



March 2023 Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, March 20, 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), 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), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schouten (Development Community), Ann Soule (District 2 Alternate), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Justin Stapleton (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), LaTricia Suggs (Port Angeles City Council), Lance Vail (District 2 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 5:57 PM, delayed due to technical difficulties. Mike Doherty suggested an amendment to the agenda to include a draft letter of support for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) management plan. **Mike Doherty moved to add the letter of support for OCNMS to the agenda; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Lyn Muench added a comment to the Good of the Order section at the end of the meeting.

Public Comment / Approval of February Minutes

There were no public comments. **Bob Vreeland moved to approve the February CC MRC minutes as written; LaTricia Suggs seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

Three Motions for Orders

Tim Cochnauer led discussion on the order for new coasters. **Bob Vreeland moved to approve the order for 500 coasters of each design, coming to \$750 for 1500 coasters. Mike Doherty seconded. The motion carried with one opposition.** The group discussed ordering a new tool that can take waypoints and film underwater footage to support the kelp project. Alan Clark suggested backing up the CC MRC GPS and purchasing a new GoPro; *he will research costs and come back to Rebecca Mahan with the information to present at the April CC MRC Meeting. The third order was for miscellaneous tabling supplies like rack holders for events. **Mike Doherty moved to cap a miscellaneous supply order at \$250; if that is not enough, Rebecca Mahan will come back to the Committee with an additional request. Alan Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. There had not been a NWSC meeting since the last CC MRC meeting, but there were other updates. The Commission has returned to in-person meetings on alternating months. The 2023 NWSC Conference will be held on 11/3/2023-11/4/2023 in Port Townsend; Alan urged the CC MRC members to attend. More information will be forthcoming. On 3/30/2023-3/31/2023, the Commission and the Northwest Straits Foundation will meet in La Conner to go over next steps and future plans for working together. There will be a kelp season kickoff on 4/20/23. Senator Murray will be visiting Jefferson and Clallam Counties, which will be a good opportunity to show her some MRC projects, perhaps in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Tim Cochnauer suggested renting a house at Fort Worden for the NWSC Conference, which can house about 15 people. Alternatively, the lighthouse can house about 7 people. The group discussed possible projects to present to Senator Murray, such as forage fish sampling, the Olympia oyster project, or the pigeon guillemot surveys. Timing of her visit is undetermined, so a tour might be a last-minute thing, and project access may depend on the tides. *Bob Vreeland said he could prepare slides about the biotoxin sampling. More information can be found on the NWSC website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://www.nwstraits.org).

NWSC Request for Proposals for 2023-2025

Tim Cochnauer led discussion on current projects, and the budget timelines. The State budget starts on 7/1/23; the Ecology budget starts on 10/1/23; and the congressionally directed spending (CDS) funds start on 1/1/24. The proposals are due to the NWSC by 5/25/23. Current projects can use updated versions of their existing documentation. *Rebecca Mahan will send out the paperwork for the last cycle of current projects so they can be edited for the next round. Ed Bowlby requested a pigeon guillemot budget of \$500, which the Committee agreed to. Current projects include forage fish surveys, pigeon guillemot surveys, Olympia oyster restoration (with CDS shell placement), kelp monitoring, education and outreach, Elwha beach stewardship, and biotoxin sampling. Bob Vreeland announced that biotoxin surveys will start at Pillar Point on 4/10/23 and will go until at least 9/27/23, possibly longer depending on tides and access. Ann Soule pointed out that the education and outreach topic covers a wide range, and she was interested in defining it well. The group had proposed hiring an education programs coordinator; Ann also suggested hiring a dedicated intern for this task. Tim added that the CDS budget would be expanded to fill a position for an administrative assistant so that Rebecca can focus on projects. Cathy Lear noted that hiring contractors was also a possibility for specific projects. *Ann Soule offered to help with the writing of the RFPs. Lyn Muench pointed out that there will be a Dungeness River Festival in September this year, which would be a good time to have CC MRC displays and outreach assistance in place.

