

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
 Port Commissioners Bldg.
 333 Benedict Street
 Port Townsend, WA
 March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Ashley Mackenzie, District 1, Co-Chair
 Wade Crouch, District 3, Co-Chair
 Shannon Davis, District 1 Alt.
 Andrew Palmer, District 2
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Alt.
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3
 Jackie Gardner, District 3 Alt.
 Al Bergstein, Environment
 Steve Tucker, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
 Gordon King, Commercial Interest
 Nam Siu, Marine Science
 Judy D'Amore, Marine Science Alt.
 Kate Dean, *ex officio*, BOCC
 Dale Moses, Recreation, NWS Representative
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation Alt.
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Chris Eardley, Tribal Alt

Absent:

Emily Bishop, District 1
 Anna Bachmann, Environment Alt.
 Sam Gibboney, Port of Port Townsend Alt.

Guests:

Lucas Hart, Anna Wilkie, Roy Clark, Betsy Carlson,
 Jude Rubin, Peter Bahls

Staff:

Cheryl Lowe, Coordinator, Robert Simmons

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Co-Chair Wade Crouch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There was a round of introductions as guests were present.	A quorum was present.	All members – please sign in and record volunteer hours by project.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Wade asked for amendments to the agenda. Wade asked for amendments to/approval of the Minutes.	Neil Harrington moved to approve the agenda as is. Steve Tucker seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Tucker moved to approve the February minutes as is, seconded by Frank Handler. Motion passed unanimously.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None		
BoCC report	BoCC report (Kate Dean) - She thanked MRC for presentation to BoCC yesterday. Especially good to see report on volunteer hours. She shared opportunities for MRC input to BoCC (geoduck farming, halibut season, etc.). She requested MRC future meeting agenda item: discussion of halibut season. In recent PSP meeting - discussed potential federal funding cuts for PS restoration. Members discussed concerns with funding cuts and Al suggested legislators that Kate should contact. Wade said it was a positive meeting with BoCC. Discussion ensued about advisory role of MRCs.		
GUEST SPEAKER	Peter Bahls & Jude Rubin, Northwest Watershed Institute Programs Update Topic: Tarboo-Dabob Bay Conservation, Protection, Restoration. NWI is a non-profit formed in 2001. They focus on habitat watershed protection with a focus on Tarboo and a headwaters to bay approach. About 40 partners including the MRC. One of early projects MRC funded was a survey for juvenile salmon in Tarboo (2004) - survey found summer chum and juvenile Chinook. He shared maps of the approx. 7,000-acre watershed		

