

**Jefferson County Marine Resources  
Committee Meeting  
6-8PM on December 3, 2024 at  
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Neil Harrington, Tribal  
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC  
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend  
 Brad Bebout, District 1  
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt  
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep  
 Brenda Johnson, District 2  
 Sarah Fisken, District 3, NWS Alt  
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt  
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv  
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science  
 Gordon King, Commercial  
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation

**Absent:**

Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend  
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt  
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt

**Via Zoom**

Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt  
 Janette Mestre, District 1

**Guest Speaker:** Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend

**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 Gordon King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA  APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<b>Amendments to / Approval of Agenda</b> None  <b>Amendments to/Approval of November 2024 Minutes</b> Neil: Shell was spread in July of 2023, saw Olympia Oysters settled in August 2024	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Betsy seconded. Motion passed.  Neil moved to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Judy. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.		
GUEST SPEAKER Judy Surber, City of PT	<b>Shoreline Master Plan Periodic Review 2025</b> (Judy Surber, City of PT)  <b>The What &amp; Where</b> The SMP trumps the zoning code Policies and regulations  <b>Coincides with:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline Management Act</li> <li>• Shoreline Guidelines</li> <li>• Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>• Requires Dept of Ecology (DOE) approval</li> <li>• There are dual designs in some areas. i.e. residential at top of bluff, natural on bottom.</li> <li>• Unlike the Comprehensive Plan, this isn't approved at local level. If the DOE sends it back, then you have to adjust</li> </ul>	Please see email from Katie with PDF of slides from the presentation.	

	<p><b>When</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per SMA in 2007, the SMP was due for review in 2020 and every ten years thereafter</li> <li>• Considerable progress made in 2021, Director left and this was put on hold. New Director is in and resuming progress.</li> <li>• Current grant deadline is June 2025</li> <li>• There could be a delay</li> </ul> <p>Focus of Periodic Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with current state statutes</li> </ul> <p>Permit Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to 5290, the new state statute: local jurisdictions have to review their permit timelines &amp; procedures. If nothing is adopted, then the default will be the State timelines.</li> <li>• Local jurisdictions are scrambling to get the new timelines &amp; procedures into their code.</li> </ul> <p>Integrate Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jon Waggoner &amp; Jeff Parsons @ Herrera retained by the City of PT to assist with this. Herrera has the scientific background that the City needs for the sea level rise component.</li> <li>• 2021 public survey, 56 of 66 respondents were concerned about sea level rise and increased storm damage.</li> <li>• City is already noticing this, esp. on southern shoreline where structures are on the beach. Less so on the north shore, where most construction is on the bluff.</li> <li>• 2022 Shoreline Rise Risk Assessment, now they will continue to build on that.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>We know what to expect and when to expect it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 Climate preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula</li> <li>• 2018 WA Coastal Resilience Project (WRCP)</li> <li>• 2022 City of PT SLR and Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment (Cascadia)</li> <li>• 2023 Jeff County SLR Study</li> <li>• City wanted more public engagement</li> <li>• 2024 Blue Coast – Port of PT</li> <li>• Jeff W. is getting permission to use the study</li> </ul> <p>Doing nothing is not an option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need a comprehensive strategy and plan for addressing problems now and in the future so incremental investments can be made towards climate change resiliency.</li> <li>• Historic downtown is valuable. Buildings are already being hit.</li> </ul> <p><b>What To Do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue water walk planning</li> <li>• Build on 2022 SLR &amp; Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Options at specific locations</li> <li>• Publicly preferred alternative ranking</li> <li>• Priorities for future detailed assessment.</li> <li>• Consultants will give viable options for various location around shorelines. These will go to public for input. Then consultants will review input and see what’s permissible.</li> <li>• BRICK Grant</li> </ul> <p>Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herrera will give a preliminary draft memo including modeling.</li> </ul> <p>Menu of Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to know how to best present this technical info to the public. Make it accurate &amp; digestible—in-person outreach and via website.</li> <li>• Vet materials with select key stakeholders</li> <li>• Seek input on community priorities/preferences</li> <li>• Fold public preference in the Final Memo-deliverable to DOE</li> <li>• Include mapped preferences which may vary by location and time period.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Schedule –see slide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QAPP - Quality Assurance Project Plan</li> <li>• They are on 7<sup>th</sup> draft with DOE</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City has been back &amp; forth with DOE. They meet tomorrow with a member of QAPP team.</li> <li>• John Waggoner shared that his experience with the QAPP process for projects that have not included new data. If extensive data analysis is done existing data and new conclusions come up based on that, you still have to do the QAPP process.</li> </ul> <p>Janette asked the purpose of QAPP?</p> <p>Judy: To show that you're following a scientific protocol with the use of appropriate data. They are not doing new modeling, but they are summarizing and pulling from these various reports. DOE wants Herrera to validate the reports. Herrera says that is a different process, and they aren't validating studies that already out there and being used. They can't move forward with their tech memo until it's figured out. This is required because of the competitive grant.</p> <p>Seeking Your Input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How familiar are you with SLR studies for PT? With the Port Project?</li> <li>• What time horizon should we be covering? Port is 2075, City 2100) Pros &amp; cons of each?</li> <li>• What are thoughts on potential strategies for SLR adaptations?</li> <li>• What are concerns?</li> <li>• Views on Retreat?</li> </ul> <p>Tim: Any stipulations for future building setbacks/restrictions on bluffs?</p> <p>Per the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential is the primary use along our shoreline</li> <li>• Shoreline Substantial Development Permit is the typical permit you would receive for a new structure, but there are certain exemptions (may be a note on the permit), such as             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Single Family Home...a bulkhead is permitted if it can be proved that it is protecting a single-family home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policies for building would have to change at the state level.</li> <li>• Counties have it easier than the city due to the size of parcels, there is more room to move the structure.</li> <li>• The city is working with platted, 5000 sq ft lots and they cannot deny reasonable use.</li> </ul> <p>Emily: Is there a role for the MRC in this process?</p> <p>Judy: The MRC is an advisory body to the County. Comments from members must be submitted as an individual comments. It would be inappropriate for MRC to submit as a group to City.</p> <p>Judy estimates that the Shoreline Master Plan will be released for public review in March 2025</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATE</p>	<p><b>BoCC UPDATE</b> (Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour)</p> <p>NWSC Conference reinforced to her the importance of the MRC's policy advisory role for the County.</p> <p>Could this advisory role be formalized with...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A standing agenda item on monthly meetings</li> <li>2. A Subcommittee focused on policy</li> <li>3. The City and County are the midst of updating SMP's, and they will want MRC comments on them.</li> </ol> <p>Heidi noted there will be issues over time that will arise and that it's about bringing the current issues to the table to discuss.</p> <p>Comp. Plan Review will happen in 2025 and that will be an opportunity for MRC comments.</p> <p>Gordon: Commissioners could ask MRC about items in public comments that should be addressed.</p> <p>Emily: What does advisory role look like? Is it submitting public comments or is it a formal letter?</p> <p>Heidi brought up the example of the NAVY SEALS situation— (where the MRC was asked to provide Commissioners with guidance the Navy Seals entering State Parks at night)</p> <p>Neil: We provide comment at any time frame that is needed.</p>		

