

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
In Person Meeting
5-7PM on November 5, 2024 at
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC
 Brad Bebout, District 1
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWS Alt
 Brenda Johnson, District 2
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Akeylah Behrenfeld, Local Youth Rep
 Gordon King, Commercial

Absent:

Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt

Via Zoom:

Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Janette Mestre, District 1
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
 Judy Surber, City of PT

Guest:

Staff:

Katie Kowal – Water Programs Coordinator, Jeff Co MRC/WSU Extension

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Gordon King called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda DEI Learning Cohort - Emily Amendments to/Approval of October 2024 Minutes Correction: Heidi noted that all the County Commissioners rotate on KPTZ, Fridays at 12:30pm. (it's not just Heidi)	Neil moved to approve the agenda with this alteration. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed. Brenda moved to approve the minutes with this alteration. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed.	

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<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>No Comments</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATES (Heidi)</p>	<p>BOCC Update –(Heidi)</p> <p>UPDATE ON SMP Heidi brought the August 30, 2024 memo detailing SMP update progress from the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The memo is on the County website on the SMP update page. • The largest reason for the delay is the key staff member doing the updates left. • The work is now being done by staff in the Prosecuting Attorney’s office—largely by Philip Hunsucker, who has many other cases to work on. • He updated the County Commissioners’ this week and his goal is to have the update completed by the end of this year. <p>Heidi inquired about internal consistencies between the SMP & COMP plan. Another update will be required for the SMP in 2025 or 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are trying to get it at a good starting point for next major update, this will make the full update of the SMP better. • Heidi is frustrated with the process taking longer than expected but thinks this will be beneficial. • She spoke with the Dept of Ecology and they are asking for an internal consistency review before it is sent to them. So they are supporting all of this activity. • Heidi noted that the review process starts with the Dept. of Community Development and then goes out to public comment. Once it’s finalized, everyone has an opportunity to read it. There are two opportunities for the public to comment on it. They have been working on this update Heidi’s entire first term. <p>Judy Surber added the SMP is harder than the COMP plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SMP is both a policy doc & development of regulations all wrapped into one. Unlike the COMP plan, the SMP has to go to Dept of Ecology for approval. It is challenging to balance all of the input and the guidelines for a shoreline. • It is also a much more complex area of land to review, write policy and regulations for, than COMP plans. She’s not surprised that it’s taking a while, especially since the update review is juggled with other responsibilities. <p>HEIDI ON NWSC PANEL DISCUSSION Heidi will be at NWSC on a panel with other elected positions and other MRC’s from Snohomish, Island, Clallam, Whatcom & San Juan counties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They’re interested in the advisory role of the MRC’s. • She was thinking of spotlighting the letter written a few years ago, earlier in her tenure about the SEAL training ground in state parks. That was a good example of the MRC’s advisory role. • Are there other examples that could show the advisory role of the MRC’s? • Please email Heidi examples if you have any. 		
<p>Port of PT UPDATES Commissioner Carol Hasse</p>	<p>Port of PT Updates (Carol absent)</p>		

