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| MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht, Chair  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.  Franchesca Perez  Michael Kundu  Julie Schlenger  Bob Margulis  Sara Maxwell  Andrew Gobin  Laura Gurley  Brie Townsend  **Absent**  Allan Hicks  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair | **Staff**  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  **MRC Ex-Officio Members**  David Bain  Susan Tarpley  **Others**  Leah Robison, Northwest Straits Commission  Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission  Kent Short, citizen  Kemberly Cauvel, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the September 2022 meeting summary. | |
| **Upcoming Events**   * **Beach Cleanup at Howarth Park:** November 22nd * **Forage Fish Monitoring:** November 7th * **Next MRC Meeting/MRC Retreat:** November 16th, Lombardi’s | |

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu* (Sauk-*Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 Meeting Summary. Bob Margulis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**European Green Crab Follow-up Discussion**.

Joycelyn Blue facilitated a follow up discussion regarding next steps of the MRC on the topic of invasive European Green Crab.

Presented Information:

* Current monitoring sites of the Tulalip Tribe: Priest point, Quilceda, and Port Susan Bay
* Current monitoring sites of the Stillaguamish Tribe: Davis Slough, Iverson Preserve, and Triangle Cove
* WSG Crab Team Current Monitoring Locations Map: [WSG Crab Team Monitoring - Google My Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1nSIqgKGbfcxzbelgCWF57qjOAv4&ll=48.21190814206806%2C-122.35199923614485&z=11)
  + the “most suitable sites” highlighted on this map could be potential monitoring sites for the MRC in conjunction with WSG Crab Team

Discussion:

* Franny Perez discussed the details of the Crab Team monitoring at the Stillaguamish monitoring sites.
* Franny discussed eDNA opportunities
  + ORCA currently has a grant, there may be an opportunity to add onto their eDNA research.
  + Franny is doing additional research on the costs of eDNA
  + The group discussed the eDNA research going on at the County
* Washington Sea Grant is collaborating with WSU on creating education and outreach materials.
  + The MRC could assist in dispersal of materials and cross posting on websites and social media.
* Bob Margulis is going to keep the group updated on the WSG Crab Team lower intensity detection protocol as it is developed

**Port Susan Phase 2 Update**

Sara Maxwell provided the update for Port Susan. The Snohomish County and Island County Port Susan teams met on October 5 to discuss Phase 2, which officially started with the new grant on October 1, 2022.

The group discussed opportunities for community outreach. Additional brainstormed ideas included:

* Adding the Stanwood Museum and Legion Park in Everett to the potential sites list for a celebration
* A boat party barge option for a partners celebration
* Ensure at any celebration that signs showing partners and funding are present
* Potential idea of spreading awareness of Port Susan by speaking in elementary classrooms or holding an art contest

Elisa Dawson shared the members of the core team and asked that if anyone wanted to be added to the team that they reach out to her.

November Retreat planning, membership term renewals, and Annual Work Plan Discussion

Elisa Dawson led the group in planning for the November Retreat on the 16th.

* Lombardi’s was decided as the location of the retreat.
  + Elisa will confirm availability and make the reservation.
  + We will be utilizing the outdoor space, so remember to dress warmly.
* Elisa will also send the Annual Work Plan out to all members to review and suggest edits before the November 16th meeting.
* Mike asked MRC members to consider leadership roles which will be discussed at the retreat.
  + Mike will be terming out at the end of the year, so a new Chair will need to be elected.
* Elisa asked that is any members would not like to change their member status to contact her

