

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Brenda Johnson, Chair, District 2
 Troy McKelvey, Vice Chair, Recreation
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep.
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
 Joanie Hendricks, District 3 Alt
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Carol Hasse, Port of Port Townsend
 Gordon King, Commercial Interest
 Nam Siu, Marine Science
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC District 2
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt.
 Brent Vadopalas, Marine Sci Alt
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWSC Alt.
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt.

Absent:

Janette Mestre, District 1
 Heather Burns, District 3
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
 Solenne Walker, District 1
 Liz Hoenig-Kanieski, District 1 Alt.

Guests: Allie Simpson, Elisa Dawson, Frances Robertson, Barbara Moore-Lewis

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, speakers, and MRC members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Monica
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the Agenda. Motion to approve by Troy, which was seconded by Nam. Agenda was approved.	Troy moved to approve the agenda. Nam seconded. Motion passed.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the February 2022 Minutes. Neil moved to approve, which was seconded by Sarah. Minutes passed as written.	Neil moved to approve the February minutes. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
GUEST SPEAKERS Snohomish MRC (Elisa Dawson) & San Juan MRC (Frankie Robertson and Marta Green): MRC derelict vessel removal projects	<p><u>MRC DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROJECTS</u></p> <p>Snohomish MRC: Elisa Dawson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Program background – started in 2016, funding from LIO o \$50,000 grant for planning o Over \$250,000 spent on removals since 2018 o County process: county must take legal possession of vessels and pay initial cost for removal o DNR offers 90% reimbursement of county expenditure which allows for a revolving fund to keep the program running o Removed 16 vessels since 2018 o Stakeholder meetings to identify and coordinate removal efforts o Annual boat removal process – starting 4-6 months prior to removal, a lengthy process for each vessel o Described process of contracting for boat removal (state Department of Enterprise Services or county contracting process) o Over 20 derelict vessels in Snohomish County still to be addressed o Vessels continue to show up, numbers fluctuate o Est \$1 million needed for removal o Goals: yearly large efforts with support from DNR derelict vessel removal program o Plan to focus on prevention in the future <p>San Juan MRC: Frances Robertson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Derelict vessel program ongoing since 2010 o Different types of vessels than Snohomish County; more of an emergency response 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o County removes vessels at imminent risk; for example, vessels full of dangerous/polluting materials o Removals by year: 3 vessels in 2021, 14 vessels in 2020, 2 vessels in 2019 o DNR reimbursement only available if there is funding in the state budget, otherwise counties end up footing the bill o Counties can potentially get tied up in litigation o Costs ranging from ~\$16,000 to \$50,000 (from examples given during presentation) o Towing and ungrounding = most expensive part o Sinking tugboat in a privately owned marina, responsibility of marina and not the county, estimate to remove is \$400,000 <p>Derelict Vessel Prevention Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Initiated in 2015, resumed in 2021 o Program to patrol bays, anchorages, buoys o Steps to identify and tag vessels of concern o Document effort, vessel registration, photos o Establish tracking database o Establish contact with registered owners o Prioritize vessels with no successful contact o Attach a Notice on the vessel, follow up with boat owner o Sheriff's office can issue a citation if no cooperation <p>Questions/Discussion</p> <p>Brent – How does presence of fuel, pollutants accelerate the process of removal? Elisa – Department of Ecology is notified in this situation. Ecology is the agency responsible for removing hazardous chemicals from the vessel. Ecology bills owner of the vessel. Frances – Vessel assist crews can deal with small spills. Removing large amounts of fuel is the responsibility of Ecology.</p> <p>Nam – Does ability for reimbursement roll over to next biennium if not funded in current biennium? Elisa – Before removal, Snohomish gets approved for reimbursement by DNR. Addresses vessel removal early in the biennium to get reimbursement funds. Frances – More challenging in Island County because of emergency response for vessel removal.</p> <p>Jeff - How many people in the MRC are involved? Are you ever reimbursed by owners? Elisa – MRC members give feedback on boat removal but are not highly involved (primarily staff). Letters are sent to last known owners or sheriff finds the owners. DNR seeks restitution from last known owners, and DNR reimburses the MRC.