



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
January 25, 2013, 10:00 am – 1:45pm
Department of Ecology Bellingham Field Office, Bellingham, Whatcom County

DRAFT

Attending: Christine Woodward (alt.), Ken Carrasco, Shannon Davis, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Jerry Masters, Tom Hoban, Lenny Corin, Steve Revella, Raechel Waters (alt.)

Absent: Jeff Ward, Terry Williams, Rachel Benbrook, Terrie Klinger, Tony Wright

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Andrea Hood, Sasha Horst

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Robyn du Pré, Terry Stevens

Other MRC attendance: Melissa Roberts (Whatcom MRC), Alan Chapman (Whatcom MRC), Judy D'Amore (Jefferson MRC), Andrew Shogren (Clallam MRC), Bert Rubash (Whatcom MRC)

Other attendance: Gaythia Weis, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Sally Hintz (Senator Maria Cantwell's office), Seth Fleetwood (Bellingham City Council)

Open meeting and Welcome

Jerry opened the meeting. Introductions were made and changes in order of agenda were noted.

MRC Reports

Whatcom: Ken Carrasco welcomed everyone to Whatcom County. Ken summarized his attendance the previous night at the Ocean Acidification seminar in Everett co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission and Snohomish MRC. The seminar was well-attended and informative; Ken would like to bring a similar event to Whatcom County. The Whatcom MRC submitted a letter to the scoping process for Gateway Pacific Terminal. The MRC is involved in Mussel Watch program; staff and volunteers have set cages and retrieved them. The MRC is working on a speaker series, with topics to include ocean acidification and local oil spill response. Ken is producing a Whatcom MRC video to communicate what the MRC is all about; the video can be used as a tool in seeking financial support.

Skagit: Christine Woodward noted that Kurt Buchanan is retiring and leaving the MRC; Skagit MRC will need a replacement. The MRC sent letters to members who have not attended meetings in order to clarify commitment and expectations. The MRC is reviewing its by-laws and continuing its strategic planning process. The MRC is concerned that the local Beach Watchers program remains unfunded. The Bowman Bay project is expected to be funded through the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) in partnership with the Northwest Straits Foundation.

Island: Lenny Corin reported that the MRC received a presentation about the Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) at its last MRC meeting. Lenny referred Commissioners to the ILIO presentation summary in the meeting packet for details. The MRC welcomed Jill Johnson as the new Island County Commissioner at their recent meeting. Jill is replacing former county commissioner Angie Homola on the MRC. February 2 is the Sound Waters event in Oak Harbor with 500-600 people projected to attend. WSU Island County Beach Watchers organize the event; Joan Drinkwin will present on nearshore restoration.

Snohomish: Tom Hoban reported that the January 24 ocean acidification (OA) seminar in Everett had a good turnout of 120 people. Attendance was increased through personal invitations, flyers distributed by the Americorps MRC program assistant, and good local press coverage of an op-ed by Terry Williams. The MRC plans to connect with the new Snohomish County council chairman and other new elected officials to inform them about the MRC. Lots of projects are ongoing, including the Port Gardner derelict gear removal. Lincoln Loehr is now Snohomish MRC's alternate representative to the Commission.

There was discussion about the opportunities to package the Ocean Acidification seminar in a way that can be easily reproduced or accessed for others to view or to use materials in their own presentations. Lenny noted that an OA presentation will be given by Richard Feely at the February 2 Sound Waters event and Caroline Gibson mentioned that the Ocean Conservancy has a published Ocean Acidification outreach piece. Caroline is working with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) to schedule a public Ocean Acidification event in each Northwest Straits county. A February event is scheduled in San Juan County; March will be in Skagit County. SFP has the capacity to handle outreach and communication; Eric Swenson of SFP will work with local media. Raechel Waters announced that Sea Grant recently hired Meg Chadsey as an outreach specialist on Ocean Acidification.

San Juan: Steve Revella reported that sign up is available for the Marine Managers' workshop, organized by MRC staff Linda Lyshall and scheduled for February 27 – March 1 at Friday Harbor Labs. MRC projects are ongoing. Communication and relationship with the San Juan County Council remains a priority. Patty Miller is newly appointed to the MRC as county council representative. Steve noted that due to ballot measures passed in November 2012, the make-up of the county council will change from six council members to three. Currently, an interim six-member County Council is in place until a new three-member County Council takes office in May 2013.

Jefferson: Shannon Davis reported that Al Bergstein is the new MRC chair. Funding support for Maynard Beach restoration project has been secured; the MRC continues to seek funding for associated trail work. MRC members will be involved in Environmental Lobby Day 2013 in February. The MRC is sponsoring a screening of the *Sound and Vision* film on Feb 7 in Port Townsend. The Northwest Straits Foundation anticipates funding for the Fort Townsend State Park Beach Restoration and Armoring Removal project through the ESRP grant. The MRC is looking for appropriate sites for stormwater and phytoremediation projects.

Clallam: Andrew Shogren reported that ocean debris continues to be an issue in Clallam County. A large dock with non-native species attached washed up recently on a beach. MRC members have participated in trash pickup on remote beaches in partnership with the Makah tribe and Surfrider. Clean up requires hiking in to remote sites; the U.S. Coast Guard airlifts debris loads from beaches. Don Hatler resigned from the MRC, but will continue crabber outreach. The Feb 2 HAZWOPER training class in Port Angeles is full.

Retreat Planning

Ginny Broadhurst led discussion of the process of updating the Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) strategic plan. The last strategic plan was developed in 2008 at a time when a stable annual budget allowed the Initiative to more easily develop strategy and a work plan. Of current Commissioners and alternates, only Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger and Duane Fagergren were involved in 2008. Facing an uncertain budget after mid-

2013, Executive Committee discussions have been about where to focus. Andrea Hood is leaving the Commission staff at the end of January, which presents workload challenges.

The current one-year funding of \$900,000 has enabled the Commission and MRCs to maintain their respective capacities to function and accomplish projects. In recognition of a changing landscape for funding, Ginny proposed reducing Commission staff from four to three by not re-filling the Program Coordinator position after Andrea leaves and reducing workload for staff by reducing the number of Commission meetings from ten to six, reducing the number of newsletters from twelve to six, and decreasing Commission staff involvement in planning the annual MRC conference.

Ginny noted that, relative to the past, Commission staff now spend more time with communication, marketing, and paperwork driven by increased reporting requirements and the need to find funding. The 2008 NWSI work plan envisioned Commission committees taking on more of the workload in a way that used to be the norm. Budget, staff capacity, Foundation and Commission roles, and integration of local priorities with regional priorities and the Action Agenda must be discussed as part of strategic planning.

Jerry Masters urged MRC members to make themselves known to elected officials as MRC volunteers. Citizen involvement is valuable, important and impacting and MRC members should advocate for the value of the partnerships and work accomplished by locally-driven MRCs. Sally Hintz agreed that communication to elected officials from citizen volunteers is powerful. It is important to communicate to federal elected officials that projects accomplished by MRCs are successful and that staff provide the infrastructure for volunteers to achieve that success. Sally agreed that communication from the Northwest Straits Foundation to elected officials regarding the value of the NWSI is helpful in demonstrating with hard numbers how money is leveraged. Messages must be succinct and on point, with a 15-minute maximum timeframe in mind if visiting elected officials in Washington D.C. Sally encouraged trying to meet with Governor Inslee. Christine Woodward noted that emphasizing tribal support of and involvement in MRCs is important. Ginny will be traveling to Washington D.C. in April for a NAFTA advisory committee meeting and will visit elected officials while there.

Shannon Davis asked for volunteers to be on a subcommittee for communication. Tom Hoban expressed his interest. Jerry would also be willing to be on the subcommittee once his chairmanship of the Commission is complete.

Ginny presented the Commission's side of the budget amounting to \$379,046 that includes 3 FTE Commission staff, travel and meetings, benefits, and indirect expenses line items. With proposed reduced staff and fewer Commission meetings and newsletters, Commissioners discussed understanding potential new distributions of workload; what can be expected from staff and what can we do as volunteers? The budget Ginny presented was only for Commission operations. MRC costs are an additional component of the budget; the current budget has \$480K for MRCs. Establishing a one-size-fits-all budget for MRCs is difficult because each MRC functions differently.

Ginny sought approval from Commissioners to move forward with the concept of reducing staff to three people. Ginny will re-write job descriptions and develop the budget accordingly, with input needed for establishing MRC funding levels. By consensus, Commissioners agreed that Ginny should move forward with plan for reduced staff, revised job descriptions, and reduced meeting frequency.

The NWSI strategic planning retreat will be March 21-22. Details for time and place will be announced. The Foundation will hire a facilitator. Jerry encouraged Commissioners to check in with their MRC members to know what issues members want represented at the retreat.

Welcome

Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham City Council member and Whatcom MRC member, provided a welcome to the group and shared information about the outcomes of the plastic bag ban enacted last year in Bellingham.

Business items

Approval of minutes - Steve Revella moved to approve November 30 Commission meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lenny Corin. All approved. Motion carried.

Debrief of January 7 MRC staff and chair meeting - Ginny summarized the meeting held at Padilla Bay, with good attendance and results. A written summary was included in the Commission meeting packet for reference. MRC staff feel it is valuable to get together in person to share information amongst themselves. Commissioners discussed alternatives to having a meeting organized and led by Commission staff. Discussion included whether MRC staff could organize their own meetings and whether a listserv for sharing information would be useful.

Meeting dates: Commission staff will distribute a new meeting schedule reflecting reduced meeting frequency. Strategic planning retreat dates are set for March 21-22.

Annual MRC conference location/date: Ginny sought feedback about location and timing of the annual MRC conference. Returning to Port Townsend or going to the Bellingham Lakeway Conference Center were presented as options. The budget and size of the conference are considerations, along with workload for reduced Commission staff and for Foundation staff seasonally busy with grant applications. Christine Woodward will explore the possibility of holding the conference at the Fidalgo Bay Resort Conference Center in Anacortes.

Olympia oyster project update: Sasha Horst reported that the \$200,000 grant for Olympia oyster restoration ends in June 2013. Because outplanting in Whatcom County is scheduled for July, Sasha will pursue extending the grant end date to accommodate work windows. A second outplanting in Clallam County is planned for June. Another component of that grant is a GIS map of eelgrass data collected by MRCs, which will be available on our web site soon.

MRC Grants: The official end date for our funding from the Puget Sound Partnership is September 2013. MRC grants are scheduled to end in June, but extending the end date to August 31 may help streamline the addition of any new funding. Some counties, such as Whatcom, may be able to continue supporting their MRCs through 2013 if Northwest Straits awarded funds can be extended. Sasha will pursue re-negotiation of end dates on a case-by case basis.