**Project Updates and Announcements**

* **LIO:** Tim Ellis reported:
  + The LIO discussed ways to engage with the Ecosystem Coordination Board
  + LIO collective project updates for the Shoreline Armoring Project and the Septic Project
  + The LIO reviewed the 2022-2023 Draft Workplan
* **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from September 30 NWSC Meeting:
  + Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization: The Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization bill was introduced in the Senate (S4903) by Senator Murray. It was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.
  + Monitoring Washington’s marine wildlife by air, water, and land: Scott Pearson from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife gave an overview of how they monitor seabirds and marine mammals, in partnership with other agencies and entities. To explore data collected, go to https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/wp/MarineSeabird/index.html
  + Green crab: Commission staff shared a late season update on green crab trapping, noting a surge in the number of crabs caught.
  + Derelict vessels: Lucas updated the Commission on planning efforts for the derelict vessel removal and the pilot derelict vessel turn in event. A workgroup will be formed in October made up of interested MRC and tribal representatives. The workgroup will guide prioritization of vessel removals in 2023.
  + Upcoming Events - See website for more details
    - October 28, 2022 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting (new): 10am-12pm via Zoom.
    - December 9, 2022 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting: 10am-12pm via Zoom.
  + Andrew Gobin said Tulalip tribes supports and will support the reauthorization of NWSC
* **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported:
  + Marine Vegetation data has been gathered by DNR for Port Susan and Hat Island. An update on the data gathered has been provided by DNR with preliminary observations and is in the meeting packet. DNR will continue to process the data over the coming months and will provide a final report in January 2023. The MRC will have Bart present on this work likely at the February 2023 MRC meeting.
* **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  + October Forage Fish monitoring occurred on October 10th
    - Thanks to all that joined on that smoky day!
  + Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates
    - November 7th 9am-12pm
    - December 5th 8am-11am
    - January 16th 2:30pm-5:30pm
* **Marine Water Quality:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  + She is working on a white paper gathering information on what water quality data is being gathered in Snohomish County. She is gathering info on the Stilly Tribe’s buoy, ORCA school activities, BEACH sampling, and more. Please reach out to Joycelyn if you have any additional ideas on marine water quality you would like to share.
  + Tim Ellis shared that Friends of Skagit Beaches is doing some stormwater sampling in Mukilteo and Edmonds
* **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported:
  + All 4 derelict vessels have been removed from the Snohomish Estuary, and Elisa is currently processing the reimbursements from DNR. Total cost for the contractor was $143,500. DNR is now reimbursing 100%, and we will be seeking full reimbursement.
  + The Northwest Straits and looking to partner with DNR on a vessel turn in event, where vessel owners could bring vessels to be disposed of for a low-to-nothing cost. Port of Everett staff and Elisa attended an initial conversation with the NWSC about this in September.
* **Beach Clean Up Picnic Point:** Mike Ehlebracht reported:
  + The Snohomish MRC partnered with Zero Waste Washington and WSU Beach Watchers to host a Beach Cleanup on September 24 for International Coastal Cleanup Day. The Cleanup was at Picnic Point Beach, where over a dozen volunteers picked up nearly 75 pounds of trash. The Cleanup utilized the Escaped Trash Protocol developed by the EPA to assess the impact of trash of the beach. The data collected from this citizen science work will be used for a region-wide effort to better understand trash loading throughout Puget Sound.
  + Mike Ehlebracht helped staff this event and brought the coffee and treats on behalf of the MRC!
  + The next cleanup event is at Howarth Park on November 22 at 10AM.
* **DNR Letter of Support – Mike Ehlebracht** 
  + The MRC executive committee sought MRC approval for the letter of support for a DNR grant application under NOAA’s Marine Debris program to request ~ $6m for additional focus on removal of derelict vessels and large marine debris in the Snohomish Watershed to support goals stated with the WRAP. The grant includes some of funds to remove and monitor tire piles elsewhere within Puget Sound (~4m), for a total grant of about $10m. If DNR receives the grant, they will build additional capacity within DNR to tackle the existing list of derelict vessels in Snohomish as well as expand our voluntary turn-in program to intercept problem vessels before they become hazardous. The MRC approved the letter, which was sent to DNR on October 11, 2022
* **Other Updates**
  + Julie Schlenger mentioned attending the 2022 HAZWOPER Refresher for oiled wildlife volunteers and encouraged other MRC members to attend in the future.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.**