Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Hybrid Meeting 6-8PM on August 6, 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
Brenda Johnson, District 2
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Sarah Fisken, District 3, NWS Alt
Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
Emily Buckner, Marine Science
Christopher Kelley, Marine Science Alt
Gordon King, Commercial
Troy McKelvey, Recreation
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt

Visiting Observers:

Cendre Hunt, USAWA Consulting Tonia Burkett, USAWA Consulting

Via Zoom:

Sasha Horst, Northwest Straits Commission Kate Nichols Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend

Guest: No guest speaker this meeting

Absent:

Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv Janette Mestre, District 1 Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend Joanie Hendricks, District 3

Staff:

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

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/F ollow-Up	Responsi bility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTI ONS	Chair Gordon King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours
AMENDMEN TS TO/APPROV AL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda Troy will do an Eelgrass update Amendments to/Approval of June 2024 Minutes Typo correction: 'cost' needs to 'coast'. Katie will fix.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed. Sarah moved to approve the amended June minutes. Seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.	NO.
PUBLIC COMMENT	John Wagner – Port Hadlock • MRC meeting agenda has not been posted on the MRC website since May. Katie made a note.	Katie will post agendas.	

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GUEST SPEAKER	No speaker this meeting.	
Port of PT UPDATES Commission er Carol Hasse	Carol was absent this meeting.	
BoCC UPDATES (Heidi)	Shoreline Master Plan Update It is in legal review with Philip Hunsucker They have not had an update in a while. He is still working on it and is communicating with DOE about it and their timeline. Bryan asked about the "rollout". Will the publicity, etc occur immediately once it's adopted? Gordon shared that once the draft is presented, there will be a public comment period. Heidi will send an email to the MRC team. Heidi noted that we are also in a 5 year periodic review of the County Comprehensive Plan. Legislature has added some focus areas in the last couple of years to to the goals of the Comp. plan Climate change State shorelines – Heidi is not sure how those will mesh with the SMP? She thinks it may be more emphasis on shorelines in the Comp. Plan, but has not rec'd a briefing yet. They did have a briefing on the Climate Resilience Element that will be part of the Comp. Plan and there is grant funding for that. FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN for the County was recently passed with an environmental stewardship goal that specifically addresses: Our shorelines and mitigating the impacts of sea level rise through shoreline infrastructure projects. collaborating with community stakeholders to monitor and sustain forest, agriculture and aquaculture economies and the ecosystem on which they depend. Heidi is spending a lot of her time on this Strategic Plan. She wants to be sure that the performance measures outlined in this plan are actually being measured. There are 4 or 5 planning processes going on right now with shorelines. She sees a commitment from the County and the DCD to the implementation of these plans. This is a good thing. Gordon: DCD had a rough 3 years, but it has improved in the last 12 months Hablock Sewer Installation: Roads are being torn up Installing the 2" collection lines that are in the middle of the road.	
	 They are using county roads and streets, which is easier than state roads This will be a positive thing for our ecology DABOB AREA NATURAL PRESERVE Great celebration Proposed 4000-acre expansion right now, waiting for Commissioner Franz to sign Hilary Franz called Heidi & said she intends to sign it within the next month. She had a few issues to discuss, but she sounds committed to signing it. It will result in an 11,600 nature preserve around the Dabob Bay area. Brenda asked if MRC could give tours of that area. 	

- Heidi: There are many horse land tracks in the expansion area that could be used for walks.
- Brenda: It would help for the idea to not be so abstract. We should go out there.

Tim B. question to Heidi: Have you heard more about that office's interest in removing derelict vessels?

Heidi has spoken with a couple of the candidates for Public Lands Commissioner about the Derelict Vessel Removal program, and they seem connected to it. It will be an emphasis of hers as that transition happens. They need to understand how important that program is for counties.

Troy talked with Hilary Franz (Public Lands Commissioner, DNR) about that at the DNR meeting a couple of weeks ago. She knows all about the funding and how it will happen.

a note of this for a future field trip, and will coordinate with Heidi on setting this up at some point.

Katie made

Heidi:

This is Steve Tharinger's last term, so this is a good time to talk with him about budget items. Heidi has been talking with him about the DVR budget. The new Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee is June Robinson; she is progressive and open to environmental asks. So it's a good time to be asking for more money for the programs

If the Climate Commitment Act is not repealed, if we keep that funding is in place, there will be the capacity to expand that program.

RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES

NWSC July Meeting (Jeff)

Liz Tobin Shellfish Manager - Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe gave a presentation on managing the Dungeness Crab Fishery and genetic studies. She would be a great speaker for MRC.

- Emily: she is speaking at the Wooden Boat Festival, Friday afternoon, 3:00pm
- Sarah: She also spoke at Crabber Outreach Workshop
- Neil suggested that it may be better to wait for her to speak.
- Emily: Geneticists are working on the data this summer, it's probably 6
 months out. A good idea to invite them to speak.

Chris Kelly gave a presentation on the Kelp Monitoring Program that was well received.

- The digital projector at the event had low saturation, so the full color of the slides did not show, except for the Zoom attendees.
- Jeff was a co-author, and he learned a lot from the presentation

NWSC INITIATIVE

- Many people don't know about the NW Straits organization and the MRCs.
- We listed what everyone thinks the NWSC does
- What they think the NWSC should be doing and working to refine that
- Conference, Nov 15 & 16th in Everett

KELP SATELLITE PROJECT (Gordon)

- Project was more difficult than they thought
- Very complicated to transfer money from another project
- The project is interesting, but he proposed that it be tabled until MRC can fund it. Possibly until end of the year
- Chris K. & staff have been working to get it going
- Jeff asked if we can still charge time to the Kelp Project.
- Katie says it's in the grant. Hours can be entered into the spreadsheet.

ADMINISTRA TIVE Volunteer Hours **UPDATES** Gordon says some people were 6 months behind. If anyone has a problem entering (Katie) their hours, please talk with Katie Brenda mentioned it's difficult to locate the spreadsheet on Google Drive. She asked if hours could be written down like they used to do. It worked really well to fill out as we entered the meeting. Katie said the hours were moved from the paper system because someone has to enter all that data. She asked if there is a way she can make it Gordon and Neil recommended bookmarking the Google Drive page and adding it to 'Favorites'. Katie thanked everyone for entering their hours. Youth Representative Position (Emily & Katie) Akeyla Behrenfield accepted the position. She'll be starting in September **Grant summary reports** September 16th Draft Summary Reports Due Monica did most of these in the past. Subcommittee leads will be more involved in at least part of the reporting process going forward. Katie will email a template to project leads this week/next week. A summary of the projects worked on in the past year. 2025 Workplan Annual plan to determine projects for following year A heads up that we'll be thinking about it in the next few months Jefferson MRC Retreat Proposed for late October/Early Nov Discuss projects How the structure works/the whole system fits together/the MRC functions Upcoming grant process Primary grants run Oct 2023 - Oct 2025 Application process for 2025-27 will start at the end of this year Gordon: we can revisit retreat at Sept. meeting Katie suggested a poll would be helpful to come up topics for meeting **NWSC Conference** Nov 15-16, Everett Neil wondered about hotel booking Katie thinks a save the date went out she will get in touch with Caitlyn Sasha H.: More info coming to each MRC member this week. People book their own hotel, etc, and will be reimbursed **NWSC Conference: Feature Project?** Round Robin session happened last year where every MRC put together a feature project. Sarah: people walked around from station to station. Multiple comments in room of how great it was. They are asking to put this together again for this year. Katie: is there any group that's interested in putting something together We send the NWS info on the project NWS staff will help put into 1 page doc Katie can give more info to anyone interested **GENERAL COMMENTS ON RETREAT & BUDGET** Chris asked about the dates of the budget & workplan. Katie: the workplan goes from Jan to Dec. It's just an annual plan.

