has selected a new chair, Elsa Schwartz. She had been vice chair for 2 years, and the new vice chair is Tim Cowan. He was formerly a commissioner in San Juan County. The Science Advisory Committee has taken an interest in the idea: “failure” is just finding out something that doesn't work, so you don't have to repeat what doesn't work. To that end, each MRC is being asked to give a presentation to the NWSC, to facilitate information sharing and collaboration among each Committee. Welcomed topics include past, present, or anticipated future projects, and could cover a project that we feel is doing well, isn't doing well, or which more help or insight would be welcomed for. Some previously discussed topics which Clallam MRC might consider presenting about, include the Climate Change Subcommittee, and the Tumwater Creek smolt trap project. However, last June the MRCs held a symposium, and the Climate Subcommittee was already covered in a presentation during this event. Thus, after some brief brainstorming, it was decided that the presentation topic will be about the smolt trap. Tim Cochnauer shared that the project is exciting and interesting, and there will be a lot of visuals and photos, ties in well to education about the marine environment. The stream is highly impacted, so it is a good conversational candidate to consider—how can the impacts to the stream be corrected, and how interrelated are the nearshore and riparian environments? Alan approved of these ideas as well, and shared about last year's motorized kelp surveys, when kelp beds at mouths of rivers were observed, except for those which suffered environmental impacts (such as the Elwha). Alan asked Ann Soule about giving a basic informational overview about hydrology concepts. Rebecca Paradis pointed out that the estuary at Tumwater creek, would also be an important place to look at, and others agreed. It was agreed that the further planning of this presentation will occur via email throughout the coming month. The presentation date will be June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Future Meeting Duration**

Tim Cochnauer acknowledged that a 2 hour meeting is quite long. A good portion of each agenda is devoted to catching people up about what was done the prior month. He brought up the idea of compiling such updates into a monthly summary or newsletter, for which each project lead responsible could write a paragraph update, and send it in to the coordinator to be compiled and distributed. Others liked this idea, and discussed how it would be nice to post the newsletter to the MRC website and facebook. Cathy Lear suggested that the agenda item to cover the updates could be, “comments on the project summary,” instead of thoroughly discussing every topic during the meeting.

Ann Soule shared that, in the past, a 2 hour meeting in person didn't seem quite as long; however, now that our meetings are being held digitally, 2 hours does feel very lengthy since we are staring at screens, instead of with people. She also pointed out that it might be wise to be not so absolute, and allow for some meetings to be shorter or longer in order to accommodate speakers, increased material necessary to be discussed, etc. Ann also said that the idea of the newsletter feels more beaurocratic and like extra work, and she isn't sure that making the meeting shorter by increasing workload elsewhere is a compromise that sounds appealing.

Ioana Bociu suggested the idea of doing a longer 2 hour meeting with a speaker/presenter, on a quarterly basis. She said it could be nice when newcomers are present, not to have the meeting drag on

longer, but this arrangement could create a balance between longer meetings with more info, and more concise meetings.

Bob pointed out that we can always try a longer meeting, see how it feels, and then adjust the timing accordingly.

Lyn Meunch said that she supports the idea of remaining flexible, and expressed that it would be very nice to resume having in-person meetings. At such meetings, people can choose to stay longer at the end of the meeting if they so choose.

Alan spoke about the success of online NWSC meetings which have an ending time followed by an optional discussion period. He summarized the consensus of the members: strictly business meetings will be 1.5 hours, and if there's a presentation with a business meeting after, each portion will go for 1 hour, for a total 2 hour meeting.

### **Speaker Planning**

Members discussed the upcoming presentation to be given by Jackie Lindsey from COASST, at the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cathy noted that COASST has a vibrant volunteer program, so it may be interesting to ask about how they developed it. Members generally agreed that the topic about seabird mortality is more interesting, but that it would be nice to hear a bit about both topics (to include the topic of marine debris). Tim asked Alisa to inquire with Jackie: can the presentation include a bit about both topics, and do they interrelate with each other? Other questions from members included: what does COASST do with the data that is gathered, and what does it tell them? Who are their partners? How does COASST fit into the world of marine science, and citizen science? Members agreed they would like to plan for a 45 minute presentation, with a 15 minute question/answer period following, and then a 1 hour business meeting either before or after Jackie's hour.

### **Good of the Order**

Mike Doherty asked Cathy to find information about the project on Valley Creek, an idea sparked subsequent to the MRC's Tumwater creek project and the discussion about urban streams/estuaries. In the past there had been an effort to daylight Valley Creek, and to create a trail from the city along the creek into the park. The effort may have been lost by taking a backseat to salmon recovery and other restoration projects. Information about the Valley Creek project could be useful with some of the efforts on Tumwater.

Mike Doherty also moved that the committee respectfully note the passing of Kurt Grinnell and Bob Campbell. Both were champions for water quality, sustainable fisheries, restoring habitat, and their lives and positive contributions are worth honoring!

Mike lastly shared that, this Friday, the Sanctuary Advisory Committee is going to have a discussion with folks from the Biden administration, about the goal to conserve 30% of all public and private lands, and all natural resources. If anyone would like to participate, you can have the opportunity to interject some ideas. Mike left the committee with the idea to consider, what ideas and priorities should be communicated from our region, up the chain to the Biden administration?

LaTrisha Suggs shared that the Shoreline Master Plan was sent to the state, and they have made some recommendations for changes to the updated proposal. She listened to the discussion by FEMA about having established new maps over a period of several years, which are now available online. LaTrisha has downloaded the section about the Shoreline Master Plan, and will send it along to Cathy.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.