

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
In Person Meeting
6-8PM on June 4, 2024 at
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC
 Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
 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 Fiskens, District 3, NWS Alt
 Joanie Hendricks, District 3
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Janette Mestre, District 1
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science
 Christopher Kelley, Marine Science Alt
 Gordon King, Commercial
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt

Absent:

Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt

Guest:

Tami Pokorny
 (Natural Resources Program Coordinator,
 JCPH/North Pacific Coast MRC)

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 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Corrections on May minutes from last time Pg 3, question about shoreline master program should be DCD Dept of Community Development Green Crab section – Chris from WDFW. CTE-Career Technical Education Brenda provided her corrections to Katie.	Betsy moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by [name not clear]. Motion passed. Neil moved to approve amended May minutes. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comments		
GUEST SPEAKER Tami Pokorny (Natural Resources Program Coordinator, JCPH/North Pacific Coast MRC)	Jefferson County Conservation Futures Fund Program and North Pacific Coast MRC Presentation Tami coordinates the North Pacific Coast MRC, CFF program and works on various habitat restoration projects on the side. Conservation Futures Fund (CFF) fund or Tax Smallest property tax--\$0.04 per \$1000 accumulates in the CFF about \$250K per year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of 13 people make up Citizen Oversight Committee for the fund. Two reps from each district • Two vacancies open right now • Open interest seatholders represent a “perspective”, it’s not an official representation of an interest. 		

