



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



San Juan County Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC May meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Updates- Christina Koons • Update on NWSC exercise re: potential \$500K in annual funding for MRCs
9:30 AM	MRC Updates/Business • San Juan MRC Membership Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Representative to Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Jackson Beach Update- <i>TBD</i> • Update on Orcas Landing MRC Interpretive Site- <i>TBD</i> • Mid-Year Update on 2026 MRC Work Plan- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Planning for San Juan County Fair Village Green Speaker Series-<i>Katie Johnson</i> • Report on Sustainability Workshop/Senior Project- <i>Lola Walker</i> • MRC subcommittee updates ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Seagrass Protection- <i>Olivia Graham/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> - Derelict Vessel Press Release/Community Outreach ○ Oil Spill/ERTV- <i>Charles Bookman</i> - Update on County Letter to Transport Canada
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:40 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:40 AM	LIO Business- <i>Katie Johnson/Jason Lim</i> • PSP Updates • Mooring Buoy Updates • Update on LIO 2026 Work Plan

	• Other LIO Updates
11:10 AM	Adjourn LIO Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
11:15 AM	CAG Business- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Update on 2026 Grant Round Allocation for San Juan County • Preliminary Review of 2026 SRFB Proposals • Remaining steps in the 2026 Grant Round
12:00 PM	Adjourn CAG Meeting

While this is an in-person meeting, a virtual option is available via Teams for those who cannot attend in person:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25098048840852?p=AUmW6x8rcFwb5A5HBp>

Meeting ID: 250 980 488 408 52

Passcode: RW9YM6Gm

June 4, 2026

MRC and CAG Meeting Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Charles Bookman, David Checkley, Brian Goodremont, Olivia Graham, Rich Goodhart, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate, Joey Ullman, Flora Vaught, Lola Walker, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Paul Andersson, Paul Cline, Jesse Douglas-Seitz, Gregg Dunphy, Marta Green, Russel Guerry, Colin Huntemer, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Kari McVeigh, Jessica Owens, Tida Rau, Frances Robertson, Craig Smith, Sam Whitridge, Tillery Williams

9:05 AM **Convene MRC Meeting**

Adam Parrott

9:06 AM **Public Comment**

Marta: I was pleased to see the letter to Transport Canada from Council and Islands Trust regarding the recent Discussion Paper on potential regulations for marine emergency services and calling for action on an ERTV. We need to nourish our partnerships with Canada and with Tribes, I appreciate Charles' leadership on this issue. I'm optimistic that this could be a time of renewed momentum on this issue.

Charles: we have three strong partners on County Council.

Adam: thanks for getting us back on track. This may have lost momentum, but it never stopped being an MRC priority

9:12 AM **Approve Meeting Agenda**

All

No revisions; should we discuss the possibility of rescheduling our July meeting? No, all are fine with July 2nd

Approve MRC May Meeting Minutes

MRC Members

Sam didn't receive any revisions. Olivia moves to approve minutes, Sandy seconds. May minutes are approved

9:14 AM **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Updates**

Christina Koons

Delighted that Mike could attend. Some good news from Frankie...

Frankie: the NW Straits bill passed the house yesterday. Appropriation bill expected to pass through Senate.

Proposed work groups to host site visits here for legislators. Charles, Mike, and Lovel are willing to help.

Sam: there are two opportunities this year for the science advisory committee to review a project. It's an open invitation, Katie & Sam got feedback last year on their kelp & eelgrass proposal. Dana Oster is the point of contact. Mindy Roberts is the new executive director. She's a great addition to the Commission, she attended the meeting. There was a proposal for a green crab molt survey project.

Frankie: molts were found at False Bay last year. The monitoring program here is run through WA Seagrant, MRC members have participated but we haven't led it. Jess Newley is a great source of information on this

Beth: WDFW found live green crab at False Bay last year. They've added SJI's to their regular schedule. They'd welcome volunteer help or collaboration

9:22 AM • **Update on NWSC exercise re: potential \$500K in annual funding for MRCs**

Christina: I shared what our subcommittee had discussed, and it was interesting to hear from others discussed.

Jessica Owens shared outreach material from the NWSC (passed around), graphic tools to assist in explaining what the Commission is about. We may need multiple versions of this – one for legislators, for the general public, etc.

Commission will meet again June 26 and then in person on July 24 for Mike's first meeting as our representative.

Kim: has NWS weighed in on the removal of our Ocean Observation system? It's ridiculous not to be able to monitor the ocean. The program was supposed to continue for 25 years but instruments have only been in for 10 years.

Adam: that's a different discussion than the NWSC update, but can we investigate it for our July agenda?

ACTION: Sam can send out some information about that topic

Olivia: when were those summer visits from state legislators?

Christina: not yet scheduled. Great if you'd like to help! In the past, we've gone to False Bay, Jackson Beach, etc.

9:28 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• San Juan MRC Membership Updates

Sam Whitridge

Christina and Dave, this is the last meeting for both of you. Thank you so much, we have gifts for you both!

