

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
6-8PM on June 3, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Troy McKelvey, Recreation
Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
Neil Harrington, Tribal
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv, Chair
Jon Waggoner – Marine Science Alt
Emily Buckner, Marine Science, Vice Chair
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep
Gordon King, Commercial
Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Sarah Fiskén, District 3, NWSC Alt
Akeyla Behrenfeld, Local Youth Representative
Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder

Absent:

Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
Janette Mestre, District 1

Via Zoom

Brenda Johnson, District 2

Public

Emily Bishop, former MRC member

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.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda Heidi arriving at 6:30 so BoCC update will be later Amendments to / Approval of Minutes None	Neil moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Jon. Motion passed. Jon moved to approve the May minutes. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None		
GUEST SPEAKER	No guest speaker at this meeting		
PORT of PT UPDATES	PORT of PT UPDATES (Carol) BLUE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE SUMMIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informative & exciting. Many potential partnerships between MRC & Blue Schools for Youth. Helps them be aware of opportunities in the marine trades. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port is in middle of the strategic planning session Updating and adding to the strategic plan Particularly in environmental things. <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not big turnout But there is a chance for input on the Port website Input on what/where you would like to see the Port be more active/involved. <p>GARDINER BOAT LAUNCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is proceeding. The Port will come under bid using a local contractor: Van Ness Construction. Boat launch will open access to Discovery Bay – only public access available on Discovery Bay. Float dock, ADU accessibility, improved parking lot, outhouse, kayaks can be launched there. Gordon asked about the current float dock. Carol responded that the current float dock is old and in poor condition. This new dock will be a big improvement for accessibility. <p>STORMWATER SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to be completed by middle of next month Will make Port more compliant in “rain garden way instead of chemical treatment way” System will cover current boatyard, and the expansion towards Sims Way where power poles will go underground—which is much safer for folks in boat yard. Also covers expansion West towards paper mill <p>PoPT WINS AWARDS FOR POINT HUDSON BREAKWATER PROJECTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Community Engagement Award by WPPA (WA Public Ports Assoc.) Another award by the Pacific Coast Congress & Harbormasters <p>FOILING FERRY TEST RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Saturday Carol & other commissioners will get a test ride on an electric Foiling Ferry. Can accommodate up to 30 people Potential for vessel to be available to our community Could work well with the Blue Schools initiative, for the students to travel from port-to-port. <p>QUESTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jon W. asked if the Gardiner boat ramp had gone out to bid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol responded that it was won by a local company Van Ness Construction– theirs was the lowest bid Jon was interested in copy of the bid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol suggested Jon contact Matt Klontz. 		
BoCC UPDATE	<p>BoCC UPDATE (Heidi)</p> <p><i>NOTE: Heidi's update occurred later in the meeting (approx. 1 hour later) after the Wooden Boat Festival update. This update remains in the usual section for ease of future reference.</i></p> <p>NO UPDATES ON SMP (Shoreline Master Program)</p> <p>COMPREHENSIVE PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently up for periodic review Encouraged members to look at the Aquaculture sections on the DCD website- https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1708/2025-Periodic-Update Two pages, beginning on p. 204 of the plan document directly address Aquaculture. No deadline currently, it's been out for about a month. There are other sections if you want to scan Table of Contents as a citizen of Jefferson County 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a big, 10-year plan for our County. • County just went to a MODERATE burn level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One month earlier than in the past. ○ Up to 3' x 3' recreation fire in your yard ○ No weed burners and no big brush fires ○ Conditions are earlier & drier than in the past. • Fireworks are only allowed in the County from midnight July 3 – July 5th and New Year's Eve. Not completely restricted until HIGH fire danger. • Next year: July 4' 2026, the 250th anniversary <p>STRAIT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION NETWORK MEETING June 26th at Red Cedar Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New coordinator Angela sending out good newsletter from the Strait ERN. Contact her to share events to include in newsletter. <p>TWO SPECIFIC SITE ISSUES:</p> <p>PLEASANT HARBOR MASTER PLAN RESORT (BLACK POINT)</p> <p>BIG QUILCENE RIVER BRIDGE WORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamestown S'Klallam tribe is working to allow for natural grading of the flood plain there. • Both are huge projects for our community. • Heidi asked MRC members to "lean in and pay attention to what's happening with these issues". • Neil asked about the status on Black Point. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heidi: they been trying to approve Building Permits for the past year. Finally the Commissioner's office had to write them a memo. It's on the County website ○ Heidi mentioned that some people have called it a "love letter from the Commissioners to the Developer". But on page 3 of the letter, it's spelled out what each party has done. They are trying to lay out the process for the developer, but it's getting a lot of attention right now. • Betsy asked what Environmental Impact Study needs to be done. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heidi said it was before her time as a Commissioner, so she's not sure. ○ Neil said it's a big document. Elk is an issue. Watered pasture will make them more likely to cross the road. • Heidi noted she will reach out to MRC members if something needs a closer look. 		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	<p>NWSC MEETING UPDATE (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hansi Hals, NR director Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, welcomed us and gave an overview of the Tribe's environmental projects. Randy Johnson Clallam BOCC also gave a welcome message • Feature speaker was Jake Beattie from the NW Maritime Center who gave a talk on Blue Schools. • I think Blue Schools could be a possible home for community crab pot removal using ROVs. • Dana Oster presented the Anchor Out program. It is an education/outreach program for protecting eelgrass. • I don't think I mentioned it but LaTrisha Suggs gave a talk on MRC's as advisory bodies. Clallam recently sent a paper on shoreline protection at 3 Crabs to the BOCC. <p>Strategic plan wordsmithing took about ½ of the meeting time - The primary topic of the meeting was presenting the draft strategic plan to NWStraits commissioners.</p>		

