

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**February 16, 2017 4PM-8PM  
Port of Everett Blue Heron Room  
1205 Craftsman Way, Everett, WA 98201**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>          Franchesca Perez          Bob Hillmann          Mike Ehlebracht          Cathy Stanley          Susan Tarpley          Sarah Brown          Laura Gurley          Deborah Hopkins          Tom Doerge          Craig Wollam</p> <p><b>Absent</b>          Paul Clampitt (excused)          Traci Sanderson (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>          Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff          Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County MRC Planner</p> <p>Lucas Hart, NWSC Marine Program Manager          Rich Childers, NWSC Executive Director</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 18, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary was approved</li> <li>• Traci Sanderson will serve as MRC Website Coordinator with Deborah Hopkins serving a support role</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 15, 2017 forage fish sampling at index site at Howarth Park</li> <li>• March 18, 2017 Oiled Wildlife Hazwoper training in Everett</li> <li>• February 23/24, 2017 Northwest Straits Commission Retreat</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Franchesca Perez opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting with a quorum at 4:15pm. Snohomish County Council appointed Laura Gurley, Deborah Hopkins, Tom Doerge, and Craig Wollam to serve on the MRC on February 15, 2017, and they are now official MRC members. Franchesca introduced Rich Childers, the new Northwest Straits Commission Executive Director, and Lucas Hart, the Northwest Straits Commission’s Marine Program Manager. Franchesca asked everyone to go around the room, introduce himself or herself, and share why they are serving on the MRC.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Sarah Brown made a motion to approve the January 18, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary. Mike Ehlebracht seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Team Building/Ice Breaker**

Due to time constraints, the MRC decided to forego the team-building icebreaker at this time.

## **Retreat Goals**

Franchesca Perez read the MRC's vision and mission statement as follows:

Vision: "A healthy, enduring marine ecosystem in Snohomish County which contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound and which is shared and protected by all."

Mission Statement: "Guided by sound science and the needs of the marine ecosystem, the MRC will: evaluate, prioritize, and implement strategies for achieving and sustaining a healthy Puget Sound; provide sound guidance to public officials; protect and restore Snohomish County's marine environment."

The retreat goals are to share and discuss the mission of the MRC, welcome new members to the group, encourage MRC members to join a subcommittee or a project team and to review and prioritize projects to include in the 2017 work plan.

Rich Childers inquired if the mission of the MRC was constrained to giving advice and recommendations to County officials. He asked if the MRC could broaden their reach to state or federal recommendations. Kathleen responded that while the group is not designed to be an advocacy organization, the MRC has commented on state and federal recommendations when there is sound science and local experience that is relevant to the discussion. It is important that the MRC staff and members operate under Snohomish County policies. County code 2.800.020 states, "The purpose of the marine resources advisory committee is to address local marine issues and recommend remedial actions to the council, executive and, where requested by the council or executive, to other local governmental entities and tribes, guided by sound science and the needs of the marine ecosystem"

## **2016 Highlights and Accomplishments Presentation**

Kathleen gave a presentation on the work the MRC accomplished in 2016, attached as an appendix. Projects highlighted include:

- Storm Surge Monitoring
- Forage Fish Monitoring
- Nearshore Beach Restoration Project and Funding
- Meadowdale Beach Restoration
- Recreational Crabber Education and Social Media Campaign
- Rockfish Education
- Snohomish Estuary Clean Up
- Derelict Gear Removal
- Oil Spill Preparedness
- Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area and Bulkhead Removal Feasibility Study
- Caged Mussel Watch
- Kelp Monitoring
- Stillaguamish River Gauge

## **Review Current MRC Commitments**

Kathleen explained the current commitments of the MRC and led a discussion to gain consensus that members agreed to continue these projects into 2017. She explained that most project work is generally accomplished through subcommittees or in some cases project teams. Subcommittees are comprised of multiple MRC members with one or more subcommittee member(s) serving as the lead for the group. The MRC currently has eight subcommittees, which are the Executive, Sound IQ, Oil Spill, Water quality/mussel watch, Recreational fisheries education, kelp, Port Susan, Derelict gear,

and the Forage fish subcommittee. Kathleen showed the MRC the wall poster of the subcommittees and encouraged the members to look at each subcommittee and think about which subcommittees they want to be a part of in 2017. New subcommittees will be created as new projects arise for the MRC and subcommittees that have accomplished their goals will be removed from the list.

### **Boosting Effectiveness of MRC Projects- Facilitated Discussion- Lucas Hart**

Lucas Hart has an overview of regional forage fish and kelp monitoring projects. He explained that the forage fish work began when Washington Department of Fish Wildlife (WDFW) was charged to survey over 750 miles of shoreline in the Puget Sound for forage fish. WDFW did not have the capacity to regularly survey as many sites as they would like to, and asked MRCs to help by taking over index sites. Index sites are sites that would be sampled regularly by the MRCs. Lucas gave an overview of the forage fish survey and showed an example of the map which houses the data that is collected by both the MRCs and WDFW. MRC members expressed that not all the data collected by the Snohomish MRC is available to view on the map. Lucas will look into why not all of the Snohomish MRCs data has made it onto the WDFW forage fish map. The kelp monitoring project was started under the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), when it was realized that kelp was not being monitored by any other organization at a scale that covers the Puget Sound. The NWSC has been leading the effort to collect and analyze the kelp data. All seven MRCs collected data in 2015 and 2016. After the 2016 kelp monitoring season, a group of representatives got together to discuss the kelp monitoring protocol. MRC representatives expressed that there was a high level of variation in the kelp surveying. The MRC Kelp Monitoring task force will revise the protocol as needed this spring, and look at alternative options.

Lucas emphasized that because there are six other MRCs conducting the same type of work in the area, it is useful to remember to utilize other MRCs for support with projects. Snohomish MRC is a great example of this, when they received training from Skagit MRC on forage fish blue bowl methodology. He encouraged the MRC to continue to seek out these types of opportunities. Lucas described how other MRC's have benefited from recruiting non-MRC volunteers, such as one MRC that is using a retired scientist who is able to do their egg analysis from their forage fish survey. Another MRC has been able to bring in a kayak expert to provide kayak training for MRC members. Lucas encouraged the group to discuss Snohomish MRC projects that could be expanded if more help were available. Lucas also encouraged the group to think about the connections Snohomish MRC members have to other groups and how those interests cross over into the MRC landscape. The MRC brainstormed a list of groups such as the WSU Extension Beach watchers, the Ocean Research College Academy School at the Port of Everett, Community Colleges, and other local schools that could volunteer with the MRC. The MRC did not determine specific projects at this time to bring in volunteers to help with, however, in the future agreed they would keep this idea in mind.

### **Working Dinner Break**

The MRC paused for a working dinner break at 6:15p.m. Kathleen encouraged the MRC members to discuss ideas for next year's MRC grant. During the break, members discussed the MyCoast application and website, and ideas to make it more effective. One idea members had was to create a form on the MyCoast app that could encourage general users to take shoreline landscape photos from landmarks located at public beaches. Gathering photograph documentation over time would help the MRC determine how the shoreline is changing, and this type of citizen science would be straightforward and fast for the public to gather. The MRC will brainstorm a list of possible landmarks at public places for this form.

## **Brainstorm Strategy to Implement Current Work Plan -**

Kathleen led the MRC through a live edit of the current work plan. The product from the retreat revisions is as follows:

### **Snohomish MRC 2017 Work plan**

**Project Lead: Green, Project Participant: Blue**

#### **1. MRC Grant**

##### Administration- Kathleen/Elisa, All

- a. Quarterly Grant Reports and Billing Management and Volunteer Hour Tracking
  - i. Volunteer hours due each quarter to Elisa- **All**
    1. Volunteer hours due 4/4/2017
    2. Volunteer hours due 7/5/2017
    3. Volunteer hours due 9/25/2017
  - ii. Progress Reports
    1. Quarter 2 progress report due 4/10/2017
    2. Quarter 3 progress report due 7/10/2017
    3. Quarter 4 progress report due 9/29/2017
- b. Meeting Logistics and Facilitation
- c. Annual Report- Due 4-10-17
  - i. Send draft to MRC for review- **Kathleen**
  - ii. Proofreading/Editing- **Tom and Franny**
  - iii. Develop 3-4 Council recommendations in bullet form
    1. **Franny and Kathleen** send out email with recommendations prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting for discussion at meeting
- d. Annual Work Plan- Due 2-28-17
  - i. Send draft to MRC for Review
    1. **Kathleen** send out by 2-23-17
- e. Website Management
  - i. New web master volunteer team- **Traci and Debbie**
    1. Provide access log in and training- **Kathleen with help from Sasha H.**
  - ii. Review project webpages and update as necessary
    1. Review all website text and links and send suggestions to MRC Staff by April 14- **Traci**
    2. Make edits as appropriate- **Traci and Debbie**
  - iii. Post Time lapse Video of Howarth Park Restoration by 3-17-17- **Elisa**

##### Storm Surge Monitoring Project- Kathleen, Elisa, Franny (Leads), Craig

- a. Complete QAPP and deliver to NWSC January 27, 2017- complete
- b. Complete winter storm monitoring

- c. Confirm My Coast app form will be asking citizens to take photos at County/City parks at a fixed sites (including Kayak, Howarth, Meadowdale, Mukilteo, Edgewater/Mt. Baker, Picnic Point)
  - iv. Consult with Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Science Team/Lucas
  - v. Photos at County parks at a fixed sites like Kayak, Howarth, Meadowdale, Mukilteo, Edgewater/Mt. Baker, Picnic Point
  - vi. Select Set GPS Points for picture taking
  - vii. Develop form with MyCoast
  - viii. Advertise My Coast app with press release
  - ix. Solicit additional partners to support another year of funding for the app
- d. Copy of data collected, summarized and delivered to Commission and other relevant parties due 6/9/2017
- e. Hold final storm surge public workshop in the late summer
- f. Community meeting report due to NWSC Sep. 15<sup>th</sup>

**2. Nearshore Beach Restoration Project Monitoring and Maintenance Sarah, Paul, Laura**

- a. Determine Next Steps for future Maintenance Plan
- b. ESRP Nearshore Learning Grant with UW Summer Monitoring
- c. Sediment Sample Analysis- Lab work continues, needs data analysis
- d. Forage Fish Monitoring Photo Analysis- Need to organize photos into site based time series

**3. Forage Fish Spawning Surveys Elisa, Bob, Cathy, Craig, Susan, Franny, Cathy, Paul, Mike, Susan, Sarah**

- a. Winter Sampling: Continue sampling at sites 2,5,6,9,12,13, Howarth Park Restored, Meadowdale, and Picnic Point sampling September 2017- February 2018
- b. Schedule a forage fish training date for those interested in learning more about monitoring and how to do the blue bowl vortex sample method- Elisa
- c. Summer Sampling: Howarth Park & Restored Index Site (Sites 12 & 13) sampled monthly
- d. Set up monthly sampling dates for the index site based on tides lower than 7 ft. Next is sampling date is March 15<sup>th</sup> for index site and blue bowl.
  - i. Determine and send out summer sampling dates for sites 12 and 13 March-August- Elisa
  - ii. Volunteer help for collecting samples- sign up for sample dates- All team members
  - iii. Summer Blue vortex- Elisa or Mike leads at respective offices depending on schedule
  - iv. Deliver to WDFW- Need volunteer. Paul could bring to NWSC meetings when that works

**4. Meadowdale Feasibility Study- Mike**

- a. April 2017 community stakeholders meeting
- 5. Derelict Gear- Crab Pot Removal- Susan, Cathy**
- a. Talk with WDFW and Northwest Straits Foundation about their funding to conduct a 2017 derelict crab pot removal
    - i. Work with NWSF to determine if they have funds to sample Port Gardner- Susan
- 6. Recreational Fisheries Education/Crabber Social Marketing Bob, Franny, Cathy, Sarah, Susan, Craig is our bridge, Laura**
- a. Coordinate with Beach Watchers for Crabber Opening Day July 1-2- Bob and Paul
    - i. Plan is to hit all the fishing piers and Kayak and Everett Boat Launch
  - b. Create Plan of additional events for the Year- Bob
  - c. Inventory existing supplies, consolidate and work with Beach Watchers to put together packets for 2017 including Bait Clips, Crabber Nautical Charts, and Crab Gauges- Bob and Paul
  - d. Work with Rich Childers to order more crab gauges if needed (work with WDFW)- determine if we want to put our logo on stickers on the gauges- TBD
  - e. Create plan for Organization and Distribution- TBD
  - f. Parking Permit and Special Use Permit from the Port, 20 needed over two days- Laura
- 7. Mussel Watch- WDFW Caged Study Mike, Susan (City of Edmonds), Cathy (Tulalip), Tom, Craig**
- a. MRC Top site to sponsor: Edmonds
  - b. Summer work- WDFW will vet 40 new randomly selected sites, and accept sponsorship of local sites, confirm that MRC will sponsor a site
  - c. MRC sponsor Edmonds (Brackets Landing), get permission from City of Edmonds
  - d. Optional volunteer- Prep mussels for deployment at Penn Cove in September
  - e. Cage Deployment- October 2017
- 8. Oil Spill Preparedness Susan, Franny, Mike, Paul, Debbie, Craig**
- a. Schedule Subcommittee meetings as needed
  - b. Continue to Network moving forward
  - c. GRP Update Beginning soon- Team members will keep an eye out for this
  - d. County DEM are to incorporate a Hazmat and Cyber-attack into every drill scenario
  - e. Vessel of Opportunity Brochure and Letter Distribution- Paul
    - i. Fill out tracking form of where they were distributed
  - f. DEM communication/LEPC Meetings- Susan
  - g. Make/Update Oil spill section on the MRC website
- 9. Kelp Monitoring Traci, Franny, Cathy,**
- a. Track Protocol Changes/NWSC Effort- Traci

- b. Send photos to Lucas Hart/NWSC- **Traci**
- c. Set Dates for 2017 monitoring and create a team
  - i. Consider doing only one month of sampling
- d. Get safety training for new volunteers and ensure SWM supervisors are aware of plan
- e. File float plan for each event
- f. Have each volunteer sign volunteer insurance liability waivers
- g. Find sea kayaks for monitoring- Check with Lincoln or Doug Dailer (Ranger at Meadowdale park)

#### **10. Snohomish Estuary Clean Up- Kathleen, Paul, Laura, Cathy- be part of discussion**

- a. Puget Sound Partnership Local Integrating Near Term Action (LIO NTA) Grant
  - i. Complete scope of work for \$50,000 grant, Kathleen
  - ii. Work with DNR to use funds for Vessel Removal in Snohomish Estuary
- b. Create maps of creosote pilings in Snohomish Estuary along with ownership
- c. Develop long term partnership with DNR on creosote removal, apply for joint grants

#### **11. Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Traci, Debbie**

- a. Bulkhead Removal Phase II<sup>2</sup>
- b. SHARP project with the Foundation
  - i. Site visits in partnership with the Foundation
  - ii. Education and Outreach- find willing landowners to have bulkhead removal
    - 1. Summer Homeowner Association Presentations
- c. Links to Port Susan NTA

#### **Retreat Wrap Up**

Franchesca thanked the MRC for their time at the retreat. Franchesca handed out award certificates to MRC members for their 2016 accomplishments.

#### **Announcements**

- Paul attended the last Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO meeting on January 5, 2017. Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Initiative leads attended the meeting and answered questions from LIO Members. Paul indicated via email report that the future funding is uncertain, and the group is discussing restructuring the LIO.
- Kathleen announced that the storm surge water level monitoring device has been installed and is collecting data. Staff completed a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that was required by the MRC Grant.
- Bob, Paul, and Susan attended a team meeting with Chrys Bertolotto and the Beach Watchers on Crabber Education Planning. The next step is to inventory all the educational materials that Beach Watchers and Snohomish County currently have.
- Approximately 70 people attended the Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk. City of Edmonds, Snohomish County Beach Watchers, and the Snohomish MRC hosted the event.
- There will be an Oiled Wildlife Hazwoper training in Everett March 18, 2017.

**Running List of MRC Actions:**

- Kathleen will compile edits from the 2017 work plan document, which was edited during the retreat, and send it to MRC members
- The MRC will brainstorm a list of possible landmarks at public places for a new MyCoast app form.
- MRC staff will follow up with Lucas on the forage fish data for the WDFW map.
- MRC staff, Bob, and Paul will gather and inventory of all crabber education materials Wednesday February 22, 2017.
- MRC staff will determine a plan for March forage fish sampling and follow up with the MRC members.
- Mike will see if his office lab would be able to process forage fish egg samples using the blue bowl method for the MRC.
- Staff will send out general information and an update on the storm surge monitoring project to MRC members.
- Elisa will follow up on the placement of the installation of the interpretive signs with the Port of Everett.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.**