



May 2023 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023
Time: 5:30-7:00 PM
Location: Zoom hybrid meeting
Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community Representative), Chris Burns (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2), Ann Soule (District 2), Justin Stapleton (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Katie Kowal (Clallam County Environmental Health, Water Quality Specialist), Cathy Lear (Clallam County Habitat Biologist [CC]), Tamara Galvan (Feiro Marine Life Center), Sasha Horst (NWSC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Vice Chair Alan Clark called the meeting to order. Ed Bowlby asked to add public announcements for the CC MRC meetings under the Good of the Order section. **Mike Doherty moved to accept the agenda. Ann Soule requested changing the Current Project list: Education and Outreach from one item to the four items represented within that category: 1: Coasters, 2: Interns, 3: Festivals, and 4: Oiled Wildlife Training. Lyn Muench seconded the motion to accept the agenda with that change. The motion passed with all in favor.**

Public Comment / Approval of April Minutes

Ed Bowlby corrected the spelling of Arnold and Debbie Schouten’s last name in the April draft minutes. Mike Doherty requested the addition of the presenter of the CC climate change presentation: Clea Rome, with the Washington State University Extension Office, which *he will send to Rebecca Mahan for inclusion in the final draft of the April minutes. **Mike Doherty moved to accept the minutes with those changes; Ed Bowlby seconded. The minutes were accepted with those changes.**

Elections of Officers

*Alan Clark volunteered to continue to serve as the NWSC representative for the CC MRC. *Tim Cochnauer volunteered to continue to serve as the Chair for the CC MRC. Lyn Muench nominated Ann Soule for Vice Chair for the CC MRC. **Ed Bowlby moved to accept the positions as volunteered and nominated; Mike Doherty seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.** Sasha Horst and Cathy Lear thanked the members who volunteered to serve in all those positions.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. The Commission has returned to in-person meetings on alternating months. Congressionally directed spending (CDS) funds are on track but need to be shored up. Reauthorization is still in progress. Tim Ellis with the Skagit MRC was elected as Chair of the NWSC; Alan Clark was re-elected as Vice Chair. The 2023 NWSC Conference will be held on 11/3/2023-11/4/2023 in Port Townsend. More information can be found on the NWSC website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://nwstraits.org).

NWSC Request for Proposals for 2023-2025

Rebecca Mahan led continued discussion on current and new projects for the CDS funds, which will be available on 10/1/23. The County is working on increasing the 1.25 full-time equivalent for an outreach and events position to help Rebecca, but assistance is needed. She emphasized that increased staffing is necessary in order to add the new projects. Since there is no way to guarantee an additional staff member before submitting the project list, Sasha Horst said that the best way to proceed is to submit the proposals with the plans for additional staff. That way the MRC can show that they are willing to designate funds for increased staffing. The project list can be adapted and reworked if needed.

- Current Projects:
 - Forage Fish: This project was kept and will stay the same.
 - Pigeon Guillemot: This project was kept and will stay the same.
 - Olympia Oysters Restoration: Rebecca has been in touch with Chris Burns and Liz Tobin with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to discuss this project. The CC MRC will continue to coordinate with the Tribe on oyster surveys. This project was kept and will stay the same.
 - CDS Shell Placement: If the permit does not come through until October, the shell will be placed next year because it is tide dependent. Sasha Horst has confirmed that the timing for this project can be extended: the permit can be acquired this year and the shell placed next year. Chris Burns offered an update on the project under Project Updates.
 - Kelp Monitoring: This project was kept and will stay the same.
 - Education/Outreach: Coasters: This project was kept, but the cost has increased to twice the previous amount. Ann Soule offered an update on the project under Project Updates.
 - Education/Outreach: Interns: Rebecca and Tim Cochnauer are working with Peninsula College and Feiro Marine Life Center to get student interns who can help with Feiro and MRC projects.
 - Education/Outreach: Festivals: An upgrade of CC MRC materials is needed. Rebecca has not purchased anything new yet. It will take some time to work with a graphic designer who can create some new posters and outreach products.
 - Education/Outreach: Oiled Wildlife Response Training: There are upcoming classes on field operations and wildlife first responder training.
 - Elwha Beach Stewardship: *Helle Andersen volunteered as the project lead. The group discussed the value of keeping this beach clean, conducting surveys on how many people use the beach, and possible partnership opportunities. Helle said that the goal is to collect the data with the intention of handing the project off to the County for future management. Ed Bowlby suggested sending out a poll to CC MRC members to see if they could volunteer to go out once per week to monitor beach use. Lyn Muench pointed out that monitoring days and times should be random.