	<p>Heidi: We need to workshop and look into this more. It's a powerful &amp; strong role for the MRC and something the Commissioners need.</p> <p>Neil: "To clarify...we can provide comments to Commissioners as long as the Commissioners want comments." Which is different than public comments. MRC can also refer comments after the deadline in an informal way.</p> <p>Heidi noted that the MRCs input can also help to change a decision (as in the Navy Seal example).</p> <p><b>Derelict Vessels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff. County Clean Water District staff person is monitoring Derelict Vessels. Heidi was unaware of this resource in the County.</li> <li>• Heidi will be reaching out to them.</li> <li>• Nick Lawson, Environmental Public Health</li> <li>• Five specific vessels are being monitored.</li> </ul> <p>SMP Status SMP Update is still at Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney's Office Still moving forward, she learned that many other jurisdictions are as behind as we are.</p>		
<p>Port of PT UPDATES</p>	<p><b>Port of PT UPDATES</b> (Commissioner Carol Hasse – absent)</p>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>NWSC Conference, Nov 15-16</b> (Katie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on conference was very good. Neil shared it was interesting to talk with other MRCs and Counties and hear about their different experiences.</li> <li>• Heidi also noted how useful it was to be on the MRC panel. She met other MRC Commissioners that can now relate with each other.</li> <li>• People around the room mentioned that it was positive, hopeful and there were good community connections.</li> <li>• NWSC has many easy people to be around.</li> <li>• There was lot of time for MRCs to mingle and talk outside of sessions.</li> <li>• Neil asked the group about the moving tables session. It was a little "out of the box" idea, but everyone seemed to like it.</li> </ul>		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>2025 ANNUAL Workplan</b></p> <p>2025 Plan to submit to NWSC New committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie displayed a spreadsheet of project subcommittees for Jan - Dec 2025 She will be sending out emails with more information</li> </ul> <p><b>JMRC Retreat Nov 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie felt it was successful and thanked the group for attending.</li> <li>• Facilitator Janine was great at keeping everyone on track in the meeting.</li> <li>• Katie sent out Subcommittees spreadsheet for Jan - Dec 2025 Some have expressed a desire to change subcommittees</li> <li>• Katie asked group for sign-ups.</li> <li>• Email will be going out with retreat notes for review</li> <li>• Chart of projects and potential projects will be distributed for review before Jan meeting.</li> <li>• Project discussions will continue in January meeting. We'll vote on current and new projects to consider for the next grant cycle. Results will be sent to NWSC at the end of January and that will begin the project discussion process with NWSC to determine what is included in our grant proposal at the end of May.</li> </ul> <p><b>MRC Open Position: Marine Science Alt, District 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertised a couple months ago. Discussed a second push. Ad will be posted next Wednesday in the Leader, local 2020</li> <li>• Sarah suggested the Quilcene Comm. Center's Newsletter and Heidi suggested the "I've Heard of Quilcene" Facebook page.</li> </ul>		

<p>CURRENT &amp; UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p><b>Forage Fish</b> (Dabob – Quilcene Sarah/Brenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sampled last month.</li> <li>• Next sample will be this Friday.</li> <li>• She has not heard back from WDFW re: the last sample.</li> </ul> <p><b>Forage Fish</b> (Fort Townsend – Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Sunsetting’ the project. Point No Point has all the data they wanted.</li> <li>• Efforts will go into a new site at Fort Worden with an eye towards the future removal of the dock and aquarium.</li> <li>• The State is planning to remove the boat launch.</li> <li>• Brenda was in touch with Parks &amp; Rec about this....they told her to propose something and they will consider it, but they won’t start until 2027. Brenda said that if we’re concerned about Forage Fish, then we should be concerned about other fish and birds. We should have a conversation about what we’re hearing.</li> <li>• Gordon put that as a potential agenda item for January.</li> <li>• Brian Haggeman from WA State Parks was mentioned as a potential speaker.</li> </ul> <p><b>Olympia Oysters</b> (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hood Canal Oyster Company under contract will deliver Shell before end of the year. No date yet.</li> <li>• They may have enough volunteers to be out on the boat right now.</li> <li>• In Summer 2023, 1200 bags took about 20 min, with 4 people total.</li> <li>• Sat night after the Conference, Gordon and Neil went out saw that Culch set out in 2023 has Set on it.</li> <li>• He hasn’t checked on the idea yet of a WCC crew. They hired them before to spread a tremendous amount of shell. That was during the day in the summer. Neil thinks that if they had a few hours of low tide in March and 15 people, they could spread 100 bags of shell each (1500 bags total).</li> <li>• Heidi: Peninsula Daily News did a nice story about Olympia Oysters. Neil and the reporter talked about doing a feature story.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/olympia-oyster-project-receives-more-funding/">https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/olympia-oyster-project-receives-more-funding/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Kelp</b> (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Subcommittee met briefly before this meeting to clarify projects.</li> <li>• 2025 already has kayaking budgeted and deliverable, they will continue to do annual surveys.</li> <li>• Another subcommittee will discuss the future of MRC projects in the Kelp space and Brad is heading that. This is the committee for those interested in the broader Kelp discussion and working on proposals for the next grant cycle. Kelp will continue in the next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sensor Buoys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puget Sound Restoration Fund put out their North Beach Kelp Bed sensor buoys</li> <li>• Long term monitoring station for water quality.</li> <li>• Took three years to get it in the water. It’s in the Kelp bed where they do their surveys.</li> <li>• Info about it is on their website</li> </ul> <p><b>Eelgrass Buoys</b> (Troy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They looked at new buoys with Katie &amp; Sarah</li> <li>• Three will have to be junked</li> <li>• Nothing else new</li> </ul> <p><b>Rain Gardens</b> (Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They now have a Gardener making clean up progress</li> <li>• Public Works agreed to pick up the green waste</li> <li>• Scheduling monthly work parties--one on schedule for Dec 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• (we may not need it depending on Gardener’s progress, or it may be at a different location.)</li> <li>• Jan 18<sup>th</sup> work party in Quilcene</li> <li>• Subcommittee meeting to brainstorm ideas from retreat.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public outreach</li> <li>○ Work with community partners for future RG maintenance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie requested that the Gardener invoice for work done before the end of this year.</li> </ul> <p><b>ROV Crab Pots</b> (Jeff, Tim)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan is to work in PT Bay with Jason Morgan</li> <li>• Jason is going to work with us-he wants to be ‘student for day’.</li> <li>• Tim B. many students are also interested.</li> <li>• Excitement amongst the kid groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Storm Surge</b> (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He sent reports to Sound IQ.</li> <li>• There now is a contact who does the storm surge monitoring.