



**Meeting:** Northwest Straits Commission  
**Date:** January 26, 2024  
**Time:** 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting

To join the Zoom meeting, [CLICK HERE](#) . Meeting ID: 891 6043 4432 Meeting Passcode: 296424. For audio conference, dial: 253-205-0468 or [click here](#) to find your local number.

*We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.*

**Decision items for Commission review:**

- **December Minutes (Included in Meeting Packet)**

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 10:00 – 10:10 AM | <b>Welcome and introductions</b><br>Tribal acknowledgement<br>December Minutes Approval   | Tim Ellis, Chair  |
| 10:10 – 10:25 AM | <b>Committee Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee</li> <li>• Science Advisory Committee</li> <li>• External Relations Committee</li> </ul>  | Alan Clark<br>Julia Parrish<br>Nan McKay                    |
| 10:25 – 10:50 AM | <b>Business Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWSI Conference Planning Committee</li> <li>• Kelp Kayak Monitoring Update</li> <li>• Green Crab Update</li> <li>• 2023 Impact Report update and timeline</li> </ul> | Caitlyn Blair<br>Jeff Whitty<br>Lucas Hart<br>Jessica Owens |
| 10:50 – 11:25 AM | <b>MRC Reports</b>  | MRC Representatives   |



## agenda

|                  |  |                |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| 11:25 – 11:35 AM | <b>NW Indian Fisheries Commission</b>      | Cecilia Gobin  |
| 11:35 – 11:45 AM | <b>Northwest Straits Foundation</b>        | Don Hunger     |
| 11:45 – 11:55 AM | <b>Puget Sound Partnership</b>             | Ahren Stroming |
| 11:50 – 11:55 AM | <b>Meeting highlights and action items</b> | All            |
| 11:55 – 12:00 PM | <b>Public Comment</b>                      | All            |
| 12:00 PM         | <b>Adjourn</b>                             |                |

*30-minutes post-meeting open discussion – join if you'd like.  
Next meeting: In Person at the Whatcom County Civic Building, February 23, 2024*



# Minutes

December 8, 2023 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

## **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Alan Clark (Clallam - Vice Chair), Tim Ellis (Snohomish – Chair), Tom Cowan, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Ginny Broadhurst, Nan McKay, Diane Hennebert (Skagit), Christina Koons (San Juan), Julia Parrish, Ahren Stroming (Puget Sound Partnership alternate)  
**Commission Staff:** Caitlyn Blair, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Dana Oster, Jessica Owens, Leah Robison, Allie Simpson, Jeff Whitty

**Others in Attendance:** Teal Waterstrat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Tyler Porter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Chris Kelley, Jerry Masters, Sarah Fisken (Jefferson Alternate), Don Hunger, Brad Bebout (Jefferson MRC), Ken Collins (Island MRC),

**Absent:** Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Cecilia Gobin (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Tim opened the meeting with introductions and the tribal acknowledgement.

Lucas shared some words about departing Commissioners and Marine Resources Committee members Bob Cecile (Whatcom MRC), Tom Cowan (Governor’s Appointee), and Elsa Schwartz (Island MRC).

The Commission approved the September Commission meeting minutes by consensus.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Alan shared that due to some delays the NW Straits Commission and MRCs will not spend the full amount of NOAA fiscal year 2022 funds within the original award period (Jan-Dec 2023), so a no-cost extension has been submitted. The Commission is working on steps toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and will contract a consultant to carry out the first phase if the no-cost extension is approved. Alan also shared that the NW Straits Initiative is looking at a joint process to move forward with identifying structural needs across the NW Straits Foundation, the NW Straits Commission, and Marine Resources Committees.

Lucas shared that a small group of NW Straits Foundation and NW Straits Commission members met to discuss structural needs for the NW Straits Initiative. They discussed developing a set of shared goals to inform outcomes for a joint process that relates to challenges and opportunities for Foundation, Commission, and MRCs. The idea is to develop working groups out of these challenges and opportunities that arise, which would then move toward a retreat later in the year.



# Minutes

**Science Advisory Committee:** Julia shared that the Science Advisory Committee had great interactions with conference attendees and are identifying ways to be more involved with Marine Resources Committees in 2024. The Committee is adding two new members in 2024.

**External Relations Committee:** Nan reported that the Committee is waiting to set up a meeting with Senator Murray's staff. The Committee is coordinating a review to consider removing the language about funding from the draft reauthorization bill.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program Overview

Teal Waterstrat and Tyler Porter gave a presentation on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program.

## **Business Items:**

Staff provided updates on the following business items:

**Evans School Partnership:** Dana shared that the Northwest Straits Commission's proposal to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab was selected by students for a capstone project. The proposal was created by Commission and Marine Resources Committee staff to create a Community Needs Assessment framework that all Marine Resources Committees can use. The needs assessment will build on work Island Marine Resources Committee developed to better understand community priorities related to marine resources to inform strategic planning and project prioritization. The first round of the project will be from January – May 2024.

**NW Straits Initiative Conference Evaluation Results:** Caitlyn shared a summary of the survey results from the NW Straits Initiative Conference held November 3-4, 2023, in Port Townsend at the NW Maritime Center. The summary included data from respondents about the topics, activities, and flow of the conference. The summary also included comments outlining the commonalities amongst respondents.

**Kelp Plan Status Update and Policy Recommendations:** Jeff shared that the Kelp Plan webpage has been updated. It includes the Kelp Plan status report summary and the five themes that the NW Straits Initiative is encouraging partners and members to focus on in relation to the Kelp Plan. The webpage is posted [here](#).