Puget Sound Partnership update

Duane Fagergren explained his new work assignment as Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for the Straits area (Jefferson and Clallam counties). Tony Wright is leaving the Puget Sound Partnership and a search is being conducted for his replacement. Duane presented the challenge of understanding the process and finding funding for the Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) to implement projects. Duane suggested aligning priorities within focus areas that Lead Organizations (LO) have money to address through National Estuary Program funding from EPA.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2013, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conference Call Meeting**

Attending: Christine Woodward, Ken Carrasco, Shannon Davis, Tony Wright, Jerry Masters, Tom Hoban, Lenny Corin, John Aschoff (alt), Terrie Klinger, Terry Williams, Jeff Ward

Absent: none

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Sasha Horst

Support: Robyn du Pré

Other MRC attendance: Rachel Benbrook (Skagit MRC, NWSC alternate), Judy D'Amore (Jefferson MRC/NWSC alternate), Paul Schlenger (Snohomish MRC), Linda Lyshall (San Juan MRC)

Open meeting and Welcome

Jerry opened the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of January 25 meeting minutes

The minutes from the January 25 Northwest Straits Commission meeting in Bellingham were approved as written.

MRC Reports

Written reports for MRCs were included in the handouts. Additional highlights reported from MRC representatives:

Clallam: Jeff Ward highlighted the recent HAZWOPER training event, which trained 75 participants. The MRC is making good progress on their strategic plan, which should be substantially done by the Commission retreat. They are co-sponsoring a large beach cleanup event in April, associated with Earth Day. Jeff noted that there is still a substantial amount of tsunami debris arriving on Clallam beaches.

Island: Lenny reported that the MRC was sorry to see Maribeth Crandall resign her position, and hopes that she will be able to join again in the future. The MRC participated in a February 11 meeting of the LIO and ECO Net groups. Former MRC member and NWS Chair Phyllis Kind was awarded the Jan Holmes Coastal Volunteer of the Year award for 2012.

Jefferson: Shannon Davis reported that there has been a lot of discussion around Citizen Lobby Day on February 19. The MRC spent time brainstorming project ideas. The MRC also hosted a screening of the film *Sound and Vision* on February 7.

San Juan: John Aschoff reported that Steve Revella resigned from the MRC due to health issues. John will fill in as alternate in the interim but also serves as chair of the MRC. Another two members have terms ending, and there is an upcoming meeting at the County about citizen committee roles. The Marine Managers' Workshop will be held February 27-March 1, with 50-60 participants expected. The workshop will focus on ocean acidification and the roles and actions marine managers can take. There will also be a check in on the outcomes from last year's workshop, which focused on oil spill issues.

Skagit: Rachel Benbrook reported that she attended Lobby Day, which was a great experience. Governor Inslee spoke at lunchtime. Christine Woodward was also on the call and reported that she was elected as the new Commission representative at the last meeting, with Kari Odden as the new chair and Jay Lind as vice chair. Rachel is now the alternate to the Commission.

Snohomish: Tom Hoban gave an update on the MRC's Howarth Park restoration project, which requires additional matching funds to complete the construction phase.

Whatcom: Ken Carrasco reported that elections were held and he remains the Commission representative, with Doug Stark as alternate. They have a list of upcoming events, and he is finalizing work on the short video about the MRC.

Retreat Agenda and Expected Outcomes

Ginny walked through the draft agenda for the upcoming retreat, noting the retreat purpose, desired outcomes and objectives and the topics for discussion on Day 1 and 2. The retreat will start at noon on March 21 and include dinner on the 21st ending at about 3 pm on the 22nd. .

Commissioners provided additional thoughts and feedback on the agenda, and staff will work with the facilitator to develop the next draft.

Business Items

Caroline updated the Commission on the upcoming Ocean Acidification seminars, including Friday Harbor (Feb 27), Anacortes (March 13) and Bellingham (March 28). Check the web site or contact Caroline for additional details.

Ginny provided some additional information about the Request for Proposals that was sent to MRCs following the January Commission meeting. We need to be prepared to respond quickly if

a funding opportunity arises, and it is helpful to know what level of funding is required for basic operations and what projects MRCs are prioritizing. Responses submitted by March 20 should include MRC operations information/budget, and project information.

Ginny described a template created for MRC sustainability plans that was discussed at the January meeting of MRC staff and chairs. These will be a deliverable to the Puget Sound Partnership for our current funding. Staff will forward the template to MRCs and work with MRCs as needed to complete them.

Ginny reviewed the memo in the meeting packet on recommended workload changes that was circulated following the January Commission meeting. There are additional details to resolve about meeting dates, such as which dates will be Foundation board meeting dates, and whether there will be conference calls during the months where there is no in-person meeting scheduled.

Tony Wright provided a brief update on current state legislative issues, and Ginny reminded the Commission about the weekly legislative updates from the Partnership that she has forwarded by email, which are very informative. Tony also reported that his last day at the Partnership will be March 1.

Public Comment

Paul Schlenger thanked the Commission for making the call available to him to listen.

Round Table

During the round table, in response to a question about Governor appointments to the Commission, Ginny reported that Governor Inslee has not yet made new appointments to fill the two vacancies. It is not clear when that will happen, but there are pending applications.

Robyn du Pré updated the group on her conversations about possible state funding to support Northwest Straits MRCs. She recently sent fact sheets out to MRC staff with information about contacting legislators, but recognizing that government employees cannot respond to or forward those messages, she will re-send them to the volunteer MRC chairs. Robyn noted that having support from local government would be valuable and recommended that MRCs request council/commission letters of support as soon as possible. The Foundation can provide a template as needed. Ginny updated the group about conversations around some possible funding for MRCs from the state's crab penalty fees.

Jeff Ward recommended that Commissioners check out a new interactive web site developed by Pacific NW National Labs on renewable ocean energy. It can be found at mhk.pnnl.gov.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am. The next meeting of the Commission will be the planning retreat on March 21-22 at Padilla Bay.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
April 19, 2013, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conference Call Meeting

Commission members: Jerry Masters (chair), Rachel Benbrook (Skagit alt), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Lenny Corin (Island), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Terrie Klinger, Duane Fagergren, Terry Williams, John Aschoff (San Juan)

Additional MRC representation: Cathy Lear (Clallam), Kathleen Hermann (Snohomish), Linda Lyshall (San Juan)

Commission Staff and Support: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Austin Rose, Terry Stevens

Foundation Staff: Robyn du Pre

Open Meeting and Welcome

Jerry Masters opened the meeting. No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of February 22 meeting minutes

The minutes from the February 22 Northwest Straits Commission conference call meeting were approved as written.

MRC Updates/Highlights

Clallam: Jeff Ward reported on the April 15th Ocean Acidification (O.A.) community forum that occurred in Port Angeles. Approximately 50 people attended the community forum and a presentation was also given earlier in the day to County Commissioners. The presentations seemed to give Commissioners food for thought, particularly with regard to an economic perspective on the impact on natural resources. April 20th is the “Coast Clean Up Day” –an event to clean beaches from Pillar Point to Bullman Beach. The Clallam MRC draft budget proposal for FY 2014 was submitted and

a future budget meeting is set up in order to review and add details. The focus area for projects is the Western straits portion of Clallam County.

Island: Lenny mentioned that a lot of work has been spent preparing the strategic action plan and filling in the blanks about projects the MRC would like to address in the coming year. The MRC is asking, what is the next Cornet Bay? A lot of the ideas that came in were based on what is going on in other counties and other MRCs. Island MRC wants to jump on the band wagon with O.A. presentations and Mussel Watch as there has been a lot of public interest throughout the County. An introductory training will commence in mid-May for the pigeon guillemot survey and the Island MRC is providing technical assistance to groups doing similar work in the Nisqually Basin. The fundraising partnership with a local wine seller has produced \$600 for the pigeon guillemot project so far. Island County Commissioner Jill Johnson was replaced by Kelly Emerson as representative to the Island County MRC. Kelly has had no interaction with the MRC to date.

Jefferson: Shannon highlighted how much time has been spent on the strategic plan and thinks it will be adopted at the next MRC meeting. No major changes have been made - just an effort to clarify things. Tony Petrillo is working to develop a program to help clean up beach debris by boat or helicopter and wants to set up a pilot project this summer with an effort to involve Surfrider.

San Juan: On April 23rd the County Council will appoint members to fill four vacancies on the MRC and John Aschoff has given recommendations to the Council. The annual planning session occurred on April 3rd to assess the work plan and identify priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Three priority items are: 1) The San Juan MRC would like to host five O.A. workshops; 2) Annual Marine Managers Workshop; 3) Sound IQ- in collaboration with Suzanne Shull (Padilla Bay) and Anne Stark (City of Bellingham) – the goal is to get the third phase of Sound IQ approved by the end of July. There is concern that Sound IQ is not the same tool that is used by the County – which uses Polaris. There has been discussion with County staff to see how those two data systems could potentially interact and share information. Work is proceeding with WDFW to collect specimens for the Marine Specimen Bank. John thanked the NWS staff for their help with the O.A. session at the Marine Manager Workshop held earlier this year and mentioned that the Whale Museum is hosting a similar workshop event for naturalists. San Juan MRC is now lacking tribal representation but is hoping that the tribes will put a name forward for an open seat this summer.

Skagit: Rachel reported on the O.A. seminar that was well received in Skagit. About 90 people attended the event at Seafarer's Memorial in Anacortes. The Skagit MRC is focusing on project prioritization and when the budgets come out they will look at projects in more detail. Current restoration projects include: Shannon Point Riprap Removal and NW March's Point and Bowman Bay Beach enhancements– all are in the design stages. Community beach seining events will be happening in June. This work is in partnership with the Shannon Point Marine Center and the data is shared with the Skagit River System Corporative. The MRC is working on getting a collection permit as the Shannon Point permit can no longer be used by the MRC.

Snohomish: Tom and Kathleen are enthusiastic about the leadership of Lincoln Loehr who will be transitioning as the Commission representative in place of Tom Hoban. There are currently two open positions on the MRC for the 2014-2016 term. Snohomish County submitted an application for the current round of Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grants for the Snohomish Watershed to seek funding for nearshore restoration work. The MRC is in the final stages of revising their website to include two new outreach pages – Ocean Acidification (O.A.) and Coastal Landowners. The O.A. webpage will explain the process of O.A. and impacts in the Pacific Northwest and will provide a place for posting additional resources and news articles. The Coastal Landowners webpage will highlight the importance of the nearshore environment and will provide information on coastal processes and alternatives to shoreline armoring. The Port Susan project is at the point of needing more participation, particularly from Island County. Lenny mentioned that there are no representatives from Camano Island on the Island MRC, which unfortunately makes it hard for them to be involved with Port Susan project. Terry Williams said that he can find tribal representation for the Port Susan project. Tom Hoban stated that the Snohomish MRC has submitted an annual report to the County Council and is set to give a final presentation in June.

Whatcom: Melissa Roberts is stepping down from her position as MRC Coordinator at the end of April. Whatcom County will be looking to hire a replacement in late May to early June. Ken highlighted the success of the O.A. seminar that had 150 people in attendance and thanked NWS staff for their help coordinating that event. Dr. Eric Grossman gave an interesting presentation at the last MRC meeting on historical changes of freshwater sources and how those changes affect the nearshore habitat. The MRC hopes to use the information shared by Dr. Grossman to move forward with prioritizing and identifying nearshore restoration projects and is looking to collaborate with NSEA. Soft shore restoration work is scheduled to happen at Boulevard Park and Cherry Point and over 30 volunteers have signed up to take training on invertebrate identification and survey protocol to conduct biological surveys at both these sites. The Whatcom MRC, Birch Bay State Park, and Friends of Birch Bay State Park are developing a conceptual plan for signage at Birch Bay State Park for “Jerry’s Trail” in honor of past MRC member, Jerry Larson. Two mailers are in development to be sent to the homeowners in the Cottonwood watershed. The first mailer is scheduled for release in early May and focuses on wildlife and what community members can do to discourage congregations of wildlife—especially raccoons—in their neighborhood. The second mailer scheduled for release in mid-June focuses on pet waste. These mailers are in response to very elevated levels of fecal coliform in this small drainage of Birch Bay.

Report out from nominating committee

Jerry reported that Christine Woodward is willing to serve as Chair for the Northwest Straits Commission, and Ken Carrasco willing to serve as Vice Chair. Nominations are still being accepted. Elections will be in May. Rachel Benbrook is still willing to be involved in the Science and Technical Committee.

Business Items

Retreat Follow up: Ginny and Caroline have made a strong effort to follow up with the MRCs after last month's retreat through attending MRC meetings and filling in any gaps from the retreat notes. The NWSC provided information on what the Commission staff have been working on as part of the Commission meeting handouts. Ginny, Sasha and Caroline brainstormed about metrics – how we could do better with compiling our metrics and recognize the abilities of people within the MRCs to develop appropriate metrics for grant agreements.

Ginny reported that Jody Kennedy was officially appointed to the Commission by Governor Inslee. Jody is the Washington policy manager for the Surfrider Foundation and was one of the first staffers for the San Juan MRC (after Shannon). She works extensively with the outer coast MRCs and is active in Olympia. Ginny is working on the last Commission vacancy.

Budget and Work plan: Please see pg. 11 of the NWS FY 2013 Work Plan and Budget. Ginny said that we are planning for a \$900k budget, although there is not an official agreement in place yet. Please note Pg. 12 line 1- \$504,000 which is about \$84,000 more to MRCs from last year.

Lenny asked if this funding is from the Puget Sound Partnership? Will there be restrictions?

Ginny said that it would likely be EPA funding coming through the PSP. There may also be a contribution from NOAA but an amount has not been confirmed.

The draft budget provides \$4000 to the MRC conference. In the past it has been higher.

Ginny mentioned that she expects to have 1/4 of Caroline's salary covered in a separate agreement with the Puget Sound Partnership because of the nice alignment of her work with the forage fish program and tasks that need to occur within PSEMP. That amount has not been taken out of the program staff salary in this draft.

There was a discussion about differing administrative costs from County to County and concerns about the levels being high.

Rachel highlighted that administrative costs are a type of metric – as a clear number associated with how much it costs to run an MRC.

Jerry asked the group if we can move to approve the budget as presented. The group **APPROVED**.

Jerry suggested that we can continue to direct staff to push down those admin costs and work with the MRC to develop a detailed budget which may result in some reductions in admin. costs.

Jerry asked the group if we can move to approve a friendly amendment to the details of the budget and continue to work toward the drafty budget of \$72,000. **Motion carried unanimously**

Ginny highlighted the success of the O.A. presentations as a collaborative effort and how they have worked as a great representation of the MRCs as local hosts and getting local officials present. We have reached over 500 people directly and there have been numerous media articles regarding the seminar - which proves an elevated public awareness. Ginny is working with the speakers and representatives on the Blue Ribbon panel and looking to get advice for on the ground projects and next steps for outreach.

Kathleen suggested high quality video to replace speakers in some instances and also suggested that more attention be given to the surveys at future events so that they attendees are aware of their opportunity to give input.

Caroline gave an update on the Octopus Advisory Group. A final meeting for the group is set for the first week in May and the public comment period regarding the protection of the Giant Pacific Octopus is now open. There will be two public meetings (Port Townsend on April 23rd and at the Seattle Aquarium on April 24th on the four management options: 1) Status quo—allowable harvest of one dive harvest with permit; 2) Closures at Redondo beach; 3) Closures at specific dive sites; 4) Complete closure of all recreational dive (octopus) harvest sound wide.

Wrap Up

Next commission meeting is set for May 31st in Coupeville.

Save the date for 2013 MRC Conference November 22-23 at the Bellingham Lakeway Inn.

The conference calls are getting easier for the group. Ginny would like to look into Web X as an option too.

Each MRC approved the budget lay out as per Shannon's suggestion to wrap up the meeting. It was unanimously approved for the Commission to work with the MRCs within this proposed budget.

Jerry adjourned the meeting.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Service Alternatives, Coupeville, Island County
206 N Main St Coupeville, WA 98239
May 31, 2013, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Commission members: Jerry Masters (Chair), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Lenny Corin (Island), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Greg Ayers (San Juan), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Christine Woodward (Skagit), Terrie Klinger, Terry Williams, Duane Fagergren

Additional MRC representation: Ian Jefferds (Island), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish), Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson), Linda Meehan (Island), Judy D'Amore (Jefferson), Maureen Goff (Jefferson)

Commission Staff and Support: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Austin Rose, Terry Stevens

Northwest Straits Foundation Staff: Robyn du Pre, Joan Drinkwin, Michelle Lim

Other attendance: Brice Boland (Surfrider Foundation), Marc Daily (Puget Sound Partnership), Kerri Cechovic (Washington Environmental Council)

Open Meeting and Welcome

Jerry opened the meeting. Introductions were made and changes in order of agenda were noted.

Approval of April 19th meeting minutes

The minutes from the April 19th Northwest Straits Commission conference call meeting were approved as written.

MRC Reports

Written reports for MRCs were included in the handouts. Additional highlights reported from MRC representatives:

Island- Lenny and Kathleen (Snohomish MRC) reported that the Island and Snohomish MRCs will host a workshop on June 1st for residents to learn how to protect and maintain their shoreline property in Port Susan. The workshop will also feature an educational beach walk led by Jim Johannessen from Coastal

Geologic Services. Ian Jeffards (Island MRC Chair), general manager of Penn Cove Shellfish, mentioned that work is moving forward with the phytoremediation project, which is an important tie in to storm water and nutrient mitigation.

Clallam- Jeff Ward reported on the April 20th beach cleanup from Pillar Point to Bullman beach for Coast Cleanup Day. The beach cleanup effort was successful with the help of fifty-one volunteers. The MRC supplied bags, gloves, and a dumpster. The Clallam MRC budget subcommittee refined the MRC's draft proposal for FY 2014 and is still working to structure tasks and create measurable milestones for the MRC work. The next round of derelict gear (crab pot) removal will happen in Dungeness Bay. Following interviews with local newspapers and radio stations about ocean acidification, members of the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel held a community forum at the Port Angeles Senior Center, which was opened by Clallam MRC Chair Andrew Shogren. The event brought in fifty attendees and it showed great publicity for the work of the NWS. After officer elections, Andrew Shogren will continue to be the MRC Chair and Jeff Ward will be the Vice Chair.

San Juan- Greg Ayers, recently appointed to the MRC to fill the slot vacated by Steve Revella, gave his perspective on recent San Juan MRC happenings. A new three member County Council was elected to replace the six member Council. There has been concern and question of how that will affect MRC membership, particularly because the Council passed an ordinance establishing term limits for all citizen committees. As such, long term MRC members will be stepping down to comply with these term limits. The "old" council decided to extend current MRC memberships until the end of July to ensure stability during the Salmon Recovery Funding cycle and until the new Council can gain a better understanding of the role of the MRC. Linda Lyshall stepped down as lead staff and is now working for the San Juan Conservation District. The MRC continues to be functional through these changes and projects are moving forward as planned. Jack Giard recently presented an update on the Fraser River Salmon Recovery efforts to the MRC. The Shoreline Master Plan is under review with the Planning Department and Council. The Critical Area Ordinance continues to move into an implementation phase, though challenges still exist from both environmental and property rights organizations. There is a growth management hearing set for next week.

Skagit- Christine reported that Rachel Benbrook resigned from the MRC to work for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. Lori Kyle also stepped down. The MRC is discussing the need to potentially recruit new members who are able to regularly attend meetings. The MRC learned that Skagit Beach Watchers will be funded through the WSU Extension for one year. Restoration work is moving forward. Surveying work occurred for the West March's Point boat ramp project.

Snohomish- Tom Hoban reported that he is phasing Lincoln Loehr in for his role with the NWS Commission board. There are still two open positions on the Snohomish MRC for the 2014-2016 term and recruitment for these positions will begin in the next month. Staff assistant Michele LaForge will be stepping down. Kathleen will be opening the position for replacement. The MRC's 2012 Annual report will be presented to the Snohomish County Council on June 4. Kathleen presented at NOAA's Monster Jam Series earlier in May. Her presentation titled "Marine Conservation at the Local Level: The role of volunteers in creating vibrant coastal communities" explained the role of the MRCs and the NWSI and specifically highlighted how the Snohomish MRC leverages partnerships to be effective with local restoration and stewardship projects. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Committee toured the nearshore restoration work at Howarth Park. Snohomish County staff met with the Port of Everett to develop an Interlocal Agreement for the beach nourishment project from Mukilteo to Everett. Snohomish County met with Corp of Engineers to discuss plans to coordinate nearshore restoration

work with regular dredging of the Snohomish River. The Snohomish MRC responded to NOAA's request for feedback on the National Mussel Watch program and provided several recommendations for a continued successful program. NOAA data has shown that arsenic levels are not changing and the highest levels are at Cape Flattery which has the highest pure marine water for mussels.

Jefferson- Shannon mentioned that the MRC is working on their strategic plan and NWS budget plan. Buoys were set along the Port Townsend (PT) waterfront to identify the voluntary no anchor zone to protect eelgrass beds. There is potential to expand that zone and set buoys near the PT marina. Buoys will also be going in this summer at Port Hadlock and information on protecting commercial shellfish and eelgrass has been sent out to local boating clubs. This work has been supported through small grants from the NWS Foundation, though it will be an ongoing challenge to find funding for this project. Because of the intensity of winter storms, buoys are taken out through winter then put back in the spring. Maureen Goff is the IT person for Sound IQ, which is moving forward.

