

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
5:30 – 7:30 PM on February 3, 2026
Hybrid Meeting
Pavilion Bldg, Point Hudson (355 Hudson St.)
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
Troy McKelvey, Recreation
Janette Mestre, District 1
Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Brenda Johnson, District 2, NWSC Rep
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Emily Buckner, Marine Science, Chair
Jeff Taylor, District 2,
Gordon King, Commercial
Neil Harrington, Tribal, Vice-Chair
Jon Waggoner, Marine Science Alt
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
Steve King, City of PT
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
Odhran Waggoner, Local Youth
Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder

Absent:

Tim Cross, District 3 Alt

Public

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Staff

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

Via Zoom

Sarah Fiskén, District 3, NWSC Alt

Guest Speakers

Steve King (Director of Public Works) and Emma Bolin (Director of Planning and Community Development), City of Port Townsend

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Emily Buckner called the meeting to order at 5:32PM She noted that next month there will be more time for introductions as we have new members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
GUEST SPEAKERS from City of Port Townsend: Steve King, Director of Public Works Emma Bolin, Director of Planning and Community Development	City of PT Update - Briefing on 2025 Accomplishments and Looking Ahead to 2026 Work COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2025 Comprehensive Plan approved by City Council 12/29/2025, addresses critical community needs for the next 20 years with emphasis on housing density, open space, transportation, and environmental sustainability. Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe shortage of multi-family and low-income affordable housing • Current mix is 65% single-family residential (SFR); future target is 85% multi-family • Recent progress: significant ADU increase in 2023 (now up to 6 units per lot), uptick in tiny homes on wheels, and newly allowed manufactured home subdivisions Paradigm Shift: Comp Plan Min. Density – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving from regulating maximum density to requiring minimum density, addressing historic underbuilding • Current inefficiency: 80 miles of roads for 10,000 people creates sprawl and excessive infrastructure costs • The 1890 plats anticipated 25-30K people; old model has about 3 people per acre • The 1997 Comprehensive Plan identified these issues but never acted; the 2025 plan set regulations to achieve density goals 		

