# Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting 6-8PM on August 5, 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
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Sarah Fisken, District 3, NWSC Alt
Heather Dudley-Nolette, BoCC
Akeyla Behrenfeld, Local Youth Representative
Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder

## Absent:

Roy Clark, Recreation Alt Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC Janette Mestre, District 1 Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend

#### Via Zoom

Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt Brad & Lee Bebout, District 1 Leah Skare & Caitlyn Blair, NWSC Kris Clark

## **Guest Speakers**

Steve King - Public Works Director, City of PT Andre Harper – Project Manager City of PT

# **PUBLIC**

Emily Bishop, former MRC member Angela Glore , Coordinator Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network Tonia Burkett, USAWA Consulting Lenore

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

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
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
	Betsy read this statement about the MRC committee:  "The JMRC is an advisory group to the BoCC and we are part of the Regional NW Straits Marine Conservation Initiative and many of our		to Katie.

	members are citizen volunteers committed to protecting and restoring our local marine resources."	
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Gordon. Motion passed.  Gordon moved to approve the June minutes w/ amendments. Seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.
PUBLIC COMMENT	LEAH SKARE (NWSC) VIA ZOOM: Caitlin will be reaching out soon re: Conference Registration  Gordon: Lenore is interested in being the Youth Representative, could we allow for 2min of time for questions from MRC or her questions to us.  Betsy suggested that be done when the MRC project updates are finished. Lenore had no questions.	
GUEST SPEAKER	Betsy introduced the guest speakers: Steve King & Andre Harper She mentioned that Steve King is considering joining the MRC per Judy Surber's recommendation.  WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OUTFALL UPDATE The project vicinity is next to Chinese Garden Lagoon, outfall is 800-900 ft out from North Beach park.  The City WWTP does not currently discharge to Chinese Gardens Lagoon. Chinese Gardens Lagoon discharge on the beach is commonly mistaken as the City wastewater discharge. The WWTP is adjacent to Chinese Garden Lagoon.  TIMELINE: 2000 - Sewer Plan  Identified the need to replace/update the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) diffuser outfall pipe located in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The plan ID'd many options.  2017 - Began design engineering and studies.  2018-19 - Provided presentation to permitting agencies.  Concern re: impacts on eelgrass and kelp (trenching on sea floor).  Steve thought that open trenching was very expensive.  City had \$4 million loan to do the work  Outfall replacement plan finalized.  Permitting set to begin in 2020 (displayed map of eel grass and kelp bed)  2020 - COVID created a two-year pause.  New city staffing and permitting agencies generally unavailable.  2022 - Reevaluation of project.  City approached the MRC for suggestions to consider other alternatives such as incorporating Chinese Gardens Lagoon as part of the treatment train and potentially leverage for estuary fish habitat.  Directional drilling was also suggested by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to avoid impact of trenching a new pipe in the sea floor.  2024 - More alternatives were proposed  City made a presentation to the MRC on 2/6/24 to update committee on proposed alternatives.  Since CH lagoon is owned by the State Parks, eh combination of Parks approval and regulatory pemitting proved infeasible.  Key technical factors:  Cure in place rehab is not possible underwater.  Dewatering of the pipe would be required to rehab the pipe.	

2024 Funding challenge

- City lost the Clean Water Centennial funding from DOE funding due to the delay.
- Forced to reevaluate for minimal improvements.

Andre addressed the issue of only replacing the beach section of concrete pipe that fails based on storm damage.

- They took pictures of the entire line and discovered the concrete section was much shorter than originally thought.
- Internal video camera work illustrated pipe integrity was favorable and that pipe has debris inside.

July 31 2025 An external dive illustrated that diffusers are intact and there may be one location where damage has occurred.

## QUESTIONS:

Gordon asked about the thickness of the cast iron section. Andre said they couldn't tell. Steve K. said it's most likely about an 1" thick. They don't see a lot of corrosion when it's submerged.

Gordon asked if the diameter of the pipe has sufficient capacity for a larger process for a larger processing treatment plant?

SK: We're not seeing great increase of flows.

The City monitored King Tide events to see how backed up things got, but it wasn't too much of a problem. They can always see the level relative to the tides. So why invest the resources if we don't need to.

They know from the camera footage that debris is in the rocks. Project will replace concrete section and clean pipe. Which will also increase it's capacity.