Chris: So the workplan could be discussed at the retreat. Gordon: Yes, absolutely. Chris: In the Community Science Monitoring Project, there are about 4-5 sub projects, but just one lump sum of money. How can you plan sub-projects if you don't know the budget. Katie: The budget is broken down first. When plans are created at the retreat, Katie then sits down with every subcommittee, and they break it down. That's how the budget is created Neil: We would ballpark at the retreat and then we usually vote on budget in December Chris: Why not have the leads of the subproject get together and hash it out? Gordon: It's a good idea to organize projects, decide on the funding required, and then see what's available. Katie needs to be involved with the committees since she knows the budget. Chris: If Katie and the leads got together in one meeting, that seems the fairest way to do it Katie asked to table this, since she is trying to figure everything out as well. Neil: Let's schedule a meeting before the retreat. Gordon: The executive committee could discuss this. Brenda: Really good suggestion Chris, the last 4-5 years we've just continued what we were doing. It's good to have more of a strategic plan. The Sea Dragon remote ROV work was the first new project we'd had in a long time. Gordon: Monica used to bring the work plan up, we were meant to read it before a meeting and there was the opportunity for changes. This is a good thing to consider. It's important that it be coordinated between staff and the committees. Katie: My role is to ensure we stay within certain guidelines, gather all of everyone's ideas and work together as a group to decide on projects and make sure things work out fairly. We can discuss all of these questions at the retreat and discuss changes. Projects & the coordinator must work together, they cannot function independently. Gordon: He agrees 100%, just over the last few months, they had some difficulties in finding the budgets. Neil and him became confused about where the money was. Neil: Katie helped him with the budget, shared her screen, showed the timelines and the length...and in color so he could see...and then he understood it. It was a very complex system. This gave him clarity. He recalled that with Olympia Oysters last year, Monica sent him a rough draft of the work plan and they worked on the prelims to get a rough amount of money. He never thought of Olympia Oysters as being in competition for money, but we need a certain amount of funding which requires planning. He's not sure when we approve our budget as an MRC, but we'll discuss our work plan, approve our work plan and our budget. Should we think about a retreat AFTER the conference we will have a lot of ideas of what other MRCS are doing? Timing might be tight, since we have to approve budget at end of Dec. WOODEN Wooden Boat Festival Planning (Betsy absent, Katie giving update) **BOAT**

FESTIVAL PLANNING

Katie reviewed schedule and tasks

Tabling group up front, behind will be larger tent with speakers

- Set up day on Thursday before the event.
- Fri, Sat, Sun-goal to have 3 people for each tent staffing time slot
- Need an MC to introduce speaker,
- · Also need an AV person
- Door floaters -crowd control, early warning for time limits and to count every person attending

Emily: volunteers get free admission for the day

Katie: Currently there are 12 day passes available, Katie will make sure they have enough for volunteers

Doesn't included parking

Heidi: Transit runs extra shuttles from the park and ride. It's the busiest transit day of the year.

Katie signed up volunteers at the meeting with the schedule on the projector.

*WBF Sign-up Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pOyKLJc8qYyjcPLluBJL85jCU5WmxMr_/edit?gid=577994209#gid=577994209

- Audience can just wander in, no sign up required to attend presentations.
- 40 seats in the tent
- If it's full, does someone need to stop more from coming in?
- Nobody seemed to know. They will ask.
- Last year they opened up a panel of the tent.
- Heidi mentioned that a tent is not a room. People can stand around the edges.
- Think about the literature we want at the booth.
- The lineup is printed in the WBF programs.

Katie will email out the presentation topics

Presentation topics can be found under the Mar Sci Stage Speakers 2024 tab on the WBF Sign-up Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pOyKLJc8qYyjcPLluBJL85jCU5WmxMr_/edit?gid=577994209#gid=577994209

Staff Update (Katie)

Joannie Hendricks, District 3 will be resigning from her position after the Wooden Boat Festival. She will be at the Sept. 3 MRC meeting.

CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATES

Forage Fish Monitoring (Dabob-Sarah)

Sarah apologized that she didn't reach out, but she sampled at the spur of the moment. She thinks she got a sand lance, but her dog ate it.

Heidi: how do we find out the results of sampling?

Sarah is happy to send out the info from the sampling.

Olympia Oysters (Neil)

- June 8 survey went really well
- Nice size distribution of Olympias
- Continue to get recruitment in Discovery Bay
- Under the power lines—north & south of the power lines.
- He thought the #'s seemed low in population, so is wondering if he got the #s wrong.
- Gordon: In other years we've had sometimes 10 juveniles and they weren't there this year. It can skew the #'s.
- Neil: There was no set on the new culch. He will look again in a couple of weeks

- Reproduction may not have been good last year, but the previous year was good. The bell curve is centered around 40ml, which is good.
- Neil needs to examine those numbers, there were fewer than he thought.
- Thank you everyone who helped with that.

