

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**June 21, 2016 6:30-8:30PM**

**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6A02**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Sarah Brown Paul Clampitt Mike Ehlebracht Tom Doerge Laura Gurley</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Bob Hillmann (excused) Cathy Sanderson (excused) Craig Wollam (excused) Susan Tarpley (excused) Franchesca Perez (excused) Deborah Hopkins (excused) Traci Sanderson (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County MRC Planner Bob Bernhard, SWM Planner</p> <p>Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes Restoration Ecologist Ryan Williams, Program Integration Manager for the Snohomish Conservation District</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <p>The MRC could not approve the May 17, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary because a quorum was not achieved. A motion to approve the meeting summary shall be postponed until the July 19, 2017 MRC meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next forage fish sampling will be August 17, 2017.</li> <li>• The Northwest Straits Commission will host their next meeting June 30<sup>th</sup> on Snohomish County Campus from 10-3 p.m.</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Sarah Brown opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30pm. Sarah asked the meeting participants to go around the room and introduce themselves.

Sarah introduced the two guest speakers for the meeting, Brett Shattuck, Restoration Ecologist for the Tulalip Tribes and Ryan Williams, Program Integration Manager for the Snohomish Conservation District.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

A motion to approve the May 17, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary was postponed until the July 19, 2017 MRC meeting. A quorum was not achieved.

**Greenwood Creek Update and Discussion**

Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes Restoration Ecologist, presented on the restoration of Greenwood Creek which included: a culvert replacement at 184<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Soundview Drive NW, removal of invasive species (e.g., blackberry), channel excavation and widening, riparian planting and placement of large woody debris (LWD). Greenwood Creek drains to Port Susan and is located approximately 2.25 miles south-southwest of the mouth of the Stillaguamish River. The creek was identified by the Tulalip Tribe and Snohomish County as a good site for restoration due to the large presence of non-natal Chinook and Coho salmon observed near the mouth of the creek. The mouth of the creek where restoration occurred is located on Snohomish County right-of-way property. A 2012 sampling effort found 277 Chinook and 594 Coho within a 300 foot section of the creek.

The Tulalip Tribe partnered with Snohomish County to complete the project. The Tulalip Tribe's responsibilities included scoping, project management, coordination and outreach, archeological and cultural review, planting and monitoring. Snohomish County's responsibilities included scoping, plans, permit submittal (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application), invasive vegetation removal, and donation of large woody debris, planting of native vegetation, neighborhood signage and continued maintenance. The project was funded by NOAA's Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund, Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribe.

Since three years from its completion, riparian vegetation has filled in and now provides beneficial canopy cover for salmon. Brett reported that one lesson learned from this project would be to place more non-anchored LWD on future similar projects. Anchored LWD tends to float when water levels are high, whereas non-anchored LWD settle in areas where it would not float during high water. Overall the project has been a success. An increased presence of Chinook salmon has been observed in March and April of 2017.

The Tulalip Tribe has identified another potential restoration site that drains from Lake Martha and discharges to Port Susan through a culvert. The unnamed creek is approximately 1.5 miles south-southwest of the Stillaguamish River, near 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and Soundview Drive NW. Unlike the Greenwood Creek project, the unnamed creek is adjacent to properties that are privately owned. After the presentation, Brett answered questions. The MRC discussed the potential site and challenges it may have including adjacent landowners concerns for erosion and flooding.

### **Snohomish Conservation District Request for Letter of Support**

Ryan Williams, a Program Integration Manager for the Snohomish Conservation District, presented a proposed fee increase for the District and requested a letter of support from the MRC. For the past seven years, the District has received an 'assessment' from Snohomish County landowners at an average rate of \$5 per parcel plus \$0.05 per acre. The District is proposing to change from an 'assessment' to a 'rates and change' structure. Future rates would be calculated based on direct and indirect benefits to different land uses. On average the rate would increase to approximately \$10 per parcel and up to \$0.10 per acre, for both urban and rural properties. The District developed a five-year plan highlight (<http://snohomishcd.org/fiveyear-plan-highlights/>) which will be presented to the Snohomish County Council at a time which has not been scheduled yet, possibly in the late fall or early winter of 2017-2018.

The District plans to bolster existing programs (i.e., Farm Planning, Habitat, Lawns to Lettuce, and Education and Outreach programs) and expand services to more urban areas through the Community Conservation Program with a focus on stormwater. Plans for increased assistance with stormwater infrastructure—rain gardens, rain catchments and natural yard care—are envisioned on a neighborhood scale. The District would also like to increase technical and financial support to jurisdictions and stormwater permittees.

After the presentation, Ryan answered questions. Laura Gurley asked if the District had considered expanding their service boundaries—established in 1949—instead of increasing fees, to which Ryan answered that they had not considered the expansion. Another MRC member addressed the issue of direct impact to the marine environment. While everyone agreed that upstream pollution prevention is beneficial, the MRC would like to hear more about projects that are or could occur in the marine environment. The MRC requested the District to elaborate more on future efforts at the next MRC meeting in July. The MRC will also brainstorm ways in which the District’s services could benefit shoreline landowners and the MRC.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**MRC Grant/ Ocean Literacy/Storm Surge:** Elisa Dawson discussed advertising of the MyCoast app. MRC members commented on the lack of advertising. Elisa mentioned that a publicity package has been developed and is ready for distribution. Laura Gurley requested she be sent the package for use at the Port of Everett. The MRC also discussed about the MyCoast app was the placement of camera brackets at the participating locations. It was mentioned that some of the brackets were hard to use. A MRC member suggested that instead of using a bracket to help capture the correct photo, painted footsteps and signage with an example photo at each location may be another approach to consider.

**Oil Spill:** Susan Tarpley continues to attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings. The Oil Spill Subcommittee met via conference call on June 1 to discuss the new oil spill response plans in Washington State called Geographic Response Plans (GRPs). Participants on the conference call were MRC staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson, and MRC members Franchesca Perez, Susan Tarpley, Mike Ehlebracht and Craig Wollam. The team discussed the open comment period for the GRP update, and whether to submit a comment or not. The team decided that they had comments they wanted to share and would ask SWM management if it would be appropriate for the MRC to comment. SWM gave support for the MRC to comment. A letter from the MRC on the Stillaguamish GRP update was electronically submitted to Ecology on June 15, 2017. The Oil Spill Subcommittee has been solicited by Washington State University (WSU) Extension to help with a WSU Near Term Action to create a regional oil response program. The Oil Spill Subcommittee plans to meet soon to discuss this opportunity.

**Water Quality/ Mussel Watch:** The MRC will be working to install mussel watch supplies this fall.

**Recreational Fisheries Education:** Paul Clampitt reported that the educational packets are ready for distribution and are currently with Bob Hillmann. Paul, Bob and Laura Gurley will be distributing the packets to the public at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street boat launch in Everett during the opening weekend of the crabbing season (July 1-2).

**Kelp:** Elisa reported that Traci Sanderson alerted the MRC in late May that, due to a family emergency, she will not be able to serve as the kelp lead for the project this summer. Tom Doerge has agreed to help lead the MRC kelp surveys, supported by Elisa Dawson. The MRC will conduct 1 round of kelp monitoring at all known locations—Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds Brackett’s landing. The MRC has scheduled August 7-9 for the three locations with September 13-15 as the backup date. The MRC will also conduct one day of reconnaissance at Hat Island, a location in Snohomish County which hasn’t previously been surveyed for kelp. The reconnaissance will use the Tulalip Tribe’s boat, and is scheduled for August 21, with August 22 and 23 as backup dates. The Snohomish MRC plans to gather data, including GPS data, of any kelp found around Hat

Island during this reconnaissance. Tom Doerge will receive kayak safety training prior to the kayak kelp monitoring. Lincoln Loehr, previous MRC member who has led this project in the past, has agreed to help the Snohomish MRC during the kayak monitoring. Lincoln has attending kayak safety courses in the past and is well versed in the data collection methods.

Port Susan: The Northwest Straits Foundation recently received grant funding to assist landowners with designing and permitting the removal of hard armoring. The team agreed to continue to focus their efforts on properties with feasible removal of hard armored structures in Port Susan. Thus far, Snohomish County has not identified any landowners for feasible removal in the Port Susan area. Lisa Kaufman, Elisa Dawson, and Debbie Hopkins met via conference call to discuss some outreach possibilities and schedule a workshop in October for residents of Port Susan who may be interested in armor removal. The team agreed to attend the Warm Beach Summerfest on August 12, 2017 for initial outreach. The team also decided to use the Storm Surge follow-up workshop, which has been scheduled for September 14, as another opportunity to reach out to landowners. Lisa is also working on sending a mailer to residents this summer. The group also discussed adding septic system GIS data to their shoreline armoring data in Port Susan. The additional GIS data may identify properties where septic systems are too close to the shoreline, making them potentially ineligible for hard-armoring removal.

