

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
6-8PM on September 2, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv, Chair
 Jon Waggoner – Marine Science Alt
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science, Vice Chair
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep
 Gordon King, Commercial
 Brenda Johnson, District 2
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
 Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
 Janette Mestre, District 1
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt

Absent:

Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWSC Alt
 Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt

Via Zoom

Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
 Akeyla Behrenfeld, Local Youth

PUBLIC

None

Staff: Katie Kowal – Water Resources Program Coordinator
 Jefferson County MRC/WSU Extension

| Topic | Update or Issue | Decisions/Follow-Up | Responsibility |
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| CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS | Chair Betsy Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made. | A quorum was present. | All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie. |
| AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA | Amendments to / Approval of Agenda None | Neil moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed. | |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | Amendments to / Approval of Minutes None | Neil moved to approve the minutes w/ amendments. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed. | |
| PUBLIC COMMENT | None | | |
| GUEST SPEAKER | Please see attached slides | | |
| PORT of PT UPDATES | Port of PT Updates (Carol Hasse) absent | | |
| BoCC UPDATE | BoCC Updates (Heidi) SHORELINE MASTER PLAN (SMP) UPDATE | | |

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| | <p>Currently updating Comprehensive Plan and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). SMP is required to be consistent with the Comp Plan. Comprehensive Plan is due in December so team is focusing on that.</p> <p>Significant elements with this periodic update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A climate element has been added to the plan • A new rule preventing urban growth areas from encroaching into resource lands. It's necessary to adopt these policies before they can finalize the CAO and the SMP. • It's unclear how these policy changes will affect the final SMP but it makes sense to do things in this order. Comp. Plan affects the CAO & SMP. • Staff anticipates completing it by end of October. • Heidi wants everyone to be clear on the causes delays at this point (Comp. Plan & Critical Areas Ordinance). <p>STAFF</p> <p>Neil asked if they had a new director yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi said they don't. They've restarted the search with another job description. There are a few candidates both internal and external. <p>PLEASANT HARBOR MASTER PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is for an October hearing on their preliminary plat. DCD team is working on that. <p>DRAINAGE DISTRICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi has been actively working to the reactivate the Drainage District. This is a huge effort. • It was deactivated in 1974 and has been dormant for most of her life. The Conservation District is excited to be running it again, they need to work out the Admin side of the project. • There is a lot of interest in reactivating it, from the Port and many landowners. There has been a lot of community outreach. | | |
| RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES | <p>NWSC Meeting Update (Jeff)</p> <p>UPCOMING CONFERENCE Nov 7th in LaConner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone should have received the email. Need to register. • For the first time, attendees can bring a guest, particularly anyone interested in the conference. • Betsy asked if there was a schedule. Jeff said he would find out. • Round table was popular last year, they want to do more things like that at the conference. • New session this year about reaching MRC's full potential. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call out to anyone who would like to be involved in that...what's worked in the past, what's not worked. Ideas are welcome. • Networking session went well last time, but there was a complaint that the presenters didn't get to visit the projects. There will be some reorganization on that this year. <p>Katie noted that the conference hotel is 20 min away from LaConner. None of the LaConner hotels offer a government rate, which is all the MRC can reimburse. (\$109) Think about carpool options.</p> <p>Jeff noted that the projects were officially voted on and the grant is in the budget.</p> | | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES | <p>Administrative Updates (Katie)</p> <p>BUDGET UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full amount of expected funding has been allotted for the 2025-2027 grant cycle • Agreement is drafted and making its way through the Ecology world and she will send the BoCC to finalize. | | |

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| | <p>OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act) Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie sent out an email about this. Everyone is supposed to complete the training to be part of the MRC. Supposed to complete within 90 days of your most recent appointment. <p>PROJECT SUMMARY REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see recent email from Katie. Reports are due on 9/15/25 for everyone except for Education/Outreach and Rain Gardens. Edu/Outreach & Rain Gardens reports are due in December. <p>NWSC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie asked for a show of hands who is attending. Please register before 10/07, the earlier the better. | | |
| GRANT PROJECT UPDATES | <p>Grant Project Updates</p> <p>FORAGE FISH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent <p>OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay & Killisut Harbor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report this month <p>BULL KELP KAYAK MONITORING (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final survey was in August John, her, MRC, + volunteers: Brad & Teresa Three surveys were completed this summer. <p>EELGRASS BUOYS (Troy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat Aug 30th Gordon, Troy & Brad did maintenance on four buoys in Hadlock <p>RAIN GARDENS (Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on hiring a maintenance person with a business license. Many folks are interested, but they don't have a business license. <p>ROV CRAB POTS (Jeff, Tim B.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim noted that school started today (9/02) He met with Head of Robotics team. They want to focus their underwater robots on serving the community. He is waiting to hear their decision. It may be something that could tie into MRC funding, depending on the project. <p>STORM SURGE (Jeff)</p> <p>None</p> <p>EDUCATION & OUTREACH: WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer & MC schedule/blurbs passed around. 40' x 25 tent this year Microscopes will be up all day long. Could borrow the Master Gardeners pop-up tent if necessary. The goal is to make this a "science alley" Jeff has been working on image content for the looping video screen. Video is preferable, but they can use stills for this year. Any images will be good for this year. She also reviewed how to count attendees to the booth with the clicker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clicker is for the tent. Paper is for the table visitors. Final details for checking in were reviewed. Betsy thanked everyone for volunteering. Everyone thanked Betsy and gave her a round of applause for organizing this event. | | |
| OTHER MRC PROJECTS | <p>Other MRC Projects</p> <p>DEI UPDATES (Emily)</p> | | |