<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES Katie</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES (Katie)</p> <p>DEI (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She received this via email, NWSC is entering phase 2 in their DEI process. Which will be a learning cohort, which will be made up of staff and MRC representatives. • Emily volunteered to sit in for JC MRC. They've had two meetings to date, there will be five-six meetings in total. <p>Emily shared a sentence description from Caitlyn Blair of what NWSC is doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "It's a learning process, we're interested in how MRC members will receive guidance from experts on how to incorporate DEI work into their MRC for strategic and intentional implementation; this could be guidance on anything from recruiting new members, connecting with more communities or participating in trainings." <p>NWSC Conference NOVEMBER 15-16, EVERETT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie reviewed the conference reimbursement process and will email the directions. • Receipts need to be submitted by Nov 30th • She would like to get a group photo of everyone at conference <p>November JCMRC Retreat</p> <p>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD 9:30am-2:30pm WSU Classroom</p> <p>Katie will send out a Retreat Planning Input email. Whatever isn't covered at the retreat, can be picked up again at the following monthly meetings.</p> <p>Katie is meeting with two facilitators this week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person is recommended from the EDC • Another recommendation is from the DEI consultant • Katie expects to have a facilitator and a caterer by the end of the week <p>Gordon suggested that the subcommittee members be decided at tonight's meeting.</p> <p>The purpose of the subcommittee is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss topics for the retreat • Decide on things we'd like to see...what is important • Details on how to get them done <p>Sarah F, Emily B & Katie volunteered to be on the subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will put the retreat together and decide the topics. • Katie will send out an email and google forms link with questions related to the Retreat and the MRC. This will be where to offer input towards developing the agenda. • Everyone will have an opportunity to provide feedback (not just the subcommittee). <p>December 3 meeting (Gordon) CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR/NWSC REP/NWSC REP ALT VOTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Members need to be re-elected at the end of the year. • NWSC Rep and a NWSC Rep Alternate • Re-elect a Chair and Vice Chair • Gordon is stepping down. He nominated Betsy Carlson for Chair position. • Betsy said she would be happy to do it and asked if anyone else was interested. • Gordon also asked if anyone else would like to put their name forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need nominations for Vice Chair. Other names may come up in Dec. • You can nominate yourself. Neil says it can be a motion. <p>There is a formalized vote if there are two candidates.</p>	<p>Subcommittee will form to finalize agenda</p> <p>Sarah F, Emily B & Katie volunteered to be on the subcommittee.</p>	
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<p>CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<p>Forage Fish PT (Troy, Janette and Sarah)</p> <p>DABOB SAMPLES Troy & Sarah sampled had some issues, but the sample was submitted.</p> <p>FORAGE FISH TRAINING Put on by the NWSC/WDFW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very informative, it helped Sarah a lot. <p>FORT TOWNSEND SAMPLING (Janette) Normally the PT sampling is in winter, because of tides it's in the dark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it make sense to continue sampling at Fort Townsend? • They don't normally find anything, nor do they get feedback. • Janette's suggestion is to put a halt on it. <p>Tori Cantelow from Point-No-Point Treaty Council came out and wondered if they were in the right place for what they were looking for in 2023. She said they were doing it correctly, but questioned if it makes sense to continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC has been doing it for over 8 years. • Gordon asked if the MRC should talk with someone at Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe or at WDFW or Tori? • Neil: it's not her call, it's our call. • Gordon: we have found eggs in the past • Troy thinks it's a good idea to keep the continuity. • Gordon added that long term results are better than short term results. Not finding anything is still data. • Gordon asked if the FF subcommittee is prepared to continue. • The Forage Fish subcommittee is willing to continue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Cross asked about the protocols, and suggested looking at WDFW protocols. • Gordon suggested changing protocols be brought up at another meeting. • Janette: is WDFW willing to process samples? • Sarah & Janette will connect with WDFW re: processing samples. <p>Olympia Oysters (Neil) Jamestown S'Klallam annually works with Puget Sound Restoration Fund to deploy shell stacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year the shell stacks in Discovery Bay were covered in "spat" in the lagoon – which is good news • 414 live Oly's on the 30 shells, for an average 14 per shell • This bodes very well for shell spread in lagoon • The site under the power lines had lots of babies on those in Aug 2024 (shell was spread in July 2023) <p>Katie put out an RFP and is hopefully getting responses for contractor to spread shell between now and Dec 31st.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil will contact the nearby Condo management to see if boat can dock there. • They hope to put out 1500 bags of shell. They can leave the shell in bags for awhile if necessary. • They will need 3-4 with a good deck hand. Neil is hoping for a good weather window. <p>NEIL TO GIVE OYSTER RESTORATION TALK AT THE NWSC CONFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil will talk about the large oyster beds in Discovery Bay and Sequim Bay that were nearly wiped out and how big salmon projects set the stage for Olympia Oyster restoration. <p>Kelp (Emily) Katie, Brad, Benda and Emily met with NWSC staff to review data from kayak season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They saw how the Kelp expanded each month • They did surveys in June, July & August and saw how the canopy filled out nicely. • There is a big bed filling up the shoreline segment they were surveying. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a few bits & pieces to finish with data entry. <p>SUMMER 2024 DRONE SURVEY UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the drone imagery on top of the tide imagery. Chris & Wayne hit a few technical difficulties. Wayne is an experienced drone operator, but is new to Kelp imaging, so there is a lot of troubleshooting right now...make take a while to work through. <p>Brenda mentioned that yesterday's meeting was the first commission has ever hosted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was only our MRC focused on our North Beach data. It was interesting in that "they've never asked us questions before..." • They were valuable questions...it was very helpful. • There will be another one in January with all of the MRC data. <p>Storm Surge (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They went out impromptu yesterday, the wind picked up, but there wasn't much surge. When he got home to Discovery Bay, the water was flat and calm but turned into 5 foot waves in 5 minutes. • Cindy & Dave Wilkinson had a meeting with Willie Bence from East Jefferson Emergency Mgmt and Dave Nakamura, former Engineers' Support about the Storm Surge project. • The index they put in was a good way to get historical data and to search in various ways • Jeff is curious to go to the Sound IQ and see if anyone is using it. <p>Eelgrass buoys- (Troy)</p> <p>PERMIT RENEWAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five year permit to use DNR lands • Gordon confirmed that everyone was good with renewing the permit. • Gordon, Brad and Troy went out on Oct 26 and changed buoys • The buoys will be put back next April or May <p>ROV Crab Pots (Jeff and Tim)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ROV Sea Dragons team cancelled last year due to the commitment to oversee the volunteers. • There is a lot of money remaining in the grant, \$20k to spend • Must be completed by June & September • A grant amendment isn't practical...we can only do what the grant says. • Jeff spoke with Ben Griner, who did the surveys for the MRC last year. He works with students and has an ROV with sonar which would be much quicker to find the crab pots. • Jeff asked Tim. B, who leads a highs chool ROV team Blackfish, if he would he be interested in working with Ben. Tim spoke with the CEO of the team and they were was interested in getting the kids in there. • This would be in Feb- March 2025 • Not doing side scan sonar, possibly PT bay and in Discovery Bay there are still pots that haven't been recovered that are mapped...near Beckett Point. • Project fits right into how the grant is written. • Students will be operating the drone. <p>Rain Gardens (Janette)</p> <p>They are responsible for eighteen Rain Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 maintained by the Master Gardeners • 2 maintained by Homeowners • 1 maintained by neighbor, and occasionally needs additional support 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 gardens remaining to maintain <p>Even with a work party once a month, they would only be able to hit these gardens once a year. The gardens can still function with the weeds, but they don't look good and don't function as well as they could</p> <p>We need a more consistent maintenance plan for the gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janette and Katie developing a schedule of one workday a month, alternating between weekdays and weekends • There are various volunteer groups, but they only get about 3 people and it's hard to get caught up. • Some gardens need plants added, there is some funding in the budget for plant material. She's been sourcing some from native nurseries • Janette has inquiries with a couple of different gardeners to supplement the maintenance. She'd like to get the gardens cleaned out by end of the year. Would Dept of Public Works be willing to pick up the yard waste? • The goal is to get professional help into four of the gardens in December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work party on Thursday, 11/7 • Chetzemoka Park, 9:00 am for 2 hours <p>There was discussion all around room with ideas of having a community event to get help, however, the consensus is that consistency of maintenance is what's needed. And someone with knowledge that can direct the work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful to connect with other committees on this and get more strategic thinking on this project. • This can be a discussion item for the Retreat and from there they will form effective subcommittees. 		
<p>PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Remote Imaging – NAZ WBF photo (Jeff) Aerial view of PT during Wooden Boat festival displayed on screen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a spin off project of work he did with San Juan Islands, they wanted a way to count the effects to eelgrass on busy weekends. This is Optical Imaging and Syntethic Aperture Radar they were in the process of developing AI and tech codes for this. Jeff made a deal with them and got a free image. <p>Remote Imaging Project Overview (Jeff) We've been looking at Kelp since 2016 – looking for trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is our MRC doing it when other Universities are doing it? Remote imaging vs Kayak Survey Area • We are doing things differently than what the Universities do- he is looking at one specific thing. <p>Jeff showed many Remote Images (RI) as slides:</p> <p>Point Wilson, North Beach, Chinese Gardens & Glass Beach image:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He pointed out the area being monitored by kayaks. Jeff decided that if we could view satellite images then we could see trends. • Universities are trying to measure the perimeters with Kayaks, Jeff is more interested in seeing the trends. • He showed images from 2017 vs 2019 as an example of what you can use • He displayed some different views of tide levels • Another image showed the the effects of current on Kelp over a week-long period • This gives a deeper understanding of how the Kelp is affected. When Jeff sees the Kelp reducing at Glass Beach, he can tell it's not because of the current. <p>North Beach trend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An RI of decline between 2017 – 2022 which shows that the Kelp is going away. • The DNR report says the opposite. That the bed is growing and stable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DNR images are a very high resolution, you can see more and it can tell you to look further. • DNR is using bed perimeter and we have an interest in density. The more dense, the more reflection. Jeff thinks we're getting shrinking biomass...he thinks DNR had upped their resolution. Speculation on our part. 		

