



minutes

June 30, 2017–10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Skykomish Conference Room, Snohomish County Campus, Everett, WA
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Nan McKay (Chair), Jerry Masters, Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Tom Cowan, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Doug Stark (Whatcom)

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

Others in Attendance: Dave Somers (Snohomish County Executive), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jeff Ward, Erin Ryan-Peñuela (Puget Sound Partnership), Sarah Brown, Debbie Watkins, Tom Doerge, Elisa Dawson, Mel Malkoff, Laura Gurley, Jay Lind, Elsa Schwartz, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson-alternate)

Absent: Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice Chair), Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams, Tom Temple (San Juan), Alan Clark (Clallam), Ed Adams (Island), Ron Thom

Welcome and Introductions

Nan McKay opened the meeting and introduced Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive, including his long background of public service to support Puget Sound recovery. Executive Somers thanked all those involved in the Northwest Straits Initiative for their work in restoring our mutual home, Puget Sound.

MyCoast Mobile App

Paul Clampitt and Elisa Dawson presented on the [MyCoast app](#), a system for submitting citizen science data to state and environmental agencies. The app captures reports for king tides, abandoned boats, storm surge, creosote logs and beach change for Snohomish County. The Commission discussed the interest of the app throughout other MRCs and the logistics of analyzing and processing the collected data on an ongoing basis.

Northwest Straits Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

Nan said the committee discussed topics for the June Commission meeting and MRC Conference planning committee priorities. Commission staff completed a first round of review on MRC grant proposals and will take the full list to Executive Committee and the Science Advisory Committee before seeking final approval from the Commission at the July meeting.



External Relations Committee

Tom reported for the External Relations Committee that \$450,000 in state funding for MRCs was approved by the state legislature for the 2017-19 biennium.

Science Advisory Committee

Lucas said the committee continued the discussion on ecosystem health/condition from the 2016 retreat. The committee defines “ecosystem health” as the actions that result in measurable improvement of the ecosystem. Ron Thom and Tom Mumford will present on the topic at the August Commission meeting.

MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2uKKpc7>

Clallam

Jeff said nearly 100 European Green Crab were found at Dungeness Spit. After two site visits to Dawley Road and Dungeness Farms in May, the MRC compiled the information into a presentation shown to the members at the June MRC meeting. MRC members determined that the Dungeness Farms site is too exposed for Olympia oysters and will not pursue restoration at that site.

Island

Elsa said MRC staff member Anna Toledo returned from maternity leave. The seasonal pigeon guillemot surveys began and will continue for 10 to 12 weeks or until the birds depart their breeding colonies. Island, Clallam and Jefferson MRCs plan to host a joint meeting in July. Jefferson MRC is hosting, with discussion topics selected by all three MRCs.

Jefferson

Dale said the MRC hosted their second Digging for Dinner event and was featured in the [Port Townsend Leader](#). The MRC plans to join the Catch More Crab campaign with MRC volunteers stationed at a few local boat launches for the first two weekends of July, and providing materials to local licensing/crabber supply places.

San Juan

San Juan provided a written report. Site preparation for the Orcas Landing Experience began the last week of June with removal of invasive species by partner organizations. Marine Managers’ Workshop results are being compiled into a final report that will go out to attendees and will be available on the MRC website.

Skagit

Jay said Hannah Moon, Anacortes Ace Hardware, presented at the recent MRC meeting on their “Orca Friendly” product label campaign to help build awareness about “greener” alternative products—the Commission discussed lack of science behind the labeling. The MRC is getting ready for crabbing season and plans to be involved in the Catch More Crab campaign. The MRC is also involved in monitoring for invasive European Green Crab.



Snohomish

Paul said the MRC's new intern, Tim Keal, will be working on the MRC's Forage Fish Ecosystem Analysis by compiling the data taken since 2012. The MRC is working on crabber outreach in partnership with Beach Watchers. A letter from the MRC on the Stillaguamish Geographic Response Plan update was electronically submitted to Ecology on June 15, 2017.

Whatcom

Doug said the MRC hosted a speaker series event at the Lummi Island Town Hall featuring local experts. At the June MRC meeting, Port of Bellingham staff provided an update on the Bellingham Waterfront improvement projects. MRC member, Chris Brown, is coordinating volunteers to monitor green crab in Chuckanut Bay.

Public comment

There was no public comment

Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) update

Caroline said the NWSF approved their 2017-2018 budget at their June meeting. Heidi Lehman, Administrative Coordinator, left the NWSF mid-June for a new position and Nicole Jordan is now working with the NWSF one day a week as communications coordinator. Caroline shared an educational short film created by Andrea Love about the Northwest Straits Initiative.

- Action: Please send ideas on venues to roll-out the new film to Caroline at gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org.

Near-Term Action (NTA) solicitation process for the 2018 Action Agenda

Erin Ryan-Peñuela, Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator and Local Integrating Organizations Coordinator at the Partnership, presented on the Near Term Action (NTA) solicitation process for the 2018 Action Agenda. This year there is a single solicitation period and technical review for the NTAs. The official request for proposals will be issued September 28.

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) update

Erin said following the passage of HB 1121 in the State legislature this year, the Action Agenda will be now be updated every four years instead of every two years. The Partnership's State of the Sound report will be out in September. She also said in Partnership's 2018 operating budget, the National Estuary Program is not funded.

Western Washington University Salish Sea Studies Institute

Ginny presented on her new position as Director of the Salish Sea Studies Institute. The Institute is housed on Western Washington University's campus and is brand new as of June 2017. Ginny's currently



minutes

working on building bridges to local partners and resources and works with a diverse group of community and regional partners including over 60 nations. After the Institute is fully functional, students should be able to register for a Salish Sea Studies degree by 2019.

Business items

MRC grants

The Science Advisory Committee is reviewing the list of projects submitted for the 2017-18 MRC grants. A full list of projects will be sent to Commissioners in July to review and approve at the July meeting.

#CatchMoreCrab

Sasha, Nicole, and Jason Morgan at the Northwest Straits Foundation are working on the Catch More Crab campaign to reduce the number of lost recreational crab pots. MRCs are encouraged to contact any of them with questions as crabbing season begins.

Olympia oysters in the Action Agenda

Lucas and Rich are in communication with Laura Blackmore of the Puget Sound Partnership and Emily Sanford from the Department of Health and lead for the Action Agenda's Shellfish Strategic Initiative, about elevating the importance Olympia oyster restoration within the Action Agenda. Lucas and Rich plan to bring partners together to provide written comment

Kelp project update

Zoe Zilz was hired by the Northwest Straits Foundation in June as the summer kelp coordinator. Lucas is working with Holly Garland, a volunteer from the University of Victoria, on a kelp condition index that can be used in the future to track the health of bull kelp. Helen Berry and Tom Mumford are serving as advisors on the project.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference sessions

Lucas submitted a session proposal to the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference that aims to highlight citizen science projects, focusing in particular on data management and effectiveness monitoring methodologies. Jamey and Lucas also submitted a session proposal on kelp.

Roundtable

There was no round table discussion.

*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on July 28 over WebEx.