



February 2026 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

Time: 5:31-7:00pm

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	
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep, Vice Chair</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	Tim Cochnauer	X	[vacant seat]	---
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Nancy Stephanz	X	[vacant seat]	---
Development Community	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule	excused	Lyn Muench	X
District III	[vacant seat]	---	Dann May	X
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns		Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Chelsea Korbolic	X
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Rob Casey	X	[vacant seat]	---
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

Bruce Emery (Clallam County Director of Community Development), Chase O’Neil (CC Habitat Biologist, CCMRC Project Coordinator), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist Manager; CCMRC Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Justine Chorley (Clallam County Emergency Management, presenter), Cynthia Harbison (WA Department of Natural Resources, presenter), Lorraine Shore (Clallam County Undersheriff), Coleman, Jon Hamilton, Sasha Horst, Brian Hilderman, John Worthington

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Chair Alan Clark called the meeting to order at 5:31pm. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment

- John Worthington made a comment related to emergency management, specifically to no-till farming and mitigation for pollution entering Puget Sound during flooding.

Approval of Minutes

- ***Lyn Muench moved to approve the January 2026 minutes, Nancy Stephanz seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Presentations

- Justine Chorley (Clallam County Emergency Management) gave a presentation on Clallam County Emergency Management. She provided some handouts to assist with personal preparedness ([available on the department website](#)). Her presentation included the mission of the department, its administrative and activation role in Hazmat response, and a review of the PetroCard fuel spill from 2025 in Indian Creek. Justine held a brief Q&A.
 - Chair LaTrisha Suggs arrived during this presentation, and served as chair for the remainder of the meeting.
 - Justine invited a representative of the MRC to present to the EOC staff to share what the MRC does.
- Cynthia Harbison (WA Department of Natural Resources) gave a presentation on the Elwha Priority Area for WA DNR's Kelp and Eelgrass Health Plan. Her presentation included a review of the Elwha priority area boundaries, goals, action planning process, and monitoring needs and status. Cynthia held a brief Q&A.
 - DNR will host a knowledge exchange for the priority area in Port Angeles, tentatively on March 31st.

New or Special Business

- ***NWSC new funding:*** LaTrisha introduced the opportunity for an additional \$20k of funding from Northwest Straits Commission for MRCs. A small group previously met to discuss ideas. Two major suggestions are additional funding for the pinto abalone project (focusing on culture of juvenile abalone for outplanting) and the creation of an educational video. The MRC discussed these ideas. Consensus was to move forward with the funding application focused on pinto abalone.
- ***Potential MRC social event this spring:*** Alan shared an offer from a friend to host a social gathering with his mobile pizza oven. The date and location still need to be determined. LaTrisha requested that Chase check on dates for Salt Creek.

Announcements

- ***Northwest Straits Commission update:*** Alan Clark gave an update. The past NWSC meeting included an overview of the Kids on the Beach program, along with two bills regarding derelict

vessel removal and short-term rental of mooring buoys. NWSC is updating its website. The NWSC passed the funding opportunity for an additional \$20k for MRCs. Island MRC is hosting a forage fish research workshop on April 27.

- *MRC budget and staff time*: Chase gave an update to the MRC that budget concerns may mean staff hours need to be reduced in summer 2026.

Committee and Project Reports

- *Project updates*: none at this time.
- *Advisory subcommittee*: no update at this time.
- *Education and outreach subcommittee*: the subcommittee plans to meet this week.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 16th, including an Olympia oyster update presentation from Annie Raymond.
- *Call for new agenda items*: none at this time.

Public Comment

- John Worthington made a comment regarding his observed ebb and flow of eelgrass, and concerns about restoration projects in underwater or inundated zones.

Good of the Order

- None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.