RECONISSANCE ON BROAD SPIT ON DABOB

- with Neil, Troy, Sarah, Gordon
- Pools on the SE side that had a lot of Olympias in them (really good), not so much in the outlet channel.
- Kilsut Harbor parcel across the street from the Nordland store has a significant number of Olympias on it. A 'surprisingly happy' amount: 1 - 10 per sq meter
- In transition, he thought they had funding to put out culch this year. Then
 then he was wondering where that funding was this Spring when he put out
 an RFP for an oyster barge. The money was in our NOAA federal grant. The
 WSU staff didn't know where the funds were. Neil isn't sure they can use
 the funds now since it's late in the year and the low tide cycles are over.

Neil is talking it over with Gordon, he will still talk to oyster grower and see if he's available.

- May be possible to do in the Fall.
- Necessary to hire a crew to empty the bags, have to do it at night.
- Better to have a crew than a volunteer. Can't have volunteers out at night on the water.

Eelgrass Survey: Talking to Brian D. They may need to re-up the survey they did in 2021. He doesn't know if they need it this year or next year.

- Gordon: Neil thinks that a dollar amount we can do without an RFP or bid is \$10,000.
- Katie said that's correct, it's \$9,999.00
- We can't spend more than \$10k without bid process

Kelp (Emily)

Kelp Kayak Surveys:

- In their survey window right now
- She and Brad went out in June
- Official survey on July 18th
- Good turnout, 7 folks on water, returning folks for long term perspective and new volunteers
- Wayne did concurrent surveying via drone.
- It was foggy in the morning so couldn't fly the drone the entire time.
- Chris & Jeff were on the bluffs taking photos.
- Nice looking bed, pretty patchy to the west.
- Next survey is Aug 17th
- Brad is leading, we have good list signed up
- Hope to do one more in Sept if weather allows.

No Anchor Eelgrass Buoys (Troy)

- There are some old eelgrass buoys in the basement—crushed on the bottom, in bad condition. They should be disposed of.
- We should order 4 or 5 more. Troy has talked with Katie about this. We need some in reserve in case we lose a couple.

EVENT AT PADILLA BAY

Senator Patty Murray showed up for presswork for refunding of NWSC project.

- Very interesting day. 4-5 counties were there.
- He brought an eelgrass buoy and there were some nice pictures in the NWSC newsletter here.

We broke up into four small groups:

- San Juan talked about their aerial surveys for Kelp & Eelgrass beds
- Derelict boats
- Olympia Oysters

He talked about Eelgrass Bouys.

Lucas Hart organized the event. It was very structured since Patty Murray was coming. She asked questions, was very observant.

DNR EELGRASS/KELP RESENTATION

- at Red Cedar Hall at Jamestown S'Klallam
- DNR Head Hilary Franz spoke about preparations for Eelgrass & Kelp
- · Lots of planning and committees
- Very organized in these beginning stages
- Once we get all the surveys from the entire state, to put them on the NOAA charts
- It's on one set of charts now
- That's one part of the plan but will require more survey work.
- We'll need funding to survey more of our area: North Beach, Marrowstone, etc... try to get it all surveyed in the next few years
- Bryan D.: It's really one team that collects all that data. You can see the
 process they do and maps at the DNR Eelgrass/Kelp monitoring site. It's
 very expensive, lots of video processing.
- Neil: He spoke with Chandra Johnson (Jamestown Tribe) she's been working with Clallam Co. on doing Lidar and Hyperspectral survey of Clallam co. which would include eelgrass.
- Lidar gives the very nice landscape views
- Hyperspectral needs to be done at low-ish tides (he thinks)
- Expensive but not labor intensive, you cover a lot of ground.

Brenda: DNR offered a virtual version of the workshop over in Sequim that she attended.