- Biotoxins: Bob Vreeland will continue his shellfish sampling. Nancy Stephanz will be participating in Sound Toxins sampling led by Feiro Marine Life Center.
- New Projects Ideas:
 - Pinto Abalone: This project will start with a pilot study survey.
 - Sound Toxins: This project will be done in collaboration with Feiro Marine Life Center.
 - Continuing Shell Placement: This project is included under Current Projects: Olympia Oyster Restoration.
 - Valley Creek Pocket Beach/Estuary Noxious Weed Control/Native Planting: The group discussed which beaches to include in this project, and whether the initial project idea of restoring the pocket beach should be combined with additional weed control and native planting on extra beaches. *Cathy Lear volunteered to look at both proposals to see where they intersect.

Ann Soule asked for clarification of what Task 1 referred to in the spreadsheet. Sasha Horst explained that Task 1 covered communications work like festivals, website, social media, etc. that raised awareness about the MRC and its programs in the community. The Committee reviewed the remaining elements of the project list that still needed to be worked out, including the scale of the Valley Creek project, and filling in the spreadsheet with associated project costs. *Ann Soule volunteered to assist.

Lyn Muench moved to accept the project list as discussed; Alan Clark seconded. After consideration, Ed Bowlby and Lyn made a friendly amendment to the motion to authorize the Chair, Vice Chair, project leads and interested subgroup to work together on the remaining decisions and make the final decisions. The motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates

Ann Soule said that regarding the Coaster order, she found the vendor that Olympic Printers had used before as well as several other vendors, and the cost was back to \$0.50 per item or less. *She will make the order that was agreed to in March before the end of May in coordination with Rebecca Mahan. *Alan Clark and Tim Cochnauer will let Rebecca know which GPS/GoPro tool they want her to order. Chris Burns reported that he had found more shell for the Oyster Shell Placement project, in addition to the 122 bags he purchased previously. The new order was being bagged; when the first 800 bags out of the 4,000 he ordered are ready, he will go pick them up. During high tides, the shell will be delivered to the beaches, and next spring the shell will be spread by hand.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby brought up the challenge the CC MRC has faced in engaging the public in their meetings, and the difficulty with publicizing the meetings in the media. Rebecca Mahan said that she emails the Peninsula Daily News each month with the CC MRC meeting times but has not been able to get the newspaper to post their announcements in the “Eye on the Peninsula” portion. The group discussed alternative ways of advertising. LaTrisha Suggs suggested that Rebecca check with CC’s IT department to see if they could assist.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Alan Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Action Items:

****Mike Doherty will send to Rebecca Mahan the presenter of the CC climate change presentation: Clea Rome, with the Washington State University Extension Office, for inclusion in the final draft of the April minutes.***

****Alan Clark volunteered to continue to serve as the NWSC representative for the CC MRC.***

****Tim Cochnauer volunteered to continue to serve as the Chair for the CC MRC.***

****Helle Andersen volunteered as the project lead for the Elwha Beach Stewardship project.***

****Cathy Lear volunteered to look at both Valley Creek proposals to see where they intersect.***

****Ann Soule volunteered to assist with the project list and spreadsheet.***

****Ann Soule will make the Coaster order that was agreed to in March before the end of May in coordination with Rebecca Mahan.***

****Alan Clark and Tim Cochnauer will let Rebecca Mahan know which GPS/GoPro tool they want her to order.***