Forage Fish: SWM staff continue to work with a team of researchers from the University of Washington on the ESRP grant. Elisa Dawson and Craig Wollam collected forage fish samples at Howarth Park on June 5. Samples were delivered to Dan Penttila for analysis. No forage fish eggs were found. Dan said that June 5 may have been too early to take samples, and that results from last year's summer sampling showed surf smelt eggs at Howarth Park in late June and early July. Dan suggested taking more samples during that time period to see if there are any forage fish eggs. Elisa confirmed that there was enough money in the MRC budget for a few additional samples. Elisa will take 4 additional samples on June 27 and deliver the samples to Dan on June 28 to fill the data gap. The monthly sample at the index site will also be sampled on June 27. The next sample date will be August 17. From August 2017 – February 2018, the MRC will take the full range of 18 samples monthly at the nearshore restoration sites.

Snohomish Estuary Cleanup/ Derelict Vessels: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has provided \$50,000 in grant funds through the local integrating organization to SWM/MRC. The Snohomish MRC will match the grant with \$30,000 from the 2017 MRC WO228 budget. Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is also going to match the grant with approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 or more after the new biennium begins on July 1. There's a chance that the WDNR amount will be much larger but that will not be determined until July. The total working budget at this time is approximately \$100,000. The county and WDFW have drafted an Interagency Agreement (IAA) which SWM staff have routed to the public attorney's office and risk management. The project team has completed a prioritized list of derelict vessel in the Snohomish Estuary and are working with WDNR to determine the costs of removing the vessels on the list.

### **Choose MRC August Picnic Location**

It was suggested that the annual Snohomish MRC picnic occur on August 16, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30pm, replacing the monthly meeting. All in attendance thought that Boxcar Park in Everett would be a good location.

## Announcements

- Paul Clampitt reported that members from the NWSC met on May 26, 2017 via WebEx. The NWSC annual report, budget items, and subcommittee reports were discussed at the meeting.
- Paul Clampitt reported that members from the LIO did not meet this month.
- Elisa asked MRC members to submit their volunteer hours for the quarter by July 5, 2017 using a new method. Elisa developed a spreadsheet with drop-down task names/descriptions. The use of limited descriptions will allow for better time analysis.
- Elisa reminded the committee that the Northwest Straits Commission will be hosting their next meeting at the Snohomish County Campus from 10-3pm on June 30, 2017. On June 13 Elisa Dawson attended the meeting on habitat and bridge elements for the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project. SWM Supervisor Dave Lucas also attended the meeting. Logan Daniels, Snohomish County Parks Engineer, gave an update on the design status of the park. The goal for the project is to improve access to the shoreline through an opening (culvert) beneath the train tracks. Currently, due to the undersized culvert, emergency response is limited to crossing the railroad tracks in order to access the shoreline. Additionally, the culvert size may limit fish passage, sediment delivery and drainage, as well as long term unsustainable maintenance issues. Snohomish County Parks will host an open house for the public on the project design on June 21, 2017.
- Sharon Swan, Principal Planner for Snohomish County Parks, set up a meeting with MRC representatives and SWM staff to discuss the Kayak Point Day Use area. The meeting was a follow up to Sharon's presentation to the MRC on May 17, 2017. Sharon, her consultant for the project, Jim Brennan, MRC members Laura Gurley and Franchesca Perez, and SWM staff Elisa Dawson and Zach Brown met to discuss the project on June 13. Sharon and Jim shared information on the park design, including schematics for the proposed soft-shore berm. The group discussed habitat features that could be added in the design. Sharon and Jim agreed that habitat features need to be considered and that they were interested in incorporating the ideas from the MRC in their next design step. Sharon will continue to keep the MRC updated as the process moves forward.
- The Marine Resource Committee (MRC) will be receiving approximate ¼ time of a Surface Water Management (SWM) intern during the months on June – August 2017. Intern Tim Keal started on June 13. Tim will be working on the MRC's Forage Fish Ecosystem Analysis project. For this project he will be working on compiling the data taken since 2012 in the form of forage fish eggs absence/presence and abundance, sediment size analysis, and photographs. Tim will receive help from MRC and SWM staff to look at this data for patterns, correlation, etc.
- The MRC will receive support, including meeting support, from SWM staff Bob Bernhard during Kathleen's maternity leave. Bob is a Planner for Snohomish County Surface Water Management and will be able to dedicate approximately 5 hours per week to the MRC.
- All MRC members need to choose a date for County Boards and Commissions Training: Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Snohomish County Campus, Public Meeting Rooms, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett 98201, Wednesday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>,

**Running List of MRC Actions:**

- Elisa will send the MyCoast Press release to Laura Gurley. Laura will forward the release on to Port partners.
- Paul and Bob will bring the crabber education packets to the Everett Boat Launch on July 1 and July 2.
- Elisa will schedule Ryan Williams for the July MRC Meeting.
- Elisa will send out an email on the MRC August Picnic.
- Elisa will follow up with Laura on the NWSF armor removal funds.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.**