



## minutes

May 25, 2018 • 10:00am-12:00pm  
WebEx Conference Call—WebEx

### Attendees:

**NWS Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Chair, Snohomish), Nan McKay, Jude Apple (Skagit-Alternate), Jerry Masters, Elsa Schwartz (Island), Ron Thom, Tom Cowan, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Ken Carrasco (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership-Alternate)

**NWS Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jeff Ward, Micah Horwith

**Absent:** Dan van Hees, Sheida Sahandy, Alan Clark (Vice-Chair, Clallam)

### Welcome and Introductions

Paul opened the meeting and did roll call.

The minutes from the March Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved with changes made. The April NWS Commission meeting minutes were approved as written.

### NWS Commission - committee reports

#### **Executive Committee**

Paul delivered the report on behalf of Alan Clark. He said the committee discussed MRC Conference planning, the 2018-2019 budget, Puget Sound Day on the Hill preparation and the field trip for the September Leadership Council meeting in Skagit.

#### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan said the committee met to discuss working on next steps in securing state funding. Lucas is preparing several possible scenarios. They discussed messaging and preparation for Puget Sound Day on the Hill and field trips to MRC project sites for elected officials this coming summer.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the committee is working with Dan van Hees to identify the best approach to assessing MRC projects using Net Ecosystem Improvement.

- Action: Learn more about Net Ecosystem Improvement here: <https://bit.ly/2roqmQb>

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

Lucas called in from Washington, DC and updated the group on Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Three key messages from the NWS Initiative were taken to the event; the NWS Initiative's 20th anniversary, the importance of citizen engagement/volunteer support and the necessity of stable, consistent funding.

#### **Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network (AnEMoNe) Project**



## minutes

Micah Horwith, Department of Natural Resources, gave an overview of the Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network ([AnEMoNe](#)) Project. The project is working on identifying if the impacts of ocean acidification vary in Puget Sound and along Washington's coast.

### **MRC reports**

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

### **Clallam**

Jeff Ward said the Clallam MRC had a booth at the Celebration of Science and Technology event at Port Angeles Pier in April. Jeff Ward and Mike Doherty observed the Canada/United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (CANUSPAC) exercise in Port Angeles. The MRC has received 11 applicants for the summer intern program. The May forage fish sampling took place May 15 at Ediz Hook and Elwha Beach and May 16 at Cline Spit.

### **Island**

Elsa Schwartz said Snohomish County MRC presented on the MyCoast application at the May MRC meeting. Ruth Richards has identified two new volunteers to lead forage fish monitoring at the Camano Island sites. Volunteer pairs have been identified to conduct kayak surveys this summer. The eelgrass team will be conducting underwater videography and sonar at four sites: Cornet Bay, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, and Seahorse Siesta.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff Taylor said Dale Moses completed his 4-year term on the MRC. Troy McKelvey will be taking over as MRC lead for the Voluntary No-anchor Zone project. Four MRC members successfully installed all 10 summer Port Townsend waterfront buoys on April 21. Four new volunteers from the Quilcene area assisted with oyster surveys on May 16—the event was covered by the Port Townsend Leader.

### **San Juan**

Ken Carrasco said the MRC is working on a whale-flag project to coincide with Orca Awareness Month. 500 flags for vessels have been ordered for distribution. An Orcas Landing A sub-committee sent finalized text for one information panel to the artist who is currently working to finalize the design work and begin the painting for the panel.

### **Skagit**

The MRC elected Nate Biletnikoff as the new NWS Commission representative and Jude Apple as alternate. Jude Apple said as part of the Kids on the Beach pilot project, 50 eighth grade students from Conway Middle School learned how to write research proposals, conduct field research, sort through historical data, and perform statistical analysis.

### **Snohomish**

Paul Clampitt said the MRC wrapped up their Our Coast Film Series. The MRC reached roughly 50 people per screening. The MRC had a presentation by Dan Van Hees on impacts to Net Ecosystem Improvement and brainstormed potential projects which could use the Net Ecosystem Improvement framework. Elisa Dawson and Tom Doerge attended a webinar for summer 2018 kelp monitoring.

### **Whatcom**



## minutes

Bob Cecile said Eleanor Hines and Bob Seaman attended an advisory team meeting in British Columbia focused on reducing local land-based sources of marine debris in the Salish Sea. Bob Cecile and Chris Brown helped Birch Bay State Park staff prep the ground for the kiosk installation as part of Jerry's Journey. Olympia oysters were retrieved from Fidalgo Bay on May 16 and deployed in North Chuckanut Bay on May 17.

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

The solicitation for Near Term Actions (NTAs) is now closed and proposals are under review. A draft Action Agenda will be available in September. Suzanna Stoike is now the new Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program Manager and will no longer be the Island and San Juan regional Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator.

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

The NWS Foundation has two new interns; Dana Oster, Nearshore Restoration Intern, and Annie Thomas, Monitoring/Citizen Science Intern. A communications internship focused on orca whales will soon be available. Contact Caroline Gibson for more information at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org). The NWS Foundation Board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership.

- Action: The NWS Foundation now has their own social media profiles on Facebook (@NWStraitsFND), Twitter (@NWSNWS Foundation) and Instagram (@NWStraitsFND). Please like and invite others to like them.

### **Business items**

#### **Kelp Monitoring/Recovery Plan**

Suzanne Shull and Helen Berry have been analyzing MRC kelp data from the past three years and presented that work by WebEx in May. A kelp coordinator (Emily Bishop) will be hired to assist in organizing data collection and quality assurance. Lucas scheduled the next Puget Sound Kelp Recovery Plan workshop for June 8. The workshop will be by invite for in person attendance. WebEx participation will also be welcomed.

- Action: Contact Lucas with any questions [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

#### **Marine Debris**

Lucas is observing a lot of interest in the region on marine debris. He is currently talking with MRCs and potential partners on possible roles the NWS Initiative can fill.

#### **Forage fish training**

A forage fish training will be held June 1 at Padilla Bay Reserve.

#### **2018 grants update**

NWS Commission staff are holding preliminary consultations with MRCs on 2018-19 grants. MRCs will each present an MRC project at the upcoming NWS Commission meeting on June 29 in Coupeville.

- Action: For more information on the June 29 meeting and to sign up for a time slot, contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

#### **20th Anniversary**

At the March retreat, a list of ideas was generated to recognize and celebrate the NWS Initiative's 20<sup>th</sup> year. NWS Commission staff are seeking volunteers from MRCs and NWS Commission membership to help prioritize and move ideas forward where possible.



## minutes

### **2018 MRC Conference survey**

A survey soliciting input for the conference was sent to all MRC members by email.

- Action: MRCs should complete the survey by June 8.

### **Strategic planning**

The strategic planning committee held a call on May 15 to discuss an outline of strategic planning ideas that were gathered at the NWS Initiative retreat in March. The committee organized the ideas into a presentation that will be brought to MRCs for further input.

### **MRAC Ocean Acidification**

Nan gave a presentation over WebEx on May 22.

- Action: Those interested in seeing Nan's presentation can click here: <https://bit.ly/2sFPqCH>

### **Net Ecosystem Improvement**

Dan van Hees, Ecosystem Coordinator, has begun visiting MRCs to obtain input on the Net Ecosystem Improvement project. He is starting the process of prioritizing projects that could be analyzed further within the framework of net Ecosystem Improvement.

### **MRC Conference**

2018 is the 20-year anniversary of the NWS Initiative. The MRC Conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018.

- 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).

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment

\*The next NWS Commission meeting will be from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on June 29 in Coupeville, WA. Please note earlier start time than usual.\*