	<p>CFF funds are used to protect key open space lands (Commissioners make the final decision.) Program set up in 2002.</p> <p>Supports a range of conservation values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farms • Agriculture • Habitat • Working forest land • Cultural sights/Viewscales <p>https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/560/Conservation-Futures-Program</p> <p>More than half of every project has to be funded with other sources of money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash donations to Land Trust • State & federal grants • Land sold for conservation at a discount • All voluntary and built on relationships • “Held in Fee” <p>Gordon: are you buying the rights from the developers?</p> <p>Tami: we are protecting key open space and sometimes we’re buying the whole property. This was mostly the case in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.</p> <p>Chimacum parcels are held by WDFW</p> <p>A stewardship plan is required for acquisition. Project manager has three years to complete the project in order for funds to be disbursed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship Plan involves many conservation values to be protected. They are words on paper and it’s recorded in public. It’s important to “keep eyes on the property”. • People forget that there are legal protections to these properties. Many times it’s not evident unless someone looks in the documents. <p>Conservation easement: Buys the most valuable... “the biggest sticks” of the property. Which is most often the development rights. Can be the total property or partial. (Sold by the parcel).</p> <p>Value is established by appraiser Appraise with development rights and no development rights on the parcel/parcels. The difference is the conservation value.</p> <p>Then the organization (Land Trust or whomever) comes forward with an application to purchase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee reviews applications • Visits sites • Presentation • Projects are ranked • June 24 public hearing for this year’s round of applications (on website) <p>If there is a Conservation easement on property, the easement moves to new owner if the land is sold.</p> <p>Neil: Does a stewardship report need to be submitted every year?</p>		
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	<p>Tami: Land Trust has their own monitoring forms which may contain personal information no to be shared publicly. The CFF provides their own annual reporting form and they invite all of the past project sponsors to weigh in on all of the changes.</p> <p>Substantial changes may occur this year to the manual and score sheet.</p> <p>Gordon: Why do we have CFF & Land Trust?</p> <p>Tami: CFF is a pool of money. It is a property tax held by the county used to improve all of our lives and make Jefferson County a good place to live and visit. It maintains what the community has valued.</p> <p>Heidi: It is state law that any of the 39 counties in the state can opt to collect this tax. It is an option the state gives counties for conservation. It's a tax collected by the county. The Land Trust is a private non-profit, so it's a completely different function. It's not a public entity.</p> <p>Land Trust has attorneys and outreach and fundraising. They have a lot of capacities that would be inappropriate for a county.</p> <p>The County grants the funds to non-profits to purchase (Land Trust, a Tribe, etc...). Must be a local non-profit.</p> <p>Heidi: Much of the landscape that we take for granted has been protected. Trees as you drive into PT are protected by a conservation easement/owner Land Trust.</p> <p>Chimacum Ridge is currently a big project.</p> <p>Easements on many local farms. "Working lands" was added to mission statement at the Land Trust (LT) and started actively working on farmland protection in the Chimacum & Beaver valleys. Which supported the Farmer's Market in the long run.</p> <p>LT can purchase easements with many funding programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Futures • State funding from Recreation & Conservation Office • Federal funding from Land & Water Conservation • Sometimes CF get matched to a state or fed grant • Collaboration on all fronts <p>Chris Kelly: Are you supporting any aquatic projects?</p> <p>Tami has contacted Marine Science Center. One of their members has been exploring purchasing easements on noteworthy tidelands It would be wonderful to have more projects that were estuaries.</p> <p>Brenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration projects in Discovery Bay: Olympia Oyster population expansion • Is there a connection being made between those upstream project proposals in Snow & Salmon Creeks and what's happening downstream? • How does one affect the other? 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best to open the communication? One doesn't seem to be talking to the other. <p>Tami: That is a great point and it happens all over the place. The more we can get the right information to the right people talking together. We have to start it somewhere.</p> <p>North Pacific Cost Marine Resources Committee (partnership between Western Jefferson & Clallam Counties) Funded through WDFW, focus on watersheds that drain to the Pacific Coast Meeting held on Third Tuesdays 4:00pm – 6:00 pm</p> <p>Coordinator:Tami Pokorny tpokorny@co.jefferson.wa.us 360-379-4498</p> <p>Jefferson Co. MRC is invited to the Annual Summit:</p> <p>Coast MRC Summit 2024 Forks and LaPush October 16-19</p> <p>Highlights: Site visits: Lower Quillayute River Oct 17 River & Ocean Film Festival: Oct 18 Maritime History Event: Oct 19</p> <p>Current NPCMRC projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geologic Hazards & Rapid Terrace Erosion at Rialto Beach, Olympic National Park, WA Sponsor: University of WA • Dead bird citizen science for youth community members: a pilot internship program with COASST Sponsor: University of WA • Marine Advanced Technology and Education (MATE) Olympic Coast Remotely Operated (ROV) Competition—Taking Blue Tech to New Depths Sponsor: National Maritime Sanctuary Foundation • Washington CoastSavers: Rebuilding of Online Volunteer Registration System Sponsor: National Maritime Sanctuary Foundation • Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) testing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) analyses: a pilot study to spark a long-term Outer Coast monitoring program. Sponsor: Seattle Aquarium <p>https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1523/North-Pacific-Coast-Marine-Resources-Com</p> <p>Katie will send an announcement for the next meeting.</p>		
<p>Port of PT UPDATES Commissioner Carol Hasse</p>	<p>Port of PT Update (Carol)</p> <p>Steering Committee Shorts Farm How can it be made available to farmers who can't get property elsewhere or can't afford to purchase property. The idea of a mix of grazing cattle to the continued WDFW hunting that's been allowed there forever.</p>		

