



## minutes

May 26, 2017 • 10:00am-12:00pm  
WebEx Conference Call—WebEx

### Attendees:

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice Chair), Jerry Masters, Pete Granger (Whatcom-alternate), Ed Adams (Island), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ron Thom, Tom Cowan, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Bob Campbell (Clallam-alternate), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal-alternate)

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

**Others in Attendance:** Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC staff)

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams, Tom Temple (San Juan), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Alan Clark (Clallam)

### Welcome and Introductions

Nan McKay opened the meeting. The Commission approved by consensus Laura Blackmore, Deputy Director for the Puget Sound Partnership, as Commission alternate for Sheida Sahandy.

The minutes from the April Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved with one change.

### Northwest Straits Commission - committee reports

#### Executive Committee

Jamey said the committee discussed the recent trip to Washington DC for Puget Sound Day on the Hill, budget updates and the upcoming MRC grants. The committee also discussed potential presenters for upcoming Commission meetings, including topics for the June in-person meeting.

#### Science Advisory Committee

Ron said the committee welcomed a new member, Hugh Shipman, a Coastal Geologist with the Washington Department of Ecology. Ron Thom and Tom Mumford are developing a two-page document on ecosystem health/condition which will include a conceptual model to quantify actual progress of example Northwest Straits Initiative projects and the suggested next steps. The document will be presented at the June Commission meeting.

#### External Relations Committee

Tom Cowan updated on the work of the committee on securing biennial funding for MRCs in the amount of \$450,000 from the state legislature.

- Action: Tom Cowan will update the Commission as information comes available.



## minutes

### **Puget Sound Day on the Hill**

Rich updated on the recent trip to Washington DC for the Puget Sound Day on the Hill event. He said around 60 people representing the Puget Sound region attended including Rich, Nan, Jerry, Caroline and Ginny. The group met with Senator Patty Murray who reaffirmed her support of the Northwest Straits Initiative. The Puget Sound Partnership posted highlights from the event, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2qKUjHz>

### **MRC reports**

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

### **Clallam**

Bob Campbell updated on the work of Clallam MRC. Jeff Ward is the new Chair, Brad Collins is the new Vice-Chair, and Peggy McClure is the new alternate MRC member for the City of Sequim. Bob said the MRC is pursuing educational and outreach efforts this summer and has many projects underway including crabber outreach, forage fish surveys and Olympia oyster restoration.

### **Island**

Ed Adams said William Bell joined the MRC in the Port of Coupeville seat and Anna Toledo will be returning from maternity leave in June. The MRC is working on forage fish surveys and have found eggs at Maple Grove. On May 24, the Pigeon Guillemot team held a training on the Pigeon Guillemot survey protocols.

### **Jefferson**

Dales Moses said the MRC has a new seasonal program assistant, Tim Weissman. The MRC is installing their 7<sup>th</sup> rain garden on June 6-7. He said forage fish monitoring is continuing at the Fort Townsend site with a new index site at Adelma Beach. The MRC lost 8 of the 21 winter marker buoys and are working on finding divers to reinstall the recovered buoys.

### **San Juan**

San Juan provided a written report. Kendra Smith, the new Environmental Resources Director for San Juan County Public Works, was appointed by San Juan County Council to serve on the Marine Resources Committee. The MRC currently has two vacancies. Marine Managers' Workshop results and recommended actions are being compiled into a final report and will be available on the MRC website.

### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said Dr. Jude Apple, Research Coordinator for Padilla Bay Reserve, is the newest member to the MRC. He said 34 volunteers graduating the Salish Sea Stewards program. Skagit MRC partnered with the Washington Sea Grant to expand European green crab monitoring throughout Skagit County. The MRC is providing a letter of support for eDNA to University of Washington.

### **Snohomish**



Paul Clampitt said Elisa Dawson will be covering for Kathleen while she is out on maternity leave. Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has provided \$50,000 in grant funds through the Local Integrating Organizations (LIO) to the MRC to remove derelict boats. The MRC and Washington Dept. of Natural Resources will provide matching funds contributing to a total working budget of approximately \$100,000.

### **Whatcom**

Pete Granger said a speaker from Washington Sea Grant on European green crab presented at their last MRC meeting. Glen Alexander (Alex), former Education Coordinator at Padilla Bay Reserve, was appointed to the MRC to fill a Citizen-at-Large interest position. Austin said Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation, is organizing an Olympia oyster workshop focused on MRC permitting questions at Padilla Bay Reserve on June 5—all are welcome to attend.

### **Business items**

#### **Northwest Straits Initiative – 2016 Annual Report**

Sasha reminded everyone that the [Northwest Straits Initiative 2016 Annual Report](#) is available. This year the format is slightly different and includes project tables for each MRC.

- Action: Commission staff will follow up with MRC staff to identify the number of copies needed for each MRC.

#### **Ocean acidification symposium report**

Rich and Lucas attended the ocean acidification symposium hosted by the University of Washington on May 22. Lucas is exploring options for the Northwest Straits Initiative to research the impacts of ocean acidification in the Puget Sound area.

#### **Olympia oyster and Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Habitat Strategic Initiative**

Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation, is working on creating a protocol specific for MRC oyster restoration projects. Lucas and Rich attended the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (ERN) meeting on May 12 and advocated for Olympia oyster restoration as a focus area in the Habitat Strategic Initiative of the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

#### **Kelp project update**

Holly Garland, Northwest Straits Foundation intern, is developing a condition index for kelp bed health. She will meet with Tom Mumford and Phil Green to discuss the project and will test a protocol. Gregg Ridder volunteered to take aerial photos for all MRCs.

- Action: Those interested in aerial photos from Gregg should contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

### **2017 MRC Conference**



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The annual MRC conference is scheduled for November 3-4, 2017 at the Sheraton Four Points in Bellingham. The planning committee includes Rich Childers, Caroline Gibson, Lucas Hart, Nan McKay, Ed Bowlby and Pete Granger.

### **Catch More Crab**

Sasha, Nicole, and Jason at the Northwest Straits Foundation are working on the Catch More Crab campaign. Jason has contacted MRCs to determine interest in joining the campaign

- Action: MRCs interested in joining the campaign should contact Jason at [morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)**

Laura Blackmore provided an update. The Partnership published [a blog](#) and hard copy book which includes success stories on restoration throughout Puget Sound. She said [House Bill 1121](#) was signed into law, which changes the Partnership's Action Agenda reporting requirements from every two years to every four years.

- Action: Those with questions on the Puget Sound Action Agenda and/or general PSP questions can contact Laura at [laura.blackmore@psp.wa.gov](mailto:laura.blackmore@psp.wa.gov).

### **Round table**

There was no round table discussion.

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on June 30 at the Snohomish County Campus Building.