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| MRC Members PresentJulie Schlenger, ChairBrie Townsend, Co-Vice ChairSara Maxwell, Co-Vice ChairTim Ellis, NWSC and LIO RepPhil SaldittFranchesca PerezAndrew GobinRichard StricklandHeidi Stewart, Alternate **Absent**Allan HicksNatasha Coumou, Past-ChairCory Champagne, AlternateDawn Presler | **Staff**Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC StaffJoycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff**MRC Ex-Officio Members**David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member**Others**Steve Donnelly – DNRJonathan Robinson – WSU Beach WatchersVivian Ericson – MFANatalie Sacker – MFASasha Horst, Northwest Straits CommissionLaura Gurley, Port of EverettMichael Chesher, Citizen  |
| **Summary of Decisions*** The MRC approved the November 2024 meeting summary.
* The MRC approved the 2025 Executive Team, Ex-Officio Members, Alternates, and Representatives.
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| **Upcoming Events*** February 8th 7-8:30 Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk at Olympic Beach
* February 19th MRC Meeting in-person at the Snohomish County Campus
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**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Co-Vice Chair Brie Townsend opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Brie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she 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 November 2024 meeting summary. Andrew Gobin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Annual Elections – Brie Townsend

Brie Townsend led the MRC through the proposed roles and MRC Members were asked to provide any additional nominations. The final proposed Executive Committee, Representative, and Ex-Officio MRC roles that were submitted to be approved by consensus were:

Chair: Julie Schlenger

Vice-Chair/Co Vice-Chairs: Brie Townsend and Sara Maxwell

Past-Chair: Natasha Coumou

LIO Representative: Tim Ellis

LIO Alternate: Allan Hicks

NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis

NWSC Alternate: Julie Schlenger

MRC Ex-Officio Members: David Bain

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the proposed Executive Committee, Representative, and Ex-Officio MRC roles, Phil Salditt seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Next, the MRC reviewed the following proposed MRC Member alternates. Elisa Dawson reminded the MRC that the Bylaws state: only appointed MRC members may participate in MRC decisions. MRC members may submit a written request to the MRC chairperson to participate through a designee. If the MRC approves the request, then the designee may participate in MRC decisions on behalf of the appointed MRC member.

Prior to the MRC Meeting, Sara Maxwell had requested that Cory Champagne serve as her formal alternate again for 2025. Additionally, prior to the MRC Meeting, Natasha Coumou had requested that Heidi Stewart serve as her formal alternate for 2025.

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the proposed MRC Alternative Member roles, Phil Salditt seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Annual Report Discussion – Natalie Sacker and Vivian Ericson, MFA Consulting

In collaboration with the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) will support the process of implementing the MRC’s 2025-2030 (5-year) Strategic Plan. MFA’s role in this process is to co-lead the development of the 2025 Annual Work Plan and the Annual Report. Currently, MFA is working with the MRC to update the Annual Report. This year the Annual Report will shift to being made collaboratively on Canva and MFA will lead the creation of the Annual Report.

Natalie led the MRC through a process to show them how to edit the Annual Report Canva document. The MRC is expected to review the draft designs for the Annual Report and respond to a poll of design preferences that MFA has asked the MRC to participate in. Next, Subcommittees will draft content for the Annual Report by March 10th. MFA will provide a draft Annual Report by March 17th, then the MRC will review the document by March 24th, and the final Annual Report will be ready by March 31st.

Letter of Support Policy– Elisa Dawson

The Snohomish MRC receives requests for letters of support for projects within the marine waters of Snohomish County. To be considered for a letter of support, partners must work with one or more Members of the Snohomish MRC to find a project Lead to bring the letter forward. A MRC Member Lead must facilitate the process of gathering MRC approval for the letter of support. This document is intended to provide clarity on the approval criteria, authorization process to be followed, and timing required in completing a letter of support.

The MRC reviewed the draft Letter of Support Policy and had a discussion. Several discussion and text edits were considered regarding if MRC Members who are leading the letter of support should also participate in the consensus vote. MRC staff will work to incorporate these comments and an updated Letter of Support Policy will be reviewed at the February meeting. If ready, the MRC will vote to approve the Letter of Support Policy at the February MRC meeting.

**Project Updates and Announcements**

* **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
	+ The meetings and events for 2025 are live on the NW Straits Commission website. Agendas and meeting details are posted to this page as each meeting approaches.
	+ Caitlyn Blair shared highlights from the responses to the 2024 NWS Initiative annual conference held November. More than 120 members, partners, and speakers participated in the event, and there was high praise for the event structure, sessions, and networking activities. Watch for a follow-up e-mail with more details and information, including links and attachments to notes from the Science Advisory Committee session, as well as the one-pagers from the MRC networking activity. In the meantime, please see the NW Straits Conference website for the information that has already been compiled, as well as a photo gallery from the conference.
	+ Save the date: 2025 Conference will be held at Maple Hall in Skagit County on November 7-8, 2025.
* **LIO – Tim Ellis**
	+ The LIO hosted a Riparian Workshop Dec 10
	+ Snohomish County Health Department is building a GIS database of septic systems.
* **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
	+ MFA will continue to support this project as a consultant.
	+ The subcommittee’s first meeting and the kickoff for year 2 is Jan 16.
	+ The Kelp Kayak Monitoring Data Review meeting for all MRCs is on Jan 30.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update– Julie Schlenger**
	+ The annual Oil Spill Task Force meeting occurred December 2024. A case study included the response to tar balls observed along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Communication and no known responsible party were cited as response issues.
	+ The next Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting will be January 16, 2025.
* **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
	+ Monitoring has continued monthly for Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park.
	+ Upcoming monitoring dates**:** Picnic Point and Meadowdale – January 14, Howarth – January 18
	+ The 2024 data summary presentation with WDFW is currently being scheduled and will most likely be virtual.
	+ The WDFW Marine Beach Spawning map publishes forage fish data on a biyearly basis and was updated in September. It now reflects all surveys completed through December 2023.
	+ Howarth Park did 9 consecutive months on sampling in 2024. January sampling of Howarth Park on January 18.
* **Spencer Island Restoration Update – Phil Salditt**
	+ Phil was unable to attend the meeting on 12/5 and did not have an update.
* **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
	+ Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC are collaborating on hosting a vessel turn in event in February 2026. Planning for the event is starting now, with the first meeting being held on Jan 22.
	+ There is budget for vessel removal in 2025. MRC Members are encouraged to submit their suggestions for vessel removal by March 19, 2025.
* **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
	+ Snohomish County and the ORCA program completed their 2024 contract.
	+ A contract for 2025-2026 is currently being developed. In this SOW, ORCA would continue to collect data throughout the 2 years, while also focusing on created a public-facing outreach material showing their results for data 2020-2024.
* **Kayak Point Signage – Elisa Dawson**
	+ The MRC held a workgroup meeting to continue to refine language for the 9 signs on Dec 12. This meeting included Tulalip Natural Resources staff from their Treaty Rights Office.
	+ The Tulalip Tribes graphics team has agreed to take on creating updated new drafts of all 9 signs. We expect to see drafts soon and will be reviewing updated drafts at the February or March MRC meeting.
* **Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk – Saturday February 8th 7-8:30PM.**
	+ MRC will provide hot chocolate and cider. A few volunteers are needed to help with the drinks. All MRC members are encouraged to attend.
* **Upcoming Events**
	+ Forage fish monitoring
		- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – January 14
		- Howarth – January 18
	+ MRC February Meeting will be in-person.
* **Other Updates?**
	+ None.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.**