

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
In Person Meeting
6-8PM on October 8, 2024 at
Paviloin Building (355 Hudson St)
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Neil Harrington, Tribal
Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC
Brad Bebout, District 1
Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
Emily Buckner, Marine Science
Troy McKelvey, Recreation
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
Akeylah Behrenfeld, Local Youth Rep

Absent:

Gordon King, Commercial
Janette Mestre, District 1
Brenda Johnson, District 2
Judy Surber, City of PT

Via Zoom:

Caitlyn Blair, NWSC
Sarah Fiskén, District 3, NWS Alt

Guest: Heather Dudley-Nolette and Ben Thomas, candidates for BOCC, District 1

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 Betsy Carlson 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	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda Troy will do an Eelgrass update Amendments to/Approval of Sept 2024 Minutes Jeff Taylor noted that the abbreviation for Northwest Straits Commission is NWSC Betsy Carlson noted that the stage at the Wooden Boat Festival was the Marine Science & Stewardship Stage, not the Marine Science Center.	Moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Neil. Motion passed. Neil moved to approve the amended June minutes. Seconded by Carol. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No Comments		
GUEST SPEAKER	Heather Dudley-Nolette, candidate for BOCC, Dist. 1		

	<p>This phase of her campaign is about getting out & connecting with organizations & individuals. Heather is eager to learn, so she can hit the ground running in the new year. She thanked the committee for sending her the reference materials. She has been reviewing them and commended the MRC for the records available online to the public. It's very accessible & clear. Heather's been back in Port Townsend as an adult for 18 years and has worked with King County & the government for most of her career and for all of her years here.</p> <p>Currently she is the Deputy Executive Director for Bayside Housing & Services. Their main mission is to serve people coming out of the homeless condition. They are moving into affordable housing options as well. This position has given her incredible insight into housing operations, the challenges that housing presents and how it intertwines with the issues we're addressing as a community.</p> <p>When Heather read the MRC's Annual Report, she was surprised of how many issues that the MRC addresses that affect her life as a citizen.</p> <p>She also works with the permitting process in the housing landscape. She is very aware of permitting processes-she has experience with Federal, State, Coast Guard, US Army Corp of Engineers, Dept of Ecology, DNR--almost every permitting agency that interfaces with business department projects.</p> <p>Seeing MRC's angle gives her a dual insight into the responsibility that the MRC has as an agency to advise the commission in a way that is best for everyone. She thanked everyone for that work, she can see how complex it is.</p> <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Jeff: <i>As sea level rise and property values plummet, will cities be like mega derelict vessels? This problem might be 20-30 years down the road.</i></p> <p>Heather: This community has been thinking about this for quite some time. At least 8 years ago, the Port pulled together a meeting on sea level rise, focused on business owners. It was humbling. She feels like the Port, even then, was doing a good job of ensuring the community was starting to understand this topic, but presenting it in small doses.</p> <p>Her family owns a historic building in downtown PT. She has been through the process of seismically retrofitting buildings. It gives her some peace that engineers are looking at the 50 year mean (& beyond) and what impacts might be coming. The technology for designing and seismically retrofitting is changing rapidly to respond to that. That became clear to her when she began permitting her building downtown. The owners of historic buildings should be concerned about sea level rise. We should design as best we can for predictions, but she also thinks we but we need to look at the whole district. It's nice if one building survives after one event, but if we lose the rest, we've lost a lot of culture.</p> <p>She believes in the connection between built environment and human culture. The trick for a Commissioner & City Council is to balance those two things. We need to do our best to preserve and prepare our environment a lot better.</p> <p>Jeff: <i>What happens if people abandon property. What will the City do?</i></p> <p>Heather: If we reach that point, we wouldn't be trying to build or turn it into anything. There are regulations at the State level that allow property to revert back to the State. We would have to research and determine who is responsible.</p> <p>Neil: <i>In looking at MRC projects and the Annual Report. What projects were most interesting to her?</i></p> <p>Heather: The Storm Surge Monitoring was interesting to her. She is a rower and sees changes every morning to the waterfront. The fact that someone is paying attention to the effects on that beach and monitoring and capturing data. She loved that fact that they hired Nathaniel Ashford, a local young person. There are so many opportunities to use local people who care about these issues and put them to work. She wasn't aware that was happening.</p> <p>The Rain Garden project is also close to her heart. Her children worked with that project in the OPEPO school program. She's seeing how it's making positive changes in the community.</p> <p>Carol: As Port Commissioner, she learned about environmental concerns when she attended an Intergovernmental Collaborate Group (ICG) meeting--where the City, County & Port & PUD sat and looked at real concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing • Clean energy • Sea level rise 		
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	<p>The Port talked about it for decades but nobody did anything until Aaron Burg stepped up, with Eric’s support. He has been there for every director and now we have engineers looking at what’s feasible, environmentally sound and how it might affect our waterfront.</p> <p>The plan for the Port goes from the bluff at Larry Scott Trail to the ferry. The City takes it from there to Point Hudson, where the Port picks it up again. Carol cherishes this community and believes that we have brilliant minds & hearts to find solutions if they are there—the only way it can happen is through collaboration.</p> <p><i>QUESTION: Bonneville Dam (BPA) is our only connection to a single electric line that comes from Olympia. They are 30% under their power production, because of the drought and the importance of spilling water for salmon. We’re in a situation where we don’t know how to generate enough power to meet our needs. Have you given that some thought? How can we [electees] can be a responsible answer to either curtailing growth or creating microgrids, etc....?