	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce tax burden on the community and development pressure outside the urban growth area • Save 375 acres of open space through the Sustainable Streets Plan <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <p>Accessibility and Shoreline Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Transportation Plan addressing ADA accessibility through DASH (disability awareness) program • Developing ADA connected routes for wheelchair and visually impaired users • LAN created network of connectivity • SMP regulates shorelands including saltwater environments, Kah Tai and Chinese lagoon • Climate resiliency elements address greenhouse gas emissions, food resilience, and sea level rise <p>Comp. Plan Transportation Focus Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Transportation Plan focuses on connectivity to reduce vehicle miles traveled • Housing focus: attainable and affordable housing to reduce commuting and greenhouse gas emissions • Job count and traffic volume have both decreased since 2005 • Sustainable Streets Plan focuses on minimum size and number of streets; could save 375 acres of open space • Changed to support active transportation and transit rather than building bigger streets • Major shift; not many cities in the state have done this • We have the history to do it. Change the way we implement the intent. <p>CAO (Critical Areas Ordinance) - Spring 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City received DOE grant to finish SMP and CAO • Amendments in spring 2025 to ensure consistency with SMP update • 2026 code updates change definitions of "lot areas" to exclude critical areas and buffers, reducing development pressure <p>SMP (Shoreline Master Plan)</p> <p>Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE grant through Shoreline Competitive Grants Program enables City to complete the SMP • Will streamline permitting and merge waterwalk with SLR and King Tide Adaptation • Added breakwater standards to Shoreline Permitting process • City's #1 strategy is living shorelines; north shore is prime candidate for soft armory <p>Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing SMP doesn't include standards for breakwaters • Looking at options for breakwaters especially for historic district • Added sections to SMP to allow these into Shoreline Permitting process <p>Living Shorelines Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City's #1 strategy is living shorelines • Sea level rise mitigation and risk study shows flood ahead with sea level rise. Specifically looking at downtown areas; downtown is high enough until you add wave action • King Tides group monitors trifecta of wind and low pressure at Marine Science Center monitoring point <p>SMP Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use mother nature's processes in a highly manipulated environment. Looking at reefs and other environmental options • Currently no way to permit this <p>SMP Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council approved update in 2025 but not yet implemented 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE has reviewed and offered comments but not officially filed • Previous SMP banned aquaculture; current one allows it <p>OPEN SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PT is at 51% publicly accessible open space including right-of-way's; most cities are not that high • City calling on JC Land Trust to buy the rest of Cappy's trails to preserve it forever • Open Space PROS (Park, Recreation and Open Space) Plan update underway <p>PROJECTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympic Discovery/Larry Scott Trail: looking at options for ferry terminal access; requested to move mile marker zero to ferry terminal • Evans Vista: housing development project with 321 units • WWTP outfall: funded at \$3.5 million (down from \$4M); permitting this year, build next year • Lawrence St. Sewer Separation: \$3 million grant to remove stormwater from sanitary sewer, reducing overflow risk to PT Bay • Olympic Gravity Water System: Lord Lake east dam rehabilitation • PT Paper Mill now pays for water; saved 10% since doing so • Wastewater Plant upgrades <p>Additional Questions:</p> <p><i>How to balance protecting downtown core with preventing new development in at-risk areas near Safeway?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In SMP controlled shoreline jurisdiction (one side of Water Street), you won't be able to build new but can add on • Historic preservation district prevents new construction • Around Coop area: have to raise 2 feet to build to get out of flood plain • Kah Tai is protected area; couldn't install breakwater there <p><i>How to find out more about PT Paper Mill agreement?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The URL will be sent out • City did many studies and is working with the Mill this year, which will help ensure water sustainability for the future. 		
<p>AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p>	<p>Amendments to / Approval of Agenda The County recommended removing times from the agenda.</p> <p>Emily noted that the funding opportunities will be discussed after Brenda's NWSC meeting update.</p> <p>Amendments to / Approval of Minutes Neil noted revisions are needed on the notes on his presentation from last month. Katie suggested that he email them to her and we will approve two sets of minutes.</p> <p>Emily said that January minutes will be approved at March's meeting.</p>	<p>Neil moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jon W. Motion passed.</p> <p>January minutes will be reviewed for Neil's changes, and approved at March 3 meeting.</p>	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>Public Comments No comments.</p>		