Whatcom- Ken gave an update on the Cottonwood beach education program which provides pet waste education and information on high fecal coli form numbers in the area. Restoration work is moving forward at Boulevard Park along with the conceptual plans for "*Jerry's Trail*" at Birch Bay. A dozen volunteers showed up for the Olympia Oyster survey in Drayton Harbor. Olympia oysters were found but there are no specific numbers to report at this time. Four County Council members are up for election in November. A recreational diver approached the MRC after finding a small area in Bellingham Bay rich with a diversity of species including rockfish. With this new information, the MRC is considering providing input to the Geographic Response Plan for DOE and Coast Guard.

Update from the Puget Sound Partnership

Marc Daily – Interim Director for the PSP since March 2013 – gave an update on the latest PSP news. The Governor's office is actively looking for permanent PSP Director. The PSP is fairing well with the legislature and funding for key work has been maintained or increased in spite of this tough budget climate. \$15 million has been allocated to on the ground capital projects for Puget Sound. The increase in Puget Sound funds is encouraging for the agency because they are seeing a return on investments. The PSP is supporting funding for the NWS with the EPA. In response to a question about Local Integrated Organizations (LIO), Marc said that the EPA is resistant to block grants. The PSP is assisting the LIO to get their work more integrated with the Lead Organization's work so that the LIO will be better able to compete for funds.

The PSP currently has two pilot projects along the Nooksack River and the Green River to assess the core standards of how vegetation can be maintained on levees. Marc explained that a new Puget Sound congressional caucus is being formed to help provide focus for Puget Sound in the wake of Rep Norm Dicks' retirement.

Business Items

Budget Report: Ginny gave a budget report for the upcoming FY. The EPA will provide \$800K to the NWS through the PSP. There is also good word that at least \$100K will be coming from NOAA through the Coastal Zone Management Act (Ecology). Every MRC has an extension or is in process of getting an extension on their current grant through August, which gives more time to get new grant agreements in place. Ginny will negotiate budgets with each MRC and all will be close to \$70K. There is still a one to one matching requirement for the EPA funds. NOAA funding may not have the same requirement.

Fall Conference Planning: Planning needs to begin for the upcoming MRC conference in fall. The Commission will have less capacity to help this year and Ginny suggested we form a Conference Planning Committee. This Conference Planning Committee will be expected to decide on a conference theme, session topics, list of presenters, keynote speaker, etc. The date and location have already been determined – November 22-23 at the Bellingham Lakeway Inn. MRC reps should check in with their members to participate on Conference Committee.

Tom Hoban, Lincoln Loehr, Duane Fagergren, and Terry Williams volunteered to be on the planning committee.

MRC reps should hand out conference “save the date” reminders provided by the NWSC staff.

Robyn du Pre mentioned that she is getting sponsorship requests out. She encouraged MRCs to think of ideas or connections to help meet or exceed our sponsorship funds. The silent auction is slated to happen again at this year’s conference. Last year, approx. \$6000 was raised at the auction for MRC work. Donations from each MRC or individual contributions are needed for the auction prizes.

Ocean Acidification Updates: Ginny hosted a meeting at University of Washington which fostered good discussions about mitigating O.A. locally. The consensus was that there is still not a simple and inexpensive tool and method for monitoring. Many potential projects have caveats and concerns for unintended consequences. Things are still in an experimental stage at this time. Kathleen Hermann mentioned the great education potential with a “farmer to farmer” approach – inland farming community to shellfish farming community. The phytoremediation site could be a great place for an education tour. Ginny reminded the group that the Northwest Straits was given a seat on the Washington Marine Resource Advisory Council created by Senate Bill 5603.

Octopus Workgroup Update: Caroline included a handout on the Giant Pacific Octopus Advisory Group in the meeting materials. The advisory group did not reach a consensus around one recommendation for WDFW.

End of Fiscal Year Reminders: The end of this FY is June 30th. Invoices need to be submitted to Ecology and to the PSP in short order. Sasha has been talking with the fiscal staff of each county and reminded Commission members to submit travel reimbursements.

Committee Reports

Ginny explained the work that Caroline is doing to provide examples of good metrics for a variety of projects. Caroline provided samples of metrics in the meeting materials. There is ongoing work to get more sophisticated metrics, which will be embedded in the MRC grant agreements. NWSC staff will send the metrics document to share with MRCs.

NWSC Elections

Jerry Masters thanked the NWS Foundation and Commission staff for all their great work during his tenure as NWSC Chair. Ginny and Robyn presented Jerry with a carved paddle as a thank you for his service as Commission Chair and Foundation President for 2 years. The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for consideration: Christine Woodward as the new NWSC Chair and Ken

Carrasco as Vice Chair for one year appointments. No other nominations were presented. The board approved the slate of candidates as presented by the nomination committee.

Jerry will be working with Ginny on funding issues and finding a funding home for the NWS.

Public Comment- No public comment.

People for Puget Sound Program at WEC

Kerri Cechovic, Campaign Director for the Washington Environmental Council (WEC), reported on the recent transition of People for Puget Sound work to the WEC through the working lunch. Kerri emphasized that the mission and goals for People for Puget Sound remain the same: to protect water quality and habitat critical to the recovery of Puget Sound species, and engage citizens to protect and restore the Sound. The policy, advocacy and education work will be assumed by the Washington Environmental Council, which will keep alive the People for Puget Sound name. EarthCorps assumed the restoration work.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

In effort to reduce in person meetings the group reached a consensus to hold conference call meetings every other month to keep continuity and discuss business items. Commission staff members are looking into a webinar service (WebEx) for future meetings.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **June 28th 10:00-12:00pm** by conference call.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
June 28, 2013, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conference Call Meeting

Commission Members: Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Greg Ayers (San Juan), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Lenny Corin (Island), Terry Williams, Jerry Masters, Duane Fagergren

Absent: Terrie Klinger

Additional MRC Representation: Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish), Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish)

Commission Staff and Support: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Austin Rose, Terry Stevens

Foundation Staff: Robyn du Prè

Open Meeting and Welcome

Christine opened the meeting and gave a brief introduction of herself as the newly elected Commission Chair. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Approval of May 31st meeting minutes

The misspelling of 'Kathleen Herrmann' and 'Ian Jefferds' in the May 31st Northwest Straits Commission meeting minutes was noted. Otherwise, the minutes were approved as written.

MRC Updates and Highlights

Clallam- Jeff Ward reported that Clallam MRC members participated in a core sampling field trip at Discovery Bay led by USGS geologist Dr. Brian Atwater. The group was shown geological evidence of tsunamis that have struck the coast. Cathy Lear will be coordinating with the Feiro Marine Life Center to bring Dr. Atwater to the area for a series of public presentations on the local evidence of historic earthquakes and tsunamis. The final draft of the 2014 proposed MRC work plan is almost complete and will be submitted after the July 4th holiday. The Olympia oyster restoration brochure is nearing completion and is expected to set the stage for the restoration work planned for 2014. Cathy Lear will be working with Cheryl Lowe of Jefferson MRC to coordinate work on the NWS Foundation's 'Community Engagement for Oil Spill Response and Readiness' project. Jeff joined the crew on the F/V Bet-sea to witness the removal of derelict crab pots in Dungeness Bay. The crew

removed 103 crab/shrimp pots in four days. Cathy Lear is meeting with North Pacific Coast Lead Entity members to establish a collaborative meeting with Clallam and the outer coast MRC. A September meeting at Salt Creek as been proposed and any interested Commission members are invited to join.

Commissioners discussed the potential for Dr. Brian Atwater to present his work to other MRCs and/or at the MRC Conference in November.

Island- Lenny reported that elections for new officers will occur at the next Island MRC meeting and he plans to give a full report on those elections at the July 26th Commission meeting. Any additional updates can be found in the June MRC report that was provided for the meeting handouts.

Jefferson- Shannon reported that the Jefferson MRC adopted the revised strategic plan and 2014 budget. The MRC assisted the DNR with photo monitoring of creosote and marine debris removal on Marrowstone Island. Signage and rack cards have been produced for the South Port Townsend Bay Harbor Management Plan. The sign installation will be coordinated with the placement of no-anchor zone buoys later this summer. Jefferson County received a Washington State Smart Communities Award for the Mystery Bay and South Port Townsend Bay management plans. Biologist Alexandra Morton came to the Rose Theater in Port Townsend for the showing of *Salmon Confidential*. The waterfront eelgrass marker buoys have been installed in Port Townsend.

Skagit- Christine reported that Ivar Dolph resigned from his position with the Skagit MRC after thirteen years of service. The MRC is looking to recruit new members who can rejuvenate the MRC. Jay Lind replaced Rachel Benbrook as the NWSC alternate representative and will attend the July Commission meeting. Community beach seine sampling occurred earlier in June at Ship Harbor in Anacortes. Fidalgo Bay Day will occur on September 14th at the Fidalgo Bay RV Park. WSU will likely post the position for the new Beach Watcher Coordinator in July. Paul Dinnel gave the 2012 native oyster restoration report to the MRC which highlighted a moderate spawning set in all the cultch bags collected. Erica Pickett provided an MRC update to the Skagit County Commissioners on June 25th, and it was well received.

San Juan- Greg Ayers reported that the MRC has spent a lot of time meeting as the Citizens' Advisory Group on the Salmon Recovery grant. Marta Branch, has been working on community outreach and education efforts at events in the County as well as with local high school students on storm water management opportunities. Applications have been received for the MRC Coordinator position and candidates are currently under review. Because of the terms of service limits implemented by the County, seven of fifteen MRC member slots will be open as of the end of July. Six applications have been submitted for those slots. John Aschoff's term is expiring and he has chosen not to reapply for his spot on the MRC. The MRC has been present in the Council Chambers to hear proposals by six groups who have various issues with the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) that was approved by the San Juan Council. That CAO has been further deferred into implementation until next year with the belief that the Growth Management Board is going to request changes to be made. The Shoreline Master Plan is in the final stages for public comment and review, and there is hope that it will go before Council in September.

Snohomish- Tom reported that a new County Executive has been elected. A new WCC IP Program Assistant has been hired and will work with the MRC for the next year and four months.

Approximately sixty Snohomish and Island county residents participated in the Shoreline Landowners workshop. The MRC funding from the county looks to be the same as it was last year. The Snohomish County Public Works director and Surface Water Management director attended the June MRC meeting to get input from the MRC on a Countywide Service District Reassessment Study. The 2012 MRC Annual Report was successfully presented to the County Council. MRC members participated in an open house for Port Susan Warm Beach residents to learn about the history, health, and marine life of Port Susan. Kathleen attended the Shoreline Restoration Consortium hosted by the West Sound Watersheds lead entity. MRC members had an all day meeting with the LIO to set priorities for the Action Agenda.