Steve K. was hoping that they could do Insitu Pipe Rehab—which is a thin fiberglass bow up inside of the pipe, but they can't cure underwater. They had hoped that someone had they technology, but unable to find anyone.

SK is excited that there is no need for excavation or pipe replacement; it will only require beach work. They can do a pump around work when the beach work happens.

The City needs to redo their report for DOE and get approval. There's also a lot of other necessary sewer work to do

Both Monroe St. and Gaines St. lift stations are both susceptible to sea level rise and King tides, so City needs to put resources in that direction.

Gordon – Does the City need to enlarge or replace the treatment ponds at some point?

2037 is the goal for enlarging the treatment plant, with some interim upgrades.

Andre – The WWTP is considered a small loader to the Straits. Mainly because the town isn't that large and the plant is very efficient.

#### Jon W

How do you intend to do the beach work with the tides?

#### Steve K

Series of concentrated, work efforts when tides are out.

- All depends on permitting.
- Install a key at end of the pipe to regulate.
- Can build pipe on the beach, time it with tides and do the connections.
- Most likely will be replaced with HHDE plastic pipe, because it's so durable.

#### JW

Will there be an effort to lower the cast iron portion of the pipe to meet the lower grading?

SK

No, not a lot of wave energy at the low tideline. The problems are further up the beach. They can leave the cast iron pipe where it's at and lower it as you go further up the beach...and protect it.

#### IVA

Will removal of boat ramp be used as mitigation of the project?

#### Sk

Yes, it's a good opportunity. It makes sense.

#### Tim E

Said that that he lives nearby North Beach and it seems like a drift cell is being dropped—sometimes there is a large 2 ft drop between the between east and west side of the ramp. Would it be worthwhile to remove the ramp to see if sediment covered that pipe year round? Would it naturally cover over?

#### SW

The City has had to patch the concrete pipe numerous times. He agrees that restoring the natural sediment processes might help in the long term.

#### Jon W

2037 sea level rise scenarios?

 $2100\,$  - they may have to put the plant somewhere else. Higher, open field right across the street.

Neil – How close are we to capacity of the existing pipe on an average day?

#### Steve K

We're fine on normal sewer day. On a very rainy day, the roofs downtown drain into the system.vCurrently applying for funding to separate storm water from the sewer.

- The normal plant flow is 1 million gallons/day but can spike with a heavy rain. Whatever they can do to reduce that will change the dynamics. On a normal day, the capacity is huge, it just depends on storm days.
- They will continue to monitor the big storms. Right now, they have enough head differential. They will put in the engineering report for DOE.

Andre said they learned that with new sewer line on Water there was infiltration in the concrete line, so they eliminated the infiltration.

Steve said that with Lawrence St project –with a 20 year storm is about 300 g minute of water.

#### Brenda

What are their plans for evacuation from Tsunami threat?

#### SK

The sewer plant is not a concern because it is higher. The Gaines St. (serves downtown/uptown) & Monroe St. (serves uptown) lift stations would be affected. All of those systems would fail and 1000 g/minute of sewage would flow into the bay—that is the City's number one concern. We need to make the electrical equipment above ground and make it Tsunami and sea-level rise resistant.

City of PT contacts for further questions/discussion

Andre Harper, Project Manager

Aharper@cityofpt.us

Dave Dinkuhn, new City Engineer

Ddinkuhn@cityofpt.us

Steve King, Public Works Director Skinfg@cityofpt.us

#### Tim B

If you bring the facility up to the empty property, would you repipe it or use the old existing pipe?

#### SK

We'd use both locations for an expanded facility. Then move all of the oxidation "things" (bugs, micronutrients) up the hill, add clarifiers where the current plant is located and elevate everything a bit.

