

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**July 18, 2018 6:30-8:30PM**

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

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Sarah Brown  Bob Hillmann  Mike Ehlebracht  Franchesca Perez  Tom Doerge  Laura Gurley  Deborah Hopkins  Cathy Stanley  Susan Tarpley  Craig Wollam  Paul Clampitt</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Traci Sanderson</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>  Kathleen Pozarycki, MRC Lead Staff  Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff</p> <p>Karen Stewart, City of Everett  Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District  Megan Ehlebracht, Citizen  David Bain, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <p>The MRC approved the June MRC Meeting Summary.</p> <p>The MRC voted to oppose the water quality amendment offered by Mrs. McMorris Rodgers of Washington to the Appropriations Bill for the Department of the Interior</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● August Kelp Monitoring August 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● MRC Summer Picnic August 15<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● MRC Forage Fish sampling August 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>● August 27<sup>th</sup> 6PM-8PM Snohomish County Boards and Commissions Thank You Event at the Evergreen Fair</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Sarah Brown opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting with a quorum at 6:30pm.

Sarah introduced herself and called for self-introduction of meeting participants.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tom Doerge made a motion to approve the June 20, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary. Mike Ehlebracht seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **City of Everett Community Open House on Shorelines**

Kathleen introduced Karen Stewart, Environmental Planner for the City of Everett. Karen shared several documents with the MRC regarding the Shoreline Master Program periodic review. The City is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the State Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City of Everett plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information, and improved data.

Karen shared that the City of Everett has appointed a Shoreline Advisory Committee for this review. The Shoreline Advisory Committee is comprised of community representatives, stakeholders, groups, interested citizens and agency representatives to oversee community outreach and involvement for the update of the City's Shoreline Master Program. The Shoreline Advisory Committee provides a forum for further public outreach, identifies issues to address and proposes revisions to the Shoreline Master Program and the Shoreline Public Access Plan. Several MRC members, including Sarah Brown, Bob Hillmann, and Laura Gurley are serving on this committee.

The periodic review requires that the plan be updated as needed to comply with legislative and rule changes, assure consistency and local plans and development regulations, and reflect changed circumstances, new information, and improved data. The Shoreline Advisory Committee is helping City of Everett Staff identify parts of the plan that need to be updated. Karen explained that because Everett is seeking feedback from the public for the Shoreline Master Program, they decided to also use the opportunity to seek feedback on their Shoreline Access Plan. The Shoreline Access Plan was created in 2002. The focus of the plan was on access to shoreline as well as long distance trails and connections along the shoreline.

The Shoreline Advisory Committee met several times throughout spring 2018 to discuss the Shoreline Master Program and Shoreline Access Plan. The City of Everett also hosted an open house on June 20th to receive feedback from the public on the Shoreline Master Program and Shoreline Access Plan. At the open house, the City of Everett has handed out surveys. Everett is currently working on reviewing the feedback and updating the Shoreline Master Program and Shoreline Access Plan. In October, the Shoreline Advisory Committee will meet to review the preliminary draft of the Shoreline Master Program. The Shoreline Advisory Committee will complete their work and draft a letter of recommendation to the Everett Planning Commission in December.

Karen opened up the conversation to questions. Kathleen asked if the restoration project at Howarth Park had been added to the Shoreline Access Plan. Karen noted that that project does need to be added to the update, and will ensure it gets added. Several MRC members asked questions about access to the Snohomish River Shoreline. Karen responded that many people are interested in increased access to the shoreline along the eastern Everett boundary. Long term plans have looked at creating a connecting trail between Rotary Park and into Snohomish to connect with the Centennial Trail. Karen responded that these trail plans will continue to be a part of the updated Shoreline Access Plan. Karen thanked the MRC for their time, and said to please reach out to her with any questions.

### **Howarth Park Topography Report**

Bob reported that he and Craig were able to use the City of Everett Real-time kinematic (RTK) unit for a survey of elevations at Howarth Park. Craig and Bob worked together to complete the survey on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Through this survey, Craig and Bob were able to gather information that allowed them to draft drawings of elevations of the Howarth Park Beach. This could then be compared to a pre-restoration survey which was done in 2016, as well as the as-built survey data. Using the three different surveys over time, Bob and Craig were able to compare how the sediment has moved over time at Howarth Park.

Bob reported that using the pre-survey and as-built records, he estimated that approximately 6433 cubic yards of sediment were nourished on the beach at Howarth Park in 2016. Comparing the as-built to the post survey Craig and Bob completed in May, they found that approximately 3000 cubic yards of sediment remain on the beach. Bob reported that this means 54% of the sediment have moved off the beach between July 2016 and May 30, 2018.

Bob noted that there is a depression in the beach on the northeastern side. He noted that he was not sure exactly why this was, but hypothesized that it may have something to do with the culvert. Additionally, Bob noted that from this analysis he believes there is sand coming in from other nourishment sites which are being delivered to the southern edge of the Howarth Park beach. Bob and Craig noted that nearly all of “choice” gravel has washed off the beach, and much of the sand on the point has also washed away. Areal imagery was shown to graphically show these changes.

Bob and Craig plan to continue to survey approximately every 6 months using the City of Everett’s RTK unit to help assist in the analysis of the nourishment project.

### **Water Quality Rule Comment**

Kathleen reported that the MRC is being asked by Congressman Rick Larsen’s staff if the MRC had any comments to provide to Executive Somers on the water quality amendment offered by Mrs. McMorris Rodgers of Washington to the Appropriations Bill for the Department of the Interior (Amendment to Division A of Rules Committee Print 115-81).