On the webpage, there is a summary of the pre-policy work that was done in collaboration with several agencies.



# Minutes

## **2024-2025 MRC Grant Approval (NOAA-Funded awards)**

Sasha shared the list of projects proposed by MRCs for 2024-2025 using fiscal year 2023 funding from NOAA. This award period is for three years starting January 1, 2024. The project proposals are for just the first two years. The Commission moved and approved by consensus the projects proposed by the MRCs.

## **Partner Updates:**

**Puget Sound Partnership:** Ahren shared that the Puget Sound Partnership has filled their staff positions for their strategic funding team, and they are looking to fill a grant writer position as well. The Partnership also launched their Recovery Acceleration Funding tool.

**Northwest Straits Foundation:** Don shared updates about grant writing and reporting at the federal and state level. In September, the stewardship fund was launched to assist Marine Resources Committees and the public with hands-on stewardship activities. The first project was the Bowman Bay Stewardship day, which was highly successful. The NW Straits Foundation will be hiring a Communications and Marketing staff member.

## **MRC Reports:**

### **Clallam – Alan Clark**

- Forage Fish sampling continued on three beaches.
- The Elwha Beach survey of users is randomly occurring.
- Clallam MRC participated at StreamFest, which was sponsored by Port Angeles Garden Club at Peninsula College on October 14.
- Clallam MRC hosted a beach cleanup with Clallam Conservation District for Orca Recovery Week.

### **Island– Elsa Schwartz**

- The MRC hosted a Shoreline Homeowner Workshop. Over 40 homeowners attended.
- The MRC hosted a hike and restoration activities at Hoypus Point for Orca Recovery Week.
- Packets were delivered to realtors across the county with shoreline information.
- The MRC is presenting their white paper to County Commissioners in a few weeks.

### **Jefferson – Jeff Taylor**

- The MRC submitted comments on the County Shoreline Master Program draft to the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners and Planning Committee on October 4.



# Minutes

- The MRC appointed five new members: Brad Bebout (District 1), Timothy Behrenfeld (District 1 Alternate), Emily Buckner (Marine Science), Christopher Kelley (Marine Science Alternate), and Tim Cross (District 3 Alternate).
- The MRC launched its ninth year of monitoring forage fish spawning at Fort Townsend, with the season's first survey on October 26 and the next survey is planned for November 22.

## **San Juan – Christina Koons**

- The Fall Great Islands Cleanup was a major success – with the dedication of 164 volunteers, the MRC successfully collected a whopping 1,871 pounds of litter from 50 miles of our island's roads and beaches. Special thanks to all the volunteers and partners at Zero-Waste-Washington, Friends of the San Juans, Lautenbach recycling, and Alchemy Arts Center for assisting with the event.
- The MRC is excited to welcome Brian Goodremond to the committee. Brian is an eco-tourism operator running San Juan Outfitters whale watching boats and recreational kayaking. He brings a wealth of knowledge about the Salish Sea and experience on the water to the committee.
- 117 creosote pilings were removed from Jackson's beach on San Juan Island. MRC members helped to provide guidance, marine mammal observation during construction, and got the ball rolling on improving nearshore habitats by removing toxic creosote materials.
- The State of Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) draft is nearly complete and has been distributed to MRC members for their review before our annual retreat next month. The MSA assessment provides a look at the current status of biodiversity targets, the current threats and knowledge gaps, and offers recommendations to achieve healthy ecosystem balance within the Marine Stewardship Area.
- In mid-November, the El Capitan sunk in West Sound Marina off Orcas Island. The Derelict Vessel Team has been monitoring the ship and working with DNR, DOE, SJC Department of Emergency Services, the US Coast Guard, and IOSA to respond and assess the situation. Due to the relatively clean and stable scene, the vessel does not pose and emergent pollutant risk warranting immediate removal. The MRC is continuing to monitor and communicate any changes.
- The MRC had an annual retreat in early December to celebrate the accomplishments over the past year, review the MSA plan, and draft a 2024 workplan.

## **Skagit – Diane Hennebert**

- The MRC hosted a Bowman Bay Planting Work Party on October 12 with the Northwest Straits Foundation. Around 15 volunteers helped spread mulch and compost, remove



# Minutes

weeds, and planted native plants. A forage fish survey was completed as well to understand the integral connections in the health of our shorelines. This year's plantings were incredibly successful due to weekly watering.

- 60 Conway 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Fall 2023 Kids on the Beach Program classroom curriculum and forage fish surveys at Fidalgo Bay on October 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.
- The MRC partnered with the NW Straits Foundation to remove 91 derelict crab pots in the waters off of Samish Island in 2023. The Foundation also removed 216 derelict crab pots around the Anacortes and Padilla Bay area. Over 71% were commercial pots. 92% of the pots were returned, recycled, or reused.

## **Snohomish – Tim Ellis**

- MRC Staff met with the Port of Everett and DNR staff to discuss the possibility of having a vessel turn-in event in 2024.
- The MRC has two upcoming grant projects: a five-year strategic plan and conducting education and outreach on marine vegetation. Both subcommittees for next year's grant projects are working on materials for the consultant hiring process.
- Interviews for new MRC members were conducted in late October. The applications selected will be recommended to the council for appointment in late 2023 with terms starting in 2024.
- Both the marine vegetation subcommittee and the strategic planning subcommittee are in the process of hiring a consultant for the 2024-2025 grant projects,
- Three MRC applications were offered and have accepted positions on the MRC. They will be recommended to the council for appointment in late 2023, with terms beginning in 2024.

