

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

June 16, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted via conference call/video

MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Julie Schlenger Kip Killebrew Brienne Townsend Michael Kundu Absent: Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair (excused) Andrew Gobin (excused) Laura Gurley (excused) Sara Maxwell (excused)	Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, Citizen Others Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District Karen Anderson, Snohomish County Executive's Office
Summary of Decisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MRC approved the May 2021 meeting minutes.	
Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwest Straits Commission Meeting June 25• Crabber Education workshop with the NWSF June 30• Oil Spill webinar June 30• Crabber Education at 10th street boat launch – July 1, 3, and 10• Kelp Monitoring July 13, 14, 21, 22, 23• Puget Sound Restoration Fund at Edmonds on July 19• Marine Survival North Sound Workshop July 20• Next MRC Meeting: July 21 at 6:30• Forage fish monitoring July 26	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC 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 of the meeting participants.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 19th, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Pilings Project Update

Elisa gave the update due to Laura Gurley's absence from the meeting. The Snohomish Estuary Piling Prioritization Project Stakeholder Meeting was on May 26th, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to gather stakeholders and partners from the Snohomish River Estuary to review the inventory of pilings and prioritization process, as well as to discuss opportunities for piling removal.

Attendees included Snohomish County, City of Everett, Port of Everett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Natural Resources, City of Marysville, and the Tulalip Tribes. The meeting was facilitated by the MRC's consultant, ESA. The meeting included an overview of the MRC's project to inventory and prioritize the 15,564 pilings in the Snohomish Estuary and the focus areas chosen for further discussion. The group also discussed mitigation in relation to pilings. The MRC and ESA consultant team will be following up with stakeholders in smaller conversations to discuss more about possible removal projects in-depth.

Elisa asked the MRC what their ideas are for how to continue to move this project forward as we come to the end of the grant period. Ideas brainstormed during the meeting were:

- Physically mark creosote piles and high priority piles in some way that is visible. While this would increase awareness of the piles, the MRC discussed needing access from the other jurisdictions for piles not owned by Snohomish County.
- Reach out to private entities about the piles. Thus far, the MRC has only interacted with public entities.
- Research other large-scale piling removal projects by Washington Department of Natural Resources or in other states on how they went from identifying piles to implementation.
- Research funding opportunities both for private and public entities to do piling removal. Create a list of funding opportunities and advocate for additional opportunities for funding.
- Continue conversations and research on mitigation banks and advanced mitigation opportunities with pilings.
- Continue conversations with DNR for a large-scale project and opportunities for a special allocation in the state budget to do removal.
- Continue working with local public entities on connecting dots for when people are already out doing projects and if they can they also remove piles while they're out there. Continue conversations on how we can work together to reduce operational costs of piling removal by collaborating on projects.

The MRC's consultant, ESA, who has been working on this project will present at the July meeting and the MRC will continue this conversation then.

Plastic Free Salish Sea and International Coastal Cleanup Day September 18, 2021

Mike Ehlebracht gave an overview of the May 20th follow up meeting with WSU which discussed the Earth Day event and ideas for future events. Overall, the group felt the Earth Day event was a success which was able to adjust to COVID safety measures. The group enjoyed the MRC and WSU collaboration. For future events there is a need for more signage, the group

would like to consider alternate locations, include more safety information and prep, and wants to consider other ways to gather data beyond just weight.

For next steps, the group has proposed planning a clean-up event for International Coastal Cleanup Day, which is September 18th. The idea is to host an in-person event at one location using EPA's Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools>, and partner with Zero Waste Washington's work to document trash as a pollutant in Puget Sound. WSU Waste Warriors and WSU Beach Watchers would like to partner with the MRC on this event. The team has decided on Kayak Point Park for the event, and Snohomish County Parks has approved the location and will offer parking passes to volunteers.

Elisa will be sending out a Doodle Poll to schedule a call in July for the planning team. Julie suggested the team continue to consider messaging and how we engage people in this work. The MRC discussed reaching out to specific student groups, volunteer groups, and partnering with other organizations. Additionally, the MRC would like to do a reconnaissance of the Kayak Point area a week before to get an idea of the amount of trash and will also look at tides before decided on specific times for the clean-up on the 18th.

Port Susan Grant Presentation to NWSC and Application

Due to Sara's absence, Tim gave an overview of Sara's presentation to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 28th. Tim reported Scott Chase gave Island County's presentation in coordination and presented before Sara. Scott's presentation focused on the history of Port Susan and the planning effort that happened from 2009 – 2012 in order to create the Port Susan MSA Plan. Sara went next and gave an overview of the grant proposal for reviewing the Plan and updating the Report Card. Both presentations were well received, and the comments and questions from the Northwest Straits Commission did not result in any significant revisions to the grant application. The final grant application was submitted June 8th. Funding will start October 1st, 2021.

