



**March 31, 2017 • 10:00am-12:00pm  
WebEx Conference Call—WebEx**

**Attendees:**

**Commission members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Dale Moses (Jefferson), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Jerry Masters, Tom Cowan, Tom Temple (San Juan)

**Commission staff:** Rich Childers, Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst

**Others in attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation)

**Absent:** Terry Williams, Sheida Sahandy, Ron Thom, Paul Clampitt (Snohomish)

**Welcome and introductions**

Nan McKay opened the meeting and did roll call.

The minutes from the January Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved and are available here: <http://nwstraits.org/archive/>.

**Northwest Straits Commission - committee reports**

**Executive Committee**

Jamey Selleck said the committee discussed outcomes from the Commission's Annual Retreat and key priorities for the coming year. They also had a joint meeting with the Northwest Straits Foundation Executive Committee on March 13.

**External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan updated on the work of the committee to help secure annual funding for MRCs. He recently went to Olympia to meet with Senator Kevin Ranker and said the committee will continue to work with legislators through the current session. Nan, Rich, Jerry, Ginny and Caroline are attending Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington DC from May 1-3.

**Science Advisory Committee**

Lucas Hart said Kathleen Pozarycki presented on the MyCoast App to the committee. The app currently includes Storm Surge Monitoring with USGS (25-30 people using the app for this); Locating and marking derelict boats in Snohomish Estuary; Creosote log counting in Snohomish Estuary. Snohomish MRC would like to add one more project. SAC provided several ideas, including: beach wrack tracking, erosion/feeder bluff photo's. Kathleen will discuss ideas with MRC for final decision.

**Northwest Straits Foundation update**

Jerry Masters reminded MRCs that the MRC Opportunity Fund is available. MRCs are encouraged to consider projects for the upcoming year.



## minutes

- Action: MRCs wanting more information on the MRC Opportunity Fund should contact Caroline at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

Caroline Gibson said the Foundation secured Holly Garland as a 2017 summer season kelp program intern. Also, the first sponsorship for the 2017 MRC Conference was received from Samish Indian Nation.

The Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation staff met on March 22 to talk about recreational crabber outreach to reduce lost pots, and will work together to support the regional Catch More Crab project. MRCs are encouraged to participate.

- Action: Contact Sasha Horst at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org) or Jason Morgan at [morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org) for more information.

### **MRC reports**

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2oqxU2q>

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark said Doug Morrill, representative from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe on the MRC, was replaced with Mike McHenry. Shannon Weaver, a senior at Huxley College on the Peninsulas, was selected as the crabber outreach intern. The Olympia oyster project at Pitship Point ran into a glitch when MRC members reported the wide scattering of shells—the MRC is in the process of looking for another restoration site.

### **Island**

Ed Adams said Tony Turpin resigned from the MRC and Tom Leschine joined. Caitlin Budd and Dawn Pucci are coordinating MRC through April and May during Anna Toledo's maternity leave. He also reported that beach seining was not possible at proposed sites, so the MRC will continue to look for a feasible monitoring site.

### **Jefferson**

Dales Moses said the MRC is working on reaching out to regional groups to attend their meetings. The MRC briefed their Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in March on the MRC's recent projects. Digging for Dinner recreational clam digger outreach events are scheduled for Saturday, May 13 in Quilcene and for Friday, June 9 in Dosewallips, with more details to follow.

### **San Juan**

Tom Temple said the MRC has two vacancies and is in the process of encouraging applications through the San Juan County Council. He said the MRC is hosting their Marine Managers' Workshop on April 3 and 4 at Camp Orkila on Orcas Island. He said the MRC is also working on Orcas Island Landing interpretive signage.

### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said Dr. Jude Apple, Research Coordinator for Padilla Bay Reserve, presented on the Coastal Blue Carbon Project at Padilla Bay at the MRC's monthly meeting in February. Their Salish Sea Stewards program started with 35 volunteers participating. Salish Sea Stewards were featured in the [Skagit Valley Herald](#) recently.



### **Snohomish**

Snohomish provided a written report. The MRC is working on the Storm Surge Monitoring Project Planning and the MyCoast App. In effort to engage more users, the MRC created a new app form which would use specific landmarks and ask citizen scientists to take specific photographs from those designated points to measure visual change over time.

### **Whatcom**

Doug Stark said Bert Rubash resigned from the MRC in February. Christine Woodward joined, filling the Conservation/Environmental position. They are currently working on a feasibility study to model a volunteer training program for Whatcom MRC similar to Skagit MRC's Salish Sea Steward program. He also said the MRC got great feedback from attendees to the screening of the film [\*Plastic Ocean\*](#).

### **Business items**

#### **Scoping for forage fish training**

A forage fish training through WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will be held April 10 at Padilla Bay Reserve.

- Action: Those interested in attending should contact Lucas Hart at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

#### **Kelp workshop**

A kelp workshop will be held April 15 at the Maritime Center in Port Townsend with the goal of discussing the future of the project.

- Action: Those with questions can contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

#### **Olympia oyster workshop**

Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation staff, is organizing an Olympia oyster workshop April 21 at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend to discuss the future direction and metrics of Olympia oyster restoration.

#### **Forage fish conference call**

Lucas is holding regular calls for MRCs involved in forage fish monitoring. Erin Dilworth from WDFW is quality checking MRC forage fish samples and will send out a summary spreadsheet of quality assurance test results on a monthly basis to MRCs.

#### **2017 NWSC Retreat survey**

The Northwest Straits Commission hosted its Annual Retreat at Padilla Bay Reserve February 23-24. Survey results indicated the retreat achieved all of its desired outcomes.

#### **April Commission meeting**

MRCs will each present a proposed project at the April 28 Commission meeting at Padilla Bay. MRC members are encouraged to attend.



## minutes

- Action: Each MRC should contact Nicole Jordan at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org) to sign up for a presentation timeslot and provide a presentation title.

### **Election nomination committee**

The Northwest Straits Commission will elect officers at the April Commission meeting. Jerry Masters agreed to serve as chair of an ad-hoc nominating committee.

### **Discussion/questions on Near-Term Action (NTA) solicitation process for the 2018 Action Agenda**

Rich Childers spoke with Peter Best, Puget Sound Partnership, and offered to bring questions forward from the Commission and MRCs to the Partnership about the Near-Term Action solicitation process and timeline.

- Action: Those with specific questions should contact Rich at [childers@nwstraits.org](mailto:childers@nwstraits.org).

### **Round table**

There were no round table topics.

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment

\*The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2017 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at the Northwest Straits Commission offices at Padilla Bay Reserve\*