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| | <p>At the August meeting, Emily reviewed the recommendations of the DEI subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising the format of the monthly meetings • Encourage more public engagement • Increasing flow to allow for time to discuss topics they are excited about. • Feedback from the August meeting was compiled and Emily sent it out via email. She also passed printed copies to the room. <p>DEI consulting contract is ending this month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily's understanding is that the work of changing the monthly meeting structure will move from the DEI subcommittee to the Executive committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Focus is to slowly implement the changes into future monthly meetings. Feedback will be necessary as they test these changes. • She noted that today's meeting was an example of efficient reporting of updates. • She'll give prompts of what an efficient update looks like <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Subcommittee discussion ◦ Implementation ◦ Reiteration ◦ Adaptive Management • Betsy asked if the "what we do" MRC blurb could be added to the agenda. • Emily said we may want to adapt it ourselves---it's a work-in-progress. <p>Betsy asked who will keep track of the Youth Representative if there is no DEI committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion followed on how to support the potential candidates and the process involved with recruitment and acceptance of the position. • Interested candidates should send an email or Letter of Interest to Katie. <p>SATELLITE IMAGERY (Jeff)</p> <p>Jeff showed a slide presentation in conjunction with this discussion.</p> <p>North Beach and McCurdy Point are areas closely monitored for Kelp, but the section between those two areas isn't being looked at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass Beach --we call it Area 2: They discovered this area has been in serious decline for the past six years. • Chris & Jeff were curious about the inconsistency between MRC & DNR data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DNR is using perimeter monitoring, which looks at the perimeter and bed size. Doesn't take density into account. ◦ We've been looking at density but it's difficult to get a good measurement of that. (It's objective, not qualitative) • NWSC's Ken Collins, did some diving surveys. • It maps what is really there, and when he went to the middle, there was nothing there. • He believes the kelp isn't behaving the way people think it is. <p>Jeff would like to continue this project and begin looking at data like this.</p> <p>He proposes restarting this as a non-grant funded project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon asked if others were already doing this. • Jeff reiterated that this is different. All of the other papers he has seen are getting measurements off of Satellite imagery. This would be looking for trends. It's worthwhile so they can know where to look and find a signal that's different. • Emily noted that this is an excellent project. She was curious for more information of why this should be an official MRC project. What's the decision criteria? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A broader discussion than just this project. | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff has been discussing this with Jeff Whitty of NWSC-- one key component is "buy-in" with local groups (i.e....Jefferson County should be interested in the county's Kelp). • There was discussion that this goes along with the MRC's mission as an advisory board to the Jefferson Co. Commissioners. • The "ask" is for this to be a non-grant funded project, but it needs to be official so it can potentially be fed into SoundIQ and Jeff can tap into the Science Advisory Committee. • Brenda questioned how this was different from the project proposed one year ago. • Gordon noted one difference was that the last time, they were trying to shift money into it, which turned out to be a major problem. But that's not an issue now and that's why he supports it. • Katie added that we should put boundaries on it, like they do with all MRC projects. | <p>Betsy motioned that the MRC accept this project: Jeff will regularly share the information with MRC and the MRC will post pertinent information (data after outside validation) on the website.</p> <p>MRC voting members raised their hands for approval. No opposed. Motion passed.</p> | |
| PUBLIC COMMENT | Public Comments None | | |
| MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS | MRC Round Table / Announcements FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS Gordon -- more buoys on Marrowstone Island. Neil – Speaker topic: Someone from WDFW to talk about enforcement. Jon—request for more communication, publicity for the MRC. Flyers, posters, newspaper, etc... Heidi mentioned KPTZ radio. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi asked if anyone could join her on Friday, 9/12 at 12:20 pm at the KPTZ? Upcoming Events September 20 th International Beach Cleanup 9:00 am to 1:00 pm | | |
| ADJOURNMENT | Meeting was adjourned at 8:05. Next meeting will be October 7th | Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Jon. Motion passed. | |