

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

January 20, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted via conference call/video

<p>MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht Laura Gurley Tom Doerge Natasha Coumou Julie Schlenger Mike Sadler Tim Ellis Sara Maxwell Kip Killebrew</p> <p>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment Andrew Gobin Brienne Townsend Michael Kundu</p>	<p>Staff, Presenters, and Others Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District Jonathan Robinson, WSU Extension Beach Watchers Sasha Horst, NWSC Betsy Newnum, Citizen Traci Sanderson, Citizen Susan Tarpley, Citizen David Bain, Citizen Jon Baker, Citizen Phil Salditt, Citizen Eric Adams, Citizen Lincoln Loehr, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MRC approved the October 2020 Meeting Minutes. • The MRC approved the elections for the following leadership positions: Chair: Mike Ehlebracht; Co-Vice Chairs: Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou; LIO Representative: Tim Ellis; NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis; NWSC Representative Alternate: Julie Schlenger • The MRC approved the appointment of Susan Tarpley and David Bain as Ex-Officio Members. • The MRC approved the 2021 Work Plan. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelp 2020 Season Review hosted by the NWSC: January 21 • Forage Fish Monitoring: February 16 and 17 • February MRC Meeting: February 17 	

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

Mike announced that the MRC completed interviews for new members in December and January, and three new MRC Members have been recommended to Snohomish County Council

for appointment. The new members are Brienne Townsend, Michael Kundu, and Andrew Gobin, who were asked to introduce themselves.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 MRC Meeting Summary. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Leadership Elections

Mike Ehlebracht, MRC Chair, opened a discussion of MRC leadership position elections. Based on the conversation from the MRC November 2020 Retreat, Mike nominated himself for MRC Chair, and Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou for Co-Vice Chair. He then asked for any further nominations. There were none. Mike called for a vote to approve the following positions:

- **MRC Chair:** Mike Ehlebracht
- **MRC Co-Vice Chairs:** Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou

All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Based on conversations from the MRC November 2020 Retreat, Mike nominated Tim Ellis for LIO Representative and NWSC Representative, and Julie Schlenger for NWSC Alternate. He then asked for any further nominations. There were none. Mike called for a vote to approve the following positions:

- **NWSC Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **NWSC Alternate:** Julie Schlenger
- **LIO Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **LIO Alternate:** Vacant

All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Finally, Mike nominated Susan Tarpley and David Bain to serve as Ex-Officio MRC Members, providing the following text from the MRC Bylaws to explain the definition and role of Ex-Officio Members:

To improve coordination within Snohomish County, the MRC may create *ex officio* MRC member positions. *Ex officio* members will be appointed at the first regular meeting of every calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter, for a term of one-year and may be reappointed in subsequent years. Terms will automatically expire at the end of the calendar year unless reappointed via a consensus vote of current MRC members. The *ex officio* member is expected to fully participate in discussions and to share their expertise with the MRC, but they may not participate in MRC decisions and they do not count toward the quorum. *Ex officio* members will meet the requirements of the Snohomish County Code (Chapter 2.03 SCC).

Mike opened the floor for further discussion and questions, and there were none. He then called for a vote to approve the nominations.

All MRC Members voted to approve the Ex-Officio Member appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

MRC 2021 Work Plan

Alex Pittman, MRC Staff with Snohomish County SWM, led the MRC in a discussion of the draft 2021 Work Plan. MRC Members previously provided input on the 2021 Work Plan during the November 2020 MRC Retreat, and via email correspondence in the weeks leading up to this MRC Meeting.

Key changes to the Work Plan for 2021 include the following:

- The MyCoast App subcommittee has been removed from the Work Plan.
- The Kelp Monitoring subcommittee has been renamed the Marine Vegetation Monitoring subcommittee.
- The Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound initiatives have been added to the MRC Outreach subcommittee.
- The Pilings Project will wrap up the MRC grant in September 2021, and the Port Susan project will proceed with MRC grant funding in October 2021.