Whatcom- Ken reported that the application process is well underway for the MRC Coordinator position and MRC members will be on the interview panel. Twenty volunteers turned out at Boulevard Park to collect data for the riprap removal project that is quickly moving forward. The MRC is still working with the City of Bellingham to set optimal areas for restoration work within the city and along Whatcom County shorelines. The MRC is also working to report to the County Council Natural Resources Committee after the November election. Ken will be giving a report to the MRC in August about collecting and using metrics and how to convey that information to the Commission. Robyn mentioned that the Foundation is working to get County contracts signed and in place for the Oil Spill Project so that the first round of community workshops can coincide with Whatcom Water Weeks in September.

Executive Committee Report

Ken reported that once the governor appointees to the Commission have been finalized the Executive Committee will assess how to formalize and structure its role. The Committee has also spent time discussing plans for the upcoming MRC Conference.

Business items

Budget News:

Ginny reported that NOAA has committed to awarding \$200K to the Northwest Straits Commission but there is not a contract in place yet. These funds can be used for an eighteen month period, though are restricted for planning and process work and cannot be used for on the ground projects. Ginny will have more information and handouts at the July NWSC meeting and will walk through the details.

From the Foundation end, Robyn reported that as of last week there was money in the state budget specifically earmarked for derelict fishing gear removal in the Sound, and she will follow up to confirm that it still exists.

NWSI Sustainability Plan:

Ginny announced that it is time to follow up with the NWSI Sustainability Plan that was drafted a year ago, and a discussion will be on the agenda for the July NWSC meeting. The Commission's Sustainability Plan as well as a sustainability plan for each MRC is a deliverable for the current funding contract. MRC representatives should check in with their MRC members or staff to get up to date on what was done locally and be prepared to be part of a discussion at the July meeting.

Update on Capitol Hill Ocean Week:

Caroline updated the group on her trip to D.C. for Capital Hill Ocean Week in which she had conversations with staff on the federal delegation about the work of the NWSI. Many of the sessions at the conference were addressing habitat protection vs. restoration. One of the main topics during the conference was on marine spatial planning, and Caroline was able to promote the Port Susan Project and the San Juan Marine Stewardship Area. Caroline also met with Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, the new Acting Administrator of NOAA and extended an invitation for her to be a keynote speaker at the fall MRC Conference.

Schedule of Commission meetings for the remainder of 2013:

Commission members were asked to take note of the revised 2013 NWSC meeting schedule that was included in the handouts for the meeting. Ginny and Sasha are looking into WebEx to improve utility of conference calls and plan to do a WebEx demonstration at the July meeting.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Roundtable

Duane had a meeting with Senator Cantwell's new statewide Director, Sara Crumb, and suggested she should come to one of our meetings.

Jerry addressed a question/comment to MRC members and Commissioners about the amount of time spent discussing ocean acidification. What are specific things the NWS could do on ocean acidification at both the Commission level and the MRC level that would be unique and contribute to the issue? Particularly after the NWSI Retreat, there has been an effort to identify the unique work of the NWSI, and Jerry highlighted the potential of the NWS to arrange a speaker panel on ocean acidification which could be effectively promoted regionally. This might help us sustain future funding.

Duane mentioned that Marc Daily was impressed with the discussions the Commission had during the May NWSC meeting. It was a great opportunity for him to get a sense of the diversity of projects the NWSI tackles and how they align with the Action Agenda. Lenny reported that the Cornet Bay restoration project was recognized number one by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Advisory Group.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Padilla Bay Reserve
July 26, 2013, 10:00 am – 2:45 pm**

Commission Members: Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Lenny Corin (Island), Terry Williams, Jerry Masters, Duane Fagergren (Alt.)

Absent: Greg Ayers, Terrie Klinger, Marc Daily

Additional MRC Representation: Kathleen Herrmann, Lincoln Loehr, Alyson Rae (Snohomish), Brian Rader (San Juan), Jay Lind (Skagit), Keeley O'Connell (Snohomish and Earth Corps)

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson

Other support: Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay NERR

Northwest Straits Foundation Staff: Robyn du Pré

Other attendance: Ron Wesen (Skagit County Commissioner)

Open Meeting

Christine Woodward opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Welcome

Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen welcomed the group to Skagit County and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Commission and Marine Resources Committees. Commissioner Wesen noted that he is a representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board, and that Skagit County is now in the process of updating their Shoreline Master Plan. Commissioner Wesen encouraged the Commission to ask for his help where needed.

Duane Fagergren recognized the leadership Commissioner Wesen has shown on the efforts to improve water quality in shellfish beds in the Samish area .

Approval of June meeting minutes

The minutes from the June 28 Northwest Straits Commission conference call meeting were approved as written.

MRC Reports

In addition to the written reports, MRC representatives provided the following highlights:

Island - Lenny Corin noted that the MRC held elections and now have a new chair (Linda Rhodes) and vice-chair (Frances Wood). He also reported that the Cornet Bay restoration project recently ranked number one in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review.

San Juan - Brian Rader, interim staff for the San Juan MRC, reported that their MRC membership after July 31 will be significantly reduced, due in part to term limits on membership. The hiring process for the MRC staff position is underway. Ginny Broadhurst noted that she will be in San Juan County to give a formal presentation to the County Council on August 6 and attend the MRC meeting on Aug 7.

Snohomish - Tom Hoban introduced the MRC's new WCC/AmeriCorps staff member, Alyson Rae. He reported that he and Kathleen recently attended a meeting of the LIO to provide a list of the MRC's near-term priorities. Tom also noted that the head of Snohomish Surface Water Management attended the last MRC meeting to engage the MRC in a SWM public process.

Jefferson - Shannon Davis noted that the MRC is named in the County SMP as being responsible for an annual workshop to review SMP restoration priorities. As the Jefferson SMP has not been implemented yet, this workshop has not yet been required. This year the MRC is planning to host this and is looking to ask the County to help pay for it. The MRC is also creating an interactive element for their educational booth for the wooden boat festival. Commissioners requested that the new photo booth be included in the MRC display at the November MRC conference.

Skagit - Christine Woodward and alternate Jay Lind reported that the MRC has several open seats, with one new member appointed recently to represent Skagit Beach Watchers. The MRC is starting a new Salish Sea Stewards program to complement the local Beach Watchers program.

Whatcom - Ken Carrasco said that the hiring process for their new MRC staff member is nearly complete. The MRC and volunteers completed a round of monitoring at Boulevard Park, prior to the restoration work to be carried out by the City of Bellingham. The MRC will host another climate change workshop on October 31.

Clallam-Jeff Ward noted that there were good presentations by COASST and Audubon at their recent meeting, and that the MRC is hoping to integrate with COASST for future beach cleanups. He also shared pictures of a Washington Harbor restoration site, where a project is being led by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Checking in on Sustainability Planning

Ginny provided a handout describing steps that the Commission and MRCs have taken over the past two years to reduce expenses and bring in new sources of funding, noting that in a few cases

counties are also providing support for their local MRC. Ginny thanked Commissioner Wesen for the County's financial support of their MRC staff position. She also recognized that overall the Initiative showing how our work aligns with the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and that there is a clear role for the Initiative in Puget Sound recovery efforts. Ginny emphasized that the new funding paradigm is that Commission and MRC budgets levels are likely to remain at significantly lower levels than two years ago, but that federal funding that we receive can be leveraged to achieve a reasonable level of project money. The group discussed continuing to provide information to state legislators about the Initiative's work and potential for receiving some state funding in the future.

A graph showing the how the federal funding is leveraged by MRCs and the Foundation was provided by Robyn du Pré, and will be emailed to MRC representatives. Ginny requested that MRCs continue to submit priority project ideas. Shannon requested a template for the information so that MRCs submit similar information. Kathleen suggested that some MRCs may have generated a list of projects for their LIO process.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Ken Carrasco reported on the July Executive Committee meeting, noting that the existing strategic plan will need to be updated soon. He recommends that Commissioners take time to review the existing plan in the meantime.

Salish Sea Conference – April 30-May 2, 2014: The call for presentations for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference has been issued ([click here for information](#)), and the Commission discussed possible session and presentation ideas. Caroline Gibson will be submitting an abstract for a session on forage fish. MRCs are encouraged to submit presentation abstracts, and share a copy of the information with Commission staff. The group had some discussion on the merits of a NWSI panel discussion. Ginny and Caroline will take this into further consideration and encouraged anyone who is interested to contact them with ideas.

Foundation Update: Robyn du Pré provided a director's report from the Foundation, noting that this is a slow time for grants with the exception of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board process. Also noteworthy was the funding included in the 2013-15 state budget for derelict fishing gear removal, which will be done in coordination with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Business items

Budget reports: Ginny and Sasha reviewed a draft budget that was prepared and approved by the Commission in May with new \$200K in NOAA funding added. A scope of work and budget was submitted to each of the anticipated funding agencies (Puget Sound Partnership and NOAA), but those agreements have not yet been signed.

MRC Conference updates – November 22-23, 2013: An online survey was emailed to MRC members and MRC staff to solicit input on topics for the upcoming conference. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey, and Austin will re-send it next week with a reminder and deadline noted.

MRC Grants status: Sasha reported that grant agreements for the 2013-14 MRC grants are in progress but that they will not be able to be signed until the incoming grant funding is finalized from EPA through the Puget Sound Partnership. Drafting the MRC agreements is also proceeding somewhat slower than previously as we work with MRCs to articulate new and more specific metrics for each project.

Forage Fish Workgroup: Caroline provided a handout and shared information about the forage fish and food webs workgroup that she provides staff support for. Anyone interested in more information can contact her directly.

Coastal Blue Carbon: enhancing wetland restoration in the Snohomish estuary and beyond:

Keeley O'Connell, member of the Snohomish MRC and staff member at Earth Corps, shared information about the Restore America's Estuaries Coastal Blue Carbon project. A copy of her presentation (pdf) is [available online](#).

Round table: Brian Rader mentioned the work happening in San Juan to shift from derelict vessel removal to derelict vessel prevention where possible.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be in the morning, on Friday, August 23 at Padilla Bay Reserve. The afternoon will be a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Padilla Bay Reserve**

10441 Bayview Edison Road, Mount Vernon WA 98273

August 23, 2013, 10:00 am – noon

Commission Members: Lenny Corin (Island), Terrie Klinger, Jerry Masters, Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Nan McKay, Diana Bob, Marc Daily, Terry Williams

Absent: Greg Ayers (San Juan)

Additional MRC Representation: Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson), Marta Branch and Brian Rader (San Juan)

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Sasha Horst, Austin Rose

Other support: Terry Stevens

Northwest Straits Foundation Staff: Robyn du Pré

Introductions and Agenda Review

Christine opened the meeting and welcomed two new governor appointees to the Commission, Nan McKay and Diana Bob. Introductions were made. There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of July meeting minutes

Shannon noted a misinterpretation in the Jefferson MRC report from the July 26th Commission meeting minutes in regards to the MRC's task of reviewing the County SMP restoration priorities. Commission staff will follow up with Shannon to improve that sentence. With that change pending, the minutes were approved as written.