</p> <p>Carol – 13 boats from Jeff. Co. currently in the DNR demolition program. Port staff employed to break them up; 12 demolished. Statewide discussion of how can we recycle derelict vessels, instead of breaking them up and sending to the dump? Second question regarding how to prevent people from abandoning their boats. Frances – If a boat is in good condition, can be auctioned off. Elisa – In contracts that Snohomish County writes, contractor must recycle everything they can within reason. DNR would like to do a pilot recycling program. A few years ago, state passed a law requiring insurance on all vessels at point of sale. Private marinas could require insurance for all vessels.</p> <p>Heidi – Bill moving through the legislature to allocate 25% of watercraft excise tax to derelict vessel removal, support capacity of DNR to help remove vessels. DNR is working with Sea Grant to develop a pathway for recycling boats; Troy at DNR is going to move forward with an industrial scale facility to recycle wooden boats in Everett.</p> <p>Frances – Uptick in derelict vessels in 2020 related to crisis in affordable housing. People are turning to living on boats because of lack of housing and the idea that they are a cheap housing option, not realizing the costs of owning a boat. This has led to a lot of issues and dangerous situations with boats running aground.</p> <p>Bryan – Budget for DNR? How has it changed? Elisa – DNR has added language to legislation each year, have continued to ask for funding for the project. DNR has always run out of money and has always asked for more. County must be willing to front the funds for these removals, and don't recoup all the funds. Lots of good press has resulted in the county's support for the program and impetus to put funds towards it.</p>		
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BoCC REPORT	<p>Commissioner Eisenhour – Update from BoCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tracking environmental bills moving through the legislature o Shoreline Master Plan update: waiting for feedback from Ecology o Department of community development has gotten several grants from Ecology: SLR project to identify areas of risk for shoreline construction; shoreline users guide for waterfront landowners and those considering building on the waterfront o Strait ERN LIO: Kara facilitated her first meeting of the Strait ERN this week o Infrastructure funding from fed government discussions o Participating in climate change strategy workshops o State forest land issues, Dabob Bay Natural Area <p>Questions</p> <p>Betsy – Can MRC provide more efficient information to commissioners? Heidi – Reaching out to individual commissioners is recommended.</p> <p>Gordon – Is there a reason for the delay in the Ecology update? Heidi – No reason was given.</p>		
Port of PT UPDATES	<p>Commissioner Hasse – Update from Port of PT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Most controversial issue right now is the poplar removal in Port Townsend. Public infrastructure grant acquired, precipitated by PUD need to underground power lines that run through the poplars. Boat Haven could expand 25 ft toward Simms Way, get rid of the fence, replant native vegetation. Some local opposition to poplar removal. o Port and City are hiring an environmental engineer. o Poplars could be milled and used as fencing material. o Planning for feasibility study of expanding Boat Haven to the west: economic benefits, need to study environmental concerns. No shoreline impact but potential mitigation opportunities for existing wetlands. Plans to build boat yard at higher elevation because of potential SLR effects. o 3 shipwrecks on beaches this year. o Point Hudson Jetty – Section 7 for ESA compliance completed, received NEPA approval and Biological Opinion. North Jetty will be constructed first. o When South jetty replaced, the basalt rocks that make up the jetty may be dropped into the bay near the Maritime Center; deep enough that it won't restrict vessels. Hope to create a reef for rockfish, other bottom fish etc. <p>Questions/Discussion</p> <p>Gordon – Permit will be needed to move rocks (considered fill). Carol – Erin is working on rock moving. Aware it requires another permit. Diving community may move sessile creatures.</p> <p>Nam - Regarding Gordon's question, depends on agency consulted, at local, state, federal levels. May be wrapped up in one permit, because rock reef is mitigation for project's impact to bottom fish. Suggest Port reaches out to WA Scuba Alliance, divers who have expressed interest in the past and have experience relocating sessile organisms.</p> <p>Jeff – How long have there been plans for expanding into wetlands to the west of Boat Haven? Carol – New idea, first heard about this last fall. At this point it's just a feasibility study. Wetlands are a large concern, can't be sacrificed for economic expansion unless there is some way to do proper mitigation. Port is committed to protecting the environment.</p>		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	<p>NWSC Meeting (Jeff) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Science Advisory Committee – REEF program Executive Director presented about citizen science scuba diving program. Before and after data of jetty removal would be interesting. Large database of changes over time. o Annual NWSI Conference will be in La Conner, November 18-19. In person meeting this year. o European Green Crab – more interest to conducting surveys in various areas. Sea Grant is looking for volunteers. 		
Administrative	<p>Brenda: Information is disseminated to MRC members through distribution list. Check-in: continue to distribute information this way? Feedback?</p>		