	<p>JULY POTLUCK (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially July 23rd Since there is no meeting in July, in the past we've had a picnic at someone's house. Details out soon 		
ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES	<p>Administrative Updates (Katie)</p> <p>Grant proposal submitted and will hear back by July</p> <p>Emily asked if anyone has emailed about the youth rep position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie hasn't received any emails. She has an idea about someone. Emails. <p>Carol asked Katie for a reminder of what grant was submitted. Katie replied that we're asking for money from the NWSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two grants, One application One time grant program (OTGP) 2026-2027 Shoreland 2025-2027 <p>Betsy reminded everyone that the MRC can also apply for grants from other sources than NWSC.</p>		
GRANT PROJECT UPDATES	<p>Grant Project Updates</p> <p>FORAGE FISH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampled last weekend at Dabob & Quilcene on Friday, 5/30 <p>OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay & Killisut Harbor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000 bags were emptied last Tuesday, 5/27 in Discovery Bay A European Green Crab was caught – 88mm Total of 2500 bags put out this year There was discussion re: concerns of European Green Crab eating Olympia Oysters Tim & Neil met with Port Ludlow resident Peter Joseph –met him at Port Ludlow (down by the Totem Pole) at the Pacific Oyster bed. Neil did not see any evidence of Olympia Oysters there. They went to the end of Picnic Point, there was a nice beach that had seepage on it, there is potential for a small-scale restoration of Olympia Oysters there. They may do a survey of the entire Port Ludlow area, but Neil's guess is that the area may have been excavated/logged in the past. He is intrigued with the site. This is a question for WDFW – Port Ludlow may be in the same genetic area as Killisut. He's not sure of the permitting. June 26th 1:00 pm Population survey in Discovery Bay (Powerlines) June 14th Bryan & Neil to do an Eelgrass survey <p>BULL KELP KAYAK MONITORING (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted speakers on Bull Kelp Underwater Forest & North Beach Buoy at PT Library last Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 people showed up (raining and post Pet Parade). 30 min for speakers Jeff Whitty from NWSC & PSRF folks 30 min for Q&A, ran late with many questions. Plugged MRC & volunteer opportunities A lot of interest. Emily noted that her & Katie's advertising efforts paid off well. <p>FIRST KAYAK SURVEY this month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, June 29th 1:30 pm, North Beach (1 – 1.5 hours) Emily will get waivers ASAP for paperwork <p>EELGRASS BUOYS (Troy)</p>		

