

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

April 21, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted via conference call/video

MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Laura Gurley Julie Schlenger Mike Sadler Sara Maxwell Kip Killebrew Brienne Townsend Andrew Gobin Absent Michael Kundu – excused	Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff MRC Ex-Officio Members Susan Tarpley, Citizen David Bain, Citizen Others Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District Jon Baker, Citizen
Summary of Decisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The MRC approved the March 2021 meeting minutes.	
Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Kelp Monitoring Kick-off Meeting: May 6 1PM-4PM● Forage Fish Monitoring: April 26, May 18, and May 19● Next MRC Meeting: May 19 at 6:30● Snohomish LIO Implementation Meeting May 20	

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge 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.

Tom introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Kip Killebrew made a motion to approve the March 17, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Tim Ellis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC 2021-2022 Grant Draft Application

Sara Maxwell and Alex Pittman gave an overview of the draft grant application for 2021-2022 which focuses on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. Between 2009 and 2012, over 30 federal, state, local, tribal and non-profit partners worked to create a conservation action plan for

the area associated with Port Susan which culminated in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. The Conservation Action Plan is unique in that it addresses target species and habitats and looks to encompass a wide range of issues, strategies and contributors. The final plan was adopted by the Snohomish County and Island County Marine Resource Committees, and Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes in 2012. The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) was officially designated by the Snohomish County Council in 2014.

A report card was completed in 2014, which captured progress on the following 7 key conservation targets of the plan: shorebirds, shellfish, beaches, forage fish, chinook salmon, deltas, and Dungeness crab. The report card is an important communication tool for connecting project partners, demonstrating success that is occurring across the landscape, and galvanizing new efforts. This proposed project for the MRC 2021-2022 grant is to work in collaboration with Island County MRC to update the report card. This work will continue the initial work of the first Port Susan MSA Conservation Action Plan Report Card by updating the science, recommendations and actions of the initial Port Susan MSA plan and reengaging stakeholders in the area to assist in helping update the strategic objectives and actions identified in the original plan.

Alex walked the MRC through the draft grant application and asked specifically for feedback on the outcomes, deliverables and project partners, as well as general comments. The MRC brought up the importance of addressing climate change and sea level rise in the new science piece and emphasized the importance of adding the United States Geologic Service (USGS) as an important project partner. USGS has been collecting sea level rise and storm surge data in Port Susan. The MRC commented that an agriculture partner should be added to the stakeholder list. MRC staff will add Snohomish Conservation District to the list of stakeholders and seek input from them on additional agriculture partners who should be added to this list.

Alex will work with the Port Susan Subcommittee to complete edits to the draft. The MRC was encouraged to provide additional edits over the next month as well. A proposed final draft will be made available prior to the next MRC meeting in May, and the MRC will be asked to approve the proposed plan at the May 19 meeting.

Plastic Free Salish Sea Earth Day

Elisa shared the final marketing materials for Earth Day, which included social media posts, press releases, and posters. Earth Day is tomorrow, April 22, and volunteers have been organized and assigned to the following locations:

District 1: Twin Rivers County Park – Michael Kundu and Kip Killebrew

District 2: County Campus – Alex Pittman and Natasha Coumou

District 3: Esperance County Park – Julie Schlenger and Brie Townsend

District 4: McCollum County Park – Jon Baker and Susan Tarpley

District 5: Fairfield County Park – Elisa Dawson

Additionally, volunteers from WSU Waste Warriors will also be meeting the MRC volunteers at each location. Volunteers were asked to arrive at 1:30, where a SWM staff members will meet them to drop off the materials. Volunteers should bring their own sturdy gloves, water bottle and snacks, as well as a camp chair. Several Council Members have said they will be participating in the event, as well as the Department of Natural Resources Washington Conservation Corps crew, and local Beach Watchers. The MRC will host a follow up conversation after the event to talk about what worked well and lessons learned.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** There has been no LIO meeting in the last month. The next LIO meeting is scheduled for May 20. Tim will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the NWSC has decided to host the MRC 2021 conference virtually again. The date has been set for October 29, and more information on speakers will be available this summer. Tim also made note of several items from the March 26 NWSC meeting, including the continuing work on the NWSI tribal acknowledgement, NWSF's Passport to Marine Adventure, the Science Advisory Committee's discussion of communications and the lack of discussion on challenges or difficulties, as well as updates on projects and programs from San Juan MRC, Jefferson MRC, and Island MRC.
- **Puget Sound Day on the Hill:** Tim reported that Puget Sound Day on the Hill is virtual this year. This is a series of virtual events where MRC Members are encouraged to interact with members of congress and talk about Puget Sound recovery. The first session starts Friday April 23 which will discuss Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and infrastructure, among other topics, with Rep. Derek Kilmer, Rep. Marilyn Strickland, and Rep. Suzan DelBene.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the kelp season kick-off meeting is scheduled for May 6. Tom is working on scheduling the kelp monitoring dates in Snohomish County for July and August. The team expects to monitor Edmonds, Meadowdale, and Mukilteo in July, and Edmonds and Hat Island in August.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa provided a report of the April 16 stakeholder meeting. She also reported that the contract with the NWSF has been finalized. On April 12 the Everett Herald published an article on the recent donation: [Everett couple writes check to clean up the Snohomish River | HeraldNet.com](#)
- **Pilings Phase 2:** Laura reported that the pilings stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for May 26. At this meeting the stakeholders will discuss the current status and information on the pilings and discuss ideas for possible removal. Alex noted that Ben Cooksey at DNR is currently assisting with sorting out piling ownership near property boundaries, with the hopes that this work will be completed prior to the stakeholder meeting.
- **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. The next sample events are scheduled for April 26, May 18, and May 19. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that the project is still uncertain if it will go to construction in 2021 or 2022. The decision should be made in mid-May.

- **NOAA Mukilteo:** Susan reported that while local leaders have sent letters to Federal Officials about the facility, NOAA still does not plan to move forward on building the facility. Local officials are in the process of dealing with the vacant parcel now.
- MRC Member Mike Sadler announced he will be resigning from the MRC to attend the University of Washington for a Ph.D. The MRC wished him well on his next adventure!

The meeting adjourned at 8:30