

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
January 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Brenda Johnson, Chair, District 2
Troy McKelvey, Vice Chair, Recreation
Neil Harrington, Tribal
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep.
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
Liz Hoenig-Kanieski, District 1 Alt.
Joanie Hendricks, District 3 Alt
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Pam Petranek, Port of Port Townsend
Gordon King, Commercial Interest
Nam Siu, Marine Science
Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC District 2
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt.
Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend

Absent:

Sarah Fisken, District 3, NWS Alt.
Solenne Walker, District 1
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt.
Heather Burns, District 3
Janette Mestre, District 1
Brent Vadopalas, Marine Science Alt.

Guests: Barbara Moore-Lewis, Allie Simpson,
Patrick Johnson, Lucas Hart, Kevin Long, Emily
Buckner, Richard Hull, John Mauro, Steve King

Staff: Monica Montgomery, MRC Coordinator

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Brenda Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Welcomed guests and MRC members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Monica
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the Agenda. Motion to approve by Nam, which was seconded by Gordon. Approved as written. Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the December 2021 Minutes. Judy Surber had a correction to the December 2021 Minutes. Neil Harrington mentioned that during a vote for new MRC officers, the minutes need to record that the motion was passed. Neil moved to approve with corrections, which was seconded by Judy. Minutes passed as amended.	Nam moved to approve the agenda. Gordon seconded. Motion passed. Neil moved to approve the December minutes with corrections. Seconded by Judy. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Barbara Moore-Lewis – Provided a Black Point logging update. Public disclosure to track how logging occurred. County has not explained why it is actively supporting the Pleasant Harbor MPR development. Heidi – County is actively working to settle with the developer.		
ROUND TABLE Discussion of Port Townsend Marine Issues Steve King and John Mauro	City of Port Townsend Public Works Director Steve King and City Manager John Mauro North Beach sewer outfall replacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Project status - secured a Dept of Ecology loan to help with funding (\$4 million), preparing to submit permits o Jacobs Engineering is the lead consultant o Very interested in reducing costs; looking at prioritizing where to invest limited funds o Significant utility rate hike recently, factor of concern to community o Utility challenges due to aging infrastructure. Significant financial challenges cause tradeoffs. o Just received council approval for coverage under Puget Sound general nutrient permit – obligation for 		

