



January 2026 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026

Time: 5:32-7:10pm

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

	Member	Present?	Alternate	Present?
Academic Community	Ed Bowlby	X	Ioana Bociu	
At Large	Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep, Vice Chair</i>)	X	Mary Sue Brancato	
At Large	Tim Cochnauer	excused	[vacant seat]	---
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Nancy Stephanz	X	[vacant seat]	---
Development Community	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
District I	Jeff Ward	X	[vacant seat]	---
District II	Ann Soule	X	Lyn Muench	X
District III	[vacant seat]	---	Dann May	X
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller	X	Chelsea Korbolic	X
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]	---	[vacant seat]	---
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Rob Casey	excused	[vacant seat]	---
Port Angeles City Council	LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>)	X	Navarra Carr	
Port of Port Angeles Commission	Jesse Waknitz		Katharine Frazier	X
Sequim City Council	Meggan Uecker		Kelly Burger	

Staff and Others Present

Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Bruce Emery (Clallam County Director of Community Development), Chase O’Neil (CC Habitat Biologist, CCMRC Project Coordinator), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist Manager; CCMRC Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Dr. Chris Bassett (University of Washington Applied Physics Laboratory, presenter), Cheryl Niles (WSU Whatcom County Extension, Molt Search program presenter), Dennis Dickson, Dr. Sarah Huling, Janis Burger, jhamilton, John Cambalik, Stephen Crafton-Tempel, Teagan Darmody

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:32. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Presentation

- Dr. Chris Bassett gave a presentation titled “Marine Animals Interactions with a Small Tidal Turbine in Sequim Bay”. This included background on tidal energy, the goals and methods for his research, the results (animals observed and their interaction with the tidal turbine), and a brief review of other information available about environmental effects.
 - Chris answered questions from the MRC. During this time, Jeff Ward shared [PNNL’s Tethys](#) as a resource.
- Cheryl Niles (WSU Whatcom County Extension) briefly presented about the [Molt Search program for invasive European green crab](#). Resources are available if the MRC would like to get trained in Molt Search or host a training event. A “Train the Trainers” workshop will be hosted on April 16th.

Approval of Minutes

- ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the December 2025 minutes, Alan Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously and minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- *New member Rob Casey:* Rob has joined the MRC as a member representing marine related recreation & tourism.
- *Thank you departing members:* Mike Doherty (member representing District III) and Ray Kirk (alternate representing the community at-large) have resigned from their positions. The MRC thanks them for their time!
- *Volunteer time log:* LaTrisha thanked everyone who logged their time for the previous quarter.
- *Studium Generale recap:* Nancy gave a brief recap of the Studium Generale presentation at Peninsula College on January 22nd. The presentation went well, and several other MRC members attended and participated in the Q&A.
- *Derelict sailboat removed from Elwha Beach:* Chelsea Korbolic gave an update. Thanks to collaboration between several organizations, DNR’s contractors were able to remove the vessel on December 31st, 2025. MRC member Rob Casey took video, [available on his YouTube](#).
- *Northwest Straits Commission update:* Alan Clark gave an update. The Commission will be hosting its in-person meeting in Clallam County on July 24th, 2026, and the CCMRC will be in contact with Commission staff to coordinate. The NWSC held a 2-hour meeting for results from 2025 kelp monitoring ([recording available here](#)).

Committee and Project Reports

- *Pinto abalone*: Jeff Ward gave an update. WDFW will provide a survey boat again in 2026. Dive surveys will be spread through 2026, with 2 days tentatively planned for the second week of April.
- *Green crab trapping*: Chris Burns passed on a request from Neil Harrington of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; volunteers are needed to trap European green crab in Sequim Bay. Anyone interested should [contact Neil](#).
- *Advisory subcommittee*: Ann Soule gave an update. The subcommittee will engage again on a list of marine resource priorities for the Board of Commissioners.

New or Special Business

- *Education and outreach subcommittee*: The Committee discussed membership and tasks for an education and outreach subcommittee. Chair LaTrisha Suggs established the subcommittee and appointed Lyn Muench, Dann May, and Chelsea Korbolic as members.
- *Potential MRC social event this spring*: Alan Clark brought up the possibility of a social event for MRC members this spring, with a friend of his offering to donate use of his mobile pizza oven and the ingredients. Alan will suggest some available dates prior to the next meeting.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 23rd (moved due to holiday).
- *Call for new agenda items*: none at this time.

Public Comment

- None at this time.

Good of the Order

- None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:10.