		T
	It would cost \$150 million to move a treatment plant up the hill versus build across the street and add-on to the existing plant.	
YOUTH REP POSITION	Lenore asked about the Youth Rep position  Gordon explained that it's a 1-2 year position  Neil mentioned that the MRC does some really interesting projects  Akeyla mentioned an Eelgrass survey with Neil & Bryan  Many good opportunities: Forage Fish, Samplings, Eelgrass Buoys  Betsy explained the committees and monthly meetings	
	Gordon asked Akeyla if she had a better understanding of how the County works—seeing the real workings of a project. Akeyla said she did.  Jeff mentioned looking at the project page on the JMRC website.  Gordon brought up the opportunity to attend attending the annual	
PORT of PT UPDATES	conference in the Puget Sound. Very interesting speakers.  PORT of PT UPDATES - Carol Haase, Port Commissioner Absent	
BoCC UPDATE	BoCC UPDATE	
BOCC OPDATE	NOTE: Update from Heather occurred later in the meeting after Katie's Admin Updates.	
	STAFF UPDATES  Josh Peters is the new County Administrator, he started as of July 1st. They are looking to hire a new Dept. of Community Development Director. Chelsea Pronovost is in the interim Director position and "holding the fort" really well.  Seven applicants, the County was going to bring three forward to meet with the public, but two candidates bowed out.  Consultant had done a lot of outreach to candidates. One concerning fact was that many applicants stated they couldn't afford to live here and the salary wasn't enough. Jefferson County pays less than other counties.  The County had a meeting with builders, developers, contractors and discussed a lot of the barriers to housing affordability.	
	Heather sits on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee  • At the most recent meeting they established and drafted a charter. A ship strike risk (to whales) reduction work group. They'd like to pull together a group to work on this issue. • They have asked for name. She asked if anyone was interested in sitting on this work group. • The work group will meet online so it is accessible to everyone.	
	Sarah asked if the strikes were mostly container ships.  Heather said it is container ships and or mid-sized ships.  The job of the work group is to do the scientific review on the severe increase in ship strikes.	
	DERELICT VESSELS	
	Betsy asked Heather if she had looked into the DNR's program for managing DV's.     Heather said yes, that's where Josh recommended she look.	

# DRAFT

	Capt. Joseph is asking for change in policy. Heather thinks there is a lot of exploration to be done on this issue.	
	Brenda asked when the letter would be available for the MRC to read it.  Heather said it is public record, but she will ask if she can	
	share it.	
	Capt. Joseph has concerns about many issues, but primarily the boats that are anchored out. This particular derelict vessel is moving from place to place.	
	<ul> <li>Neil mentioned an old, semi-derelict Coast Guard Cutter in PT Bay; he saw it when they went out for oysters. The man is knowledgeable; the boat is moving around from place to place.</li> </ul>	
	Gordon said there is an online manual. It is very complex process to condemn these boats.	
	<ul> <li>Heather is learning that they can access members of the public who can volunteer their time and research this further.</li> </ul>	
	Brenda mentioned the efforts of San Juan county     MRC and their efforts for Derelict vessels.	
	Katie mentioned other MRCs in WA doing DV work. They may be able to share.      Brenda said they have come and presented here	
	in the past.  Sarah & Jeff discussed NWSC work on DV's as well. Leah Skare said she thought Jeff Whitty was doing DV work. She said to reach out to any of them for help.	
	BUDGET They are heading into budget season, "tightening belts" and looking at all different angles. It's a "tough revenue picture."	
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	NWSC MEETING UPDATE (Jeff) Sound IQ is getting a major update.  If people have used Sound IQ in the past, it would be helpful if they logged into the soft launch. Katie will send out the soft launch info. It's now under our control, so we can put more data in there.  Jenny Broadhurst, resigned from NWSC this month due concerns	
	about the proposed reorganization of Northwest Straits Initiative.	
	NORTHWEST STRAITS CONFERENCE November 7-8 <sup>th</sup> Registration email is coming soon.	
	POTLUCK (Sarah)  Monday August 11 <sup>th</sup> or the 18 <sup>th</sup> Sarah will email everyone with the final date.	
ADMINISTRATIVE	Administrative Updates (Katie)	
UPDATES	FUNDING UPDATE  • Katie referenced email re: the budget she sent out 8/04.	
	US EPA via Puget Sound Partnership delayed.  • Funding may come in on Jan 1st rather than Oct 1st. It won't affect the budget.	
	NOAA funding delayed  • \$71k was slotted for administration in 2027, this may affect the hiring of a part time member  • Education/Outreach and Rain Garden projects are in that grant. She's not sure if they will receive it.  • It isn't clear when they will know; most likely at the end of the year.	
	Katie displayed a revised budget without the funds. Funds were left in for the Wooden Boat Festival MRC Tent and Rain	

