

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Hybrid Zoom Meeting at the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum
January 02, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Neil Harrington, Tribal
Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC
Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
Janette Mestre, District 1
Brad Bebout, District 1
Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep
Brenda Johnson, District 2
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Sarah Fiske, District 3, NWS Alt
Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Emily Buckner, Marine Science
Christopher Kelley, Marine Science Alt
Gordon King, Commercial
Troy McKelvey, Recreation

Absent:

Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
Bryan DeCaterina, Envir/Conserv Alt
Joanie Hendricks, District 3

Guests: Nathaniel Ashford, David Winters, Mike Kennedy, Toresa Martell, Nam Siu, Lee Bebout, Jonathan Waggoner, Amelia Kalagher

Staff: Monica Montgomery, MRC Coordinator
Bob Simmons, WSU Staff
Nathaniel Ashford, MRC Intern

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Gordon King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Gordon asked for approval/amendments to the Agenda. Motion to approve by Neil Harrington, which was seconded by Brenda Johnson. Agenda was approved as written.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Neil asked for approval/amendments to the Dec 2023 Minutes. Betsy Carlson moved to approve, which was seconded by Troy McKelvey. Minutes passed as written.	Betsy moved to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment		
GUEST SPEAKER Nathaniel Ashford	<p>MRC Storm Surge Monitoring Internship (Nathaniel Ashford)</p> <p>Reviewed his goals and highlights from the internship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about JCMRC • Develop data management skills • Learned adaptability and merging into an existing team • Gained new network for future projects • Storm surge event occurred during the NWSI conference, he was able to monitor • Completed all of his personal goals for internship; balanced out his skill set, thanks to the internship <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned about storm surge • Attended meetings • Indexed project data and reports; worked with NWSC staff to make them accessible • Monitored events • Provided feedback on a drafted protocol, for improving its accessibility <p>A question was asked about how Nathaniel heard of the internship and how the MRC could bring in more students?</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathaniel found the internship opportunity on the MRC website; he suggested social media would reach more students <p>A question was asked about if there is a plan for getting the public involved for monitoring more sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff-A work in progress. It's not targeted to the general public; it's more for people with waterfront areas who are concerned with possible flooding and helps them learn how to predict flooding. 		
BoCC REPORT	<p>BoCC Update (Heidi)</p> <p>Shoreline Master Program (SMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing on amendments to the SMP to take place on Monday, Jan 8, at 10 am during the BoCC meeting They are encouraging more public involvement & input <p>Board reorganization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Dean will be Chair next year and will remain on the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Heidi is staying on with MRC Heidi will stay on as Co-Chair of the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network 		
Port of PT UPDATES	<p>Port of PT Update (Carol)</p> <p>Board reorganization - Carol is staying on with MRC</p> <p>100-year anniversary for the Port. Will be updating strategic plan through a public process - see more information on the Port's website.</p> <p>Derelict vessels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They will have their very first buoy test for these vessels Derelict vessels are candidates for haul out to be recycled Ten different boats of concern <p>Farm Steering Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meetings will be held to decide how to use Short's Farm in an environmentally sustainable way and to enhance our food resiliency Open public meetings will be from January through June, mid-month <p>Jetty Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today is the first day of two crews working back-to-back 24 hours a day January 29th the walkway will go in <p>Point Hudson Marina will open March 1</p> <p>Sea Level Rise Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed by a year; didn't have time to submit a hazards mitigation plan for the BRIC application 		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	<p>NWSC December Meeting (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWSC launched a new kelp StoryMap featuring the MRCs NWSC conducting an internal review of how the NW Straits Commission and NW Straits Foundation work together to support the MRCs 	<p>See the new NWSI Kelp Monitoring StoryMap here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7605f2da0605472b9d6e99dd6801476b</p>	
ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES	<p>Needs Assessment (Monica)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MRC discussed the opportunity to work with graduate students with the UW Evans School's design clinic to conduct interviews of key community members regarding local marine conservation issues, concerns, and solutions This would involve having at least one MRC member or representative participating in meetings with students to identify interviewees, develop interview questions, and to be present during interviews Results of interviews will provide guidance on projects and possibly advisory actions going forward Possible timeline: Jan - meet with the students, Feb - draft interview questions and identify interviewees, March & April - conduct interviews, May - students will do analysis and write up a report <p>Brenda - Island County did a lot of work with interviews. Is there any way we can learn from the work that they did? Are we launching into</p>		

