

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Port of PT Marina Room at Point Hudson
Port Townsend, WA
July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Ashley Mackenzie, District 1, Co-Chair
Emily Bishop, District 1
Wade Crouch, District 3, Co-Chair
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Alt.
Jackie Gardner, District 3 Alt.
Gordon King, Commercial Interest
Al Bergstein, Environment
Judy D'Amore, Marine Science Alt.
Dale Moses, Recreation, NWS Representative
Neil Harrington, Tribal
Shannon Davis, District 1 Alt.
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
Sarah Fiskens, District 3
Anna Bachmann, Environment Alt.
Troy McKelvey, Recreation Alt.
Nam Siu, Marine Science

Absent:

Andrew Palmer, District 2
Sam Gibboney, Port of Port Townsend Alt.
Steve Tucker, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
Kate Dean, *ex officio*, BOCC

Staff: Cheryl Lowe, Coordinator
Bob Simmons, WSU Faculty
Tim Weissman, Program Assistant

Guests:

Clallam MRC: 8 members, 2 staff and 2 interns
Island MRC: 8 members, 1 staff and 2 guests.
Individuals: Roy Clark, Rich Childers, Lucas Hart,
Caroline Gibson, Anne Murphy, Ruth Blyther.

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Co-Chair Wade Crouch called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. There was a round of introductions as guests were present.	A quorum was present.	All members – sign in and record volunteer hours by project.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Wade noted that times noted on agenda may be adjusted to accommodate discussion items, but as this was a special joint meeting, we dispensed with formal approval of agenda. Wade asked for amendments to/approval of the May Minutes. No amendments were needed.	Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.		
Presentation by Northwest Straits Initiative	Rich Carlson and Caroline Gibson presented a brief overview of NWSI funding sources. Rich noted that the recently approved WA State budget included some funding for the NWS Commission and the MRCs, thanks to Senator Kevin Ranker and others. Caroline described various sources of funding for NWS Foundation and reminded MRCs that the Foundation can take donations or raise funds for the MRCs outside of the county/state agency constraints. She noted that there will be another invite to apply for Opportunity Fund grants this next year. She also noted that the new Foundation budget assumes more private sources of funds. Shannon Davis added that people should feel free to contact their local Foundation Board member with questions or ideas.		
ADMINISTRATIVE	No administrative topics		
Current and Upcoming Projects— Replaced by Shared discussion of MRC projects	Education Outreach Discussion <u>Jefferson</u> Lead: Ashley Mackenzie, Jefferson MRC co-chair For the last 3 years Jefferson County MRC has hosted the event "Digging for Dinner". It has been a very successful way to reach community members and in 2017 the effort was expanded to two		

	<p>events. Topics include shellfish identification and safety. The first event in 2017 was focused on clams and the second on oysters and clams. The event was advertised through list servers and people were asked to sign up for the event. Both events filled up quickly. The license issue was solved by requiring participants to get their own permit before the event. Children less than 14 years do not need a license. This way people would also learn about the how to apply for a license.</p> <p>High School Engagement is another JMRC educational outreach program. They are just starting the program in collaboration with NW Watershed Institution. The first tasks are to identify interesting projects and advertise the program at the high schools.</p> <p><u>Clallam</u> Lead: Jeff Ward, Clallam MRC chair: Clallam County MRC has identified four audience groups to target through their educational outreach effort: elementary school kids, college students, young adults, and adults/seniors. The intern program targeting college students has been a success. The intern program consists of 3-5 paid internships where the students are working on current MRC projects along with the members. The program culminates in the Intern Celebration where the students give a public presentation of their work.</p> <p>Another successful program is the Oil Spill Preparedness training that Clallam County MRC has offered for numerous years. The training includes one HAZWOPER training and two oiled wildlife classes annually.</p> <p>Clallam County MRC has tried to reach young adults with kids through adult presentations and kids hands-on activities. The first event had fair attendance.</p> <p>Clallam County MRC has now so many field projects that we are looking for citizen science volunteers. In his presentation Jeff asked the following three questions: How do you reach college students? How do you reach young family adults? How do you create and sustain a pool of volunteers?</p> <p><u>Island</u> Lead: Barbara Bennett: Because Island County MRC is always busy they decided to conduct a need assessment in 2017. Their mission is to work closely with county agencies to meet their needs. Barbara had face-to-face meeting with 11 department heads and their staff. Some of the feed-back included: be bold and persistent in reaching out to county employees, monitor county projects, identify research questions, provide educational outreach to county staff and build educational communication with the public.</p> <p>Island County MRC is currently working on a finfish net pen white paper to be submitted to the Commissioners in 2017. She also suggested using the public forums to leverage the MRC website.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Lunch activities is a good time to reach students or after school games. Use local community papers or neighborhood newspaper and list servers to reach local residents. Port Townsend Leader is a good way to promote events in Jefferson Co; Peninsula Daily News is another option, but at times it is difficult to get timely information in the newspaper. WDFW Facebook page or "Next Door" social media can be useful as well.</p> <p>Island County MRC has used the shoreline landowner forums to reach out to landowners. Island County MRC will be making a video to be displayed at the planning department. Suggestions were made to create a shared depository for any MRC related videos for all of the NWSI.</p> <p>A short discussion followed about how interested the MRCs should be in promoting themselves. Jeff Ward pointed out the uniqueness of the NWS Initiative and suggested that the MRCs use that when promoting their events; Ashley Mackenzie would rather see the MRCs be promoted through promotion of their projects</p> <p>Finally it was suggested that communication with county</p>		
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	<p>employees be one of the topics for the upcoming MRC conference.</p> <p>Eelgrass Discussion</p> <p><u>Jefferson</u> Lead: Dale Moses Jefferson County MRC has deployed buoys marking eelgrass protection zones and encouraging boaters to anchor outside of these zones. The public has responded very well to the buoys. Difficulties have included buoy maintenance and buoys floating away.</p> <p><u>Island</u> Lead: Kes Tautvydas Island County MRC monitors eelgrass beds through a combination of underwater videography, aerial photography, and the recent addition of multi-beam sonar. Most beds appear to be stable. Increases have occurred in only a couple areas. The new sonar data consistently corresponds to videography data and aerial data.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albert Foster invited interested individuals to accompany him on a trip to see how the sonar monitoring works. - Could sonar be used to detect derelict crab pots? Possibly. Albert can look into this further. - Any boater with the Lowrance sonar gear could upload data to BioBase account (currently funded through Island County MRC's NWSC grant). This could be a good citizen science opportunity. - Compare results with WA DNR data. <p>Are there other ways to educate the public about anchoring outside of eelgrass beds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include information for individuals obtaining Boater Education Card - Publish advertisements or an article in boaters' magazines, Waggoner Boating Guide - Get beds onto GPS charts - Utilize apps, such as Active Captain - The buoys have also served as an outreach method in getting the public aware of the Jefferson MRC and what they do - Share with County officials and departments where eelgrass beds are located - Existing video footage of eelgrass is quite low quality. Create higher quality footage and also take the opportunity to discuss anchoring outside of eelgrass zones 		
Recent Meetings Report	Deferred to next MRC meeting		
Public Comment	None.		
MRC Roundtable/Announcements	Everyone assisted with room clean-up.		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM		