



## February 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025

**Time:** 5:31 – 7:17

**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	Robert Vreeland	X	Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Rumble	excused	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	X	Lyn Muench	X
District III	Mike Doherty		Dann May	
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	[vacant seat]	---
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson		Helle Andersen	
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs ( <i>Chair</i> )	excused	Navarra Carr	
Port of Port Angeles Commission	Jesse Waknitz		Katharine Frazier	
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Harmony Rutter	

### Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Chelsea Korbolic (NOAA and other roles), Cynthia Harbison (presenter, WA DNR), Bree Turner (presenter, WA DNR), Charlotte Watts, Annabelle ByrneStrong

### Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

***Vice Chair Ann Soule 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, so the approval of January minutes was skipped.

### **Public Comment**

None at this time.

### **Presentations**

Bree Turner (Habitat Strategic Development Lead) presented on the development of the [Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy](#) for recovery and protection. The goal is to accelerate recovery and protection of kelp and eelgrass through clear priorities and accelerated funding. Planning took place so far, and content is now being developed in early 2025, while strategy aims to be finalized by the end of 2025. This interfaces with the Puget Sound Action Agenda and uplifts the DNR Kelp and Eelgrass Health Plan. The work involves WDNR, WDFW and other partners and includes the following strategies: Research & Monitoring, Restoration, Protection, and Education/ Outreach. Engagement opportunities include [signing up for the email list](#), upcoming local meetings to be announced, commenting on the Feedback Form, and participating in review periods.

Cynthia Harbison (Washington DNR) presented on the [Statewide Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Health and Conservation Plan](#), particularly the Elwha Unit Priority Habitat. Step 1 of the plan is to identify priority areas at the statewide scale, and step 2 is to identify priority areas at the sub-basin scale. Their goal is to recover 10,000 acres by 2040. Cynthia reviewed the process for gathering information and data and determining priority areas. She introduced the Elwha Unit of priority habitat, with a preliminary map extending from Crescent Bay to Ediz Hook plus Hollywood Beach to Morse Creek, and shared some of the factors that led to choosing it as a priority area. She discussed the major stressors impacting this area and which are a priority for action. Next steps include two upcoming workshops (virtual in April; Port Angeles in May/June respectively) to clarify current efforts, mitigation plans for stressors, and planned actions. You can [sign up here for the plan's email list](#).

Both presentations were followed by a combined Q&A and discussion session. Discussion included:

- Projects are result of legislation from 2022
- Water quality monitoring through the ANeMoNe stations program
- The specific nature of possible actions through the plan: eelgrass is more responsive to restoration, whereas for kelp the focus is reducing stressors
- Acidification as a potential stressor
- The program's funding
- Intent for eelgrass conservation: primarily stressor mitigation, with some possible restoration opportunities
- No-anchor zones for eelgrass conservation
- Inclusion of Morse Creek in the priority area
- The extent and contents of the priority area
- Potential synergy with shoreline armoring removal
- Synergy with forage fish data (just published by NOAA)
- Outreach opportunities, including MRC coasters

- Outreach challenges; finding the right strategies that synergize

### **Announcements**

- *Project development & selection work session, Feb 24 4-7pm*
- *Special meetings:* Feb 20 and Feb 24<sup>th</sup> are special meetings, required to stick to agenda
- *Member recruitment for a few open seats*
- *MRC Chair and Vice Chair elections:* May meeting
- *OPMA training:* Thank you to those who participated
- *March 6<sup>th</sup> Ediz Hook revegetation needs volunteers:* 3,500 plants; let Rebecca know directly but public signs up on CCD website

### **Committee and Project Reports**

Only project leads with substantive updates were asked to provide them.

- *Northwest Straits Commission update – Alan Clark:* There will be an in-person Commission meeting in Clallam County on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, which all MRC members are invited to (Caitlyn Blair is making arrangements but may ask for assistance). The Commission is working to clarify the relationship with the Northwest Straits Foundation.
- *Comprehensive plans:* Ann suggested that the survey, due March 25, should be a primary method for members to provide input for the County's Comp Plan, but a letter is also an option. Bruce added that written comments can be shared directly with Tim Havel, [tim.havel@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:tim.havel@clallamcountywa.gov), and now is a great time to do so. Bruce elaborated on the County's current work on comprehensive plan development, with a goal of completion by end of August.
- *Sound Toxins – Nancy:* Nancy and Amelia attended the two-day Sound Toxins annual meeting in Seattle this week, along with Tamara of Feiro Marine Life Center. Two new genera of plankton associated with harmful algal blooms (*Karenia* and *Azadinium spp.*) were added to the list for monitoring this year through the Sound Toxins program, and the team was trained to identify these.
- *Olympia Oysters – Chris:* Oyster seed is in good condition.
- *Coasters – Ann:* Coasters are available to distribute.
- *HAZWOPER – Rebecca:* 2-day oiled wildlife course to be held April 15-16, which will serve as an 8-hour refresher course for those who already hold the 24-hour HAZWOPER certification. Sign up here.

### **New or special business items**

- *Shoreline development along 3 Crabs Rd letter – Ann Soule:* Ann submitted a letter and testified today at the public hearing, sharing her concerns about hard armoring bulkheads, and turned her letter into something the MRC could also consider as a whole since more permits for additional bulkheads may be coming that could be commented on. Ann will ask for the MRC to contribute to a letter ready for the March meeting. Bruce Emery shared his thoughts on the situation and competing perspectives.
- *Letters received from John Worthington regarding salmon restoration:* John Worthington, Sequim resident, submitted letters suggesting salmon restoration project techniques. Ann Soule, Vice Chair, responded informing him that the MRC does not conduct salmon restoration work

and his suggestions would be better directed to an organization that focuses on this. No further action was taken.

- *Roles and responsibilities:* no quorum so no discussion or approval was sought
- *Project development for the next biennium:* The project development meeting will take place on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Education and outreach initiatives will be noted separately.

**Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

**Public Comment**

None at this time.

**Adjourn**

***Vice Chair Ann Soule adjourned the meeting at 7:17.***