## **Whatcom – From written report**

- The MRC retreat, facilitated by Hilary Wilkinson with Triangle Associates, was on October 21. Ten MRC members attended. Due to limited time, Hilary attended the November MRC meeting to discuss MRC member recruitment strategies.
- On November 13, the MRC deployed two mussel cages at Birch Bay to support the WDFW Mussel Monitoring Program. Three volunteers and one MRC member led the effort.
- The December 7 MRC meeting included nominations for MRC Officer positions, a discussion with the NW Straits Foundation about grants that align with the planned MRC projects and creating a formal work plan for engaging with County Council. A facilitated discussion is planned for January or February.

## **Public Comment:**

No public comment.



**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**January 16, 2024 • 11:00am-12:00pm (Zoom)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members:** Tim Ellis, Alan Clark, Nan McKay, Julia Parrish

**NWSC Staff:** Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Caitlyn Blair

**Absent:** Jude Apple

**Commission meeting agenda organization and time allocation:** The Executive Committee discussed ways to arrange Commission agendas to keep virtual meetings on time and assure all reports are heard within the allotted time. Some recommendations/options for consideration included:

- Monitoring Q/A sessions to keep them within the allotted time for their respective topics.
- Talking with MRC staff about highlighting 2-3 top priorities for Commission Reps to report out on during Commission meetings.
- Every three to four meetings, dedicate additional time to do a “deep dive” into MRC issues to allow the Commission to weigh in and provide insight (a shared wisdom approach).
- Every three to four meetings, focus more of the agenda on MRC reports or presentations.
- Moving MRC reports to the middle of the agenda.

**Spring retreat/ March Commission meeting:** Lucas Shared that the March retreat will not be possible due to the timeline for securing a facilitator. The retreat will need to be scheduled for a later date when a facilitator is contracted. The Executive Committee recommended holding a Commission meeting in March instead.

**NWS Commission funding:** The Committee talked about various vehicles for NWS Commission long term funding. Current federal authorization efforts, state provisos, and state authorization were touched on. The Committee agreed that the pros and cons of any avenue need to be carefully researched before moving forward. Opportunities at the state level might be an area for further research. Lucas and others will learn more about possible options and report back to the Executive Committee.





## Commission staff highlights - [January 2024]

### MRC Support

**2023 CDS MRC Grants:** Two MRCs are in the process of wrapping up and closing their agreements (Island and San Juan). The remaining MRCs (minus Snohomish, which allotted their funds for this grant to derelict vessel removal) are pending amendment following the final execution of the NOAA no-cost extension.

**2023-25 MRC Grants:** Work is now underway on these awards, with the first quarterly reporting and payment requests due this month.

**2023-25 CDS MRC Grants:** All MRC grants from this series are either executed and active, or in the routing process at the associated county for approval and signature. A Northwest Straits Foundation subaward that supports several Skagit MRC projects is also in final review stages and anticipated to be executed this month.

### Regional Projects

**Kelp Plan:** NWSC staff published a [comparison guide](#) for WA kelp strategic plans/initiatives and workgroups on the [Kelp Plan webpage](#), to reduce confusion and inform people about the various ongoing and collaborative efforts involved in WA kelp conservation and recovery.

**Kelp Monitoring:** NWSC staff hosted the 2023 MRC Kelp Kayak Monitoring Data Review Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Staff reviewed kelp bed trend data collected by MRC kayakers in 2023, while guest presenters from WA DNR, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Samish Indian Nation, and Vashon Nature Center provided updates on their kelp monitoring projects to MRC volunteers.

**Green Crab:** NWSC staff presented on Drayton Harbor green crab trapping data at the Cherry Point Science Forum. Staff met with WDFW staff to discuss our workplan for the upcoming season.

**Forage Fish:** NWSC staff hosted a forage fish data check-in meeting for MRC volunteers. WDFW presented on forage fish spawn survey results from 2023 and MRC volunteers had an opportunity to connect with each other about their programs and ask questions.

**Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:** The social marketing campaign draft report was reviewed by staff and discussed with the partner workgroup co-creating the toolkit. Additional discussions are needed around desired behaviors and key messages before toolkit development and implementation takes place. NWSC staff held the transboundary workgroup meeting with



## Commission staff highlights - [January 2024]

participants in WA and BC discussing eelgrass distribution data availability and planning for virtual voluntary no-anchor zone establishment.

### Operations

**Staff:** The Kelp Program Manager position is in the final stages of hiring and an announcement is anticipated next month.

**Budget:** The no-cost extension request submitted to NOAA for fiscal year 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending was approved by the NOAA program officer and grant manager, however the extension has not yet been executed in the NOAA grants system (as of this writing 1/19). Commission staff is working diligently to follow up to ensure that is resolved in order to extend both the MRC agreements, but also the Dept of Natural Resources derelict vessel work, and our DEI consultant agreement.