OTHER MRC PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential maintenance workday sometime next month. Date unspecified yet, but it will happen. Gordon said they need Bryan to help with the GPS Jon W asked if they see someone anchored in eel grass buoys should they notify someone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah suggested to take a picture. Carol suggested talking to Kristian, the Harbormaster. He was going out to anchored boats and was leaving material with them re: derelict vehicle's etc. but she wasn't sure how often Jon said he would talk to the boat operator. Gordon asked if we have a compelling pamphlet to give to people. Jeff mentioned that NWSC has a pamphlet available – New Anchor Out campaign Katie said compliance is voluntary Jon said he was mainly interested in the guidelines. Katie suggested taking a photo and sending it to her, and they'll keep it as part of MRC records. Betsy said it makes sense to get the Eelgrass brochures to the Port so they have something to give out. Frank said it was rare to see someone inside the Eelgrass buoys. <p>RAIN GARDENS (Katie for Jeanette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up party this Saturday June 7th Garfield & Adams Betsy asked who could volunteer for clean-up party. <p>ROV CRAB POTS (Jeff, Tim B.) <i>see above</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff showed slides of the ROV trip. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cockpit with four monitors (two were laptops) showing different views. Jon W shared how one pot was surrounded by kelp, but showed up in sonar very clear. Operator was able to pick it right up. ROV has a grappling hook worth \$1000. It's a very expensive ROV. They had grant money, so they decided to hire Ben Griner who has ROV experience, Tim B was the co-lead. And then they got the Robotics Club. They had students every day. Jason Morgan came out—was an educational event for him. Gordon asked about the current <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff said the ROV is fine, but the tether has a lot of drag. It works in bad weather, but the divers can't. On Saturday, the weather was too windy for professional divers. Everyone that came out was able to fly it. The ROV went 25-30 meters deep, the deepest was PT Bay Couldn't go to Discovery Bay because of the weather. They got 37 pots total. Jeff said that figuring out what to do with the pots is another project. Emily: Do you submit data out to anyone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff: WFDW, MRC, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Gordon: How much did the day cost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie gave the total cost of the project at about \$23000 The insurance was \$1200 per day Carol shared that she was impressed at how professional Ben & Mike were. The ROV arm broke two times, but they were very patient. He had great communication with students. Very enthusiastic about everything. Jeff said this is an ongoing project and other MRC's are interested in this work. He showed the stack of pots they retrieved. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim B. said at one point they lost the ability to find where the ROV was (that device had broken). They only had sonar to find it. The sonar on the ROV costs about \$11,000, so it is pretty affordable. Jeff shared that Ben Griner is working to get a community-based grant. We lose about 12,000 pots per year, Jason finds about 1,000 per year. He may get a grant because of the environmental impact. Jon said this could be a great opportunity to involve high schools and the Maritime Academy. The Tribes could also be involved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon suggested that maybe the community could get a boat that could be shared by various organizations. Betsy asked if there were any student comments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akeyla said that everyone she talked to loved it. Jon shared that two freshmen who came on Friday were very shy at first, but by the end were almost fighting over driving it. Tim mentioned that Ben Griner said this becomes a maintenance thing if it happens every year. Then it becomes a small project, rather than a huge project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben showed Tim all of the targets in Sequim & Discovery Bay...there are thousands of them. 7,000 in just Sequim Bay. Carol asked if chemicals from tires was an issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Betsy & Neil said it was produced from UV and wear of the tires (on the ground). <p>STORM SURGE (Jeff) None</p> <p>EDUCATION & OUTREACH (Sarah, Brenda, Betsy)</p> <p>DIGGING FOR DINNER 5/18 EVENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great turnout, beautiful weather It was several hours long. Inspiring to see so many repeat attendees People appreciated the guidance and Camille brought five other people from WDFW Thanked MRC members for helping out. She wishes it could happen more than once a season, along with 'Searching for Seaweed'. WDFW folks and Jefferson County Environmental Health Dept have their hands full in the Spring with the super low tide, they were exhausted, but this is worth doing. Public needs educational events like this. <p>SUPPLY INVENTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah, Betsy & Brenda went through the closet. Brenda will give Katie the list. Brenda and Katie have met re: Education & Outreach strategies & materials they've used in the past. Hopefully meeting again this month as an E & O subcommittee to fine tune it. Emily commented that events like this are important for the community. She mentioned a Tik Tok video about clamming on Shine tidelands that drew nearly 1,000 people. WDFW did a survey afterwards. It was pandemonium. A reminder that these events are popular and worthwhile. Tim Cross said that Indian Island was nuts this last weekend when he went for a European Green Crab workday. WDFW staff was trying to pitch in and help harvesters. They had to contact the Sheriff's Dept. for double parked cars, etc... It was a mess. Everyone discussed continuing the conversation with WDFW re: the need for more education. Neil said someone from WDFW enforcement would be a good a speaker in Oct/Nov. 		