</i></p> <p>Heather: These are intense concerns that we have to be prepared for. If we’re willing to look now, then we may have a chance to be prepared. Heater’s approach is to look strategically 10, 20 or 50+ years ahead.</p> <p>This is a main responsibility of government and specifically, County Commissioners. A multi-generation view forward is necessary. Heather was inspired in ways she didn’t think she would be sitting in that Emergency Preparedness room, and at the recent County Picnic. They were thinking through all of the issues: What happens when there is no food, no water and/or no power? We don’t have to be experts on it all, we just have to know who the experts are and pull them together. There are scientists creating plans for local communities. She believes it’s important to create a path forward.</p> <p>She appreciates that the MRC is making clear & concise recommendations to the Board about the SMP and the changes that need to be made. Heather appreciated the MRC’s advice on the SMP because it was from the point of view as a citizen and the policy suggestions were clear & readable.</p> <p>Our Emergency Plan needs to be from that perspective as well. We’ll need to break down into small tasks so the community members are not overwhelmed and we can make progress.</p> <p>Ben Thomas, Candidate for BOCC, District 1 He is currently on PT City Council and grew up here. This area is special for him. He is an organic grape farmer, interested in holistic planning and systems and in finding closed loop systems whenever possible and thinks that can be a model for water (run-off, stormwater, Coho salmon, etc...).</p> <p>Ben says that we haven’t mastered stormwater treatment perfectly, there are still forever chemicals that go out into the Straits. Infiltration and Rain Gardens are a particular interest to him. Rain gardens can be expanded into the County to keep stormwater running off into the Sound or the Straits. Subsoils are so great at filtering water. Everything we’re producing as humans is going somewhere. Hopefully it stays out the groundwater & Sound.</p> <p>He is also interested in the regeneration project of Olympia Oysters. He asked about what the MRC feels is important?</p> <p>QUESTIONS: Jeff: Sea level property will drop in value & people will walk away. Who cleans it up. Does Ben have thoughts on avoiding the liability? For example: What if there is only one house left on a street? Will the City continue services to that residence at a tremendous cost? Ben: The bigger picture is that the models are already happening elsewhere in the world. We can look at what communities like Florida are doing. We will lose a lot at the same time, so it could be a pervasive problem. It’s an important topic to look at.</p> <p>Carol: <i>If you were the elected CC, how would you feel working with the IGC group about how we’ll provide power to your community, sea level rise protection, and what our commitment is?</i> Ben: There is an ICG meeting Thursday and Rick Dunn is coming.</p> <p>Carol added that Rick talks mainly about using natural gas until we can get to nuclear. Someone from PNL labs will discuss potentials of tide & wave energy, which is a great thing, but seems very far away.</p>		
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	<p>Ben: There is not much to work from in terms of other models out there that are similar to us here. Whatever we can do as a community to cut down our need for power is one answer, but a Commissioner can't control that. We can give education and public awareness.</p> <p>Katie shared that she is a renter and it's difficult. When she was to be hired, the MRC was concerned about hiring someone outside the county due to the housing shortage. What are his thoughts on affordable housing in the future?</p> <p>Ben: Housing is a big topic, many people commute from Kitsap county. He was on GMA steering committee. We can enable people to solve this problem by sharing resources. For example: in the County, the idea of sharing septic tanks has come up. The average household in our county has 1.9 people in it, which is very low. We have a lot of untapped resources. The real focus is getting people into an urban growth area. The City of PT has made a lot of changes on that which should allow for more growth in those areas.</p> <p>Jeff asked Ben about short term rentals.</p> <p>Ben: It's different between City /County. There aren't that many units that are licensed. A new one needs to be inside the owner's house, which is restrictive for most people. County policy is still being discussed. Capping the number of units makes sense. We can't leave it wide open.</p> <p>Betsy asked if Ben had any questions for the MRC.</p> <p>Ben: He is interested in listening to the meeting to glean more information.</p>		
<p>NWSC ANNUAL CONFERENCE</p>	<p>Caitlyn Blair—NWSC via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder to register for the Annual Conference 11/15 & 16 • Registration closes on 10/15 • They have added more spots for the hotel. If there are any issues, please contact her. <p>https://www.nwstraits.org/2024-northwest-straits-conference info@nwstraits.org</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATES (Heidi)</p>	<p>BOCC Update –(Heidi) Wooden Boat Festival was great. A big shoutout to Betsy!! Very well done, she received great feedback. She told WBF that we need twice as much tent space next year.</p> <p>NO UPDATE ON SMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMP staff from last time has returned is doing the final review. He should be finished soon. • The new bridge was dedicated on West Valley Road, near Naylor Creek. The salmon fish passage is much improved. This was one of the few heartwarming moments as Commissioner. <p>DABOB BAY NATURAL AREA EXPANSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The big news is that the boundaries have been officially expanded by 4000 acres. Heidi has been working hard on this for the past fifteen years. They finally received letter from Commissioner Franz and it's happening! <p>NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She's on the council, the meeting was on the Quinault reservation. • Sean Mcallister presented results from the 2021 West Coast Ocean Acidification Cruise done in collaboration with the PNNL Ocean Carbon. • They took DNA samples from Vancouver Island to Southern CA, and captured samples from diverse marine communities: phytoplankton, fish and marine mammals across a large, spatial gradient. When analyzed, the chemical and physical parameters they were able to draw preliminary conclusions re: community structure in relation to warming, ocean acidification and low oxygen events. It was interesting and would be good for a future MRC presentation. <p>LOCAL SEPTIC CAPACITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOCC is working with City of PT on expanding local septic capacity (the mulch available to the public at the dump). We are trying to build capacity of managing our own waste here because we are reaching limits of what can be processed here. They are working to develop a plan to grow that facility. Three options: \$2.8, \$6 or a \$20 million project. They are targeting middle number of \$6 million. 		