Kathleen presented the information available to the MRC. Kathleen reported that the Washington Department of Ecology has reported that they are opposed to the Amendment. Ecology is opposed the Amendment for the following reasons:

- The amendment would erode the working relationship between the State Department of Ecology and EPA while leaving the state on the hook for meeting water quality standard under the Clean Water Act. Ecology is relying on EPA’s partnership to help provide variance (exemptions that delay implementation of the new standard) that are expected to be sought in the Spokane by some of the dischargers.
- It would also hit the state financially since Ecology would not be able to use federal PPG money to implement standards (new permits, variance, toxic reduction efforts in Spokane), while still being obligated to meet CWA standards.
- Lastly, there is concern about how this would affect EPA’s work on toxics permits in Idaho if EPA will not be able to spend resources addressing downstream water quality

standards in Washington, which are currently tighter. When Idaho begins issuing permits, EPA will need to serve as a mediator under the CWA to make sure the Idaho permits meet our water quality standards. This broad act will prevent them from playing this role.

The MRC discussed the available information. Members recognized that there was not enough time for a thorough review of all the information available, but acknowledged that the Amendment would mean a delay implementation of EPA standards.

After discussion and review Sarah Brown proposed a motion to support Washington Department of Ecology's decision to oppose the Amendment. The 11 MRC members present voted on a recommendation to the County regarding the amendment. Eight members representing a quorum supported the Department of Ecology's recommendation to oppose the amendment, and three members abstained from the vote due to lack of information or conflict of interest. None were opposed and the motion passed. The MRC noted that they are commenting only on the Amendment to the appropriations bill, and not the original water quality rules due to lack of time to review the original rule.

### **MRC Budget Meetings/Talking Points**

Chair Sarah Brown announced that she has been talking to Executive Dave Somers office and the Executive plans to attend the MRC Picnic on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will be from 5:30-7:30PM at the Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center 304 Lincoln Ave, Mukilteo, WA 98275.

The MRC discussed talking points for the meeting with Executive Somers. The MRC has created several discussion topics to speak to Executive Somers about as Snohomish County Surface water management and the Marine Resources Program face cuts to the 2018 and 2019 budget. Draft talking points included:

- 1) MRC Volunteers Provided 1,545 professional volunteer hours in 2017
  - a. Value of hours according to WA volunteer hour value of \$28.99=\$45,000/year
  - b. Value of hours according to MRC members average billing rates=\$123,600/year
  - c. Equivalent to almost a full FTE staff for 1 year (1,800 hours)
  
- 2) MRC Projects Produce Tangible Results
  - a. Nearshore Restoration project met 80% of Nearshore Restoration goal of Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan
  - b. Meadowdale Beach Restoration will keep park open to 65,000 beach visitors/year and allow fish passage in Lund's Gulch
  - c. MRC Projects like Mussel Watch and MyCoast have been so successful they have been taken over by State and Federal agencies and continued without need for local funding

Kathleen reported that she is working on collecting numbers of citizens who have attended or been reached through MRC events. Kathleen passed around a draft list of events and asked MRC members to please add any additional events where they have made contact with residents. The MRC will use this information in their discussion with Executive Somers.

Sarah reminded the MRC that after they meet with Executive Somers, MRC members should meet with County Council members. The MRC reviewed the council districts and made subgroups between members who live in corresponding districts.

## **Announcements**

- **NWSC Update (Paul):** Paul reported that the Snohomish MRC and other MRC's gave their 2018-2019 grant presentations at the last NWSC meeting. Sarah Brown presented the Snohomish MRCs outreach grant for the MyCoast app.
- **LIO (Elisa):** Elisa noted that we are still waiting to hear back on final scores from the Puget Sound Partnership.
- **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 on November 16-17. Cathy noted 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 sent to shoreline residents.
- **SnoCo Boards and Commissions Thank you at the Evergreen Fair (Kathleen):** Kathleen reported that invitations to this year's event will be sent to the MRC members shortly.
- **Crabber Education (Bob):** Bob reported that crabber education this year went very well. Numbers on packets handed out are estimated to be around 1800 people reached between Everett 10<sup>th</sup> street boat launch, Kayak Point County Park, and the City of Edmonds Pier.
- **Derelict Vessels Project (Kathleen):** Kathleen reported that the derelict vessels should be posted later this month and the county is working on selecting a contractor for removal.
- **Kelp Summer 2018 Planning (Tom):** Tom reported that bull kelp monitoring occurred July 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Tom and Elisa completed the first day at Mukilteo. Very little kelp was found in Mukilteo, the team made several GPS waypoints where several kelp bulbs were seen in the location of historic kelp beds. One kelp bed existed with approximately a dozen bulbs. The second day of monitoring took place at Edmonds. Tom and Elisa were joined by Robyn Rice who filmed much of the monitoring with her drone. Some initial photos have been shared from Robyn and they look great. The kelp beds in Edmonds were relatively healthy and seemed relatively similar in size to those seen in 2017. All 3 kelp beds were surveyed. The final day was at Meadowdale Beach Park. Tom and Elisa were joined by Snohomish County Ranger Doug Dailer. The team did not find any kelp beds at Meadowdale. One small group of approximately 5 kelp bulbs were found, and a waypoint was marked. Monitoring will occur in August and is scheduled for August 8-10. Elisa, Traci, and Lincoln will complete these surveys.

- **Forage Fish (Elisa):** Elisa reported that forage fish monitoring starts in August for the 2018-2019 monitoring season. Elisa passed out a sign-up sheet for volunteers for August and September. Elisa and Kathleen completed a scope of work for NRC to complete an analysis for forage fish analysis of egg and sediment data. NRC will begin work in August, and plans to complete the work by the end of October. NRC consultant Jamey Selleck plans to attend the MRC October meeting to present drafts of his work up to the MRC.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.**