<p>PORT of PT UPDATES</p>	<p>Port of PT Updates (Carol Hasse)</p> <p>Breakwater repair and Tideland Acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port is fully funded for breakwater repair • Foreclosure auction: Port bought that tideland. From Point Hudson to Fort Worden there is now only one privately owned tideland <p>Saltwater Estuary Restoration and Stormwater Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveling to Olympia for Port Maritime Days; lobbying for \$2 million request for this project 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enable expansion of Boatyard (behind Shipwrights Coop towards the Mill); restore 5 acres of saltwater estuary that existed before railroad was built. • It will clean the Sims Way stormwater and improve SLR (sea level rise) resiliency • Reconnect acres of wetland • Open up culverts in Larry Scott trail. New trail spur will connect to Haines Place Park and Ride • Boatyard currently operating at capacity • This will expand the boatyard by 1.7 acres <p>Gardiner Bay Boat Ramp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Float was removed for winter • Going back in soon <p>Herb Beck Boat Launch in Quilcene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is moving forward • Design is about 60% finished <p>Emily added that there will be a Port presentation at April's meeting</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATE</p>	<p>BoCC Updates (Heidi)</p> <p>CAO (CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE) WORKSHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff presentation showed significant cleanup work • Making ordinance internally consistent • Addressing cumulative effects of language that had unforeseen consequences <p>Update of Geological Hazardous Areas code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added restrictions to the public facilities and utilities placed in landslide, tsunami and seismic areas. <p>Lot site potential tree height:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended larger standard buffer • Very complex due to different tree species growing to different heights. There isn't a lot of history on limits on tree height <p>New terminology, Agriculture</p> <p>The Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) being finalized is the first step of the CAO + COMP Plan+ SMP "trifecta" she has been working on for two years.</p> <p>OLYMPIA LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY</p> <p>Heidi has been in Olympia frequently working on: Tort reform and the Derelict Vessel bill</p> <p>Derelict Vessel Bill (HB2129):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: Hard to track down owners of derelict vessels • Bill would streamline the time to get DV out of the water • The bill, proposed by Kitsap County is moving forward • Executive session tomorrow; Heidi testified last week • Registration updates would be required every two years or boat will be declared derelict <p>UPCOMING MEETING:</p> <p>March 2nd: Critical Areas Ordinance meeting</p>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE SUPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Recent Meeting Reports and Issue Updates</p> <p>NWSC MONTHLY MEETING UPDATE (Brenda)</p> <p>Skagit County MRC Presentation - Kids on the Beach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six schools involved with teachers • Running program for all age groups, grades 8-12 • Standing invitation to visit them in the field during school year <p>Presentation by Todd Woodard, Samish Nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was on the Kelp panel at NWSC conference couple years ago, compelling speaker • They have a new boat to corral creosote logs • Active in all areas of San Juans 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available on Samish Nation website <p>Legislative Update—Proposed Derelict Vessel Bill HB2129:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces time from 75 days to 45 days (not as previously stated) <p>Legislative Update—Proposed “OnBuoy” Bill HB2395: OnBuoy is similar to VRBO: reserve a private buoy or dock overnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern: converting residential mooring buoys to commercial use OnBuoy website describes NWSF as a partner, displays the NWSF logo and emphasizes they are pro-environment. OnBuoy says they turn some of their fee over to restoration organizations Killisut Harbor is the only one in our area (mile north of Mystery Bay) Question: Does the tribe have strong feelings about the buoys? The Tribe is concerned about proliferation of buoys, especially non-permitted ones <p>https://www.onbuoy.com/help/general-faqs/5/what-is-onbuoy</p> <p>Commission Website Platform Switch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switching to new platform called Drupal (very ADA compliant) County has until April 2027 (because population under 50K) <p>Update from PSP Deputy Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public is invited to provide comments regarding the 2026-2030 Action Agenda For more information, please google “Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda” Puget Sound Day on the Hill: week of April 13th <p>https://www.psp.wa.gov/2026AAupdate.php</p> <p>Additional Funding Available - \$20K Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$140K leftover from 2023 NOAA grant. Distributed equally between all MRCs; \$20K to each Project must be completed by December 2026; can be a new project or enhance an existing one Feb 23rd: draft due for next MRC meeting Deadline: March 17th; Commission approves projects March 27th <p>Project Ideas Discussed:</p> <p><i>Rain Gardens:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several existing ones need to be dug out and rebuilt before adding new ones Need a partner if new ones installed; "shovel ready" requires getting quotes Equipment being acquired for RG assessment; MG has a list of potential sites <p><i>Shoreline Armory Research:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS parcel analysis of which properties removed armor/made changes Island County MRC did similar work with good results DOE doing sound-wide map but data not yet released \$20K may not be enough; possibly phase it over two years County Commissioner on board; would need to contract GIS analysis <p><i>Backscatter