Welcome

Nan McKay and Diana Bob each gave a brief introduction and review of their professional background and interest in serving on the Commission.

MRC Reports

Clallam- Jeff Ward updated the group about new MRC member Greg Norman, a Makah tribal member. There are currently 3 vacant seats (sport fisher, commercial fisher, and Clallam based Sekiu). The MRC has discussed the possibility of changing their membership to include a marine trades representative and changing one of the sport fishers seat to a recreation tourism seat. The MRC also discussed forming an at large seat that would be representative of the Strait. The Dungeness River festival is scheduled for September 27th–28th and will focus on marine and tsunami debris that has been collected along the coast over the past year. The MRC will have a booth highlighting the derelict gear removal conducted in Dungeness Bay and a “Kiss the Gooney Duck” opportunity for school kids. A joint meeting with the Pacific Coast MRC is scheduled for September 30th at Salt Creek. The Sequim Bay Olympia Oyster restoration pamphlet is complete, and a poster will also be presented at the river festival.

Island- Lenny Corin noted that one MRC meeting was held this month due to summer schedules. Forage fish spawn monitoring will be complete by the end of September 2013. Pigeon guillemot monitoring and eelgrass monitoring continues, and the 2013 season will include technical reports for both those projects. Estuary seining for 2013 is complete and a technical report will be written. Cornet Bay restoration is wrapping up, pending permits to complete the work within the next year. The MRC entered into a contract with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) which is looking into restoration opportunities in Island County. The SFEG will report back to the MRC in September and the MRC will decide on future projects. Jill Johnson is back as chair of the Island County Commissioners. Frances Wood and Linda Rhodes are meeting with Commissioners to explain the role and work of the MRC.

Jefferson- Shannon Davis mentioned that Suzanne Shull (PBNERR) and Ann Stark (GISP, City of Bellingham) came to the MRC meeting to demonstrate Sound IQ, which is moving forward in Jefferson County. The MRC participated in the Fort Flagler State Park Shellfest, and provided education and outreach about two local MRC shellfish protection projects – Mystery Bay Voluntary No-anchor Zone and the new Port Hadlock Voluntary No-anchor Zone. Buoys for the Port Hadlock no-anchor zone have been ordered and signs will be installed in the next few weeks. The MRC will have a new photo booth at the Wooden Boat Festival to attract people to the information presented. The MRC also held its annual picnic at the Taylor Shellfish hatchery in Quilcene.

San Juan- Brian Rader mentioned that the MRC had only one meeting this month. Ginny gave a well-received presentation to the County Council and attended the MRC meeting the subsequent day. Three new members were appointed by County Council, though one appointment is pending until an interview is complete. Brian introduced Marta Branch who was hired as the new MRC staff and coordinator for the LIO.

Skagit- Christine Woodward mentioned that all of the August MRC events had a great turn out. Kyle Murphy (DNR) provided an update on the Aquatic Reserve Programs for Cypress Island and Fidalgo Bay at the MRC meeting. The MRC and Friends of Skagit Beaches will co-host a screening of the film “Ocean Frontiers” in October, and planning is underway for that event. The MRC is still waiting on a signed grant agreement for the Bowman Bay Riprap Removal Feasibility Study. Twelve qualified candidates for the Beach Watcher Coordinator position will be interviewed and the position should be filled by the end of September.

Snohomish- Tom Hoban mentioned that four MRC members were reappointed to serve an additional term. The MRC hosted a booth at the Stillaguamish Festival of the River and MRC members and staff volunteered at the event. Kathleen Herrmann was invited to the Stanwood/Camano Island Regional Parks and Recreation Forum, in which the Mayor of Stanwood attended and discussed recreation in Port Susan in accordance with the Port Susan MSA. Kathleen also attended the LIO Implementation Committee meeting in effort to develop a list of the top ten near-term action items. Tom reported that Kathleen has done a fantastic job in finding grants for the MRC work. A joint meeting was held with the Keep Port Susan Healthy team. Forage fish spawning survey will be conducted October through February along the nearshore between Mukilteo and Everett in conjunction with Beach Watchers. Draft designs for the Snohomish County Nearshore restoration Project are about 30% complete.

Whatcom- Ken Carrasco introduced Austin Rose as the new MRC staff and county representative. The Climate Change symposium is scheduled for October 31st at St. Luke's in Bellingham. The MRC will present to the Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee on September 10th. The Restoration Prioritization Report was recently completed by the City of Bellingham and includes potential restoration opportunities along the Whatcom County shoreline. Robyn will be meeting with representatives involved with that report to see where there could be some funding opportunities. Interpretive signs along Jerry's Trail are being installed. Olympia oyster seeding occurred in Drayton Harbor. Ken will be continuing video production to collect footage of MRC activities. The raccoon issue at Larrabee State Park has been resolved with the help of signs installed on park tables informing campers to not leave food out.

Executive Committee Report

Ken Carrasco gave the Executive Committee report. The Committee discussed the new governor appointees, conference planning, and Ginny's visit with the San Juan MRC. The Committee also recognized the need to have a discussion about Committee structure, which will be something they will address over the next couple of months as new commissioners get acquainted. The group revisited sustainability issues and the continued need to make sure we have visibility in our communities. What are good ways to increase that visibility? This topic will be discussed at the MRC staff meeting on September 10th.

Conference Planning Committee

Ginny reported that the top sessions were established after the survey went out to MRC members and staff. Ocean acidification, climate change and adaptation, sea level rise, and nearshore restoration. Workshop ideas: learning how to do better metrics with both restoration and E/O projects. Citizen science and its application to real world issues. OA responses from the MRCs strategic communications around that. September 10th MRC staff meeting- metrics. Update on rockfish critical habitat. Will Stelle (NOAA), will be a keynote speaker. Outreach to elected officials and tribal members is beginning. Ginny suggested rethinking the poster session which has typically been at the same time as the auction. Ginny explained the concept of IMPACT and suggested that it might fit well within our conference. Each speaker has 5 minutes, 20 slides auto advanced for every 15 seconds. It provides a great opportunity to work on messaging.

Business Items

2014 Meeting schedule: Ginny presented the draft schedule for 2014 Commission meeting dates. Several Commission members mentioned the value of going to each County for Commission meetings. It was decided that a new schedule will be presented in September keeping the dates and the conference calls but changing meeting locations to include additional counties.

PSP Update: Marc Daily spoke about a meeting with the new Puget Sound caucus. Their first field hearing in Tacoma was well attended and was a great discussion to figure out the priorities in Puget Sound recovery. He said that the current level of funding that was significantly lower than in past years was a challenge. The primary support was from the Senate. Marc agrees that MRC outreach to elected officials is extremely important to help build understanding for the work needed in Puget Sound. Marc has been meeting with the 10 LIO's throughout the Sound. The search for a permanent Executive Director is being re-engaged.

The last few business items (kelp restoration, future meeting topics and Sound IQ expansion) were moved to the September agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Everett Community College, Jackson Conference Center Room 107
2000 Tower Street, Everett, WA
September 27, 2013, 10:00 am – 2:45 pm

Commission Members: Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Greg Ayers (San Juan), Diana Bob, Jerry Masters, Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger

Absent: Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Lenny Corin (Island), Nan McKay

Additional MRC Representation: Joe Hillers (Island), Austin Rose (Whatcom), Kathleen Herrmann and Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish)

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Sasha Horst, Austin Rose

Other Support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay NERR)

Northwest Straits Foundation Staff: Robyn DuPré

Other Attendance: Sally Hintz (NW Regional Director, U.S. Senate), Dr. John Stein (NOAA Fisheries), Meg Chadsey (WA Sea Grant)

Introductions

Christine opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed Sally Hintz, NW Washington Director for Senator Maria Cantwell at the U.S. Senate.

Welcome

Terry Williams welcomed the group to Snohomish County. Terry mentioned that Snohomish County has been working hand in hand with the Tulalip and Stillaguamish tribes to share information and develop watershed programs to restore and protect Puget Sound water quality. The Sustainable Land Strategies program was also recently developed to address land use processes for habitat restoration and agricultural lands preservation.

Agenda Review and Approval of August meeting minutes

Minor changes were made to the agenda to provide time for Sally Hintz to provide a short briefing and for Ginny to show an example of an “ignite” presentation. The minutes from the August 23rd Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

MRC Monthly Reports

Clallam- Jeff Ward reported on an event for International Coastal Cleanup Day in which the MRC hosted Washington CoastSavers Coordinator, Jon Schmidt, who discussed marine debris clean up efforts on the outer coast and volunteers picked up 2,500 pounds of marine debris along the Olympic coast. Much of the material found along the beach was likely tsunami debris. The Clallam MRC is continuing to collaborate with Surfrider to get as many resources together as possible to clean up the WA coast. The Dungeness River Festival will be held September 27th and 28th. The Clallam, Jefferson, and North Pacific Coast MRC will host a joint meeting at Salt Creek County Park on September 30th to discuss marine debris, ocean acidification, and oil spill preparedness, and how to raise the level of awareness on those topics.

Island- Joe Hillers reported that Rex Porter will not be submitting his application to continue his position as Executive Director for the Island County MRC. The MRC has been working with the ILIO to develop a list of near-term actions which were recently approved by the Executive Committee, and will be submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership for inclusion into the 2014 Action Agenda update.

Jefferson- Shannon updated the group on a new alternate for District 2 on the MRC, Lucas Hart (USGS-Marrowstone Island). The Jefferson MRC attracted a lot of visitors at the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend with their new location near the beer garden, the kelp bed photo booth and oyster shell game. Maureen Goff is leading the work to move Sound IQ forward. The volunteer no anchor zone signs are in place in Port Hadlock.

San Juan- Greg Ayers reported that Marta Branch has been very helpful in getting the MRC. New members have been recruited and a quorum was achieved at the last MRC meeting. Barbara Bentley was elected chairperson for a six-month initial term. The MRC will hold future meetings in the Council of Chambers, which will provide a video feed of the meetings. The County Commissioners have shown a higher level of interest in the MRC, as they are recruiting candidates and engaged in the Salmon Recovery Program. The Oil Spill Response and Preparedness workshop is scheduled for September 28th.

Skagit- Christine reported that over fifty people stopped by the MRC booth at the Salmon River Festival, and the MRC is looking for ideas on how to make the booth more interactive in order to improve visibility in the local community. Fidalgo Bay Day was a huge success with over 220 visitors. The Skagit MRC and Friends of Skagit Beaches will co-host a screening of “Ocean Frontiers” on October 11th. Rachel Benbrook provided a presentation on the Citizen Action Training School funded through the Puget Sound Partnership at the September MRC meeting. The DNR has funding available to remove creosote in the North Puget Sound, even on private property. Four qualified candidates were interviewed for the Beach Watcher Coordinator position.