# DRAFT

	Gardens. It's all negotiable. She offered for Neil to speak since his category (Olympic Oysters) was slashed the most.  Overall, she is not too concerned, she thinks the money will come through, but this is just in case.  Neil said they will need a OO subcommittee meeting and that the \$9K (in revised budget) may be enough. WDFW had funding, we may be able to access their shell. He thinks that Discovery Bay would be ok "chilling out" for a couple of yearsit's doing well on it's own.  Gordon wondered what was spent on No Anchor.  Katie replied it averaged about \$2500, the revised budget brings it down to \$2K.  Katie requested a quick vote on the contingency plan budget.  Betsy asked if there was a motion to agree  PROJECT SUMMARY REPORTS  Due for all projects except for Education/Outreach and Rain Gardens.  Katie will be sending emails to project leads.  The reporting period is Oct 1 2024–Sep 30th 2025	Neil moved to approve contingency plan as Katie has written. Jon W. seconded. Decision was made.	
GRANT PROJECT UPDATES	Grant Project Updates  FORAGE FISH (Sarah)  No sampling done  OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay & Killisut Harbor  Bryan, Akeyla & Neil did an Eelgrass survey. The data will be sent to the Marine Surveys Assessments to generate some maps. Bryan was instrumental in doing it to a standard that it will be accepted by Army Corps of Engineers.  Well situated to renew our permit which is set to expire this fall.  JULY 12th SURVEY  Emily, Gordon, WDFW and many volunteers came out They didn't survey the whole power lines site, but they surveyed the shell put down in 2023  They took 32 samples, counted approx.722 oysters in those samples. After crunching numbers about the size of the plot, there are an estimated 97,000 oysters. This isn't the total, just the new piece.  The last few years, the existing restoration has had about 125,000, so the total may be over 200,000.  Age cohort from 2023, shell was put out a little late to catch a lot of set: 30-40 millimeter  A big set in 2024: between 6 – 8 millimeters This years' babies – 2 millimeter oysters that had just settled.  1200 bags of oyster shell = 40 yards (roughly) This last year they put in 2500 bags of shell.  WDFW procured 1500 bags of shell from Jim Hayes. Gus Sebastian craned all the shell off and storing at Point Hudson. So they have shell they can access for restoration.  OTHER PROJECTS: Larval Settling Tanks Jamestown, PS Restoration Fund and Maritime Center are working together to install larval settling tanks at the Maritime Center. The idea is that they will have a couple of tanks that we can set bags of oyster shell. Puget Sound Restoration Fund Hatchery has more larvae than they have room to put in settling tanks. They should be able to take larvae and place in tanksthen high school students can monitor the project.		

 Frank that he was elated by this success story and mentioned need for publicity. An article in the PT Leader was suggested.

#### **BULL KELP KAYAK MONITORING (Emily)**

- Surveyed east North Beach Kelp bed in June & July
- Next survey is on Aug 21<sup>st</sup>
- Kelp is having a fabulous year-it is a huge Kelp bed
  - Clallam MRC is seeing a similar trend.
  - Raft of 25 male sea otters in Clallam Bay right now

#### **EELGRASS BUOYS (Troy)**

- Gordon, Bryan and Troy went out the weekend before last and put in a buoy that was missing.
- Checked the hardware on 1/2 to 2/3 of them "they didn't look too bad"

## **RAIN GARDENS (Katie)**

None

## **ROV CRAB POTS (Jeff, Tim B.)**

#### Recovered pots

- Search & Rescue took some for resell and refurbishing, some were recycled
- He rec'd updated forms for disbursement from Jason Morgan.
- Scientific collection data is in.

#### Future of the project:

- It's outgrown us.
- Started as evaluation and demonstration program. Over the last 5 years, they have convinced WDFW to include this program in their annual report. They would like to see it extended, but probably won't be through the MRC.
- Jeff proposes shopping it around for someone else to take it over. It could be a good fit for the Blue Schools. Robotics is the future of maritime jobs.
- He believes it's time to launch it.

## STORM SURGE (Jeff)

None

# EDUCATION & OUTREACH (Sarah, Brenda)

None

# NEW EVENTS (Sarah)

# SHRIMPFEST review

Small event this year but this year was an experiment. She expects next year to be much larger with more people.