All MRC Members voted to approve the 2021 Work Plan and the motion passed by consensus.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **Pilings Phase 2:** The MRC has contracted with Environmental Service Associates (ESA) to move forward with Phase 2 of the project. ESA was also contracted in Phase 1 to produce the Pilings Prioritization Plan. The project team has decided on 5 focus areas for Phase 2. Next steps include developing fact sheets for each of these focus areas and preparing for stakeholder meetings.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. Due to inclement weather, December sampling only included the two Howarth Park sites. All sites were monitored in January. The next sample events are February 16 and 17.
- **Meadowdale:** Snohomish County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, has secured the councilmanic bonds needed to fund the project. The MRC assisted Parks by preparing a grant application to partially fund railroad safety improvements associated with the proposed railroad bridge. Grant funds for the project total nearly \$7 million. SWM will contribute \$300,000 toward the project in 2021.
- **Port Susan:** Joint subcommittee meeting with Island County was held on December 15, 2020. The team continued to discuss and refine the focus for the 2021-22 MRC Grant. As it stands, the current plan for 2021-22 is to review the Port Susan Report Card, edit and gather new information, and hold stakeholder meetings to gather best available information from tribes, scientists, and partners.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Four vessels removed at a cost of approximately \$40K in 2020. SWM is currently working to get reimbursed from DNR at 90%. A private philanthropist has made a \$50K donation to the NWSF for derelict vessel removal in Snohomish County. SWM is contracting with NWSF for \$45K (factoring in the admin fee from NWSF), which will effectively double the funds available for removal in 2021. Alex and Elisa will be doing initial recon for 2021 removals in February, though removal won't

occur until late summer. Next, SWM staff will be meeting with partners to create a strategic list of priority boats for 2021.

- **Howarth Park Signage:** New signs have been installed and can be viewed along the boardwalk trail at Howarth Park.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom provided a brief overview of the 2020 Kelp Monitoring data, which will be presented by Dana Oster from the NSWC at the upcoming Kelp Season 2020 Review Meeting.
- **Marine Vegetation Mapping:** Elisa reported that DNR's report is complete and will be sent out to the MRC shortly. Bart, the lead author from DNR, will be coming to speak to the MRC in February. We will discuss opportunities and brainstorm ideas for additional monitoring in 2021.
- **Oil Spills:** A comment letter for the Central Puget Sound GRP was submitted.
- **Beach Watchers – Starlight Beach Walk Event:** Jonathan reported that the virtual event is scheduled for February 22nd at 6:30PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee Work Plan 2021

Project		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
MRC Administration (Grant Task 1)	Members	MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for October, November, Dec. by Jan 1.			MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for January, February, March by April 1. Annual Report to Council.			MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for April, May, June by July 1.	Host MRC Picnic.	MRC Members report volunteer hours for July, August September by Sept. 20.	Plan Annual Retreat and work planning session.	Website update review and suggestions on changes.	Host MRC Annual Holiday Party.
	Staff	Progress Report Due. Annual Work Plan due.	Start Annual Report with Communications staff.	Schedule Annual Report to County Council. Brainstorm next grant project.	Progress Report Due. Annual Report to Council. Continue brainstorm next grant project.	Finalize next year's grant project. Draft grant proposal.	Finalize grant proposal. MRC presentation for next year's grant.	Progress Report Due.	Complete paperwork for next grant with NWSC/SnoCo.	Progress Report Due.	Plan Annual Retreat and work planning session. Start new grant. Start recruitment for new members as needed.	Facilitate Annual Retreat and work planning session. Interviews for new members as needed.	Complete website updates from MRC Review. Complete any new member or MRC Member reappointment paperwork.
MRC Piling Project (Grant Task 2)		Finalize list of sites. Start planning for stakeholder meetings. Task 2 progress report and deliverables due.	Planning for stakeholder meetings. Creating Fact Sheets.	Planning/hosting stakeholder meetings. Editing Fact Sheets.	Finalize Fact Sheets. Continue planning/hosting meetings. Task 2 progress report and deliverables due.	Continue planning/hosting stakeholder meetings.	Continue planning/hosting stakeholder meetings. Consultant drafts report.	Review draft report. Presentation by consultant at July Meeting. MRC to give feedback on report by July 30 th . Task 2 progress report and deliverables due.	Finalize report. Draft a press release.	Complete task 2 reporting. Share final report with partners. Finalize press release and distribute. Task 2 final deliverables due.	<i>Start next MRC grant.</i>	<i>Next MRC grant continues.</i>	<i>Next MRC grant continues.</i>
Howarth Park and Nearshore Restoration						Bi-Annual subcommittee Discuss opportunities for continued involvement and advocacy and ACoE beneficial re-use.						Bi-Annual subcommittee Discuss opportunities for continued involvement and advocacy and ACoE beneficial re-use.	
Derelict Vessels		Contracting for NWSF funds.	Plan for recon with SWM boat. Update list of vessels. Finalize NWSF funds.	Boat recon. Update boat spreadsheet.	Convene meeting with DNR and partners about boats to prioritize for 2021 removal	Start compiling docs for 2021 removal.	2021 bid on boats.	Finalize contract for 2021 removal.	2021 boat removal.	2021 boat removal.	Close out 2021 contract on boat removal.	DNR reimbursements. Outreach on boat removal + MyCoast	DNR reimbursements.
Recreational Crabber Education				Start conversations with BW, reach out to Jonathan to discuss outreach for the year.	Have Subcommittee meeting to plan outreach. Discuss coordination with WSU and City of Edmonds.	Continue planning work. Gather materials for season. Create social media ads with Communications staff.	Continue planning work. Gather materials for season. Create social media ads with Communications staff.	Do outreach focusing on week before opening and week after opening.	Crabber Ed throughout July and August until close of summer season (generally Labor Day weekend).	Subcommittee meeting to go over numbers, lessons learned, plans for next season.			
Mussel Watch			Check in with WDFW staff on results. Ask staff to speak in April or May.		Staff presents at MRC meeting in April or May.	Staff presents at MRC meeting in April or May.			Sites to be determined and finalized.	Plan for deployment.	Plan for deployment. Mussel Prep @Penn Cove	Cages are deployed.	Plan teams for retrieval.