Snohomish- Lincoln Loehr reported that reappointment recommendations are in process for four MRC members to each serve an additional term. Kathleen attended an LIO Habitat Subcommittee meeting. The Snohomish Stillaguamish LIO is working to develop a list of ten near-term actions. The armoring prevention mailers for coastal residents in Snohomish and Island counties will be mailed in October. The MRC and Snohomish County staff will conduct forage fish spawning surveys monthly beginning in

October. Two new pages were added to the MRC website; one geared toward coastal landowners and another featuring the Marine Mammal Stranding Network signs purchased by the MRC and installed at parks around Snohomish County. Kathleen attended the Mudslide Working Group at the Amtrak headquarters to present the current state of the Snohomish County nearshore restoration projects and opportunities for future collaboration. The MRC worked with WDFW on a cage mussel deployment and data should be available soon. Surface Water Management Director, Debbie Terwilleger, Kathleen along with Brett Gaddis, led a Snohomish County tour with Congressman Rick Larsen. The tour focused on habitat restoration efforts near densely populated areas. The tour included a visit to Howarth Park, a boat trip to Smith Island, and a visit to the new rain gardens in the City of Everett.

Whatcom- Austin Rose reported on a recent event in which the MRC partnered with the Surfrider Northwest Straits Chapter to host a beach cleanup along Locust Beach in Bellingham, in coordination with the International Coastal Cleanup Day and Whatcom Water Weeks. Volunteers gathered 15 pounds of trash off the beach, mostly broken bottles, food packaging, and plastic debris. The MRC will host a Climate Change Symposium titled “Climate Change and the Future of Food” on October 31st at St. Lukes Community Health Center in Bellingham. Registration is now open for that event. The WRIA 1 Restoration Prioritization Report was recently completed and the MRC is reviewing potential marine restoration opportunities to take a lead on. The planning efforts for Jerry’s Trail are underway. The MRC will be presenting an overview of their recent activities to the Whatcom County Council Natural Resources subcommittee on October 8th.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Ginny provided an update on the planning to date for the MRC Conference. The committee discussed additional invitations to focus on outside of MRC participants. Ginny noted that the press release from Senator Murray’s office was for funding that the Commission was already aware of, not additional new funding. Ginny has been in communication with Will Stelle (NOAA) about how the Northwest Straits Initiative works to carry out NOAA’s mission. Diana and Nan are becoming oriented to their new positions on the Commission. Nan offered to help with Strategic Planning and improving external relations. Christine and Jerry offered to make contact with state legislators around the Northwest Straits region to share information about the Initiative.

Northwest Straits Foundation Update: Robyn reported that the Foundation is making good strides in recruiting potential board members. Jim Darling (former Port of Bellingham Director) has indicated he would like to be on the Foundation board and will be attending the MRC Conference. Jay Lind (Skagit MRC) is also interested in joining the board. Robyn is developing relationships with local corporate partners. The Foundation is also working on communication and branding materials that will be ready soon. The Foundation and Commission have been working with a design firm to develop a new logo that emphasizes a partnership between two now separate entities (Commission and Foundation). Two new draft logos have been developed, one for the Commission and one for the Foundation that together make one picture.

The group moved to approve the Foundation and Commission staff to make decisions on logo designs without input from the entire group.

Robyn mentioned that a hiring decision was made for the Communication and Outreach position. Three well qualified candidates will be interviewed for the Nearshore Project Coordinator position.

Business Items

Kelp Restoration: Caroline provided an update on her efforts to scope out a project related to kelp recovery in the Puget Sound. Caroline is gathering technical advisors and colleagues who are experts on kelp ecology and marine environmental monitoring efforts. The goal is to begin a phased citizen science regional project to monitor and protect kelp beds in the northern Puget Sound. This project should provide an excellent opportunity for all seven MRCs to be involved in a regional project.

Sound IQ Expansion: Sasha explained that Sound IQ expansion is underway in Jefferson County with the project already complete in Island and San Juan counties. Other MRCs are encouraged to consider it. The first step would be to have a brief presentation by Suzanne Shull at an MRC meeting.

Updated 2014 NWSC Meeting Schedule: Ginny called attention to the new 2014 NWSC meeting schedule included in the meeting handouts. A NWSC meeting will be held in each county in the Northwest Straits over the course of the next year.

Public Comment

Amy Carey, Executive Director of Sound Action, informed the group about the Sound Action organization and its history of working to protect and restore Puget Sound ecosystems, particularly habitat loss in the nearshore environment. Sound Action is very supportive of the work behind the Northwest Straits Initiative and hopes to further network with the MRCs and provide regulatory expertise and oversight to make sure nearshore habitats are protected during permitting processes.

Ignite Presentation

Ginny provided an example of an “Ignite” presentation, a format which allows a presenter five minutes for a presentation of twenty powerpoint slides – the slides must be photos or images, no text – set to auto advance every fifteen seconds. Each MRC has been asked to give an Ignite presentation at the MRC Conference.

Update on the Science Panel: integrating Northwest Straits Initiative projects

Dr. John Stein, Science & Research Director of NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel Chair, provided an update on the Science Panel and the integration of Northwest Straits Initiative projects such as: ocean acidification, kelp and eelgrass restoration, forage fish and shellfish restoration, water quality, and rockfish recovery. The Science Panel is working to generate and use the best available science for Puget Sound Recovery and identify science needs in a timely and concerted way given constraints on capacity and funding. There are continued efforts to improve science and policy engagement.

Advances in Ocean Acidification Communications: streamlining and disseminating the important messages

Meg Chadsey, WA Sea Grant Ocean Acidification Specialist, and NOAA PMEL Liaison, talked about the advances in ocean acidification communication and how the socio-economic impacts of ocean acidification are being addressed. Meg will be part of a training session on ocean acidification at the MRC Conference in November and will be co-chairing a panel at the Salish Sea Conference, with Northwest Straits Commission staff, on ways citizens can become more engaged with on the ground actions addressing ocean acidification in WA and B.C.

Update from the Senator's office

Sally Hintz mentioned that Senator Maria Cantwell is very supportive of the Northwest Straits Initiative and the actions being taken to address marine issues. Senator Cantwell has been working closely with NOAA on the tsunami debris clean up efforts to ensure responsibility in dealing with potential toxics, and has advocated for ocean acidification monitoring programs crucial to WA States maritime economy. Sally also mentioned that the U.S. Coast Guard will now be working closely with the Makah tribe with regards to oil spill response efforts.

Discussion of Northwest Straits Initiative projects related to Ocean Acidification

Ginny called attention to the summary of the NWSI involvement in upcoming Ocean Acidification events.

Roundtable

No comments were made during the roundtable.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission

October 25, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Conference call

Commission Members: Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Greg Ayers (San Juan), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Nan McKay, Jerry Masters, Terry Williams, Marc Daily, Raechel Waters (alt.)

Absent: Lenny Corin (Island), Diana Bob, Terrie Klinger

Additional MRC Representation: Joe Hillers (Island), Austin Rose (Whatcom), Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish), Jay Lind (Skagit)

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Sasha Horst, Austin Rose

Foundation Staff: Robyn Du Pré

Others attendance: Phil Johnson (Jefferson County Commissioner)

Introductions and agenda review

Christine opened the meeting with introductions. Minor changes were made to the agenda to provide time for Phil Johnson to give a short update on the net-pen issue in Jefferson County.

Approval of September meeting minutes

The minutes from the September 27th Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

NWSC Chair's report

Christine reported that she recently attended the 2013 Society of Ecological Restoration World Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. This conference brought together more than 1,200 delegates from around the world to share their ecological restoration work as it relates to a variety of natural resource management issues. Christine also updated the group on her recent appointment to the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Committee by Governor Jay Inslee.

Business Items

Conference updates and check on assignments: Ginny provided an update on the draft MRC Conference agenda. Each MRC representative was asked to confirm whether their MRC plans to

participate in the Ignite presentations and who their designated presenter will be. Sasha mentioned that MRC Conference information is frequently updated on the Northwest Straits [web site](#). Conference registration is still open for MRC members and invited guests.

New marine debris project with Veteran's Corp: Ginny reported that the Department of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps received funds through the legislature to support the hiring of recently returning military veterans for beach cleanup work. The Northwest Straits Commission was asked to be a partner with this project to help identify shoreline areas where cleanup work is needed. Ginny is hoping to hire a part-time temporary position to have someone who can gather information from the MRCs about work needed at particular cleanup sites. Ginny will send an announcement to all MRCs in January with more information about this project when details are more firm.

New LIDAR beach survey opportunity with Ecology: Ginny reported that George Kaminsky from the WA Department of Ecology is looking to the Northwest Straits Initiative to help identify shoreline sites that should be part of a new LIDAR survey project. Ginny recently sent an e-mail to MRC staff and shoreline restoration project leaders with a description of this survey project, and encouraged staff to share the information with MRC members who may be interested. Each MRC should anticipate hearing from George, as he is interested in learning more about MRC projects and priorities in order to determine how his work may support MRC efforts.

Forage Fish Spawning Habitat Training Program: Caroline provided an update on her work with WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and WA Dept. of Natural Resources staff to develop new opportunities for forage fish spawning surveys. Caroline would like to have free training on forage fish survey protocols offered between January and March 2014 in four MRC counties. These trainings will include a presentation on the importance of forage fish in the regional food web.

State funding: Ginny reported that Christine and Jerry will be meeting with state legislators in the Northwest Straits region to share information about the Initiative and discuss the potential for a state funding request. Ginny will be meeting with Ecology's director, Maia Bellon, in the same regard.

MRC Reports

Whatcom: Ken Carrasco reported that the MRC has chosen two project sites to feature for the MRC Conference field trip. The Climate Change and the Future of Food symposium will take place on October 31. Mike Hogan from the Port of Bellingham provided an update to the MRC on the waterfront redevelopment projects currently underway and how the MRC could plug in. The November MRC meeting will include a presentation on Bellingham Bay hypoxia and an update from the City of Bellingham on the status of Locust/Whirlwind Beach. The MRC is working to identify priority projects and near term actions to submit to the LIO staff team as they prepare to update the 2014 Action Agenda.

Snohomish: Tom Hoban mentioned that the LIO Implementation Committee sent a list of 12 near term actions for consideration to the Executive Committee. Kathleen has developed new relationships with Amtrak and Burlington Northern which has helped with funding for the Snohomish County Nearshore Restoration project. Tom will be making a presentation to Port Susan homeowners at the Port Susan Open House on October 26th. Lincoln mentioned that MRC will not hold a meeting in November and the next meeting will be on December 5.

Skagit: Jay Lind reported that a potluck appreciation was held during the October MRC meeting to honor the service of departing members. The MRC will be offering a 20-40 hour Salish Sea Stewards volunteer training program for those interested in issues impacting marine resources. The MRC will retain a consultant through the County to develop the program and provide volunteer coordination. A subcommittee was also formed to provide input and oversight for the program development.