	<p>the 1st five years is to monitor nitrogen levels monthly (currently checked annually). Wastewater plant is a very low contributor of nitrogen relative to other plants – 2 to 6 ppm (most water treatment plants >15 ppm). Designated as tier 3: required to monitor nitrogen, examine operational changes and implement physical upgrades to reduce nitrogen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RH2 Engineering hired for general sewer plant update (plant is ~30 years old); retrofitting the wastewater plant will be multimillion dollar project in the future. <p>Discussion/questions:</p> <p>Liz – Wastewater general plan scope of work questions. Will impacts of storm surge/sea level rise in the long term be evaluated? Water conservation can increase capacity at wastewater facility. Will there be a water conservation plan?</p> <p>Steve – Water conservation is mandated by the Dept of Health and is included in the water system plan (not sewer system plan). Over last 20 years, not much growth in water usage despite population growth, due to water conservation. Sea level rise impacts will be considered in the general sewer plan to the extent possible. Impacts to discharge of wastewater plant due to storm surge/sea level rise will also be considered.</p> <p>Neil – Echoed Liz's comments. Added that secondary use of water would be ideal. Time frame on general sewer plan update and outfall replacement?</p> <p>Steve – General plan slated to be completed in 2022. Nutrient loading analysis will be done later in the year, or in 2023, to collect data for analysis. Outfall has a compliance deadline. If they can get an extension to consider general sewer plan information, will take that route.</p> <p>Joan – At Gaines Street pump station does it make sense to store sewage above ground?</p> <p>Steve – Pipes are deep underground, so wet well is also underground. Wet wells can withstand sea level rise, but electronic control equipment cannot. Electrical components will need to be moved above ground (will be critical but costly). If the pump station does not work, raw sewage would spill into Port Townsend Bay.</p> <p>Nam – Why is Port Townsend investing \$4 million in antiquated technologies (outdated outfall)? If the wastewater plant were to be upgraded, the outfall itself might not need to be replaced or repaired.</p> <p>Steve – Agrees the \$4 million would likely be better spent elsewhere. Upgraded technology might be a number of years out. Would like to investigate whether slip lining to outfall might get to a temporary (~20 years) solution with environmental and financial incentives.</p> <p>Nam – Provided background on the MRC's interest in the North Beach sewer outfall. North Beach has the largest floating bull kelp bed in all of Jefferson County. In addition, understory kelp, eelgrass, and surfgrass all coalesce here, forming environmentally unique and important habitats. The MRC has been monitoring the canopy bull kelp bed here for 5+ years. Outfall replacement has a high potential to impact these habitats. Short term high-impact construction is the MRC's greatest concern (i.e., trenching 50 ft wide, 900 ft long swath for new pipe). DNR, WDFW, local Tribes, and Nam have made comments regarding the outfall 13 years ago that have yet to be addressed.</p>		
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	<p>John Mauro – At first city council meeting he attended, Nam presented outfall information and comments. Has personally seen the records and appreciates Nam’s work putting those together.</p> <p>Sea level rise, bulkhead replacement</p> <p>Steve – One main concern is eventual impacts of sea level rise and shoreline erosion from Point Hudson to Boat Haven. Looking for sources of funding to analyze community holistically for mitigation strategies. Unique position of Port Townsend as a maritime community.</p> <p>Jeff – In the future there might be abandoned property that is not maintained, could become public burden. In addition to planning/permitting, trusts could be set aside for deconstruction. Major expense not being addressed anywhere.</p> <p>John Mauro – Agreed with Jeff’s comment. Expectation exists that local municipalities will pick up the bill, which is not financially feasible for the city or public at large.</p> <p>Judy – Reached out to Padilla Bay, program for shoreline planners, training for what cities can expect when they do have to decommission a property. We can learn from other jurisdictions to understand the process and costs. Local jurisdictions are not allowed to alter state exemptions (e.g., if you can show a bulkhead is necessary to protect a home, it must be processed as an exemption). Rigorous approval for shoreline exemption permit for new bulkheads, repair of bulkheads, etc.</p>		
BoCC REPORT	<p>Commissioner Eisenhower – Update from BoCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Authorized negotiations between county and Pleasant Harbor Resort. o New Strait ERN LIO Coordinator recently hired. o Part of DNR Trust Land Transfer Work Group, redesigning the program to be a sturdier tool for the future. Also working to expand the Dabob Bay Natural Area, working with NWI and DNR to expand preserve boundary. o Heidi is now Chair of the BoCC and will be staying with the MRC. 		