	<p>The vision for the Short's Farm will be shared by the Farm Steering Committee at the July 12th Port meeting. Open to the public...all the farm steering meetings are open to the public.</p> <p>Restoration of Heritage Buildings at Point Hudson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficient HVAC • Removing creosote smell • Making the Cupola house a Port Engineering Office and a Marine Office. • Duplex is being restored <p>New Stormwater System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of boatyard out toward Sims Way • And expansion (hopefully) Southwest from existing boatyard out towards the bluff towards the Mill • Needs to be completed by the end of this year or we will lose the funds. <p>Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining elevations of stretch to protect from sea level rise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bluff to bluff: Bluff towards Mill to ferry dock. ○ Protection will vary depending on elevations ○ Once they are ready, minimizing hard surfaces ○ They are receiving updates at Port meetings. • Poplar trees on boat haven side of Sims Way will be removed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PUD determined they are a fire risk. Trees are transmitting stray current into the boatyard. ○ There will be a pedestrian path, bicycle path ○ Group from city working with local Arborists and other experts for native plants. Poplars on Kah Tai side will remain. ○ There is wetland in that area, however, it is not a natural wetland. So there is a lot of conversation on how best to do that and who is responsible since it is a state route, but a city road. 		
<p>BoCC UPDATES</p>	<p>BoCC Update (Heidi)</p> <p>Behavioral Health Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County receives funding from state for Behavioral Health • Funds from recent opiate settlements are starting to flow into Jefferson County. • As Chair of Behavioral health Advisory Committee she has been working on how best & most effectively use those limited funds in our community. <p>Forest Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three DNR work groups <p>Board of Health: Sanitation Sub Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at options & solutions for building on small lots that's protective of both human health and the environment 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the mission is looking at shoreline landowners who have received inquiries from South County about new state on-site septic rule • Looking at options for these landowners who have small lots along rivers and near shore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding tanks are legal-however, very expensive • Committee of three, huge mission and will probably continue for five years. <p>Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft went back to Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney's office, and the Attorney's added a lot to the draft. Now they are reviewing. It will look different. • MRC will get access to it when Commissioners get access to it later this summer. • Josh Peters is targeting August to get this done. • Another public hearing will most likely need to be held after the rewrite. <p>Pleasant Harbor Master Plan Resort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi is not the Commissioner tracking the project, it is not in her district. Commissioners cannot talk to each other. • Greg Brotherton's district • Her understanding is that it is slowly moving forward. 		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p>NWSC May Meeting (Jeff)</p> <p>July 26th Meeting has some scheduling conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a request for Jeff. Co MRC to host • A local member will need to present a project. Jeff & Sarah both think it's a good idea. • Time is 10:00 a.m. – 3:00pm • Suggested: Kelp Presentation by Chris & Brad <p>Athena Group, DEI survey</p> <p>A group for MRC volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 10th • 3:30 p.m.– 5:00 pm <p>Open group for anyone to join</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 13th • 5:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m. <p>Dept. of Ecology gave a presentation on the Coastal Resilience Mission</p> <p>Derelict Vessels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Juan County had a successful vessel turn-in event • Fourteen vessels were removed and deconstructed • There will be another event in Skagit county. If anyone knows someone who wants to turn in a boat, we can get them information. You don't have to live in Skagit County. <p>Puget Sound Day on the Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are starting to schedule meetings with representatives. The biggest priority is to set up meetings with legislators from the NW Straits region 	<p>Betsy moved to host the July 26th NWSC meeting. Sarah seconded. Motion approved.</p>	