Alex reported that the Port Susan joint subcommittee with Island and Snohomish MRC had their fifth meeting on June 9th. The joint subcommittee discussed the Evans School student consulting lab application. Applications must be accepted by UW faculty before being presented to students for consideration. As such, the committee discussed how to adjust the proposal to appeal to student's interests. Beyond the scientific review at the core of this proposal, this could include additional review of policy changes and recommendations, recommendations for engaging the public and stakeholders with the scientific information, recommendations for addressing environmental justice considerations, and providing opportunities for students to participate in the locally-led collaborative process of the larger project. Island County is leading this effort and will share a draft with the group by the end of June. The group will have until July 28th to add written comments. The group will meet again in early-mid August to discuss final changes. The application is due in early September.

The MRC asked if it is possible to create a short video pitch to the Evans School to go along with our application. Alex and the joint subcommittee will bring this to the group to discuss and reach out to the Evans School about opportunities. The MRC discussed the importance of emphasizing

our locally led process in the application, and the desire to collaborate with students. Overall, the MRC is looking forward to the opportunity to work with Evans School students.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** Tim reported that he and Elisa attended the LIO meeting on May 20th. There was a presentation by the Snohomish Health District on their septic program. The group also discussed the draft strategies for the new Action Agenda. Tim will be participating in the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO activity to rank the new strategies of the Action Agenda.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that at the last NWSC meeting on May 28th Snohomish, Island, and San Juan County MRC's presented their 2021-2022 grant ideas. The next meeting is June 25th, and Jefferson, Clallam, Whatcom, and Skagit will present their NWSC grant information.
- **MRC Annual Report Presentation to Council on May 25th:** Mike gave the Snohomish MRC's report to council which was recorded and can be viewed here: http://snohomish.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=18&clip_id=7946. The presentation was very well received from Council and Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources management.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that Alex and Julie have completed their kelp safety training, and Brie will complete hers in July. The team is ready for their monitoring this summer. Scheduled monitoring dates for July and August include the following:
 - **All Three Sites:** July 13 and 14, with additional dates of July 21, 22, 23.
 - **Edmonds Round 2:** August 9 or 20
 - **Hat Island (SWM Staff):** August 10 or 18

Additionally, the Puget Sound Restoration Fund is coordinating a Kelp Expedition and will be in Edmonds on July 19 for some monitoring work.

- **Crabber Outreach:** The MRC plans to do in-person outreach at the 10th Street boat launch in Everett. Supplies for outreach include packets with best management rack card info, maps, rot cord, bait clips, crab gauges, and rock fish descenders. The MRC discussed the recent announcement that crab opening will be July 1. The crab team will finalize dates and is still seeking volunteers. Elisa asked those who would like to volunteer to reach out to her.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC monitored two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park in June. Meadowdale Beach is going to be closed for construction, and monitoring is going to stop at Meadowdale until after construction. Moving forward, forage fish monitoring will be consolidated into one day per month and include Picnic Point and Howarth Park. Volunteers are permitted and must follow the current mask and/or social distance requirements. The next sample event is scheduled for July 26th. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.

- **Meadowdale:** Elisa announced that Meadowdale is going to construction and the beach closed for construction on June 15th. The project is expected to be complete summer or fall of 2022.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa reported that the marine vegetation contract with Washington Department of Natural Resources is being reviewed by county and state lawyers. The contract is expected to be signed in early July and monitoring will happen August and September.
- **NWSC Shoreline Master Plan Request:** Natasha, Alex, and Elisa attended the June 10th meeting with the Northwest Straits Commission and other MRCs to discuss how MRCs approach shoreline master plan engagement. The goal of this group meeting is to try to coordinate on the MRCs input on local SMPs and share ideas on how we can be involved. There will be future meetings to discuss additional SMP ideas and how MRCs can be involved in their local process. David Bain requested to be added to the group working on this.
- **August MRC Picnic:** Elisa said that the Mukilteo Rose Hill Christiansen Room is available for August 18th. The MRC agreed on the location. Elisa will reserve the room from 5PM-9PM.
- MRC member volunteer hours for the second quarter are due to Alex by July 1st.
- Mike Ehlebracht reported that he is serving on a technical committee looking into 6PPD-quinone which comes from tires and has been recently demonstrated by researches to be the cause of Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS) in coho salmon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27.