- It only focused on Kelp.
- There were 12 on the zoom. A lot of interaction with participants.
- One of the participants had a great point: Where is the conceptual model?
- · What are the possible pressures?
- She thought that was a good point and felt like it was the tip of the iceberg.
- Brenda asked if those present at the physical meeting noticed this. She wondered if this was something they had to do for the legislature----they didn't seem to have a strong concept.
- Tim B: It felt like a shotgun approach to do something right away.
- Troy agreed a lot of preliminary work but no movement into something useful.
- Brenda: The good thing is they are looking for feedback
- Jeff: North Beach is stable, Glass Beach is in serious decline.
- Emily: They asked for input, but she wasn't sure of the question she was being asked, besides prioritizing these "big zones"
- It was interesting to her, some DNR staff mentioned a conservation option
 they've been thinking about is expanding the Protection Island Aquatic
 Preserve to encompass the entire North Beach area. She's not sure exactly
 what that means. There would be more funding, more capacity to monitor.
- It's a very different process to expand an Aquatic Preserve as opposed to what their currently working on (prioritizing habitat).
 - They would need a citizen group to advocate for that. It could be an MRC, that could come from you. She needs a lot more information on it. She has more questions than answers.
- Gordon: What does it achieve? Is an Aquatic Reserve going to help or restrict? They couldn't give us an answer? Why are we going thru this process—unless there is a real driving reason?

• Emily: She had the same question, would it be worth it?

Troy: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will be managing Protection Island.

Neil: Jamestown is signing an agreement assuming management of Dungeness Spit and Protection Island on Aug. 16th.

- They will take over visitor services, science and monitoring. They hired a Refuge Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Nature Center.
- No different in terms of access, the signage will be updated.
- Hired an ecologist, Suquamish tribal representative
- Refuge managemt will be one of the programs
- Its' a big deal. Comes out of the Bidens' admin trying to involving local tribes to manage lands that were once part of the tribal land.
- Brenda showed a map from DNR that shows the aquatic reserve, they want feedback by Aug 16th

Gordon: one last point for No Anchor, beginning of July, Brian and Gordon cleaned the buoys.

Troy: will Jamestown be managing Geoduck field on the West side....Neil thinks no, that's DNR

Rain Gardens (Katie)

- Work party at the end of June
- Three Rain Gardens in PT
- It was great, 8 people showed up to help.
- Digging, weeding, mulching
- There will be another one in August, no date vet.

COASTAL GROUNDWATER HAZARDS WORKSHOP (Judy S.)

Shorelines and Coastal Planners group did a webinar training today.

Interesting and informative session:

- on USGS hazardous exposure reporting
- cosmos modeling
 - o coast flooding, groundwater and hazard assessments

Focused on groundwater intrusion

- Many jurisdiction are focused on sea level rise, but we'll be impacted sooner by ground water intrusion.
- Pockets of flooding, killing off vegetation, or shoreline restoration projects in vicinity of groundwater intrusion.
- The groundwater intrusion will bring to light a lot of soil pollution, likely to see more movement of contaminated soils
- Most of the speakers were USGS and high-level professors from around the U.S.
- She recommends this training. There will be another one in Sept.
- It's a web-based tool with a dashboard, there is a GIS layer. There were breakout groups where you used the tool.
- Gordon: Is this saltwater intrusion into fresh water?
- Judy: Yes, but also how groundwater is pushed higher...causing flooding.
 During their workshop demo, they saw how the groundwater rose in the middle of an island, rather than just on the edges.
- Port Townsend is likely to see more movement of contaminated soil, due to old oil plants in the downtown area.

Coastal Groundwater Hazards Workshop link:

Coastal Groundwater Hazards Workshop (Sep 12):

https://www.coastalplanners.org/upcoming-webinars

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PUBLIC COMMENT	John Wagner (public) mentioned that the Coastal Groundwater Hazards Workshop is limited to 70 people. He has signed up.		
CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/ SPEAKERS	Judy Surber: RE: City's SMPthe consultant is working on the Public Participation Plan and we need to come to this MRC as part of that. She has the materials from them. She will notify MRC when they would like to be on the agenda. • Port of PT Sea level rise efforts • Types sea level rise strategies that might be appropriate in that area. • Streamline and reduce repetiveness in the SMP • A draft will be available, but it's not ready yet. The 2021 draft may still be posted on the City's website.		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCE MENTS	Joanie Hendricks resignation date is right after Wooden Boat Festival		
ADJOURNM ENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. Next meeting will be September	Neil moved to adjourn at 7:53pm, seconded by Tory. Motion passed.	