



## minutes

**April 27, 2018 • 11:00 AM-3:45 PM**  
**Brickworks, 150 Nichols St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice-Chair), Jerry Masters, Elsa Schwartz (Island), Ron Thom, Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ken Carrasco (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom)

**Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Dan van Hees

**Others in Attendance:** Suzanna Stoike (Puget Sound Partnership), Jamie Stephens (San Juan County Council), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Terrie Klinger (UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs), Kendra Smith (San Juan County staff), Frances Robertson (San Juan MRC staff), Terry Turner (San Juan MRC member), Laura Jo Severson (San Juan MRC member)

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy (Puget Sound Partnership), Cecelia Gobin (Tribal), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Alan Clark (Clallam)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the March Northwest Straits Commission meeting were reviewed and revisions requested before approval. The revised minutes will be included in the May Commission meeting materials for approval.

Jamie Stephens, San Juan County Council, welcomed the Commission to San Juan County and affirmed his support in the San Juan MRC and the Northwest Straits Initiative.

### **Director update**

Lucas introduced himself as the new director and provided an update on his priorities for the next few months, which includes filling the now-vacated marine program manager position and preparing for Puget Sound Day on the Hill.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Jamey said the committee discussed the hiring of a new director, planning the 2018 MRC Conference scheduled for this November and the upcoming MRC grants. The Commission and Foundation had a joint executive committee meeting on April 17.

- Action: Those interested in joining the 2018 MRC Conference Planning Committee or contributing suggestions for speakers/sessions can contact Sasha Horst at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the committee's recent meeting was focused on the Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) project and the hiring of the new Ecosystem Coordinator for the Northwest Straits Commission, Dan van Hees.



### **External Relations Committee**

Tom said the committee will be meeting to reestablish priorities for the coming year including securing state funding. He confirmed Senator Ranker was invited to attend the 2018 MRC Conference and has it on his calendar.

### **Commission elections**

Commission elections brought two members into new leadership roles; Paul Clampitt of the Snohomish MRC as chair, and Alan Clark of the Clallam MRC as vice chair.

### **Public comment**

A staff member from Lime Kiln commented on what a great platform it is for education. She invited people to mark their calendars for their centennial celebration on June 30, 2019.

Terry Turner spoke to his interest in electric ferries as someone who works for the power utility in San Juan. He is interested in whether people are thinking more about power generation, including tidal energy.

Jamey Selleck took a moment to acknowledge Susan Williams, a marine ecology researcher with personal and professional ties to San Juan, who died in a car accident in California.

### **Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) update**

The NWSF awarded several MRCs grants through the MRC Opportunity Fund including a \$10,000 award to San Juan MRC for their whale flag boater education project. Foundation staff are working on an application to Boeing for MRC stormwater management projects in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties. Thank you to the MRCs who have used the Northwest Straits Initiative information signup sheets at events. A new communications internship is now available which focuses on coordination and promotion of MRC work that supports the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

- Action: Those interested in the communication internship can contact Caroline Gibson for more information at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

### **MRC updates**

Each MRC provided brief updates on current projects. Full MRC reports and committee reports are available here: <https://bit.ly/2JMCWzX>

### **Clallam**

The MRC provided a written report. Two eight-hour oiled wildlife trainings were held for March 24 and 31—a total of 16 volunteers participated in the first training and 13 volunteers in the second training. The MRC will have a booth at the Celebration of Science and Technology event at Port Angeles Pier on April 28.

### **Island**

Elsa said William Bell, Port of Coupeville Commissioner, was approved as a non-voting technical advisor. Linda Rhodes presented on the bull kelp monitoring project to the Board of Island County Commissioners. Ruth Richards is working with two new volunteers on Camano Island to lead the forage fish monitoring work for the Camano sites.



### **Jefferson**

The MRC provided a written report. MRC volunteers will deploy Port Townsend waterfront voluntary no anchor zone buoys on April 21, with donation of boat/skipper by Port of Port Townsend. A subcommittee finalized the location of June raingarden installation, which will be in partnership with City of Port Townsend.

### **San Juan**

Ken introduced the new San Juan MRC lead staff, Dr. Frances Robertson. Two MRC sub-committees met during April to forward their projects, these included the boat-noise subcommittee and the Orcas Landing subcommittee. The MRC is moving forward on a whale-flag project: Moving ahead with the next stages.

### **Skagit**

Jamey said Morty Cohen is stepping down from the MRC in June and that his alternate, Rachel Best, will be taking his place as the MRC Project Lead for the Salish Sea Stewards. Twenty-five volunteers and 50 eighth grade students from Conway Middle School participated in the Kids on the Beach event at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.

### **Snohomish**

Paul said the MRC is working on derelict fishing boat removal. After a contractor is chosen, the eight boats identified for removal can be posted. Traci Sanderson took the monthly forage fish index site sample on April 18, 2018 and completed the sample blue vortexing. The MRC held the last of their ocean literacy evening movie events.

### **Whatcom**

Bob said there is still a vacancy for an economic position on the MRC. An ad hoc meeting was held to finalize the logistics for the seeding Olympia oyster in North Chuckanut Bay in designated test plots. The oysters will be retrieved from Fidalgo Bay on May 16 and deployed in Chuckanut Bay on May 17.

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

Suzanna provided an update behalf of the PSP. The solicitation for Near Term Actions (NTAs) is now closed and proposals are under review. A draft Action Agenda will be available in September. Jenna Judge was hired as the new monitoring lead for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP).

### **San Juan MRC Presentation-Southern Resident Killer Whales**

Kendra Smith, San Juan County staff, presented on the history of Southern Resident Killer Whales in San Juan County. The whales are an integral part of San Juan's identity and bring thousands of dollars in tourism money every year.

Frances Robertson, San Juan MRC staff, presented on an MRC project focused on improving boater education around the whales. The MRC intends to extend their most frequently hit rock outreach map to encompass the whale wise information.



## minutes

### **Sea Grant-Director update**

Terrie Klinger, Director of UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, said UW College of the Environment and Washington Sea Grant are conducting a search for a new director to replace retiring director, Penny Dalton. They are currently seeking input from partners on key attributes of a new director.

- Action: Those interested in providing input can [click here](#) to fill out a brief survey.

### **Business items**

#### **MRC Grants**

Sasha sent the 2018-19 Request for Proposals out to MRC staff on March 16. Commission staff are currently coordinating with MRCs on preliminary consultations, and presentations to the Commission are planned for the next in-person meeting in June (Island County).

#### **MRC Kelp Monitoring WebEx May 9**

A WebEx is scheduled for May 9 from 9:00-11:00 AM, focused on where MRC kelp monitoring data is currently. For more information contact Nicole Jordan at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

#### **Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI)**

Dan van Hees, the new Ecosystem Coordinator focusing on the Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Project, will be traveling to the MRCs over the next few months. Learn more about the project here: <https://bit.ly/2roqmQb>.

#### **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference recap**

Nicole sent out a survey to capture feedback from Northwest Straits Initiative members who attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. If you attended, click this link to take the survey: <https://bit.ly/2J7CGve>.

#### **Round table**

The Washington Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification recently updated their report, which outlines strategies for combatting ocean acidification. The Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) contacted Northwest Straits to reach MRCs with a briefing. The meeting will take place on May 22 over WebEx. Contact Nicole Jordan for more information at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on May 25 over WebEx. \*