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MRC Outreach	Ocean Literacy +MyCoast		Follow up with County and other Orgs + BW. See what partnership opportunities are available for Earth Day. Decide on level of participation.	Meet with Jonathan and BW to discuss how to incorporate our lesson plan into their work. Earth Day event coordination and planning work.	Partner on any Earth Day events, as determined by February subcommittee meeting.	Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.			Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.			Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.	
	Orca Day					Subcommittee meeting. Discuss if MRC will participate in Orca Day. Decide on level of participation.	Continue planning work.	Continue planning work.	Continue planning work.	Event held in coordination with other Orca Day Events.			
	Starlight Beach Walk	Plan for event.	Hold event	Subcommittee meeting with WSU to review event.						Start planning for the next year's event, decide on date.	Gather outreach materials.	Continue planning work.	Ensure that MRC has materials for event.
Forage Fish		Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth. Compile data from the year for MRC	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth. Bring sediment samples to lab.	Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.
Marine Vegetation Monitoring		Start conversation with DNR for 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.	Presentation from DNR on 2020 marine vegetation mapping.	Recruit new kelp monitor members as needed. Plan for 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.	Subcommittee meeting to discuss monitoring plan. Schedule any safety training needed.	Finalize monitoring plan. Contract with DNR on 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.	Check all gear to prepare for monitoring. DNR marine vegetation monitoring.	Complete float plan and paperwork. Monitor kelp beds. DNR marine vegetation monitoring.	Complete float plan and paperwork. Monitor kelp beds. DNR marine vegetation monitoring.	Get data to NWSI for processing. Initial findings from DNR on marine vegetation monitoring.	Finalize data processing. Ensure data is in Sound IQ.	Share data results with partners.	DNR to submit findings and report from 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.
Oil Spill Preparedness			Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meeting to discuss opportunities for E+O with Outreach Subcom.			Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program			Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Subcommittee meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program			Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program	
Meadowdale		Check in with Logan on construction schedule.	Monitor construction process, help as needed.	Monitor construction process, help as needed.	Monitor construction process, help as needed.	Monitor construction process, help as needed.	Monitor construction process, help as needed.	Presentation from Snohomish County Parks on the project.					
Port Susan				Subcommittee meeting for joint planning.			Subcommittee meeting for joint planning.				Start MRC Grant Task 2.	Grant work.	Grant work.