## DIGGING FOR DINNER

- Repeat people which is good.
- Shrimp Fest they reached a lot of kids, tons of families were there.
- There was a dunk tank—the kids loved it.

# WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL (Betsy)

- Betsy explained that after presentations, we will direct people to the Info table to provide feedback and talk about MRC projects. Direct from
- She passed around a draft schedule and needs for event.

#### NWS Foundation Workshop

WB Foundation reached out to Sarah. They would like to do a
workshop for the public this Fall. She passed around a list of
workshops and asked people to circle what they are
interested in.

#### Video @ MRC Table

 Jeff has offered to put together a silent looping video for MRC table at WBF. He showed a sample video of underwater crab pots and clips of some MRC members operating the ROV to remove them.

- Betsy asked for photos and videos of MRC projects.
- The idea is to increase engagement. Make the table Ushaped to bring people in.
- Katie notes that she has many photos.

#### OTHER MRC PROJECTS

## **DEI UPDATES (Emily)**

Emily gave a presentation based on the survey at the June MRC meeting.

- She is working with Tonia on how to make meetings more inclusive and engaging.
- Goal is to "better facilitate conversations and explore topics in greater depth."
- The survey showed that MRC members like the presentations and enjoy the discussion around the projects.
- Building community and learning how to get involved

New meeting format proposal from the subcommittee

Split meeting into two parts:

#### Part 1:

- State the MRC purpose (if public is present)
- Topic speaker 45 min
  - Break snack possibly? 10 min

## Part 2

- MRC biz meeting 60 min
- Call to order, approve min, etc...
- Public comment period
  - Up to 2 min each
- Then the usual topics.
- Member roundtable
- Focused longer discussion on a project/subcommittee must be requested at least 2 weeks prior
- Project updates saved until the end.

## Other suggestions:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.
- A couple of meetings be all via Zoom, mainly in winter
- A couple of in-person meetings in PT or Quilcene to build a different audience.
- She shared recommendations for how someone gives an update

 $\label{lem:emily} \mbox{Emily asked for initial constructive feedback.}$ 

#### Tim E

 He likes the structure, this way, the public can stay for how short or long they want.

# Frank

How do we brainstorm to raise awareness for the work we do?

## Emily

- More ads for MRC meetings. Been discussing topic speakers, designated MRC member duty.
- Goal is get people into the room.

#### Frank

 PT Yacht Club brings in speakers. Rotary has luncheon speakers every month. Why not have a Speakers Bureau at these functions?

# Gordon

- What else is out there in the community?
- Marine Science Center has speakers and he doesn't care if people know about us, as long as we're doing the work.

# DRAFT

ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 Next meeting will be Sept 2nd	Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	
ADJOURNMENT	Jefferson Co. Fair  • August 7-9th		
	Clean up a dead whale  Whidbey Island  YMCA has a dead Gray Whale on their beach and they want to preserve the skeleton.  Friday & Saturday		
	love to get pictures of projects, videos, etc to put on their website.  Crab Molt Search  August 27, online		
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Katie reminded everyone to watch email for OPMA duties.  • We are required to do it every 4 years.  Angela said that the NWSC features partner success stories. They would		
PUBLIC COMMENT  MRC ROUND TABLE/	Public Comments None  Future Agenda Topics / Speaker Suggestion		
DUDUO COMMENT	Emily finished by stating that this is an editable document and asked folks to review and add comments. It will be discussed again at future meetings.		
	move to beginning?  Emily said we need verbal reporting.  How do we get the nuts and bolts out and leave more time for more interesting discussion.		
	Jeff noted to Brenda's question is that we assign tasks in the second half of the meeting. He doesn't want the projects to get down to only status, since he already knows that part. And we always go off topic.  Heather asked why is the Purpose and Call to Order separated? Can that		
	Brenda likes splitting it into two parts. She likes ability for in-depth focus on some of these projects. It's important to do the work. Good to have input on projects that are not ours.		
	Betsy noted that there are a subset of people who want to get more information. "Outfalls vs. Octopi" Outfalls are more applicable to the work we're doing.  Sarah brought up moving the meetings around more.		
	OO & RG are important projects. We need to make sure we can do the work.  Don't want to do this at the expense of project work. Speakers are to inform MRC members so they can be advisors to the County Commissioners.		