</li> <li>• They may put together a video about Tools for Storm Surge for multiple shoreline residents. They would need to hire a voice for the video.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education &amp; Outreach – Marine Science Stage</b> (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This time last year they approached the Wooden Boat Foundation (WBF) about this.</li> <li>• Do we want to do it again? Do we have funding? Are we up for it?</li> <li>• Approx \$3000 but we had to buy things for the first year. This year would be less expensive.</li> <li>• Stage itself is \$2000, then there would be a little bit extra.</li> <li>• We need to think about the whole area where the tent was – do we want to join with DFWF and Marine Science Center to make that area become a “Science Alley” (Barb @WBF would like to make it a Science Alley.)</li> <li>• Gordon asked if this should be a topic for the next Executive Meeting or wait until the January 2025 meeting.</li> <li>• Betsy: We should have an education/outreach subcommittee meeting to discuss if we want to do that.</li> <li>• Neil mentioned the idea that it could be part of the Education/Outreach work plan and that it was a “super successful” event and it’s a great way to reach a lot of people.</li> <li>• Katie mentioned that she wants to make sure we have a MRC member willing to do all the organization for the event.</li> <li>• Betsy said she was willing to organize this year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Four MRC Positions Available</b> (Gordon)  Chair/Vice-Chair Rep to NWSC alt  Each position needs to be voted on every year. People can nominate themselves.  Current NWSC is Jeff (alt is Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon nominated Betsy Carlson for Chair &amp; Emily Buckner for Vice Chair.</li> <li>• Sarah seconded for Betsy, Troy seconded for Emily.</li> <li>• These are motions to nominate them.</li> </ul> <p>Troy nominated that Sarah &amp; Jeff continue in their present positions.  Gordon noted that people can nominate themselves.</p> <p>Brenda: she approached both Jeff &amp; Sarah so she could be on the slate, but she doesn’t want to challenge those positions.</p> <p>NWSC Rep / NWSC Rep Alternate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to improve the slate, someone seconded.</li> <li>• Consensus is that they will need to vote.</li> <li>• Took a vote on approving the slate with current nominations.</li> </ul>	<p>Gordon nominated Betsy Carlson for Chair &amp; Emily Buckner for Vice Chair.  Sarah seconded for Betsy, Troy seconded for Emily.  These are motions to nominate them.</p> <p>Gordon moved to close nominations. Neil seconded that.</p> <p>Judy moved to approve the slate, Neil seconded.</p>	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b> (John Waggoner)  Regarding the role of the MRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does MRC sponsor restoration projects?</li> <li>• In the past (over 15 years ago) one of the MRC members got a grant and hired someone to look at a county park. He hadn’t heard of that before.</li> <li>• Neil said he remembered that project. He said Oly Oysters contracts to bring shell in for an MRC designated project.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John he doesn't remember the funding source on this project, he was just wondering.</li> </ul>		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p><b>Future Agenda Topics</b></p> <p>Neil: Derelict Vessels, Fort Worden Pier Removal, Paper Mill – discharge permit</p> <p>Jeff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congressional funding and state funding</li> <li>\$40K currently not targeted for any projects</li> <li>ROV 2026 – What do they want to do with that?</li> </ul> <p>Emily: Two ideas for future speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PT Mill situation.</li> <li>Kelp Buoys Sensor</li> </ul> <p>Betsy suggested Diane Quinn: Future of Marine Science Center.</p> <p>Brenda mentioned that the MRC list isn't up to date. Katie found the list, and she can update the list that Monica made.</p> <p>A PTMSC talk this Sunday, 12/8 at 3:00pm, at Fort Worden Sharks of WA Lisa Heller Senior Biologist at Marine Science Unit</p> <p>Judy mentioned that the city hired a new associate planner, from Bainbridge Island. A lot of experience with Shorelines and planning.</p> <p>Katie thanked Gordon for serving as the Chair this past year.</p>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM. Next meeting will be Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> .	Neil moved to adjourn, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	