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	<p>EVENTS (Sarah)</p> <p>SHRIMP FEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers • June 21, 9am-6pm • 6:00 PM Tabling ends/Street dance <p>CRABBER OUTREACH 101: CATCH MORE CRAB</p> <p>June 25, 6pm-8pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 25th • 6 -8 pm <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Morgan • Liz Tobin • Daniel Sund • Troy McKelvey <p>WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy handed out a draft schedule for review and noted that the times may shift around. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Trying to keep lunch hour open to give people a break. • Table & booth: Thinking about the best way to keep it as clear as possible to people that the MRC booth and stage are both MRC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Placement of tent? ◦ Orientation of tent to table? ◦ Details to be figured out. <p>BOCC UPDATE by Heidi occurred at this time. Notes on the update are above in usual space.</p> <p>OTHER MRC PROJECTS</p> <p>SHORELINE LANDOWNER OUTREACH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>DERELICT VESSELS (Brenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing new • Blue Schools interest in helping MRC increase “eyes on the water”. Brenda and Solenne Walker met with them and they were going to take it to their higher-level managers. She hasn’t heard back. She’s not sure if it will happen or not. <p>DEI UPDATES (Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily and Neil did meet with Tonya, but passing on update until next time. <p>REMOTE IMAGING (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is making a proposal to make it an MRC project • A “no grant” project • Troy asked what makes it a “no-grant’ program • Jeff said they’re not using grant money on it • Emily asked what NWSC needs to do it. • Jeff said they are currently mapping the project and the NWSC has asked they make it more available with images, etc. Those are large files and for now they are using Dropbox. • The SoundIQ project was under the City of Bellingham, but now it needs a place to “land” – hoping to upload this data to SoundIQ at a later date • Betsy said MRC needs a written description before they can vote on it. Others agreed. • Thinks it’s a great idea but need more details. • Tabled for a vote in August • Carol: NODC group Karen Affeld runs that organization. They just received a five-year commitment to have a Coastal Management Fellow. That person’s job is to monitor Storm Surge and talk to shoreline residents about their septic systems and breakwaters, etc... 		
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Remote Imaging no-grant proposal tabled for a vote until August.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This could really be an asset with valuable information and statistics for MRC. • Carol shared the Peninsula Daily News Rainfall Statistics. Port Townsend is 2.5" behind Forks is 10" behind Port Angeles is 8" behind Sequim is on target 		
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments None		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	Future Agenda Topics / Speaker Suggestion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily acknowledged that Executive Committee has been working to get speakers for Fall. They invited someone for August to do talk about Sewer Outfall. They are currently working on a line up for Oct/Nov/Dec. Sea level rise, State Parks, etc... • Katie bought up the Joint meeting suggestion with Clallam MRC. An opportunity to share what we're doing with Clallam. • Neil said that meeting at Red Cedar Hall is a possibility. Contact him if it should be reserved. • Bryan noted that Akeyla B. did her Senior presentation on work that she did with MRC. • Betsy: Washington Service Corp has cancelled all AmeriCorps services for the state of WA. Significantly affects the Marine Science Center. Their stipends, health insurance, it's all gone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heidi suggested that we write to our legislators • Seal Pup season – look for live seal pups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential for significant gray whales right now. Many deaths in CA, already 13 in WA. If you come across a marine mammal on beach...live or dead call Marine Science Center. • DON'T TOUCH THEM WITH BARE HANDS. They can carry bird flu. Southern Hemisphere high cases. Case of bird flu found this winter in Hood canal. <p>Bio Blitz at Fort Worden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, June 7th • Take pictures and upload data into the iNaturalist app <p>Molt Blitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 20th • Look for crab molt and European Green Crab 		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:35. Next meeting will be August 5, 2025.	Neil moved to adjourn, seconded by Emily. Motion passed.	