Port of PT UPDATES	<p>Commissioner Petranek – Update from Port of PT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Committee assignments will be discussed next week, hopes to continue with the MRC. Hopes that more than one Commissioner can attend MRC meetings. o Capital engineer for the port will give jetty update next month. o Next week, meeting to discuss derelict vessel and recycling pilot project for derelict boats in Jefferson County (Solenne Walker is the project lead). o In Quilcene, December meeting was in-person with excellent participation. Community has expressed desire for significant changes which will involve maintenance and opening upland areas. Next meeting is 5-7pm on Feb 2 at the Quilcene Community Center. 		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	<p>NWSC Meeting (Jeff) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Funding is tied in with the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies funding appropriations bill. Waiting on Feds to pass the budget (potentially mid-February but could be delayed further). o Jackie Lindsey gave a presentation on the COASST marine debris program. The program began with looking at seabird mortality and expanded to marine debris. Go to www.coasst.org for more information or to get involved. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allie Simpson presented on the European green crab program. In Drayton Harbor, 8 crabs/100 traps set, dropped to 3.5/100 traps. Effort seems to be working. Total of about 200 crabs caught. Lummi sea pond is the site of green crab hot spot (~70,000 crabs). More information here: https://wsg.washington.edu/21-lummi-update/ 		
Administrative	<p>Brenda – Anyone from the MRC who would like to attend the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC) will be supported by the MRC this year (April 2022, virtual conference). Monica will register MRC participants as a group.</p> <p>Monica – Suggestions for 2022 guest speakers will be shared in a poll in the next follow-up email.</p> <p>Sharing resources with the MRC: how would members like Monica to distribute shared resources with MRC members?</p> <p>Brenda – The members who send resources could share information during roundtable discussion.</p> <p>Pam – Add articles of interest to blog or latest news section of MRC website, so resources are also available to the public. Gordon – Concern that if resources are posted to website, MRC might be endorsing a certain point of view or information contained within resources.</p> <p>Neil – Project related resources could be shared on MRC website.</p> <p>Monica – Emails to the committee need to be sent by MRC staff, not by individual members to the whole committee. With a quorum present and any dialogue, even in email, it is considered an official meeting and therefore subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. Monica will use a special subject line when emailing forwarded resources.</p>		All members - let Monica know if you would like to attend the SSEC by January 20th.
CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS	<p>Forge Fish Monitoring (Adelma-Jeff, Dabob-Sarah, Fort Townsend-Janette) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No monitoring in December due to daytime high tides. Storm surge has been covering the beach at Adelma. Planning to resume sampling in January. Next survey at Fort Townsend is planned for Jan 24. <p>No-Anchor Zones (Troy) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting for good weather and boat access to swap buoys with floats. <p>Mapping lost crab pots (Jeff) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side scan sonar survey planned for Discovery Bay and contractor identified. However, there is a new county contract form and required liability coverage is doubled. Preferred contractor can't meet all the requirements. Monica is working to address these issues. Contractor is applying for a NOAA Marine Debris grant to conduct side scan sonar surveys for lost crab pots in Sequim and Discovery Bays. Requested MRC to write a letter of support. Neil made a motion to approve, Betsy seconded the motion. Jeff Taylor will write letter of support. <p>Storm surge monitoring (Jeff) – Have not started monitoring yet. Next step, get together with Ian Miller, decide on what data to collect. Presentation/discussion with Clallam County to add another site to the project.</p> <p>Monica – Jeff is interested to have an intern support with data management. Monica would like an intern to help</p>	Neil made a motion to approve the MRC writing a letter of support for the NOAA grant. Betsy seconded. Motion passed.	Jeff Taylor will draft MRC letter of support for NOAA marine debris grant.

	<p>more broadly with data management across projects, including the ROV project, Olympia oyster, and forage fish surveys at Fort Townsend. Currently have MRC grant funding for an intern.</p> <p>Brenda – Need to develop description for role/responsibilities of an intern.</p> <p>Neil – Storm surge project could be a capstone project for a Master’s student and Ian Miller would be a good point person for finding a student.</p> <p>Judy – NWSF provides funding for an intern, could be part of a bigger project for the NWSF (coordinating across MRCs).</p> <p>New: Stormwater outfall monitoring (Judy) – City stormwater operations manager was contacted by a volunteer lead who is monitoring stormwater outfalls for the City of Anacortes. Volunteer contacted the City of Port Townsend, offered to help set up a monitoring program for stormwater outfalls. Requires volunteer assistance, may be something that the MRC wants to pursue in partnership with the City. Discussion with interested parties possible for February meeting.</p>		
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments – none.		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	Neil – Jamestown Shellfish Biologist is the lead on a USFWS/Tribal Wildlife grant, funding a kelp project. MRC wrote letter of support for the grant.		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. Next meeting will be February 1st.	Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Troy. Motion passed.	