

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

September 19, 2018 6:30-8:30PM
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201
Admin East Building, 6th Floor

<p>MRC Members Present Sarah Brown Bob Hillmann Mike Ehlebracht Tom Doerge Laura Gurley Susan Tarpley Paul Clampitt</p> <p>Absent Deborah Hopkins Traci Sanderson Cathy Stanley Craig Wollam Franchesca Perez</p>	<p>Staff, Presenters, and Others Kathleen Pozarycki, MRC Lead Staff Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff</p> <p>Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Lucas Hart, Northwest Straits Commission David Bain, Citizen, ORCA Conservancy Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District Sarah Brown, Citizen</p>
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Summary of Decisions

The MRC approved the July MRC Meeting Summary.

- Upcoming Events**
- Snohomish County RainScaping Expo September 29th at McCollum Park
 - Highlights of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Talk by Kathleen Pozarycki. October 1 at the Cama Beach Great Hall
 - MRC Forage Fish sampling October 9
 - Shoreline Real Estate: Understanding Beach Bluff Properties. October 10th at the Fidalgo Bay Convention Center
 - Shoreline Real Estate: Understanding Beach Bluff Properties. October 11th at the Four Springs Lake Preserve
 - Vegetation Management for Shoreline Landowners. October 17th at the Four Spring Lake Preserve
 - MRC Annual Retreat November 7th at Snohomish County Offices
 - MRC Conference November 16 and 17 in Port Townsend

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

Mike Ehlebracht made a motion to approve the July 18, 2018 MRC Meeting Summary. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Budget Update- Gregg Farris

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Director Gregg Farris introduced himself and thanked the MRC for their time. Gregg attended the MRC meeting in June 2018 to discuss the budget cuts that were proposed for the MRC for 2018 and 2019. At the time, the MRC budget cut for 2018 was \$30,000, and the budget cut for 2019 was \$46,000. Gregg announced that Snohomish County Executive, Dave Somers, has directed SWM to restore the funding cuts for the MRC in full for 2018 and restore \$30,000 of the \$46,000 cut for 2019. Gregg thanked the MRC for their work and indicated that the Executive had heard from members about the impact of these cuts and he wanted to reinstate the funds. Executive Dave Somers will be recommending this budget to the Snohomish County Council. The Snohomish County Council must approve the budget before it is final.

Next, Gregg discussed the current SWM budget. Gregg stated that there is still a need for a rate increase. Although the MRC budget has been restored through 2019, 2020 funding is still uncertain with the current state of the SWM budget. SWM will be asking for a rate increase via ordinance from Snohomish County Council, likely this fall. The rate increase would create a uniform rate across the entire county eliminating the urban growth area (UGA) surcharge.

Laura asked if the council could still change this decision. Gregg responded that, while unlikely, the Council could still change the 2019 budget. Gregg encouraged the MRC members to continue to share their voice with Executive and the County Councilmembers.

Northwest Straits Strategic Plan Presentation- Lucas Hart

Lucas Hart, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission, introduced himself to the MRC and thanked them for having him there to present on the Northwest Straits Strategic Plan. Lucas reported that in 2017 the Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) strategic plan timeframe expired. The NWSI began a new process to update the Strategic Plan in March 2018. The 2018 NWSI retreat, which consisted of the Commission Board, Foundation Board and Commission and Foundation staff, resulted in a list of actions and strategies that the group agreed would be valuable areas for the Initiative to focus on as we look to the future. The strategic planning committee (Lucas Hart, Caroline Gibson, Nan McKay, Anne Murphy and Elsa Schwartz) calls these actions “themes.” These are reflected in the text of the draft strategic plan (see attached). The objectives under each theme were also the result of discussions at the NWSI retreat. The planning committee created goals and results to accompany the themes and objectives. One exception to this rule is the “stewardship theme.” This theme resulted from MRC Staff input, who suggested including objectives that more directly guide MRC project development.

One of the original goals the group discussed with the updated strategic plan was to try to keep the report short and broad. Lucas said this was a priority because it allows for flexibility between MRCs, but still gives overall guidance. Through the Strategic Plan, the NWSI also hopes to be able to give MRCs a way to measure success on a particular project. Lucas reported that the committee is working to create a poster version of the Strategic Plan, and showed an example of the draft poster.

After discussing the background of the planning and updating process, Lucas led the MRC through the draft Strategic Plan. The group discussed the different themes of the Strategic Plan and gave their feedback. Several suggestions were made by the MRC. The MRC suggested adding estuary to “contribute to shoreline and nearshore habitat protection and restoration projects” The MRC thought language to include this area was important, but also discussed the need for more review of this language in order to find the proper wording. The MRC also suggested include specific monitoring metrics for much money MRCs are leveraging. MRC members pointed out that funders and elected officials are interested in these metrics, and that there should be a way to monitor metrics like this across MRCs. Lucas thanked the MRC for these suggestions, and told them he would bring them to the committee at their next meeting. After the discussion, Lucas encouraged the MRC members to contact him if any more questions arose.