	<p>SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two days of workshops featuring the program. Mallore Weinhammer of Chickadee Forestry has been working with the County for about five years-- harvesting trees to improve forest health. • First day of the workshop, they took a tour in the Chimacum Park area, near the Tri-Area Community Center. She did an amazing thinning in there. • Second day was a very inspiring panel of presenters focusing on the local wood economy. A company in Port Angeles impregnating timber with carbon fiber. They are working with the tribe out there to build a product (houses) that can be delivered on pallets. <p>ENERGY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE SUMMIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 29th & 30th in Blynn • Organized in North Olympic Development Council • They will be discussing many of the issues that the MRC addresses. Especially climate change. <p>GLASS RECYCLING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county can no longer recycle glass. The end product users of the glass are changing the way they do operations. • Heidi discussed this last Friday, 10/04 on PT Radio, KPTZ (Commissioners are on KPTZ every Friday at 12:30) • The County uses Skookum & Waste Connections to do our waste management, and they try to build effective recycling partnership entities that can reuse the products. Much of the glass was going to Republic and was most commonly ground up and put on the top of the landfills. The entity that was purchasing the glass is no longer doing so. This may be temporary, but she isn't sure. 		
<p>Port of PT UPDATES Commissioner Carol Hasse</p>	<p>Port of PT Updates (Carol)</p> <p>PORT BUILDINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are rehabbing all Port buildings with environmentally sound heat pumps, insulation, etc... • They're working on the Cuppola house currently. It is now the Marine office & Engineering office. <p>SEA LEVEL RISE SURVEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineers are working on the Sea Level Rise Survey. • The man who does the underwater survey work (Carol forgot his name) has been involved in the project. <p>AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a light industrial park at the airport. • It's only open to specific local businesses – Rainshadow Woodworks, the Tuber Collective and PT Foundry who have either outgrown their space or don't have the space to do their work. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR IN WALLA, WALLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA Public Ports Association - 39 counties, 75 ports. The WA Maritime Historical Trust is trying to protect historic buildings on our waterfront and our working waterfront. There is hope for solutions on this. • Kimberly Weber – the Environmental Director and others have been pulling out literally TONS of Reed Canary Grass. They recently learned that a culvert was damaged in the process of pulling the RCG grass out that may impact the Naylor Creek Bridge. They are working to remedy that. • Best news from the Conference was that Rain Gardens are the most effective thing to stop the 6-PPD-Q tire debris from entering the water streams and salmon. • Carol gave a shoutout to Betsy for Orca display at Marine Science Center. Fabulous job. • Betsy: That's in the gallery downtown in the Flagship building. It's a circulating display based on work by Linda Mapes 		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p>NWSC September Meeting Update (Jeff)</p> <p>Jeff noted the presenter at Speed Date with a Scientist spoke highly of the Olympia Oyster Discovery Bay, it was the star program. The Social Science presentation was very good.</p>		