San Juan: Greg Ayers reported that five new members have been appointed to the MRC and various subcommittees have been re-formed to develop goals and objectives for 2014. The San Juan County Council asked the MRC for advice on various projects and issues, and as such, the MRC prepared comments or a letter of support for: increased financial support for the Salmon Recovery Coordinator; the Coal Terminal EIS, the Hydraulic Code content (as requested by WDFW); and the Shoreline Master Plan update. The San Juan MRC now meets in the Council Chambers and meetings will be on a video-feed online.

Jefferson: Shannon reported that the MRC has been discussing possible future projects and priorities for the next few years. Lisa Kaufman, DNR met with the MRC to talk about upcoming creosote removal projects in Jefferson County and potential areas for collaboration with a WCC crew. Buoys from the Port Townsend Eelgrass project were removed for the season. MRC volunteers recovered the seasonal eelgrass marker buoys which have since been replaced with white crab floats attached by crabber line to the ground tackle.

Island: Joe Hillers mentioned that terms will expire January 31 for three MRC members. The Island MRC will now be administered through the County Department of Health and there has been discussion about how funds would be allocated for administration and staffing due to this change. A description for the open staff position has been developed and will not be posted until the budget in the Northwest Straits Commission contract has been approved by the County.

Clallam: Jeff Ward reported that there was a great turn out for the Dungeness River Festival. Clallam MRC members staffed a booth at the festival which included information on Olympia oyster restoration. The Clallam MRC, Jefferson MRC, and North Pacific Coast MRC held a joint meeting and picnic to discuss marine debris and ocean acidification. The North Pacific Coast MRC has penned a letter to the Olympic National Park requesting a meeting to discuss the issue of removing marine debris from remote coastal pocket beaches. Bob Campbell, Facilities Manager for the Feiro Marine Life Center, has been appointed to the MRC. The MRC has made changes to their by-laws to include a marine trades seat.

Other Updates

Phil Johnson, Jefferson County Commissioner, provided an update on his recent meeting at the Governor's office to request a moratorium on net pens. Jefferson county will proceed with a shoreline master program that allows for net pens. Commissioner Johnson requested support from the Northwest Straits Commission on his resolution because he is concerned about the impacts of net pens on the water quality and habitat of Puget Sound and sees continuing pressure for net pen siting. Ginny said that she will share the letter that the Northwest Straits Commission wrote to Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant in 2011 about concerns that were shared among members on the issue of finfish aquaculture. Ginny will also follow up with Christine and the Executive Committee about how and when to have another discussion on this topic.

Marc Daily mentioned that the Puget Sound National Estuary Program will go through a review by the EPA in 2014. The Puget Sound Partnership will be looking for us to provide information that showcases

the work from the Northwest Straits Commission and MRCs as they work to put together a package of materials for EPA by the end of February 2014.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

Adjourn was at 11:35am. The next meeting of the Commission will be on December 6, 2013 by conference call.



Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Padilla Bay Reserve/Conference Call
December 13, 2013, 10:00 am – noon

Commission Members: Christine Woodward (Chair and Skagit), Shannon Davis (Jefferson), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Greg Ayers (San Juan), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Tom Hoban (Snohomish), Lenny Corin (Island), Jerry Masters, Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger, Duane Fagergren, Diana Bob

Absent: Nan McKay

Additional MRC Representation: Kathleen Herrmann, Alyson Rae, and Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish), Austin Rose (Whatcom), Jay Lind (Skagit)

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Sasha Horst, Austin Rose

Other support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay Reserve)

Introduction and Agenda Review

Christine opened the meeting with introductions. The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of October meeting minutes

The minutes from the October Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Conference debrief

Christine and Ginny reviewed the MRC Conference survey results. Out of 51 survey responses, over 70% of the survey participants gave the conference a high rating of 5. The presentations by Will Stelle and Senator Kevin Ranker were very well received. The MRC Ignite presentations were seen as a great exercise and a unique way to hear from all the MRCs. The Northwest Straits Foundation raised \$7,000 through the silent auction. Ginny will schedule a follow up meeting with MRC staff to discuss the concept of collective impact, as relating to marine conservation by the MRCs, and how this concept can be integrated into the NWSI strategic planning process.

MRC Reports

Jefferson: Shannon Davis reported that the JCMRC developed a proposed project list to help guide the MRC with future work and articulate what support of needed from Commission and Foundation staff. MRC elections were held in December, and all officer positions remain the same. Ralph Riccio, shellfish

biologist with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, is the new Tribal Representative on the JCMRC. Bob Simmons was hired to replace Pat Pearson as the Jefferson County WSU Extension Natural Resources/Stewardship Coordinator.

Skagit: Christine Woodward mentioned that Lori Kyle received a certificate of appreciation for her twelve years of service with the Skagit MRC, representing the Skagit Conservation District. As part of the Skagit Restoration Initiative, the Skagit MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) hosted a Fidalgo Bay Nearshore Monitoring workshop which allowed participants to create a comprehensive database of projects conducted in Fidalgo Bay, identify data gaps, and specific research questions. A new WSU Beach Watcher Coordinator was recently hired and that position will be funded for one year. Nancy Olson has been selected as the consultant for developing the Skagit Salish Sea Stewards program. Coastal Geologic Services is in the process of finalizing the feasibility study for the Shannon Point riprap removal project. Lisa Kaufman (NWSF) is the new project manager for the Bowman Bay riprap removal project. Fifty cubic yards of native oyster shell was deployed on the east side of Fidalgo Bay. Post-monitoring and mapping was also conducted in that area. Leah Kintner with the Puget Sound Partnership is working with the Skagit MRC to establish a Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for the area.

Whatcom: Ken Carrasco reported that the Whatcom MRC held elections for new officers during the December MRC meeting. Wendy Steffensen will be stepping down as Chair and retiring from the MRC after 10 years of service. Laurie Caskey-Schreiber was elected as Chair. Stephanie Williams will remain Vice-Chair and Ken Carrasco will remain the NWSC representative. The Project Development Subcommittee developed a list of near term actions to provide to the LIO as they prepare the local update for the 2014 Action Agenda. At the December meeting, a proposed project list was reviewed and MRC members were given an opportunity to vote on projects in order to gauge which projects have the most interest from the group. John Incardona, with the NOAA Fisheries Science Center, recently provided a presentation to the MRC on how oil spills overlap with every day stormwater runoff in our area, specifically how stormwater pollution effects fish development. The Public Speaker Series Subcommittee along with representatives from the local Tribes, small-cities, agricultural community, real estate, and building community met to plan a well rounded 2014 Speaker Series calendar.

Clallam: Jeff Ward mentioned that the Clallam MRC recently hosted Meg Chadsey of Washington Sea Grant, who discussed developments in adaptation to ocean acidification and plans for community outreach. The MRC is reviewing and finalizing its 2013-2018 strategic plan. Regular MRC meeting dates have been set for 2014. George Kaminsky, WA Department of Ecology, will be providing a presentation to the MRC in January on a new LIDAR survey project.

Snohomish: Tom Hoban reported that three Snohomish MRC projects have been included as near term actions for the local update to the 2014 Action Agenda. MRC members and staff attended the Sound Living seminar at Everett Community College in November, and the MRC booth was displayed for the duration of the event. A contract is in process with Natural Resource Consultants to conduct side scan sonar and crab pot removal in Port Gardner, pending a scheduled closure of recreational crabbing. AMEC has been contracted to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the Nearshore Restoration Project. The MRC provided funding for a Greenwood Creek- Port Susan Restoration Interpretive sign which was designed by MRC staff Alyson Rae. Coastal Geologic Services will conduct a LIDAR/GIS analysis of the marine shoreline located within the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. The MRC is funding the production of a Port Susan video to be used for various educational purposes. The MRC submitted a

comment letter for the Mukilteo Multimodal Terminal project and suggested a caged mussel study to monitor PAH levels before and after removal of creosote pilings.

San Juan: Greg Ayers mentioned that eight members attended the MRC Conference and those members expressed positive feedback and a greater understanding of the relationship between the organizations after the conference. Sam Gibboney has been hired as the new interim director of the San Juan Community Planning and Development department. The MRC has prepared comment letters to County Council regarding the Coal Terminal EIS as well as the WDFW Hydraulic Code and Hydraulic Permit Application. The Policy and Science Committee is preparing a response to the draft Shoreline Master Program, as requested by County Council. The MRC will host a retreat on January 8th to develop the 2014 work plan. Barbara Bentley provided a presentation on the history and mission of the MRC. The Planning Commission has made recommendations to council related to changes to the County Critical Area Ordinance.

Island: Lenny Corin reported that there are currently three MRC vacancies which will be filled by the New Year. The Communications position will likely be filled by Linda Kast Meehan pending budget approval.

Regional Committee Updates

Marine Resources Advisory Council: Ginny and Christine attended the first meeting on November 21st. Jan Newton and Terrie Klinger provided background information on the ocean acidification process. Martha Kongsgaard, Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council has scheduled meetings for every quarter in order to move actions forward at a steady pace.

Ecosystem Coordination Board: Caroline attended the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) meeting on November 21st in Edmonds. This is the policy advisory body of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), on which Ginny is an appointed member. The ECB discussed communications around the new State of the Sound report issued by the PSP, along with the 2014 legislative agenda. The PSP is developing incentives for preserving natural shorelines (incl. bulkhead prevention) and it was noted that stronger collaboration with the agriculture community is needed relative to stream buffer zones and erosion prevention. ECB meeting announcements and materials are posted on the PSP website at http://www.psp.wa.gov/EB_meetings.php.

Business items

New hire for marine debris project: Ginny reported the Department of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps received funding from the legislature to support the hiring of recently returning military veterans for beach cleanup work. The Northwest Straits Commission was asked to partner with this project to help identify shoreline areas where cleanup work is needed. Paul Argites has been hired by the Commission as part-time staff to gather information from the MRCs about work needed at particular cleanup sites. Paul will begin in January.

2014 Meeting dates – retreat reminder: The Northwest Straits retreat is scheduled for March 20th and 21st at the Padilla Bay Reserve. After scoping for the event to determine what work/commitment is needed, Ginny will be recruiting advisors (ad hoc committee) to help plan for the retreat. A new five-year strategic plan will also need to be developed.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference: Will be in Seattle (April 30-May 2, 2014). Funding may be available for MRCs. Contact Commission staff for more information.

2014 Hollings Scholar: Emily Bishop from the University of Rhode Island, was recently awarded the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship from NOAA, and will be partnering with the NWSC and MRCs in order to fulfill her eight-week internship studying kelp restoration. Emily will help develop the survey protocols for kelp monitoring in collaboration with Helen Berry and Terrie Klinger, which will be useful for MRCs and citizen scientists around the Sound.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:42am.