### Meetings Attended

Allie attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 1/3; Salish Sea eelgrass protection workgroup 1/11; WDFW green crab planning meeting 1/12; Cherry Point Science Forum 1/13; No-Anchor Zone workgroup 1/16; MRC forage fish survey meeting 1/17; Kelp kayak monitoring data meeting 1/17; Whatcom MRC meeting 1/18; DNR Kelp Research and Monitoring workgroup 1/24

Dana attended: Salish Sea eelgrass protection workgroup 1/11; WDFW green crab planning meeting 1/12; MRC forage fish survey meeting 1/17; Snohomish MRC meeting 1/17; Kelp and Eelgrass Health Plan advisory meeting 1/24

Jeff attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 1/3; Skagit Valley Herald Kelp kayaking interview 01/11; Forage Fish Survey Project Data Meeting 1/17; Hosted 2023 Kayak Kelp Monitoring Meeting 1/17; Snohomish MRC meeting 1/17; WA DNR Kelp Research and Monitoring workgroup 1/24

Lucas attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 01/03; SEA Program HR routing training 01/04; WDFW green crab planning meeting 1/12; Puget Sound Partnership Legislative Update 01/05, 01/12, 01/19, 01/26; Salish Sea Institute Governance sub-committee meeting 01/08/24; Executive Committee Meeting 01/16; Lead Staff meeting 01/18; SEA Program Management Team meeting 01/24; Green crab planning meeting 01/26

Sasha attended: Island County BOCC, MRC white paper presentation 12/20; NWSC Staff Retreat 01/03; Transboundary Salish Sea Eelgrass Protection Workgroup 1/11; WDFW green crab planning meeting 1/12; Executive Committee Meeting 01/16; Lead Staff meeting 01/18; *A Path Toward Equity – Modules 3 & 4*, 12/13/23 and 01/25/24



## Commission staff highlights - [January 2024]

Caitlyn attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 01/03; Teams File Transfer Meeting 01/08; Skagit MRC Meeting 01/11; Executive Committee Meeting 01/16; Forage Fish Survey Project Data Meeting 01/17; 2023 Kayak Kelp Monitoring Meeting 01/17; NWSC and MRC staff meeting 01/18; A Path Toward Equity Training 01/24; NW Straits Commission Meeting 01/26

Jessica attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 1/3; San Juan MRC Meeting 1/04; PSP *Making Waves* Meeting 1/10; SVH Kelp kayaking interview 01/11; Transboundary Salish Sea Eelgrass Protection Workgroup 1/11; No-Anchor Zone Workgroup 1/16; Forage Fish Survey Project Data Meeting 1/17; 2023 Kayak Kelp Monitoring Meeting 1/17; NWSC and MRC staff meeting 1/18; A Path Toward Equity Training 1/24; NW Straits Commission Meeting 1/26

Leah attended: NWSC Staff Retreat 1/3; Salish Sea eelgrass protection workgroup 1/11; WDFW green crab planning meeting 1/12; Cherry Point Science Forum 1/13; No-Anchor Zone workgroup 1/16; MRC forage fish survey meeting 1/17; Kelp kayak monitoring data meeting 1/17

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Clallam

**Month/Year:** January 2024

**Submitted by:** Rebecca Mahan

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- Continued Forage Fish sampling on three beaches.
- Elwha Beach surveys of users are randomly occurring.
- Interviewed for part time MRC Administrative Assistant
- Scheduled Joint Jefferson/Clallam MRC meeting for March.
- Advisory Sub-Committee continuing to work on language for Clallam MRC to advise BOCC.
- Ediz Hook planting to take place in March. Date TBA.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Clallam MRC is looking for his replacement as Development Community Representative.

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events) Clallam MRC along with Jefferson County MRC have planned a joint meeting for March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5-7 pm in the Red Cedar Room at Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe in Sequim.

The monthly MRC meeting will be held tonight at 5:30pm.

**Funding updates** (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

Several Clallam MRC members continued to collect the monthly Forage fish samples at Cline Spit and Ediz Hook and Elwha beaches East and West.

Clallam MRC continues to supply doggie waste bags on the levee west of the Elwha River mouth and survey beach use by humans, dogs and cars.

We had kick-off Pinto Abalone meeting this week.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.): Clallam MRC is assisting in the planning of a film festival in Port Angeles in July. This will be in coordination with NPC MRC and ONSMS.

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Island

**Month/Year:** January / 2024

**Submitted by:** Kelly Zupich

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- Letter to the Commissioners: Armoring concerns
- Water Quality

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff)

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

#### Previous Meetings/Events:

- January 9: MRC Monthly Meeting

#### Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- February 6: MRC Monthly Meeting
- March 5: MRC Monthly Meeting
- March 15: MRC Retreat

**Funding updates** (newly awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

Monitoring – Forage Fish: Our work monitoring for Forage fish eggs continues at most of our sites year-round. Teams continue to monitor monthly at Hoypus Point, Cornet Bay, Sunlight Shores, Maple Grove, Glendale, Keystone Preserve, and Seahorse Siesta. We are continuing to look for a new site to replace Sunlight Shores.

Bull Kelp Surveys: Surveys are completed for the season.

Stewardship – Cornet Bay: Stewardship is completed for the season. Planning has begun for an April planting event.

Water Quality Testing: The Water Quality team is continuing to finish up final reports for our last grant and looking to 2024 and the work we have ahead.

Shoreline Education and Survey: We are working on getting our contractor set up to start analyzing permits against our armoring survey to see how much of the added armoring since 2016, in Island County was permitted vs. unpermitted.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.):

Letter to the Commissioners: Our County Commissioner, that serves as a representative on our committee, brought forth to us that she intends to work towards changing language in the Shoreline Management Program to make obtaining bulkheads easier in Island County. Our committee has various concerns regarding this and how it will affect our shorelines. The committee decided to write letter to each of the commissioners to share the reasons why this will be so damaging for our communities in Island County. These letters will be sent out this week, so they have a chance to read before the hearing.