	<p>DEI COHORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered if anyone wants to volunteer. • Commitment is five hours a month. <p>SPLIT OF THE NW STRAIT FOUNDATION AND THE NW STRAITS COMMISSION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History: When Patty Murray originally put the MRC's together, they did not have a foundation and as a state agency they weren't allowed to raise money. So they created a foundation with the same governments-the same people in both entities-- but the state told them they can't do that. So then a separate foundation with separate board and officers was formed. When they went with reappropriation to be official for federal funding, there was no foundation in the founding docs. If you change things it raises red flags. So that was one issue that precipitated the split. • Also, they aren't raising money for us. They are doing their own projects. We work with them on their projects. It's becoming a functional split. We're not sure exactly how the organizational split will play out. • Jeff noted that they found it very difficult to raise money for flexible funds, they had a hard time getting people to donate for that. • Neil: <i>Asked if there was any conversation to take the Foundation projects and give them to the Commission?</i> • Jeff: The Commission is supposed to be supporting MRCs. Some new Board members questioned why the Foundation is doing projects. • Heidi: <i>Will it be a problem that the Commission doesn't have a fund-raising arm?</i> • Jeff: They haven't had one. • Betsy and Sarah suggested that we discuss this at the next meeting. 		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES (Katie)</p>	<p>Admin Updates Katie</p> <p>NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION CONFERENCE Nov 15-16th Everett</p> <p>NOVEMBER JCMRC RETREAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, November 23rd 9:30am – 2:30pm • The focus will be upcoming projects in 2025 • Looking at projects for the 2025 – 2027 grant cycle 		
<p>CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATE CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<p>Overview of Wooden Boat Festival (Betsy)</p> <p>Betsy thanked everyone for helping out and showed pictures of the Marine Science & Stewardship Stage at the Wooden Boat Festival. It was a great success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 different topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plankton to Whales ○ New Jettys to Derelict Vessels ○ Marine Pump Outs ○ Part of the reason we have a DV program is because Heidi did much of the research on how & where to recycle fiberglass boats. We learned how on the groundwork by non-profits can be a Kickstarter for important state programs. • 17 agencies, organizations, municipalities and individuals represented • 18 presentation slots, 3 of those were plankton • People really enjoyed seeing the microscopes, the plankton on screen, it was a great hands on opportunity • The booth was well staffed • 25 total different presenters, guest appearance with Aaron Burke • Luckily the WBF gave them more than 25 chairs. The tent was full. • Average # of attendees per presentation was 58 • 1034 visits to the Marine Science & Stewardship Stage during the weekend. Some were repeat visitors, but they counted people every visit. • Feedback was positive. Heidi started as an MC asking "why didn't we do this before?" Thank you to all!! 		