	<p>something that we really don't need to do if it's already been done? Shared concerns that the Island MRC questions were leading and expressed mixed feelings about the needs assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica - the group would develop questions together <p>Betsy - I think we can come up with good questions. What are the immediate issues we can address? Guidance from professors and students could help us formulate better questions for the right answers. Betsy moved that the MRC participate in the needs assessment. The majority voted in favor with no one opposed. Monica asked who would be interested in helping with the interviews. Betsy, Neil and Emily raised their hands.</p> <p>Project Subcommittees (Monica)</p> <p>Starting the new year is a good time to review project subcommittees and to be sure we don't have a quorum present during project team meetings. Will need to seek county guidance to confirm if this also applies to fieldwork where decisions are not being made.</p> <p>Brenda expressed that we haven't seen results of projects over the last two or three years and haven't seen annual report for 2023. Do we know these are projects to continue to undertake or do we want to change direction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob – there was a retreat last spring to review and discuss projects for the next two years • Monica – we have project updates each month; the drafted annual report is in the shared folder and can be discussed as an MRC if interested • Gordon – this discussion is more about who is on the subcommittees, and who would like to join and leave <p>The MRC discussed which members would join or leave each subcommittee.</p> <p>Draft Annual Workplan (Monica)</p> <p>The MRC was asked to provide edits to the 2024 annual work plan.</p> <p>Neil suggested edits to the Olympia oyster project timeline.</p> <p>Brenda suggested a new project for monitoring pigeon guillemots with the Salish Sea Guillemot Network and explained that she was previously told it could not be funded. Gordon suggested moving discussion of a new project to a future meeting.</p> <p>Heidi pointed out that derelict vessels was missing from the projects listed and suggested adding it to an "Other" category, and to possibly discuss further at a future meeting.</p> <p>Gordon encouraged project leads to follow up with Monica regarding any edits to the 2024 annual workplan.</p>	<p>Betsy Carlson moved that the MRC go forward with the needs assessment project. Majority voted in favor; no one opposed.</p>	<p>Project leads to follow up with Monica regarding edits to the 2024 annual workplan.</p>
<p>CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p>Storm Surge Monitoring (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with NWSC staff to upload all storm surge monitoring data to Sound IQ <p>Forage Fish Monitoring (Janette/Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team conducted a nighttime survey on December 22, the last of the 2023-2024 monitoring season • Sarah monitored Dabob on December 18 <p>Education and Outreach (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy and Brad approached NW Maritime Center about hosting an MRC speaker stage at Wooden Boat Festival in September • Barbara & Courtney from the Maritime Center like the idea • If MRC wants to move forward, we need a list of speakers ready by end of March-mid April • The idea is that speaker topics will tap into programs that the MRC already does while reaching a different audience. Doesn't have to just be related to boats. For example, crabber outreach, what to do when encountering stranded marine mammals, etc. • Funding may be needed to rent a tent (likely a 20' x 20' tent) • Tent location would be between the Port Pavilion Building and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, where the theatrical stage used to be 		

	<p>DEI (Nam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DEI subcommittee has been working with the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (ERN) to draft a contract with a local DEI consultant, to review and advise on practices of the MRC The contract will be funded by the Strait ERN and will be shared with the MRC for input and approval at the next meeting <p>Monica added that revisions to county resolution were approved to add a Local Youth representative position to the MRC. The MRC discussed some considerations for recruitment and support for this position and decided it would need further discussion at a future meeting.</p>		
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Discussion of possible agenda topics for next month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pigeon guillemot monitoring project Derelict vessels DEI consultant contract Local youth representative role <p>Discussion of possible guest speakers to invite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy (City of PT) to share updates on the sewer outfall Pinto Abalone update Matt Klontz (Port of PT) to share about their innovative new stormwater system <p>David Winters emailed Monica about a work party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many pieces of Styrofoam scattered near Point Hudson; Community members have removed the bulk of it but are seeking help to remove the remaining scattered pellets Work party will be 130pm on Friday, January 5th Seeking a couple of cordless shop vacs; Brenda offered a leaf vacuum – Monica will connect Brenda with David <p>Nam is presenting through the PT Marine Science Center speaker series on Jan 14th from 3-4pm</p>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. Next meeting will be Feb 6 th .	Brenda moved to adjourn, seconded by Troy. Motion passed.	