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):



## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Jefferson

**Month/Year:** January 2024

**Submitted by:** Monica Montgomery

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- The MRC decided to move forward with participating in a needs assessment opportunity with the UW Evans School student consultants.
- The MRC voted on its 2024 executive committee (at the December monthly meeting), appointing: Gordon King as Chair, Betsy Carlson as Vice Chair, Jeff Taylor as NWSC Rep and Sarah and NWSC Alt.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): The MRC voted on its 2024 executive committee with the following appointments: Chair – Gordon Taylor, Vice Chair – Betsy Carlson, NWSC Rep – Jeff Taylor, NWSC Alt – Sarah Fisker

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

#### Past Events/Meetings

January 2 – MRC monthly meeting

January 8 – Jefferson County public hearing on the county SMP update

January 9 – Kelp subcommittee meeting

January 11 – Transboundary Salish Sea eelgrass protection workgroup meeting

January 16 – NAZ social marketing workgroup meeting

January 17 – WDFW annual forage fish data review and check-in meeting

January 17 – NWSI annual kelp data review

January 17 – Hood Canal Coordinating Council annual + monthly meeting

#### Upcoming Events/Meetings

January 18 – NWSI/MRC Staff Meeting

January 23 – MRC Executive Committee meeting

January 23 – Education & Outreach subcommittee meeting

January 26 – NWSC monthly meeting

January 29 – Quilcene boat ramp site visit with NWSF and Port of PT staff

February 6 – MRC monthly meeting

**Funding updates** (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Nothing to report.

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

#### 1. Monitoring:

- **Forage fish:** The MRC Coordinator and two members, Joanie and Sarah, met with Wendel Raymond (WDFW) on January 17 to discuss possible MRC involvement in supporting WDFW monitoring efforts



pre- and post- restoration of the Duckabush estuary and highway reconstruction project. The MRC Coordinator and six MRC members (Janette, Brad, Brenda, Joanie, Sarah, Tim C.) attended the annual WDFW forage fish data review on January 17.

- **Forage fish - Fort Townsend:** Project lead, Janette, led a team of volunteers (MRC members: Frank, Joanie, Sarah; Community volunteers: Jassen, Jonathan) to conduct the last survey of the season on December 22.
- **Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index):** The Project Lead (Sarah) plans to survey in January.
- **Kelp:** The kelp project lead, Emily, led a subcommittee meeting on January 9 with six MRC members (Jeff, Brenda, Tim B., Janette, Brad, Chris) and two previous MRC members (Emily, Solenne) to discuss project history, status, and new interests for planning the 2024 kelp season. The MRC Coordinator and five MRC members (Emily, Brad, Brenda, Chris, Jeff) attended the annual NWSI kelp data review and update on January 17.
- **Storm surge monitoring:** The team (Jeff, Dave, Barney) monitored storm surge events on December 1 and 19, and generated reports. They also went out to monitor an event on January 9; however, the surge and wind didn't line up, so did not create a report.

## 2. Rain Gardens:

- The MRC Coordinator and project lead plan to meet with the local Master Gardeners Coordinator regarding the development of a rain garden training program to support the MRC's rain garden maintenance efforts.

## 3. Education & Outreach:

- Two MRC members (Betsy, Brad) met with the Wooden Boat Festival organizer on December 20 regarding plans for setting up an MRC-hosted speaker stage. For this, the subcommittee will need to confirm a speaker list by end of March to mid-April.
- The Shoreline Landowner Outreach subcommittee project lead, Sarah, will be meeting with NWSF and Port of PT staff on January 29 at the Quilcene boat ramp to assess and discuss the possibility of a shoreline restoration project.
- The subcommittee will be having a follow up meeting on January 23 to further discuss 2024 outreach plans.

## 4. Olympia Oysters:

- Nothing to report.

## 5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:

- The MRC Coordinator attended part of the No-Anchor Zone social marketing workgroup meeting on January 16.

## 6. Mapping Lost Crab Pots:

- A Sea Dragons team member, Nathaniel, was featured on [a second episode](#) of Nature Now to discuss the MRC's partnered project.
- The MRC Coordinator is working on WDFW permit application materials for 2024.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.):

- At the January 2 MRC meeting, members voted to participate in the needs assessment opportunity through the UW Evans School, with Neil, Emily and Betsy willing to work with the students and participate in interviews.

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info): No photos.

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** San Juan County

**Month/Year:** January 2024

**Submitted by:** Sam Whitridge & Katie Johnson

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- The local Sea Scout Troop was able to salvage emergency equipment and pfd's from the Islander, an abandoned party barge the derelict vessel team has been working with to get removed from county waters. It currently is sitting on land in Anacortes and waiting to be demolished.
- The Plastic Free Salish Sea initiative has concluded a reporting contest for beach and road stewards. Heidi Laursen of Orcas Island recorded over 10 hours of removing microplastics and debris from local beaches and has won \$100 gift certificate to Friday Harbor House. We hope this will inspire more stewards to report their efforts and contribute to growing data of plastic pollution in the Salish Sea.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

No changes to report.

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

- MRC Meeting – January 4<sup>th</sup>
- Derelict Vessel Subcommittee Meeting – January 9<sup>th</sup>
- NWSC & MRC Staff Meeting – January 18<sup>th</sup>
- Storming the Sound – January 25<sup>th</sup>
- PFSS Subcommittee Meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>
- Seattle Boat Show – February 1-10<sup>th</sup>
- Next MRC/CAG/LIO Meeting – February 8<sup>th</sup>

**Funding updates** (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support, or other funding commitments):

No new funding to report for this month.

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

The Derelict Vessel subcommittee has been busy in January dealing with extreme weather events and refining the criteria for prioritizing vessels for removal. The subcommittee has also been working with DNR, the Port of Friday Harbor and others on preparing for a vessel turn in event this Spring. Materials are being finalized and promotion will begin soon. The event will happen in April with applications for interested parties due at the beginning of March.

