

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
6-8PM on December 2, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv, Chair
 Brenda Johnson, District 2
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
 Steve King, City of PT
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science, Vice Chair
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep
 Gordon King, Commercial
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWSC Alt
 Jon Waggoner, Marine Science Alt
 Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder

Via Zoom

None

Guest Speakers

None

Absent:

Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
 Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Janette Mestre, District 1

Public

None

Staff

Katie Kowal –Water Resources Program Coordinator
 Jefferson County MRC/WSU Extension

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Betsy Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Introductions were made. Betsy read the MRC Mission Stmt	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda None	Jon W. moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Minutes None	Bryan moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments None		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS & ISSUE SUPDATES	Recent Meeting Reports & Issue Updates NW STRAITS CONFERENCE REVIEW Members shared positive feedback about the conference: • Breakout sessions on improving MRCs were valuable (question raised about whether notes would be compiled - Jeff noted no update yet, but NWSC will do a write-up) • Strong appreciation for networking opportunities and reconnecting with colleagues • Social marketing presentation was well-received • Split hotel locations made after-hours gathering difficult • Overall sentiment: inspiring to see volunteers' passion and dedication RELATED DISCUSSION: ILLEGAL BULKHEADING ENFORCEMENT Conference discussion prompted broader conversation about local enforcement challenges: • Neil and Heidi raised concern about two miles of illegal bulkheading constructed in past ten years in Island County. • It was noted that it's happening here too. • Current penalties typically limited to fines; Clallam County issued 3-year permit for Three Crabs situation • Shoreline Owner Workshop scheduled for Monday night (a general educational approach)		

	- DNR Enforcement officers (from earlier meeting) encouraged MRC to support enforcement through "see something/say something" reporting - Targeting contractor licenses (proven effective in Island County) - Jon W. shared that Island County MRC's enforcement initiative without county/city coordination created political backlash and liability concerns, ultimately forcing MRC turnover in Snohomish County. It's important to coordinate with local government before enforcement initiatives. IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL MRC ACTION ON BULKHEADING - Jon W. proposed forming an MRC advisory subcommittee to provide input and communicate with county council and state - Brenda noted Island County MRC hired consultant firm for surveys; the State currently hires someone for biennial kayak surveys of the shoreline - Members confirmed illegal bulkheading is visible throughout Jefferson County - Gordon suggested creating some educational pamphlets (it was noted the MRC already has some) Action item: Betsy asked Neil to consider taking lead on this issue; Sarah volunteered to assist. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION: - Brenda suggested this issue could tag onto the existing Shoreline Landowner Outreach subcommittee rather than creating a new one - When Betsy asked who would be interested in working with Jon on this, Brenda noted it depends on what exactly the work entails.		
PORT of PT UPDATES	Port of PT Updates (Carol Hasse) Absent		
BoCC UPDATE	BoCC Updates (Heidi) Absent		
ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES	Administrative Updates (Katie) GRANT REPORTING & PROJECT DEADLINES: - Grant reporting due next month; volunteer hours needed by Dec 22 - Education/Outreach & Rain Garden Project Summary Reports due Dec 12 2026 Annual Workplan due in January - Katie will email project leads to gather input for next year's plans (similar to last year) WSU CLASSROOM SPACE UPDATE: - Losing current WSU space due to budget cuts - January meeting will still be at WSU classroom in Hadlock - Katie has booked the Pavilion building at Point Hudson for most 2026 meetings, starting in February - Katie reviewed various space options with the group - Neil talked with Clallam MRC about a potential joint meeting; the tribe is happy to host at Red Cedar Hall MEETING TIME CHANGE - Group discussed meeting times. Point Hudson rooms are booked from 4:30-8:30pm, allowing flexibility. - Betsy proposed moving meetings to 5:30-7:30pm. Tim noted 4 members were absent for the vote.	Discussion deferred to next meeting when Heidi present. A decision was made to defer details until next meeting when scope is clearer Gordon moved to change the meeting time to 5:30-7:30pm Seconded by Neil. Motion passed. Decision to try the new time in January and get feedback from members. Betsy requested early notice be	Katie will email MRC re: start time change.

	Bylaw Amendments VOTE 1: <i>ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER</i> LANGUAGE BoCC Admin suggested the MRC remove strict <i>Robert's Rules of Order</i> language since the committee doesn't follow them to the letter. - The replacement language would use <i>Robert's Rules</i> as a general reference without being obligated to follow them strictly. - Discussion covered a few points: state law trumps bylaws regardless, other committees have already dropped this language, the MRC can still use the motion process when needed, and the group really operates on consensus. - There was also mention that the bylaws may be reviewed more thoroughly in the future; since some of them are there to meet county template requirements and isn't necessarily relevant to what the MRC actually does. Current language: <i>Robert's Rules of Order shall govern matters of procedure</i>, except as otherwise provided in these rules or in Washington state law. Proposed language: <i>Robert's Rules of Order will be used as a general reference to support orderly and fair meetings, but the committee shall not be obligated to follow them strictly</i>, except as otherwise provided in these rules or in Washington state law. VOTE 2: SECRET BALLOT TO OPEN BALLOT Betsy pointed out the bylaws currently say "Secret Ballot" but that doesn't work with open public meeting requirements. - Secret ballots are only allowed for specific closed-session issues. The change updates the language to "Open Ballot" - which means names go on the ballots and are kept on record for transparency. - Open ballots would be used when there are multiple people nominated for something or when the group can't reach consensus. Current language: 3.2 <i>Nominations of officers, the NWSC representative and NWSC alternate are from the floor and, where more than one nomination to an office is received, voting will be by secret ballot. Election of any officer, NWSC representative and alternate requires a majority of a quorum of the December meeting of the MRC or whenever the vote is held.</i> Proposed language: 3.2 <i>Nominations of officers, the NWSC representative and NWSC alternate are from the floor and, where more than one nomination to an office is received, voting will be by open ballot. Election of any officer, NWSC representative and alternate requires a majority of a quorum of the December meeting of the MRC or whenever the vote is held.</i>	sent to members about the time. Neil moved to amend the bylaws to swap current language for proposed language. Seconded by Emily. Motion passed Emily moved to amend the bylaws to swap current language for proposed language. Seconded by Bryan D. Motion passed	
LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST (DNR)	Letter of Support Request (DNR) Betsy The MRC has been asked to write a Letter of Support for the Trust Land Transfer of some state forest lands. The letter is nearly complete and will be discussed at the January meeting. Betsy noted that it's very straightforward.		
GRANT PROJECT UPDATES	Grant Project Updates FORAGE FISH (Sarah) Sarah, Tim C. & Troy sampled last month in Quilcene & Dabob last week. OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay & Killisut Harbor		

