

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

June 20, 2018 6:30-8:30PM

**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201
Admin East Building, 6th Floor**

<p>MRC Members Present Bob Hillmann Traci Sanderson Tom Doerge Laura Gurley Deborah Hopkins Franchesca Perez Cathy Stanley Paul Clampitt</p> <p>Absent Mike Ehlebracht (excused) Susan Tarpley (excused) Sarah Brown (excused) Craig Wollam (unexcused)</p>	<p>Staff, Presenters, and Others Kathleen Pozarycki, MRC Lead Staff</p> <p>Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Director Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District Stephan Clauss, citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <p>The MRC approved the May MRC Meeting Summary.</p>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 28 10:15 a.m. Northshore Senior Center Marine Debris Talk, Susan Tarpley will present ● June 29 MRC Presentation on 2018-2019 grant at NWSC meeting in Island County ● Crabber Education Days June 30, July 1, and July 7 ● MRC Special Meeting July 9 ● July Kelp Monitoring July 11-13 ● Next MRC Meeting July 18 ● August 27th- SnoCo Boards and Commissions Thank you at the Evergreen Fair 	

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Bob Hillmann opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting with a quorum at 6:30pm.

Bob introduced himself and called for self-introduction of meeting participants.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tom Doerge made a motion to approve the May 16, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary. Franchesca Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SWM Budget Status 2018-2019

Kathleen introduced Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Director (SWM). Gregg has met many of the MRC Members before, and reintroduced himself. Gregg has been working for Snohomish County SWM for 19 years, he has served as an interim SWM Director twice, and recently was appointed SWM Director.

Gregg reported that SWM has been working on a Business Plan over the last year. The purpose of the Business Plan for SWM was to look at services and funding with feedback from citizens. SWM is funded through Surface Water Utility Fees which are charged to each parcel in unincorporated Snohomish County. The fees are collected to finance Surface Water Utility programs, like the MRC. Gregg reported that SWM fees have not changed in the last 10 years, and therefore have not kept up with inflation. Gregg showed a chart of other surface water fees which are charged in other jurisdictions throughout the Puget Sound, and Snohomish County has one of the lowest fees.

While SWM fees have not gone up in 10 years, costs and demands for SWM's work is increasing. Gregg reported that some of the major financial costs for SWM include, retirement funds requirements, new NPDES requirements, additional stormwater facilities throughout Snohomish County, the need to address fish passage culverts and failing draining pipes and other old infrastructure.

Due to these increased costs and general inflation, the current SWM fees are not able to keep up with current need. Gregg reported that actions need to be taken to address the SWM budget. Actions that are being taken by SWM include a hiring freeze, applying for grants and other revenue sources, postponing several capital projects, and cuts to 2018 and 2019 budgets. SWM will ask Snohomish County Council for a Surface Water Fee rate increase.

Gregg has been working with Snohomish County Council throughout the SWM Business Planning Process. In June, Gregg presented the most recent information as well as rate increase alternatives at the Council's Public Works Committee. County Council has not yet scheduled a date to hold a hearing for the SWM rate increase. Until further information is known on funding, SWM programs, including the MRC, will have budget cuts for 2018 and 2019.

MRC Program budget cuts are \$20,000 for 2018 and an additional \$46,000 cut for 2019, totaling a \$66,000 cut. This cut will not affect staff salaries, but are cuts to project funding.

MRC Grant Discussion

Kathleen stated that the 2018-2019 MRC Grant Presentation will be at the June 29th Northwest Straits Commission Meeting in Island County. Sarah will be presenting for the MRC. Kathleen and Paul will also attend the meeting. Franny asked the group if there was another volunteer who would be willing to serve as the project lead. Interested parties should talk to Franny or one of the MRC Staff.

Howarth Park Topography Discussion

- Bob Hillmann passed out some draft drawings of elevations of the Howarth Park Beach. Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for a future meeting.

Kelp Project Update

- Tom Doerge gave a brief update on the kelp project. The Kelp Committee with the Northwest Straits is in full swing and he attended the recent workshop on May 9, 2018. There is great

interest in the MRC kelp monitoring data at NWSC and other state agencies. All or nearly all MRC counties have participated for at least two years, and some interesting trends are developing. The two major sources of variation in kelp monitoring data are true variation in bed size and observer constraints. These constraints can be due to tide height differences at the times of measurement, variable interpretation of diffuse bed boundaries, obscuring of kelp by surface water turbulence, inability to predict the date of maximum bed extent and kayak operator skill level. The date of maximum bed size within the summer growing season appears to vary with location. Areas with greater water mixing and lower temperatures reach maximum bed size somewhat later, in August to September. Conversely, more southerly areas with lower mixing (such as Snohomish Co.) reached maximum size in July to August. Year-over-year declines in kelp bed sizes are possibly correlated with water temperature. Greater declines in bed sizes seem to occur when water is at or above 17°C. There is great interest by NWSC GIS specialists to conduct additional and more in-depth spatial analyses as more years of kelp monitoring data become available. Initial kayak surveys are scheduled for early July for Snohomish County kelp beds.

Announcements

- **NWSC Update (Paul):** Paul has a meeting with Nan McKay and Jerry Masters on June 26th and will bring up the budget cuts to the Snohomish MRC at that time. Additionally, Paul has volunteered to serve as chair of the Northwest Straits Commission.
- **LIO:** This update was skipped due to time constraints.
- **MRC Conference 2018 (Kathleen):** Kathleen reminded the MRC that the 2018 conference will be in Port Townsend this year, and will be held at Fort Warden. Cathy said that the Tulalip Tribes will be the main sponsor of the conference this year
- **Port Susan Shoreline Outreach (Debbie):** Debbie thanked the MRC for their comments on the Port Susan mailer. The final mailer has been approved and will be going out to shoreline residents shortly.
- **Derelict Vessels Project (Kathleen):** Kathleen gave an update on the Derelict Boats project. Snohomish County Council approved the Department of Environmental Services Work Order and the boats are will be removed later this summer. Specific dates and details will follow once a contractor is selected.
- **Kelp Summer 2018 Planning (Tom):** Tom reported that kelp monitoring for 2018 will occur in July and August. The team may also potentially survey in September depending on capacity. The July survey dates are July 11-13th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.