	<p>Most of the research is being done at Point Wilson. Jeff doesn't think anyone is looking to the west.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris showed the image to NWSC and Ken Collins from Island County • They have a video with geo references. They want to continue with that. • He showed a high resolution satellite image. He doesn't see a reason to do more of the high res imagining because we can see it. We need to look at what's different, he thought DNR would be interested in that, but they weren't. • Because of that, Jeff has a couple of project ideas: • Consider doing the diving ourselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ben Griner is using sonar with backscatter to see what the substrate is. Jeff thinks it's worth expanding on. ○ Jeff dove with Ken Collins by both sides of the sewer outfall. Kelp is recovering near outfall. It seems like a good laboratory that no one is taking advantage of. • Gordon: we could hire someone to do a survey, Bryan D does that. • Emily noted that it would be interesting to have a panel of Kelp experts that have been doing a focus on North Beach. Sediment, bluff erosion? Can we predict variations based on winter events? Potential route? Grill the experts. • Brenda said that when the Kelp subcommittee met at the beginning of summer, this was something they discussed. Jeff W. at NWSC is orchestrating researchers and he is the person who will be coordinating a panel discussion. • Emily: We need to touch base with Jeff. • Emily noted that the MRC's role in this is protecting our marine resources and our impact on where the sewage outflow project goes. Ultimately, what we want to know is if there is any type of advisory action that we can take. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is this a decline? ○ What's driving it? ○ What can we do about it? 		
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>None</p>		
<p>CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/ SPEAKERS</p>	<p>BIRDIE DAVENPORT, HEAD OF AQUATIC RESERVES PROGRAM FOR DNR (Betsy suggested)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic/speaker suggestion • They are in the process of forming an Implementation Committee addressing the potential expansion of Protection Island Aquatic Reserve and eventually updating the management plan. • They will hold a meeting sometime in Jan/Feb if people are interested in having a role in this, please reach out to Betsy or Roberta Davenport: • Roberta.davennport@dnr.wa.gov • One of the issues around Protection island is that one of the big Kelp beds "snuffed out" and they're not sure why. They are looking for input from a local perspective. • It's a small group but they're looking for people to participate. <p>NEXT UPCOMING LECTURE MARINE SCIENCE CENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/17/2024 • Eric McCray, Science of Sound in marine ecosystems • 3:00 – 4:00pm Fort Worden Chapel <p>FUTURE SPEAKERS LIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda asked if Katie could show this list at the next meeting. She thinks it would be helpful. Katie noted that this list has been on the Executive Meeting agendas, for planning. She's not sure where it is, but she can look. 		

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MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	None		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. Next meeting will be December 2, 2024	Troy moved to adjourn at 7:55pm, seconded by Neil. Motion passed.	