The group transitioned to a conversation on new project ideas. Rebecca said that there was supposed to be a guest presentation from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund on pinto abalone at this meeting, but the diver was unable to make it. He will be rescheduling a time to meet with the CC MRC. A study would initially be a survey of pinto abalone presence. Alan Clark and Jeff Ward were interested in combining a survey with the kelp surveys at Freshwater Bay, with possible collaborations with other MRCs and dive teams. *Alan, Jeff, and Chris Burns volunteered to participate in a survey, with Alan and Jeff as potential project co-leads, pending more information from Puget Sound Restoration Fund. Nancy Stephanz gave an update on the Sound Toxin surveys and training, in partnership with Feiro. A training workshop is scheduled for this Wednesday, 4/22/23, from 10AM to 2PM at the Feiro Marine Life Center. *Nancy

Stephanz and Mary Sue Brancato will be participating. Chris Burns said that he is working on acquiring shell for the continuing shell placement project. It is very difficult to find right now; Chris has found 113 bags so far but is looking from Shelton to Willapa Bay and hoped to locate more. The plan is to place the shell in the best habitat to boost natural population growth. Rebecca added that the cost has also increased from \$4 to \$7 a bag. Helle Andersen went over ideas for noxious weed control and native planting at the two pocket beaches at the Valley Creek estuary. She plans on teaming up with the City of Port Angeles and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. The group discussed the possibility of collaborating with the Noxious Weed Board or Washington Conservation Corps or turning it into an outreach project with community partners. Bob Vreeland sent out an email about his interest in the king tides and storm surges; he researched possible sites and how to predict king tides. He is going to talk to Ian Miller for more information. The months between October and December have the most potential for king tides. Discussion on possible locations followed.

OCNMS Letter of Support

Mike Doherty drafted a letter of support for the OCNMS draft management plan, but there is room for additional input. Rebecca Mahan sent the draft out to the CC MRC this afternoon. *She will resend it in the morning with a request for comments within 2 days. Mike suggested sending it out to other MRCs as well.

Project Updates

Rebecca Mahan gave a recap of the Shoreline Friendly Workshop that the CC MRC partnered with. It was well attended. Shoreline Friendly collaborates with Nickel Brothers to move and recycle old houses; they explained that the carbon footprint of buying and moving an old house is less than building a new house. The afternoon portion of the workshop visited two homes that had been moved locally. There was a presentation on shoreline erosion, and interest from landowners in Sekiu. Rebecca also attended the oiled wildlife rescue training with Ed Bowlby and Jeff Ward last week, put on by the International Bird Rescue.

Good of the Order

Ed Bowlby brought up a letter of support for Feiro Marine Life Center's new marine discovery center; there was consensus for Rebecca Mahan to sign the letter on behalf of the CC MRC. Rebecca announced that she would be on vacation from 3/29/23 to 4/6/23. She also requested CC MRC members to fill in their volunteer time logs; they are due 4/15/23. Lyn Muench mentioned that the County Commissioners work session this morning brought up a new federal economic development initiative called the Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program. The first item discussed was the blue carbon economy, specifically that eelgrass, kelp and shellfish are carbon sinks and secondary products. The work sessions do not usually focus on the marine environment, so this initiative is good to be aware of. Rebecca added that Lucas Hart will be on the agenda for the 3/27/23 Board of County Commissioners meeting about NWSC and the MRCs. Tim Cochnauer reminded the group that volunteer hours count as match for project funding, so it is important to report them.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Action Items:

****Alan Clark will research GoPro costs and come back to Rebecca Mahan with the information to present at the April CC MRC Meeting.***

****Bob Vreeland said he could prepare slides about the biotoxin sampling.***

****Rebecca Mahan will send out the paperwork for the last cycle of current projects so they can be edited for the next round.***

****Ann Soule offered to help with the writing of the RFPs.***

****Alan Clark, Jeff Ward, and Chris Burns volunteered to participate in a pinto abalone survey, with Alan and Jeff as potential project co-leads.***

****Nancy Stephanz and Mary Sue Brancato will be participating in the Sound Toxin training.***

****Rebecca Mahan will resend the letter of support for the OCNMS management plan in the morning with a request for comments within 2 days.***