<p>CURRENT AND NEW PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we want to do for next year? • An unexpected bonus was with the presenters interacting, those relationship had a chance to grow. • Katie showed pics of their table booth/speaker stage <p>FORAGE FISH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They sampled last month • Forage Fish Training by WDFW • Oct 14th at Padilla Bay • Email Sarah for registration info <p>OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil)</p> <p>Katie & Neil working on RFP to Oyster companies. \$16,000 to bring shell in bags and dump over the side. They may dump shell in December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shell that they spread has baby oysters on it. • The lagoon has Olympia oysters. • He checked big shell spread of 2023, but there wasn't a lot on it in July '23. But there is a lot on it now. • This is a good year for Oyster recruitment. <p>Bryan: <i>The RFP for shell. Is that for the power line site?</i> Neil: The south parcel of the power line site. We have funding to spread 35 yards of shell. There are 200-250 oyster shells in each bag. In 2023, they spread out 12 bags. Even if you get 1 Oyster per bag, that's a quarter million Oysters.</p> <p>KELP MONITORING (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They tried to do one last survey in September, foiled by wind. • Monitoring season is finished • Tons of Kelp still at North Beach. Dense canopy, tons of birds on top • Data has gone over to NWSC and they are meeting with them Nov 4th at 11:00am to review data. • They will hear from Wayne, who was doing the drone surveys, to see if there are ways to overlay data. Out of the field and into working group. <p>DEI (Neil & Katie)</p> <p>Good meetings with Tonia from USAWA Consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had three meetings with her. She had great feedback on how MRC can be a welcoming space. • "DEI is really about engaging the whole community." • They always came back to the idea of the space being a functional community, being a safe space and one that's accepting and open. • We'll be working with her through next January • Katie: We're extending the contract, she may help facilitate part of the retreat. DEI subcommittee, end of next Jan 2025 if she can help put together a presentation for MRC and a comprehensive overview. <p>Eelgrass Buoys Troy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking buoys out now and replacing them. Depends on when they can get the boat. • New replacement buoys have arrived. Sarah did some work on using the port boat, the pump out boat. • The boat is out of the question for the future. If anyone has a work boat we could use. An aluminum boat, something durable. A backup to use 2x or 3x per year. • Sarah: We can't use Ports pump-out boat because they are using it all winter. <p>Tim B: <i>Does that boat need divers or do they come from offshore?</i> Troy: We take two divers out in the boat.</p> <p>Public: <i>Any discussion of WDFW boat?</i> Troy: No</p>		
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	<p>Betsy: <i>Did anyone see a no anchor violators during WBF?</i> One was spotted, Katie mentioned that two were just inside the boundary line, near Don’s Pharmacy and Ferry Landing on Friday evening</p> <p>Betsy: <i>Judy Surber asked a question at the August meeting on the project costs.</i> Katie: She did rough outline without spending too much time</p> <p>Troy mentioned that were are lucky to have divers. That saves a lot of money. Bryan: we have a special thing with the divers</p> <p>Carol: <i>Is there a safe space to store the bouys?</i> Troy: There are under the WSU building. He asked Carol if the Port had space. Carol will check.</p> <p>Rain Garden Katie (Janette absent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain Garden work crew on Oct 18th at 9:00 am • Working on three rain gardens <p>Remote imaging (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff will have more to cover next meeting. • He’s getting a lot of questions, like: Why are we doing this when there is so much research being done? 		
PUBLIC COMMENT	No comments		
CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS/ SPEAKERS	No comments		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Green Crab update (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was with WDFW Chris Pike • 162 out of Discovery Bay this year so far. They found a few smaller ones. Chris & Neil have been doing enhanced monitoring. Last time they were out in September, Chris left 4 traps in the long skinny lagoon. • Over the 2 weeks, he got 22 more. • The caught some that were in a pre-copulatory brace...which means male was grasping the female waiting for her to molt. So they caught them before 250,000 of eggs were created. <p>Next Future of Oceans Lecture at Marine Science Center (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Oct 27th 3-4pm Fort Worden Chapel • Greg Jensen: wrote book on Crabs & Shrimps • Professor at UW <p>Student looking for Senior Project (Tim B.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim B. has a student, a senior looking for a Senior Project. 30 hours minimum. • Neil has exchanged emails with her. Gordon had another suggestion. 	Moved to adjourn at 7:50pm, seconded. Motion passed.	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. Next meeting will be November 5, 2024.		