	<p>along with photos of culverts, fish passage projects, restoration of streams, bulkhead removal.</p> <p>Peter shared info on the resources of Dabob Bay, including Broad Spit, a 20-acre County park, shellfish hatcheries (two), eagles, forage fish, Oly oyster, one of the least developed estuaries in Hood Canal. In 2009 DNR significantly expanded their upland protected area boundaries. He explained that "protection" means no timber harvest/protected through deed restrictions. Trust land transfers must be approved by state legislature in the budget. They are currently considering Devil's lake and Dabob Bay as part of the current trust land transfer allocation. Individuals interested in supporting protection of these areas should call their representatives.</p> <p>Peter also shared slides of DNR/NWI restoration projects along the nearshore including removing a residence and bulkhead removal.</p> <p>Jude is a restoration ecologist and founding member of NWI. She manages education and community involvement. She emphasized the importance of cultivating a culture that cares. Thus, she works with children. NWI Plant-a-thons since 2006. Includes youth leadership opportunities via the Youth Environmental Stewards (YES) program. YES is privately funded, publicly accredited. Accredited in 3 of 4 high schools in Jefferson County (90 hours=0.5 credits). Students design and work on internship projects with NWI and other partners: For example, PTMSC (Betsy) is a partner - working with 4 YES kids on removing and cataloging marine debris. Anna (student) working with NOSC on native plants and curriculum for sixth graders. Jude is seeking funding to continue YES.</p> <p>Q&A. Navy has been a great funding partner for land protection efforts - matching DNR funds.</p> <p>(6:50 Neil and Kate left the meeting)</p>		
ADMINISTRATIVE	<p>MRC 2018 Project Planning (with Exec. Committee updates) - Cheryl referred to a handout that summarized projects discussed at last month's meeting. Exec. Committee helped refine this list. Draft budget 2017-18 assumes continuation of existing projects. Cheryl may make adjustments between now and end of May when submittal is due to NWSC. Potential projects to explore for future include derelict boats and pinto abalone, and, depending how 2017 goes, a Program Assistant for 2018.</p> <p>This assumes that federal funding is not cut. Our funding is via NOAA and EPA, which are both proposed for cuts. Our funding is in place thru Sept. 2017.</p> <p>Shannon suggested ranking the projects so we are more prepared if funding is reduced. She noted that NWSF is also tied to federal funds for projects.</p> <p>Program Assistant Update (Cheryl)- NWSF funded a part-time position (temp) for 2017 - Four candidates were interviewed. Narrowed to two, Cheryl is doing reference checks.</p>		
Current and Upcoming Projects	<p>Project Status Reports:</p> <p>Forage fish- field trip to Jamestown S'Kallam tribe went very well. Jeff: Aldema Beach forage fish survey - they collected samples and did not find any eggs, however, a sample was sent to DFW and they did find sand lance eggs. They are looking at getting better equipment for future egg sample work.</p> <p>Oly Oyster (Chris) Friday April 21 workshop (note date on agenda is incorrect). Focus is on development of a workshop to get all MRCs on same page for monitoring, evaluation of success, site selection, etc. The idea for the workshop was borne out of the annual MRC conference. Chris, Neil, and others will do site visits in preparation of the workshop. Dispersal of the bags of seeded cultch at Quilcene Bay was also discussed.</p> <p>Outreach -BoCC presentation. Dale: BoCC asked what more County could do to support MRC- he suggested that we ask for support on projects (e.g., the City's contribution of backhoe for raingarden construction). Steve suggested providing input on the length of the halibut fishing season. Due to safety and economic reasons, other local jurisdictions have passed resolutions urging state to change the fishing season. Cheryl asked members to send information her way and help frame what the MRC discussion would be. Shannon - San Juan is facilitating public discussions. Judy S. suggested comments could be similar to "scoping" comments rather than specific quantities/dates, which are science based by fisheries experts. Steve and Sarah and Troy agreed to help Cheryl. And Cheryl will look on timeline for commenting - may be too late for this year.</p> <p>Derelict boats - Steve spoke with Mark Florenza of SJ Island MRC on their efforts- Their derelict boat project used to be</p>	<p>If you have information on halibut season to help frame the MRC discussion- forward it to Cheryl</p> <p>Steve and Sarah and Troy agreed to help Cheryl.</p> <p>Cheryl will look on timeline for commenting - may be too late?</p>	

	<p>funded by DNR. It required taking pictures all the time - fuel for monitoring boats became a cost issue (\$10k/year) but program was successful. Steve is thinking about use of USCG auxiliary. He also spoke with Snohomish MRC contact - they are also in the initial stages of developing a project.</p> <p>(There was no update for No-Anchor Zones, Rain Gardens, Kelp Monitoring)</p>		
Recent Meetings Report	<p>NWSC retreat reports - Dale sent summaries of retreat by email. Good facilitated retreat.</p> <p>Exec. Committee - Dale – EC met 2 weeks ago. He recapped the duties of the Program Assistant for 2017.</p>		
Public Comment	<p>Betsy announced tomorrow night 6:30 North Beach Low Tide walk. Bring your flashlights! PTMSC Auction this Saturday night. UW Marine Debris Training starts on April 8.</p>		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	<p>Lucas will circulate info re: April 15, Saturday Kelp Workshop.</p> <p>Al - Major spill of diesel fuel on N. end of Vancouver Island. See his blog.</p> <p>Cheryl - March 21 Blue Coffee at PTMSC - an informal gathering of those interested in marine conservation.</p> <p>Andy - Good news article on recovery of yellow-eye, lingcod.</p> <p>Chris added rockfish.</p> <p>Dale - all three buoys that were lost have been found.</p> <p>Bob - Beach Naturalist Course almost full. Thursdays 9-4</p> <p>QUU next Friday 6:30 showing of "Reaching Blue"</p>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.		