October 1st Meeting with Executive Somers

Sarah Brown reported that the MRC has a meeting scheduled with Executive Somers on October 1st. In an effort to keep the meeting small, MRC members will attend by invite only. Sarah shared that her hope is that this is the first in a series of meetings in which MRC members can take turns attending. The topic of this first meeting with the Executive will be to discuss more in-depth how the MRC can be part of the Executive’s Puget Sound Initiative and provide a short list of ideas as to how to move the Initiative forward.

IGNITE Presentation for November MRC Conference- Kathleen/all

Kathleen announced that MRC Conference is quickly approaching. Registration has been sent out, and MRC members were asked to fill out the registration as soon as possible. MRCs are being asked to do an ignite presentation at the conference. Kathleen asked the MRC what topic they would like to do their presentation on.

MRC members asked if the MyCoast App is being featured already in the conference. Kathleen responded that she didn’t know if MyCoast was being featured in the conference, but that she would work with Sasha to see if it was being featured elsewhere. The MRC decided that if MyCoast was being featured elsewhere in the Conference Agenda, they should not focus their presentation on MyCoast. However, if MyCoast is not being featured at the conference, the MRC should focus their ignite presentation on MyCoast.

Another idea for the ignite presentation was to focus on how to talk to your public officials. Paul Clampitt mentioned that at the 2017 conference there was a session on how to talk to your public officials. The Snohomish MRC could give a follow up presentation on what they have learned since that training, and the work they’ve done to restore the MRC budget over the last year.

Kathleen will follow up with Sasha to see if MyCoast is being featured elsewhere in the conference. Once the MRC has that information they will decide their topic and a volunteer to give the presentation.

Kelp Update- Elisa/Tom

Tom reported that the Kelp Team completed the 2018 kelp monitoring in July and August 2018. Kelp data were collected at Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds. Maps using the data were created by SWM GIS.

July Kelp monitoring occurred the 11-13th. Tom reported that the first day of monitoring was at Mukilteo, where only one bed of kelp was found of the previously documented six or more kelp beds. Edmonds was surveyed the second day, where all three beds were present and surveyed. The final day of kelp monitoring was at Meadowdale Beach Park where no kelp beds were found where three were previously documented. One waypoint was marked where approximately 5 kelp plants were found, but this was not enough plants to constitute a bed.

August Kelp monitoring occurred August 8-10. The first day of monitoring was at Mukilteo, where only one bed of kelp was found of the previously documented six or more kelp beds. Edmonds was surveyed the second day, where all three beds were present and surveyed. The final day of kelp monitoring was at Meadowdale Beach Park where no kelp beds were found where three were previously documented. The MRC reviewed the maps from this monitoring, as well as the comparison maps that were created to show change over time. Overall, the Snohomish County maps show a strong pattern of decline. Tom reported that the data from the Snohomish MRC was shared with the Northwest Straits Foundation, who is working to compile the data regionally. Tom reported that the next regional kelp workshop has not been scheduled, but the group plans to meet in the next few months to discuss the data from the different MRCs gathered in summer of 2018.

Announcements

- **NWSC Update (Paul):** Paul reported that the NWSC continues to work on budget planning for the future. The NWS Foundation received a \$50,000 grant from Boeing to focus on low-impact development and stormwater projects to improve marine waters.
- **LIO (Elisa):** Elisa reported that the final scores from the Puget Sound Partnership have come in, and both MRC NTAs have received the top score and were included in the action agenda. Next, the LIO will be working on finding funding for the NTAs.
- **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. MRC members should make sure they are registered for the conference.
- **Port Susan Shoreline Outreach (Kathleen):** Kathleen mentioned that she will be giving a talk on “Highlights of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area” on October 1st at Cama Beach. The Northwest Straits Foundation will be hosting a realtor workshop on October 11th for realtors in Port Susan to learn about shoreline properties. The Northwest Straits Foundation will also be hosting a vegetation workshop for shoreline landowners on October 17th.
- **SnoCo Boards and Commissions Thank you at the Evergreen Fair (Kathleen):** Kathleen reported that she, Elisa, Sarah, and Tom attended the event. At the event, Sarah was able to talk to the Executive and Councilmember Ryan regarding the MRC budget.
- **RainScaping Expo (Mike):** Mike announced that the MRC will be hosting a table at the Snohomish County RainScaping Expo at McCollum Park on September 29th. The event is from 12-4PM. Mike, Laura, and Tom have all volunteered to help out at the table.

- **MRC Retreat (Kathleen):** Kathleen announced that the MRC retreat will be November 7th. This meeting is in-place of the normal MRC meeting in November.
- **Derelict Vessels Project (Kathleen):** Kathleen reported that the derelict vessels have been posted and county is working on selecting a contractor for removal.
- **Forage Fish (Elisa):** Elisa reported that forage fish monitoring started in August for the 2018-2019 monitoring season. Elisa asked for volunteer for the October 9 sampling. Elisa and Kathleen continue to work with NRC on the forage fish analysis project. NRC consultant Jamey Selleck will be attending the MRC October meeting to present drafts of his analysis thus far to the MRC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.