The Islander, a large party barge abandoned at the Port of Friday Harbor back in October is currently on land in Anacortes waiting to be dismantled. But before the vessel headed for Anacortes, members of the local Sea Scouts troop salvaged useful items such as safety equipment and personal floatation devices. The Sea Scouts maintain public kiosks of pfd's for visitors at local docks and now they have more equipment to fill their inventory.

Plastic Free Salish Sea just wrapped up Fall 2023 Reporting contest. We wanted to encourage our beach and road stewards to record their cleanup efforts. The steward who spent the most time out collecting debris won \$100 gift certificate to Friday Harbor House. Congratulations to Heidi Lauren of Orcas Island who recorded over 10 hours of time removing plastic debris! We know community members and stewards are out picking up litter as they peruse the beaches, but we are looking to increase the number of reports we get about it. Reporting data adds to a growing body of research that helps to tell the story of plastics in the Salish Sea. Knowing what is found, where, and how much can help identify patterns and target pollution before it goes into local waterways. PFSS will be represented at the upcoming Storming the Sound Conference on January 25 in La Conner. The PFSS subcommittee has plans to meet January 30<sup>th</sup> to draft a workplan for the coming year.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.):

A subset of the MRC is drafting a letter to/for the County Council regarding the need for a dedicated Emergency Response Towing Vessel (ERTV) to be stationed in nearby waters of Haro Strait and Boundary Pass. The MRC's work around oil spill prevention and education has only increased in importance with the building of Robert Banks II terminal at the border of British Columbia. Increased vessel traffic in surrounding county waters is concerning. Prevention and preparedness can go a long way in protecting the Marine Stewardship Area and valuable natural resources within.

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Sea Scouts on a pdf salvage mission! Rescuing usable gear and safety equipment. Photo Credits: Kari Koski





PFSS Contest Winner Announcements

# Congratulations

**HEIDI LAURSEN, BEACH STEWARD  
EXTRAORDINAIRE**

**PLASTIC FREE  
SALISH SEA**  
PlasticFreeSalishSea.org

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Jan/2024

Submitted by: Tracy/Diane

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- **Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay Report (Year 21):** Prepared by Paul Dinnel with results from the 2023 bay-wide native oyster population monitoring effort. Oyster population in Fidalgo Bay has increased from 3 million to over 5.5 million in just 5 years and have expanded their range beyond the original restoration areas! Recent article in the [Skagit Valley Herald](#).
- **Salish Sea Stewards Training:** 24 participants registered! Class limit is 25. Registration closes January 31<sup>st</sup>. Classes start Tuesday, February 6, 1-5pm at Padilla Bay. Training curriculum is close to being finalized and will be posted on the Skagit MRC website. Recent article in the [Skagit Valley Herald](#).
- **Kayak-Based Kelp Surveys:** Lynne Wenberg-Davidson (Skagit MRC member), and Jeff Whitty (NWSC) were recently interviewed by the Skagit Valley Herald for an article on kelp.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

- **Jan 11-** Skagit MRC meeting via Microsoft Teams. Jonn Lunsford presented an update on the Fidalgo Bay Trestle project.
- **Jan 17-** Forage Fish Data Check-in Meeting - Zoom
- **Jan 17-** MRC Kelp Kayak Monitoring 2023 Data Review Meeting- Zoom
- **Jan 18-** NWSC & MRC Staff Meeting- Zoom
- **Jan 19-** Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Meeting- Zoom
- **Feb 6-** Salish Sea Stewards classes start. 1pm-5pm at Padilla Bay
- **Feb 16-** Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Meeting- Zoom
- **Feb 26-** Derelict gear removal presentation by Jason Morgan at the Skagit BoCC meeting

**Funding updates** (newly - awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): No updates.

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

- Salish Sea Stewards – Darla Gay Smith:
  - Training will be held Tuesdays from 1-5pm starting Feb 6-April 30 at Padilla Bay. Max of 25 people, 24 spots filled. Registration is open through January 31st.
  - MRC members are invited to attend the training.
  - Training is being widely promoted. Recent article in the [Skagit Valley Herald](#)
  - Sara Brostrom is developing and coordinating the training curriculum. Training schedule close to being finalized. Just waiting on one speaker on kelp. Erin Merklein will facilitate the classes this year.
  - Sara is coordinating the SSS training schedule with the Deception Pass State Park Naturalists training program and other similar programs to make sure the classes don't conflict so that volunteers can attend both training programs interested.
  - Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee meets monthly with the Volunteer Coordinator and Padilla Bay NERR education staff to plan the upcoming training.
- Fidalgo Bay Day – Darla Gay Smith:
  - 2024 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fidalgo Bay Day. Looking for ideas to help celebrate.