	- Need a meeting in late December to create the work plan for next year. - PSRF, Maritime center & tribe are working together to install Oyster settling tanks. They will be installed in January. BULL KELP KAYAK MONITORING (Emily) - Brenda and Emily met with NWSC to review data collected from Kayak surveys last year. A physical meeting is good to ensure that their GIS mapping reflects what we saw this year. - They will have their annual summary meeting of the 2025 Survey Data in January/February 2026. We will receive details soon. Everyone is welcome. EELGRASS BUOYS (<i>Troy absent, Katie gave update</i>) - Katie reported the DNR Right of Entry license was approved - The buoy in Hadlock closest to the dock is sinking - may have water in it. Gordon plans to check on it soon but couldn't get to it before the meeting. - Buoys in PT need to be hauled out, but weather and King tides make it difficult this time of year. - Bryan reported they received a permit for an additional buoy near Bayview restaurant, where there's a large eelgrass bed RAIN GARDENS (<i>Janette absent, Katie gave update</i>) - Janette has a landscaper helping with maintenance - Working to get new rain garden sign orders in before end of year EDUCATION & OUTREACH (<i>Brenda</i>) - Brenda said the committee needs to meet and encouraged MRC members to provide input. Would be good to get feedback on this year's Wooden Boat Festival about what could be improved for next year. - Betsy just received an email from Barb Traylor about planning for next year. - Two potential speakers have already reached out. - NWSC has asked the committee to write something about the relationship between the MRC and the Marine Science Center for NWSC's next newsletter		
OTHER MRC PROJECTS	Other MRC Projects SATELLITE IMAGERY (Jeff) Nothing to report. STORM SURGE - Monitored two weeks ago; data not entered into Sound IQ as of yet. - King Tide is forecasted for this weekend. ROV CRAB POTS (Tim) - Students are working out project details - Tim talked with Students for Sustainability about getting kids involved in local environmental projects like rain gardens and trail systems -- trying to arrange for them to come do a presentation - Tim reported a PT High School Junior is interested in the Youth Rep position		
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS	Executive Committee Elections NOMINATIONS Chair: - Gordon nominated Neil - Jeff nominated Emily, though she noted she won't be available for Chair duties for the entire year. Vice Chair: - Neil said he's willing and asked if anyone else was interested.		

	NWSC Rep - Brenda nominated herself. - Jeff nominated Sarah, but Sarah declined. - Jeff then nominated himself. NWSC Rep Alt: Sarah nominated herself. BALLOT VOTE & RESULTS Chair: Emily elected Vice Chair: Neil elected NWSC Rep: Tie between Brenda and Jeff NWSC Rep Alt: Sarah elected	Betsy asked the group how they'd like to move forward on breaking the tie vote. Group consensus was to redo the vote at the January meeting.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments None		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	MRC Round Table / Announcements STORAGE SPACE ISSUES: - Katie reported they're losing their current storage space - Plan is to shift materials to the basement storage area for regularly accessed items - Twin Vista (WSU property on Marrowstone) will be used for items accessed less often, though volunteers don't have direct access - General discussion on storage logistics Future Agenda Topics POTENTIAL SPEAKERS - Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe MRC - could give a rundown of all their natural resources projects - Randy Johnson volunteered to speak at some point, possibly in January - Emily noted they've been working on a more structured plan for scheduling speakers Other Updates: - Steve King shared that the DOE Wastewater approved the Revised Engineering Report for the North Beach Outfall - now seeking funding - General discussion about the format and relevance of member updates during meetings. It was mentioned that updates from different districts are important and members are interested in them. Members also interested in updates from the City of PT and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. - Emily noted the MRC Roundtable section could be used to highlight these updates - Group discussed how members can report concerns or observations from their districts - either bringing them to the MRC in its advisory capacity or directly to county commissioners. Reference made to avoiding issues like what happened in Island County (<i>see earlier bulkhead discussion</i>). Duckabush Restoration - Construction timeline: FY2026 working on budget issues, construction begins in 2027 - Funding: 65% Federal, 35% State - Three phases: permitting, real estate, and funding		

FINAL

	Gordon noted the area has significant failing septic system issues UPCOMING EVENTS Shore Friendly Workshop Dec 8th, 4:00 – 6:00 pm Jefferson Co. Library		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm Next meeting will be January 6, 2026, WSU Classroom, Port Hadlock	Betsy adjourned the meeting.	