



August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 21, 2023
Time: 5:30-7:00 PM
Location: Zoom hybrid meeting
Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community at Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Alternate), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schouten (Development Community), Ann Soule (District 2), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), (Nancy Stephanz (Ecology Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Cathy Lear (CC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Leah Robison (NWSC), Alisa Taylor (Former CC MRC Intern), Jeff Whitty (NWSC)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Mike Doherty said he had some announcements to make under the Good of the Order.

Public Comment / Approval of July Minutes

Ann Stafford corrected the July minutes to reflect that she was in attendance. ***Ann Soule moved to accept the minutes as amended; Alan Clark seconded. The July CC MRC minutes were accepted by consensus with that change.***

Announcements

Educational Display

Rebecca Mahan and Ann Soule led discussion on review of the updated CC MRC logo mockups from the graphic designer. Rebecca noted that the logo needed to be selected during the meeting to be in time for printing materials for upcoming festivals. The group discussed various customizations to the preferred logos, including the addition of a second sea star, and widening one of the logos. They agreed on the second horizontal logo on the left, with some minor customizations like stretching the logo and dropping the sea star between the words “Clallam” and “County.” They also selected the last round logo on the left, but with white dots on the sea star instead of yellow.

Upcoming Events

The Dungeness River Festival is scheduled for 9/22/23 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, with the theme of connecting people with their watersheds. Paperwork for hosting a booth is due by the end of the month. The exhibits must have an educational activity for grades 3-5, and a question for the passport that students will receive. Setup will be on Thursday, 9/21/23, between 2:00 and 6:00 PM, or on Friday,

9/22/23, between 7:00 and 9:00 AM. *Rebecca Mahan will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Forever Streamfest is scheduled for 10/14/23 at Peninsula College. Rebecca has not received all the details yet, but the event is geared for the general public and will be indoors. They will also be organizing 15-minute presentations from participating groups. *Rebecca will send out a sign-up sheet for that event when more information is available. There are several options for sharing at the 2023 NWSC Conference in Port Townsend on 11/3/23 and 11/4/23. The CC MRC can choose to: 1: prepare a 15-minute presentation that showcases one of their projects; 2: design a poster that would be displayed in the gallery room; and 3: contribute toward a combined slideshow. The group agreed that options 2 and 3 were preferable.

Rescue Tug Update

Mike Doherty went over his efforts to reach out to the Friends of the San Juans about the Rescue Tug panel regarding presenting to Clallam and Jefferson Counties. He and Alan Clark discussed proposed locations for the rescue tug and contacting the boards of county commissioners for next planning steps.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. He did not attend the 7/28/23 meeting, but the meeting summary includes links to the presentations. Items included a presentation from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund on bull kelp decline and restoration efforts; a Remotely Operated Vehicle storymap from the Jefferson County Seadragons; European green crab outreach materials in Spanish; and an upcoming Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) forage fish training in Neah Bay. The 2023 NWSC Conference will be held from 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://www.nwstraits.org/).

Project Updates

Olympia Oyster

Chris Burns said that some of the oyster shell has come in; there are four more loads to come. When the permits are in, he will start placing shell on beaches by boat over the winter. The shell will be spread by hand during lower spring tides. Rebecca Mahan has been in communication with Sasha Horst, who will be able to extend the project contract due to the permit delays.

Pigeon Guillemot

Ed Bowlby said that the protocol for the Salish Sea program is for volunteers to stay for ten weeks at their project sites, but longer if bird activity remains. This year activity has continued, so the surveys are now on week 12. He added that this is not uncommon, and other sites in the region still have activity as well.

Education and Outreach: Coasters

Ann Soule said that the coaster shipment arrived, and they are ready to distribute. There were 2500 copies of three different designs. Places that have been happy to receive them include Salty Girls, the Sequim BarHop, the Department of Community Development, the Port Angeles Yacht Club, and the Port Angeles Library. Ideas for more places included other restaurants, the Surfrider Chapter Meeting, and farmer's markets.

Education and Outreach: New Displays

Ann Soule gave an update from the Educational Display Subcommittee. *Project leads, please submit project information for poster development by the graphic artist, including: project name; a one- to two-

sentence project synopsis that describes the type of field work involved, why the CC MRC is doing the project, and who benefits; a one- to two-sentence summary of project results, duration of the project, and how the results are being used; and photos with suggested captions. This information is due by 8/30/23. *Ann added that she would look into the possibility of co-hosting a space at Crab Fest with another organization.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer said there was an error with submitting July's data and the physical data from that month is gone. There were no eggs at Elwha Beach or Ediz Hook for August, but Cline Spit had too many to count. Tim is trying to narrow down common denominators between the beaches where eggs are found; they all seem to be in isolated bays.

Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen was not present for an update, but the project proposal is going to be rewritten. Rebecca Mahan will be meeting with Helle and Sasha Horst to rework the project.

Kelp Surveys

Alan Clark reported an extraordinarily active year in the Strait due to wind and waves. So far, the survey team has sampled part of Freshwater Bay; the small kelp beds were unreachable due to large swells. Clallam Bay had six-foot swells and was not sampled. Low tides around the end of the month should allow for more survey dates. Jeff Whitty suggested that the big kelp bed at Observatory Point might be the highest priority, but if only half of the bed could be surveyed at a time, the team should try to match the tides on the survey days for consistency.

Biotoxins: Shellfish

Bob Vreeland collected samples from Pillar Point on 8/2/23 and 8/16/30 and will sample again on 8/30/23. Many of the Strait beaches are closed to at least some harvesting, so maps should be checked prior to clamming.

Biotoxins: Sound Toxins

Nancy Stephanz said that the Sound Toxins survey team has identified phytoplankton that can cause diuretic shellfish poisoning each week; this week they thought they identified phytoplankton that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning but are waiting for the sample to be confirmed. More slides and another microscope are needed. The team samples every Monday.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty announced an article on the sports page of the Peninsula Daily News about a new blob forming. Discussion followed on impacts from climate change. Ann Soule suggested more brainstorming on education and outreach possibilities for later in the fall or winter. Mike noted that the Department of Ecology was holding a public review of the oil spill and wildlife rescue system; comments close on 9/9/23. *Ed Bowlby offered to respond; Rebecca Mahan sent out the information on 8/7/23. Rebecca said that CoastSavers' Coordinator Megan Juran would like to present to the CC MRC at the September meeting about an adopt-a-beach program. The group suggested that she present at the October CC MRC meeting when the field season has slowed down. Tim Cochnauer recognized Bob Vreeland for his initial idea to create outreach coasters and his work as CC MRC Chair, and Alan Clark for his work as Vice Chair with handmade etched glassware.

Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Action Items:

**Rebecca Mahan will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Dungeness River Festival.*

**Rebecca Mahan will send out a sign-up sheet for Forever Streamfest when more information is available.*

**Project leads, please submit project information for poster development by the graphic artist, including: project name; a one- to two-sentence project synopsis that describes the type of field work involved, why the CC MRC is doing the project, and who benefits; a one- to two-sentence summary of project results, duration of the project, and how the results are being used; and photos with suggested captions. This information is due by 8/30/23.*

**Ann Soule will look into the possibility of co-hosting a space at Crab Fest with another organization.*

**Ed Bowlby offered to respond to the public review of the Department of Ecology's oil spill and wildlife rescue program.*