



January 2023 Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, January 23, 2023

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ioana Bociu (Academic Community Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community Representative), Mary Sue Brancato (At Large Alternate), Chris Burns (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schouten (Development Community), Ann Soule (District 2 Alternate), Justin Stapleton (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative), Jeffrey Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Cathy Lear (Clallam County), Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County [CC] Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Alisa Taylor (CC MRC Intern)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Nancy Stephanz made an addition to the agenda under Additional Updates.

Public Comment / Approval of November Minutes

There were no public comments. ***Ed Bowlby moved to approve the November CC MRC minutes as written; Ann Soule seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.***

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on the last NWSC Meeting, which was held on 12/9/22. Items of focus included the approval of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision and Goal Statement, which will be available on the website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://nwstraits.org). The NWSC staff will be developing action items for the goals; more information will follow in the coming months. Tessa Francis with the Puget Sound Institute presented a study that assessed the impact of shoreline armoring on Chinook and Chum salmon, herring, and surf smelt. The study compared restored sites with sites that had armoring present and sites that had never had armoring to assess whether improvement in beach habitat led to better habitat in the subtidal zone. The correlation between improved beach habitat and better subtidal habitat was weak. For salmon, the geographic proximity to stream habitat and the presence of eel grass were the most significant factors. At present, there is not clear evidence that restoration promotes fish use of subtidal habitats, which suggests that protection of intact habitat is vital, particularly for herring and Chum salmon, who require eel grass habitat. Eel grass restoration may be helpful. Tessa is also available to make presentations to

the MRCs. Tim Cochnauer suggested it would be a good presentation for the Studium Generale program at Peninsula College. The Northwest Straits Foundation is starting a Salish Sea Conservation Corps Program; Ed Bowlby has volunteered as a potential mentor. The mentorships are intended to create internships for early career professionals. Interested volunteers can contact Don Unger or Brooke Freisen at the Northwest Straits Foundation, or be in touch with Alan Clark for more information. The next NWSC meeting is scheduled for February in Snohomish County.

CC MRC Retreat

Rebecca Mahan reserved the Dungeness River Center for 2/23/2023 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be a working lunch. The NWSC has more congressionally directed spending funds available, at about \$100,000 per year. An anticipated project form for ongoing and new projects is due by 3/1/2023, so Rebecca wants to focus on projects at the retreat. Lyn Muench suggested that the CC MRC consider what they are trying to accomplish overall, and figure out some goals that would help direct future projects. Discussion followed on members who would not be able to attend the retreat; issues brought forward from the Board of County Commissioners; and several project ideas, including climate resilience, ocean acidification, and the possibility of building on a past study conducted in the Port Angeles harbor. *Tim Cochnauer asked the group to write up their project ideas with references to other studies and projects so the group could review them at the retreat. *Carrol Hull volunteered to help coordinate the retreat, bringing her teaching and facilitation experience to the group. Ann Soule expected some homework for the CC MRC that the retreat subcommittee would be putting together.

Climate Change and Shellfish Impacts Workshop

Chris Burns and Rebecca Mahan attended a workshop sponsored by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on the heat dome from last summer. The workshop went over mortality from the event and how to plan for future impacts. Some areas were more heavily impacted depending on multiple variables, including beach aspect and the timing of low tides. They also addressed standardizing surveys for the purposes of data sharing. The workshop was well represented by tribes and government entities.

One-page Project Summaries

Tim Cochnauer suggested that the CC MRC write up one-page summaries of their funded projects so that each year projects can be tracked and the Committee and Board of County Commissioners can be kept up to date on how projects progress. *Ed Bowlby said he would write a summary up for the Pigeon Guillemot Survey project, and asked about a standard format. *Tim will write up a summary for the Forage Fish project that can be used as a template.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

Rebecca Mahan reported that the Board of County Commissioners signed the contract for the congressionally directed spending funds last week. The CC MRC is partnering with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to add some substrate to Sequim Bay. The Tribe is taking the lead on getting the shell and the permits. Chris Burns said that shell was getting difficult to acquire. The funding can be extended if necessary. Help will be needed loading and unloading the shell once it is obtained.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer said that monthly sampling continues, but they have not seen any eggs due to the winter season. The low tides are occurring at night, and high tides make sampling difficult. WDFW and the NWSC are putting on a forage fish presentation on 1/17/23 to discuss the MRC programs and what is

happening at the WDFW level. The CC MRC will be presenting their findings. *Rebecca Mahan will send a link to the presentation if anyone is interested.

Education/Outreach

Ann Soule gave an update. The coaster project had been put on hold while funding was being determined. Now that there are funds available, the CC MRC needs to decide how they would like to spend them. Ann is willing to update the art with new species if that is a project that the MRC would like to fund. Lyn Muench announced that there will be a Dungeness River Festival this year, and suggested enhancing the CC MRC booth. Rebecca Mahan added that there will be a Shore Friendly planning meeting with the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Jefferson MRC on 1/20/23; she distributed the information to everyone who expressed interest, but can resend it if anyone else would like to participate. The Foundation is looking to set up a Shore Friendly workshop in March.

Kelp Project

Alan Clark said that while the kayak surveys were shut down for the winter, there was a lot of activity around kelp from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, NWSC planning, measurement parameters, and findings regarding the importance of kelp in the ecosystem and economy. Discussion followed on kelp bed loss, possible causes, trends, and research. Alan shared a link to the Washington Floating Kelp Indicator: [Kelp Canopy Vital Sign for Puget Sound \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby stated that the Pigeon Guillemot network personnel from the University of Washington would be scheduling site visits to Jefferson and Clallam survey sites this spring. Arnold Schouten has asked Ed to give a presentation to the local chapter of Surfrider prior to the start up of the next monitoring season.

Additional Updates

Nancy Stephanz announced a live training session from the University of Washington for the Sound Toxin Monitoring program. It is a sampling program to document phytoplankton and zooplankton and can be done right off the Port Angeles pier. The training is scheduled for 2/21/23 and 2/22/23. Feiro Marine Life Center is coordinating volunteers; *Nancy will represent the CC MRC.

Good of the Order

Lyn Muench said that she saw two adds from the Jefferson MRC at the Rose Theater in Port Townsend and suggested that the CC MRC could consider something similar at the Deer Park Theater.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Action Items:

****Tim Cochnauer asked the group to write up their project ideas with references to other studies and projects so the group could review them at the CC MRC retreat.***

****Carrol Hull volunteered to help coordinate the retreat, bringing her teaching and facilitation experience to the group.***

****Ed Bowlby said he would write a summary up for the Pigeon Guillemot Survey project.***

- *Tim will write up a summary for the Forage Fish project that can be used as a template.***
- *Rebecca Mahan will send a link to the forage fish presentation if anyone is interested.***
- *Nancy will represent the CC MRC for the Sound Toxin Monitoring program.***