



April 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Time: 5:31 – 7:28pm

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room

Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

	Member	Present?	Alternate	Present?
Academic Community	Ed Bowlby	X	Ioana Bociu	X
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	[vacant seat]	---	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	[vacant seat]	---	Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Rumble	excused	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward		[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	X	Lyn Muench	excused
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Chelsea Korbolic	
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson	excused	Helle Andersen	excused
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>)	X	Navarra Carr	
Port of Port Angeles Commission	Jesse Waknitz		Katharine Frazier	X
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Kelly Burger	

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Angela Glore (NODC)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:31. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, but a quorum was achieved shortly after.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Approval of Minutes & Policy

- A quorum was now present. ***Ann Soule moved to approve March minutes; Chris Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- ***Open MRC seats:*** LaTrisha announced Bob Vreeland's recent resignation and requested ideas to honor both Bob and Tim Cochnauer for their significant contributions. Bob will consider volunteering when he is able. Seats are open for member representing community At-Large, member representing Conservation & Environmental Interests, member & alternate for Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community. MRC members were asked to reach out to anyone who may be interested.
- ***New Zoom link for MRC meetings:*** There is a new Zoom link for the hybrid meeting starting today, which will remain the same each month going forward. Members, alternates and additional expected guests will receive a prompt inviting them to be a panelist – this simply allows video and audio during the meeting.
- ***[Annual report available here](#) (October 2023 – September 2024)***
- ***Clallam County Environmental Health seeking shellfish sampling volunteers:*** Please contact Cathy if you are interested in volunteering.
- ***Recap of recent events***
 - ***Sequim Bay Yacht Club presentation Apr 9th (Alan):*** Alan shared about his presentation to the Sequim Bay Yacht Club, which went well as a "proof of concept" with interested attendees and great questions. Alan's presentation was about 45 minutes, but he suggests under 25 minutes for similar future presentations to any group interested.
 - ***River & Ocean Film Festival Apr 12th (Rebecca):*** Rebecca attended this film festival and shared MRC posters during the educational portion.
 - ***HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th (Nancy and Rebecca):*** Rebecca and Nancy both reflected on their experience taking this training. Nancy shared the [story of 20,000 rescued penguins](#) by International Bird Rescue.
- ***MRC Chair, Vice Chair & NWSC representative election:*** Elections will take place at the next monthly meeting. LaTrisha Suggs intends to run again for Chair. Ann Soule does not intend to run for Vice Chair this year, so members should consider the Vice Chair position.
- ***Olympia oyster surveys: May 15th, 16th, 28th:*** MRC members are invited to volunteer for these surveys. Chris Burns stated that the surveys may not require all three days. Members or alternates who are interested in participating should contact Cathy to sign up.
- ***NWSC meeting in Clallam County May 30th:*** The Northwest Straits Commission will be holding their regular monthly meeting in Clallam County, accompanied by a short presentation by the MRC. Final time and location details will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Committee and Project Reports

- *Sound Toxins program* – Nancy Stephanz: Nancy stated that today's most recent sampling revealed poison-producing phytoplankton returning in greater numbers due to more sunlight.
- *Education & Outreach (coasters)* - Ann Soule: Ann suggested that members distribute coasters as the summer season approaches.
- *Advisory* – Ann Soule: Ann stated that the Port Angeles Comprehensive Plan is in its visioning stage, and it's still possible to provide comments and input. LaTrisha shared some additional details about the city's considerations regarding density and multimodal transportation. [Information and comment are available here.](#)
- *Northwest Straits Commission* – Alan Clark: Alan recently participated in a meeting with elected representatives in Olympia. The meeting was productive in reminding the officials of NWSC's and MRCs' mission and work. Rep Adam Bernbaum is interested in joining the MRC in the field sometime this year.

New or special business items

- *Project selection for the next biennium*: The MRC discussed the list of projects to be proposed for 2025-27, especially the new projects. The ROV derelict crab pot removal project may persist despite a change in leadership, and the nearshore restoration in wildlife refuges project is still a candidate. Discussion resulted in the following list:
 - Derelict Gear Removal (ROV)
 - Elwha Stewardship
 - Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring
 - Olympia Oyster Monitoring
 - Kelp Monitoring
 - Forage Fish Monitoring
 - Pinto Abalone Monitoring
 - HAZWOPER / oiled wildlife response
 - Education & Outreach
 - Ediz Hook Debris Removal (pending City of PA's project plans)
- *Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter*: The MRC reviewed the recently sent letter regarding the 3 Crabs Rd area. LaTrisha proposed that a permanent advisory subcommittee be established that meets regularly and would interact with DCD on topics such as this one. Members expressing interest in the recent past besides LaTrisha include Ann, Alan and Ed. DCD Director Bruce Emery shared that he agrees with many aspects of our letter and wishes to strategize about next steps; he is certain that education and outreach would be part of that. Commissioner Mark Ozias also planned to discuss the concerns with the MRC soon.

Commented [GU1]: can we summarize the results of the discussion here with a list, or a link, etc? thank you. I did not take notes on the project choices so would appreciate that.

Commented [GU2]: A new subcommittee was established at this meeting. We need to send out an email to MRC members that we have identified Ann, Alan, Ed, and are looking for a few more members to be part of the subcommittee.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on Monday, May 19.
- *Call for new agenda items*: None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Good of the Order

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:28.

Action Items

- **Members** – consider running for Vice Chair this May.
- **Members and alternates** – share open MRC positions with those you think may be interested.
- **Members and alternates** – coasters are available to distribute going into the summer season.
- **Members and alternates** – contact Cathy if you are interested in surveying Olympia oysters (May 15th, 16th, 28th).
- **Amelia** – ensure final time and location details are announced to members prior to the May NWSC meeting in Clallam County.
- **Cathy** – reach out to Jeff Taylor of the Jefferson MRC for information and guidance from their ROV derelict gear removal project.
- **Cathy** – reach out to members as needed for project leadership and proposals.
- **LaTrisha and Ann** – discuss next steps for advisory subcommittee.

Commented [GU3]: Feel free to move or change this addition as appropriate