- Event will be held Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.
  - Reserved the Shannon Point touch tanks.
  - Beach seining demo will be led by Matt and Jason around 2pm.
  - Will be reaching out to organizations with education booths in February.
  - No current lead, only a committee of 3 sharing the responsibility. Need more help with event planning.
- Kids on the Beach – Jude Apple: Not much happening right now. Will start ramping up planning and coordinating again in March. 3 schools will be participating in the spring 2024 Kids on the Beach program:
  - April 15-April 19: Concrete 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, 20 students will be participating.
  - April 29-May 2: Evergreen Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 100 students will be participating.
  - April 29- May 2: Allen Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 100 students will be participating.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys – Lynne Wenberg-Davidson:
  - There are 4 kelp bed sites surveyed in Skagit County between June and September each year by experienced kayak volunteer leads.
  - Data collected goes to NWSC and is also added to the floating kelp indicator map.
  - The kelp indicator [interactive map](#) data runs about one year behind. 2023 kayak kelp survey data will be added next year.
  - MRC Kelp Kayak Monitoring 2023 Data Review Meeting via Zoom, January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Lynne Wenberg-Davidson and Jeff Whitty were interviewed for an article in the Skagit Valley Herald.
- Bowman Bay Beach Seining and Plant Maintenance – Lynne Wenberg-Davidson:
  - The NWSF will perform plant maintenance and beach seining at Bowman Bay in 2024 and 2025 with funding and support from Skagit MRC.
  - MOUs have been drafted between Skagit MRC and NWSF for both the beach seining and plant maintenance projects.
  - Beach seining will start up at the end of January. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement group will be providing matching funds for the seining since they are interested in the data for their estuary feasibility study at Bowman Bay. They will be assisting with the seining and public education and outreach.
  - Plant maintenance will start up again in May or June. We hope to improve volunteer support and coordination. Will continue weekly watering with the Parks excess fire hydrant water truck (250 gallons).
  - Lynne will be meeting with Lisa Kaufman in the next month or two to start planning for the upcoming plant maintenance season.
- Skagit Shoreline Needs Assessment- Lynne Wenberg-Davidson:
  - This project leverages all the studies since 2005 such as Skagit Bay’s blueprint document that surveyed shoreline for restoration and conservation opportunities.
  - Several projects have been completed since then. Lynne assembled a technical advisory team to consolidate the information and review the existing list, identify what’s been done, and update the list as part of phase I. Advisory team members include: Lynne (SMRC), Tracy (SMRC), Paul (SMRC), Pete (SMRC), Cynthia (SMRC), Lisa Kaufman (NWSF), Rick Haley (SFEG, former SMRC), and Audrea McBride (Skagit Watershed Council, former SMRC).
  - Lynne drafted an RFP that is being reviewed by the Advisory Team. The Advisory Team will be involved in the consultant interviews and selection process.
  - The consultant will utilize the updated list and apply new data (kelp, forage fish, sea levels, etc.) to create a new project ready list that the MRC could focus on with available funding.



- Forage Fish Surveys – Pete Haase:
  - 4 Index sites (monthly samples): Guemes Channel, E. Similk Bay (Swinomish Reservation), Samish Island, and west of marina towards Skyline.
  - 3 Restoration Sites (monthly samples): Bowman Bay, W. Similk Bay (private property), and Clayton Beach.
  - Surveys in Fidalgo Bay are on behalf of DNR as a State Aquatic Reserve. Pete stepping down as lead for this site. New lead FF volunteers from Citizen Aquatic Reserve Committed: Tom Flanagan, Catherine Houck. Annual FF report produced by DNR will be shared with MRC.
  - There is a quarterly Zoom meeting for all those involved in forage fish surveying work on January 16.
- School Rain Garden – Diane Hennebert:
  - No update.
- Pinto Abalone Restoration – Paul Dinneel:
  - QAPP Addendum has been updated and under review by Ecology.
  - Mostly hatchery work going on right now to raise abalone for outplanting and planning for the upcoming field season.
  - Looking to start abalone field work in February when algae has died back and there is better visibility to count abalone.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration – Paul Dinneel:
  - A bay-wide survey on native oyster populations in Fidalgo Bay was completed this past summer. Population estimates increased from 3 million in 2018 to 5.5+ million in 2023, so almost a doubling in 5 years. Native oysters have continued to increase in numbers and expand outside shell plot areas. Biggest surprise was the number of oysters down in south end of bay near highway 20 at Sharpe’s corner. Now those channels are filled with Olympia Oysters, estimate 1.2 million in channels.
  - The Fidalgo Bay native oyster population has become a very important source population for other oyster restoration projects to use and transfer oyster stock to other areas.
  - The Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay Day Report (Year 21) with 2023 bay-wide population data has been finalized and was shared with the MRC as well as volunteers and partners involved in the project.
  - Annual monitoring of Olympia oyster recruitment in Fidalgo Bay will start up again this spring to continue monitoring the annual variabilities of oyster densities and post larval settlement.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.): NA

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Snohomish

**Month/Year:** January 2024

**Submitted by:** Elisa Dawson and Joycelyn Blue

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- In partnership with the WSU Beach Watchers, the Starlight Beach Walk is scheduled for the evening of February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7pm – 8:30pm at Edmonds Marina Beach.
- The strategic planning subcommittee held a kick-off meeting on January 9. The group is currently finalizing interview questions to be used in individual interviews with MRC members to coalesce ideas of where the MRC should be headed.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

Elisa Dawson and others planning the Starlight Beach Walk met to finalize details for the event on January 4.

Elisa Dawson attended the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material meeting on January 10 with the Port of Everett, Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA. The group discussed the status of dredging in the Snohomish Estuary and went over an overview of nearshore sediment placement area.

Joycelyn Blue, Elisa Dawson, and forage fish volunteers attended the WDFW/MRC Forage Fish meeting on January 17.

Elisa Dawson attended the MRC Kelp Kayak Monitoring 2023 Data Review on January 17.

The MRC meeting was held on January 17.

Elisa Dawson and Joycelyn Blue attended the NWSC Staff meeting on January 18.

**Funding updates** (newly awarded grants, in-kind support, or other funding commitments)

None.

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

**Strategic Planning (MRC grant project for 2024 – 2025):** The strategic planning subcommittee held a kick-off meeting on January 9. The group is currently finalizing interview questions to be used in individual interviews with MRC members.