Survey of Kelp:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solenne Walker studying kelp at North Beach to build evidence for protected designation Costs \$50K; not "shovel ready" - better suited for a future grant cycle <p><i>Crab Pots ROV with Students:</i></p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young students out on boat • Cost was \$21K • Requires a lot of advance planning <p>Two Leading Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain Gardens • Protection Island kelp work <p>Next Steps: Jeff and Janette to work with Katie to develop proposals; discuss further at retreat if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC can make decision • Feb 23rd deadline for draft <p>Storage Discussion (Gordon): MRC doesn't have storage for buoys; of potentials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDFW might have extra storage • MRC has 15 buoys • Potential to buy shed for buoys and put it in County maintenance yard in Hadlock • Katie will explore 		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p>Administrative Updates (Katie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Logistics - brief discussion on logistics: chairs, set up. • Classroom update, working to find a location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage location will be determined mid-late February; volunteers needed to help move boxes. • Reviewed 2026 subcommittees • PS Partnership action agenda update 		
<p>GRANT PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<p>Grant Project Updates</p> <p>FORAGE FISH (Sarah) Dabob, Quilcene Marina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampled last month in both locations <p>OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay and Kilisut Harbor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held subcommittee meeting: good discussion and work plan • Emily noted that projects will be discussed in more depth next month <p>BULL KELP (Jon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week, Jon met with Jeff Whitty and other MRCs. They reviewed data and heard presentations from those doing 'real science in kelp beds. He noted that the other MRC's work and our MRC efforts mutually complement each other. • In April, Jon will pick dates for kelp monitoring by kayak. He's hoping to find an education lead that can talk kelp and kelp habitat, in keeping with adding more outreach. Betsy expressed interest. More discussion next month <p>NO ANCHOR ZONE BUOYS (Troy and Gordon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troy went to Hadlock and could only find three buoys, which are still in good shape. They will need to go out again with divers. • Katie said they have a new buoy to install by the ferry. <p>RAIN GARDENS (Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update <p>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Brenda/Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda noted that Betsy is doing Education/Outreach this year. • Betsy said that she would like Education/Outreach to meet more often than in the past--even if it's just a zoom. 		
<p>OTHER MRC PROJECTS</p>	<p>Other MRC Projects</p> <p>SATELLITE IMAGERY (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update <p>STORM SURGE (Jeff)</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update <p>ROV CRAB POTS (Tim/Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff was invited to talk about the ROVs at the Seattle Aquarium. He also mentioned that at holiday parties this year, many people knew all about the Sea Dragons (Underwater Robotics Team), but didn't realize the MRC had anything to do with it. <p>SHORELINE OWNER OUTREACH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quilcene – bulkhead removal moving forward, consultant proposals to NWSF are due 2/10 		
PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>None</p>		
FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS	<p>Future Agenda Topics</p> <p>SPEAKERS UPDATE (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March we will discuss projects in more depth. April/May/June are lined up for speakers Working to line up speakers for the Fall. Discussion paused on Shoreline Armoring in the interest of time. 		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>MRC Round Table Announcements</p> <p>ADVISORY ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR Letter for Dabob Bay Expansion has been approved by BoCC and submitted. <p>CONNECTIVITY FAIR – Countywide event for local organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 28th— Fort Worden MRC needs to be registered by February 13 Frank said they engaged 50-60 people last year The event is geared towards connecting with other organizations in our county, rather than the public. Emily asked for volunteers to table at the event and many expressed interest. Ideas were suggested for the event display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heidi suggested bringing Eelgrass buoys for the table. It was noted that the tables that stood out at past events had something large and physical. Jeff asked about the status of getting a monitor. They had discussed having video for this project. <p>OYSTER SETTLING TANKS AT NW MARITIME CENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank mentioned that he saw the oyster settling tanks at the NWMC and thought they were amazing. He had no idea they were so sophisticated. Wonderful opportunity for signage/education for the public. Ryan Crim will be speaking at the June meeting and the MRC will get a tour of the facility after the meeting. <p>EVENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Kelly will give a talk about underwater sponges and sea creatures. 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 15th Wheeler Theater, Fort Worden Jeff noted there is a very good exhibit called <i>Exquisite Creatures</i> across from the ferry in downtown Seattle. 		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS			
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm	Emily adjourned the meeting.	