	<p>Betsy – More likely to read something if it is sent via email. Several other members agree with this. Jeff – Several years ago, people objected to receiving lots of emails. MRC members are not supposed to comment on things or have discussions via email. Brenda – Proposes to keep this method and check in again.</p> <p>Monica – Federal budget approval with the congressionally directed spending funding has been postponed. Prioritization process will need to happen.</p> <p>Brenda – Process for submitting letters of support on behalf of the MRC Heidi – Understands the concern that there is short turnaround time. When there is time and MRC works as a group, get on the BoCC agenda the following week. Ideally a letter is on county letterhead and signed by commissioners. If lack of time, letter from MRC signed by the chair or staff, and share with the BoCC.</p> <p>Neil – Letter of concern regarding Navy activities on state parks was very strong with collaboration of MRC and county commissioners. Intergovernmental comments should go through commissioners. Separately, a lot of work to draft letters jointly between MRC and county, but they are effective especially when signed by county commissioners (example: grant for Jamestown Tribe's kelp restoration plans).</p> <p>Monica – Solicitation for input regarding annual report. Comments are welcomed, possibly another opportunity for comments during April monthly meeting if members are interested (report due mid-April). Located in Google Drive and emailed to MRC members.</p>	<p>MRC members, email Monica with comments or feedback on the annual MRC report.</p>	
<p>CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p>Forage Fish Monitoring – Jeff – Sampled Adelma Beach yesterday. Sarah – Sampled Dabob on February 16th, next date March 22nd. Monica – Sampled Fort Townsend SP on February 21st and March 9th will be last sampling date for the season.</p> <p>Kate Olsen will be new coordinator for the MRC forage fish monitoring program.</p> <p>No-Anchor Zones (Troy) – More clean-up and buoy installations planned for next month.</p> <p>Olympia Oysters – (Neil) PSRF survey of Olympia oyster densities on navy base, west side of Kilisut Harbor, last year. Plans to survey on Marrowstone Island this summer. Looking for beach access through private property in July. Monica – Permits for tideland work in Discovery Bay moving along.</p> <p>Mapping lost crab pots (Jeff) – Side scan sonar program for mapping lost crab pots, up to 100ft. East Jefferson anglers may be interested, will meet with group next week to seek volunteers.</p> <p>Monica – Edits to contract approved by county attorney. Will be forwarded to BoCC. May be out in late May, early June removing some crab pots.</p> <p>Storm surge monitoring (Jeff) – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Rain Gardens (Monica) – Maintenance needs were shared at the last meeting. Rain garden work party, meeting at 10 am, March 18th at Franklin & Adams Street in Port Townsend.</p> <p>Education and Outreach – (Brenda) Team met yesterday to come up with a spending plan in 2022. New ideas for tabling events. Asked by the Forever Streamfest, sponsored by garden club in Port Angeles, whether MRC wants to host a table in June. Funds have been spent on targeted advertisements in the past several years. Came up with a list of digital advertising sources to investigate. Looking at which interpretive signs need maintenance, replacement, relocation, resizing.</p> <p>Has the MRC tabled at any of the farmer's markets? Brenda – No tabling has been done at farmer's market.</p>	<p>Contact Neil if you know landowners on Marrowstone Island (west shoreline) that may be able to provide beach access for Olympia oyster surveys in July 2022.</p> <p>Volunteers needed for a rain garden work party, 10am on March 18th at Franklin & Adams St, Port Townsend.</p>	

PUBLIC COMMENT	Betsy – Marine Science Center event tomorrow to celebrate opening of space at Flagship Landing. It will take a while for PTMSC to fully move into the space, current businesses are staying for the time being. Hired a new Executive Director.		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	No announcements.		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. Next meeting will be April 5 th .	Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Betsy. Motion passed.	