**Marine Vegetation Outreach (MRC grant project for 2024 – 2025):** The subcommittee is currently working on contracting with our consultant and plan to have a kick-off meeting in February.

**Derelict Vessels (NWSF funds):** Staff are currently scoping to determine which vessels may be appropriate for removal in 2024.

**Below projects are other projects of the MRC funded by SWM fees:**

**Forage Fish Monitoring:** January sampling of Meadowdale and Picnic Point will occur on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The subcommittee will be meeting on January 30 to discuss if a volunteer or another organization would like to take over the forage fish monitoring at Howarth Park.

**Nearshore Restoration:** The County is currently working on contracting with the chosen firm for continued monitoring at Meadowdale.

**Outreach:** Beach cleanups in partnership with WSU Beach Watchers continue to be held quarterly. Also, in partnership with the Beach Watchers, the Starlight Beach Walk is scheduled for the evening of February 6 at Edmonds Marina Beach.

**Crabber Outreach/Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention:**

None

**Marine Water Quality:** The MRC will be retrieving mussel cages on February 7.

Snohomish County staff are currently in the contracting process with ORCA for 2024.

**Marine Vegetation Monitoring:**

None

**Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area:** All final grant requirements and reporting was completed.

**Other** (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc.):

None.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Forage Fish – Jan 29
- Starlight Beach Walk – Feb 6th
- Next MRC Meeting – Feb 21

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):

## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Whatcom

**Month/Year:** January 2024

**Submitted by:** Dana Flerchinger and Austin Rose

### Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- The MRC has received approval from Lummi Natural Resources to conduct 3 days of sampling/seining with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. To accommodate as many students as possible at the seine events, the MRC plans an activity at the park with half the students while the others are participating in the seine, then the groups swap. Volunteer help is needed.
- Whatcom County is commencing its 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, and Planning and Development Services (PDS) staff are soliciting recommendations from the Marine Resources Committee on what amendments should be considered in the Marine Resources Lands section of Chapter 8, Resource Lands, and Chapter 10, Environment.

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

- The MRC has created a flyer to fill MRC member vacancies and has distributed it on their website and via social media.
- Kaylee Galloway remains to be the Council representative on the MRC.
- Confirmation of MRC officer positions will occur at the January MRC meeting.

**Events/Meetings** (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

- The January MRC meeting was held on January 18. Whatcom County Planning and Development staff provided an overview of the task and process for the Committee's review of specific Comp Plan chapters and sections. Hilary Wilkinson, Triangle Associates, facilitated a timely discussion about bolstering the MRC's communication with County Council and other local elects.

**Funding updates** (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

**Project Updates** (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

- Chuckanut PIC  
MRC staff have been conducting seasonal analysis to determine if bacterial counts (fecal coliform) at the various sampling locations in North Chuckanut Bay differ during the wet (October-April) versus dry season (May-September). Analysis supports that at most of the marine sites, there was not a significant difference between fecal coliform counts during the wet versus dry seasons while there were significant differences at all of the freshwater sampling locations. Continued analysis will help the MRC understand how levels of contamination fluctuate throughout the year and could have implications for management practices within the bay.
- Forage Fish  
Dana Flerchinger remains the lead for forage fish sampling. Whatcom MRC will be conducting their first forage fish survey at Clayton Beach at the end of January. Dana has also been helping to lead a high school class through forage fish spawning surveys at the Fidalgo Bay RV Park in Anacortes. The last survey on January 11th yielded tons of developing surf smelt eggs and hatchlings
- Beach Seine with Kids  
A kick off meeting was held on Jan 3. The MRC has received approval from Lummi Natural Resources to conduct 3 days of sampling/seining with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The field trip dates are set for April 19, May 3, and May 15. Members have reached out to Marco Hatch at WWU and staff from Bellingham Technical

College Fisheries and Aquaculture Program (BTC), seeking volunteers (or environmental educators) who may be able to collaborate on part of the project. The MRC hosts a pre-classroom visit, the beach seine at Boulevard Park, and a post-classroom visit. To accommodate as many students as possible at the seine events, the MRC plans an activity at the park with half the students while the others are participating in the seine, then the groups swap. Previously, the Salish Sea Conservation Corps helped out, but that group is not operating this year. Marco Hatch runs a Salish Sea Youth Stewardship Corps and BTC students have helped with MRC led projects in the past. Both will be contacted for help. Invitations to schools will be sent out by February.

- Social Marketing at Wildcat Cove

The social marketing materials generated by Shew Designs, a subcontractor under Peak Sustainability, are complete, but awaiting approval by the WA State Parks Stewardship Department. This review is required for the marketing materials to be implemented at the Wildcat Cove boat launch located in Larrabee State Park. WA State Parks have communicated that this review will occur in early 2024.

**Other:**

- 2025 Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan

Whatcom County is commencing its 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, and Planning and Development Services (PDS) staff are soliciting recommendations from the Marine Resources Committee on what amendments should be considered in the Marine Resources Lands section of Chapter 8, Resource Lands, and Chapter 10, Environment. Staff will be leading discussions with the MRC in January and February to obtain the Committee's thoughts on major concepts that need to be addressed. A consultant will then use these suggestions in developing text, adding new policies, or editing existing ones. PDS staff will then come back later in the year (July – October) to discuss what the consultant developed and solicit feedback on their work, including specific edits to goals and policies. Two priorities have been identified for the update 1)GMA Compliance, and 2) Council Priorities – [Resolution 2022-036](#)

Photos