<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p>Youth Representative Position (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received one application Emily & Katie will meet next week Do they want to extend the deadline to see if there are more applicants? Tim B. suggested that it might be helpful to keep it open for 2 more weeks as students decompress from academics. They plan to leave it open. They can move quickly once they close it. The hope is to get someone coming to the August meeting. <p>DEI Contract (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed contract between USAWA & Strait ERN Runs through the end of September 2024 Neil recommends having the DEI consultant visit in August And he is wondering if we can get extension. Neil will touch base with Kara Cardinal. The first step is coming to one of our meetings. DEI subcommittee will plan to meet. <p>COASST Program (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for volunteers Walk sections of beach and look for dead birds. Training is June 30th Marine Science Center 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. <p>Betsy C. commented what a well-done training program it is. There is also an amazing field guide for identification.</p>		
<p>CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<p>Crabber Outreach (Roy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 26th Crabbing 101 Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz Tobin from Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Daniel Sund Troy – ‘Crabmaster’ Big emphasis on “don’t lose your pots, don’t kill crabs unnecessarily” Sarah asked for help making crab packets, please contact her. The packets got out to the stores that sell crab pots. <p>Shoreline Landowner Outreach (Sarah & Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She & Katie met with the Port. There is some resistance on taking bulkhead out Trying to contact neighbors re: beachwalk, rec’d negative response so far. She hasn’t given up yet. Heidi suggested meeting with Dept of Comm. Development (DCD) Heidi rec’d call from WDFW and they are trying to map septic systems that are behind retaining walls in the near-shore environment. <p>Forage Fish Monitoring (Dabob-Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampled last week and she rec’d email from NWSC 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are thinking of another forage fish training in late summer. • Details not available yet <p>Education and Outreach (Joanie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjord Fest • Windy & rainy. However, they talked with over 120 people per day. • Joannie also did a filter feeding demo with live oysters. She brought 6 gallons of micro algae. • People appreciated them being there. <p>Sea Grant, MRC & Marine Science Center stage for Wooden Boat Festival (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 6, 7 & 8 • Speaker list is complete and has been turned into the Wooden Boat Committee and is ready to go into the catalog. • She will need a WB Festival planning meeting to coordinate with everyone. • Education and outreach meeting. Determine what the needs are and communicate with the group. • Tent & the usual booth, WDFW wants to also do something in the area. <p>Olympia Oysters (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat, June 8th at 9:00 am • Some people have signed up • Katie sent out map • Neil can flag where the trail goes • They need 8-9 people • June 22nd at 9:30 a.m. • Reconnaissance at Taylor Shellfish Hatchery • We will walk out to broad spit and look for Olympias <p>Kelp (Emily) Kelp Kayak Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 18 • Aug 17 • Sept 16 • June 22 Training test run for volunteers • Hoping to have a drone survey performed simultaneously <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily said they were excited to see the other types of data that are being collected and to evaluate what is giving them the best information to use going forward. • Brad: There is a lot of interest in the ancillary measurements & depth profiles • Chris has made a transect by the sewer outflow • Island County MRC are making similar measurements and has offered to come over and dive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the clear mandate on this other part of the Kelp? • Gordon: This will be addressed at a later date due to time constraints. <p>Eelgrass Buoys (Troy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon: Correction on May minutes: The buoys were put out...not pulled out. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New buoys look terrific (Roy) <p>Rain Gardens (Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training class was last month (May 23rd) • Open to the public • Surveys of rain gardens: protocols developed with soil testing, plant health, etc... • Half of the rain gardens in PT have been surveyed • Master Gardener Coordinator Bridget Gregg is compiling data • Work party day, low attendance. • They discovered that Thistle comes out easily after lots of rain—they removed a lot of it. • Next work party is later in June...most likely the weekend of the 24th. She will send out an email. • They have a couple people interested in being Rain Garden Stewards. <p>Remote Imaging (Chris Kelly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x 4 kilometer, 1 meter resolution images • 1200 for Puget sound • He downloaded them all • Looked at the North coast of the Quimper Peninsula • Kelp & sea floor • He came across some remarkable correlations between kelp and the sea floor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fort Worden has a remarkable kelp bed. The sea floor follows the substrate out there. ○ Extremely stable • Jeff found some current modeling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is lots of current in that area, and the kelp disappears when there is current. ○ The current is related to the bottom topography <p>Area 2 has very low Kelp, East of McCurdy point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the current model. The current vectors are almost non-existent in that area. • This area has the highest feeder bluffs of the whole coast. • There's not enough current to wash away the sediment. • A story is starting to emerge. 		
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/ SPEAKERS	Heidi Third expansion of Dabob Bay is being proposed. There is a public hearing on June 17 th		

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MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	We have a Google Drive – Where you can report volunteer hours and access other MRC resources. Contact Katie if you are having trouble accessing the Google Drive.		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. Next meeting will be August	Neil moved to adjourn, seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.	