Christina: I plan to stay on external relations with the Commission, so I'll stay involved

Youth Membership Update, Flora and Lola are both seniors about to graduate. Flora is going to Harvard, and Lola is going to Brown. Both planning to be here all summer to help with dock talks and anything else that comes up.

Patti Gobin has been reinstated as an MRC member, as an appointed Tribal representative she has no term limit.

The MRC currently has one vacancy. Charles, Karin, Sam and Katie interviewed Russel Guerry. Orcas resident, OPALCO employee, he's been attending meetings since last year's tidal project. We recommend Russel.

Charles: in addition to professional experience, he's an avid boater and looks forward to interacting on that issue.

Sam: the process now is for MRC to approve his appointment, then goes to Council (as soon as next week).

MOTION: Charles moves to approve Russel for membership, Olivia seconds. All in favor.

Sam: the last membership item is that Matt and Adam are both due for term renewal; they've both applied and that will also go before Council on June 9th. Hopefully we can get Russel on the agenda at that time as well

9:35 AM • **MRC Representative to Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee-**

Sam Whitridge

Dave has been MRC representative to this committee, he's stepping off so need an MRC member to fill the role.

Dave: it's an excellent committee. Meetings are virtual, in the evenings, every two months for two hours.

Sam: Angela says next meeting is July 23rd, they want liaisons to attend at least four meetings a year

Karin: if nobody else volunteers I'd love to represent MRC on Climate and Sustainability committee

MOTION: for Karin to represent the MRC. Mike so moves, Sandy seconds, all in favor, so moved.

• Jackson Beach Update

Kari McVeigh

I met with Mindy Roberts along with Public Works director and County Manager. There's been a lack of communication over recent years, and this was a great opportunity to improve that. Facet did the latest engineering report, there was a previous one by Natural Systems Design. Now we'll have those two engineering firms talk to each other –restore as much of the habitat as possible and maintain the barge landing. I hope communications issues can be rectified through the next steps in this process. Puget Sound Partnership and Public Works will be involved, but we have to re-contract with both of those organizations.

Mike: I read both reports and the Coastal Geologic Services and Natural Systems Design involved the County. Public Works had signed that design. I don't understand what the design and plans are now.

Kim: It's an excellent idea to get Coastal Geologic engineering and Natural Systems groups together and apply the science to it. But the County needs to listen to the experts; Coastal Geologic has done a number of these projects. It's a huge site and should be able to accommodate a lot of these needs. Especially the restoration area around the OPALCO revetment. Hope not to have another inconclusive study; at some point Council and Jessica need to say 'this is what we're going to do' and come to a compromise everyone can live with

Kari M.: I'm confident we can get to that point. It's not a hard barge landing, it's a soft barge landing

Jesse: the Port has started contracting phase with the original engineer. Facet did some studies; they've contracted with Public Works to investigate retaining the infrastructure associated with the barge landing. Need to talk about the marine facility holistically. Some storage area provides direct benefit. We're focused on what we can pick up off the beach that would generate credit through the NWSC mitigation calculator.

QUESTION: Is there a direction that can go forward that would eliminate the requirement for those barges landing?

Kari M.: acknowledgement that we need a long-term plan for that site but we're in a budget crunch now

Beth: are barges currently grounding at Jackson Beach? Is that a problem with the soft landing?

Jesse: identified as a problem originally; it may generate a shallower approach with limited access due to tides.

Mike: the Coastal Geologic survey showed zero change in the beach profile with their design

Kari K.: we do annual beach seining with fourth graders, that's a 24 year data set for Jackson Beach. Shows sand lance data as one example of how great a nursery that eelgrass bed is

Matt: and meanwhile, the PoFH bought the cannery. Public meeting tonight at the Mullis Center at 5pm

9:51 AM • Update on Orcas Landing MRC Interpretive Site

Frances Robertson

Meeting was hosted by Public Works, included various others. Susan and Frankie attended from Environmental Stewardship. Planning to recreate the weathered mural with large panels, hope to add eelgrass to the image. Susan has been managing plantings. Long term plan for facilities and the building that SJC owns at that site.

9:56 AM • Mid-Year Update on 2026 MRC Work Plan

Sam Whitridge

Sam shares spreadsheet of tasks in the MRC grant mapped out for the year. Tasks include:

1. Main Operations, things staff do on a quarterly/monthly basis, filling vacancies, annual retreat, progress reports
2. Derelict vessel prevention program,

Kari: we do patrols in the fall and spring; we'll go out again before heavy transient boating community comes up. We have a lot of boats with expired registrations. There can be random wind events this time of year.

Now we use County boat for our patrols for both monitoring mooring buoys and vessel counts so we maximize our time on the boat by doing multiple tasks at once. Some difficulties in getting enforcement, what about WDFW?

ACTION: Beth can connect Kari K. with the contact info for our local WDFW enforcement officer

Task 3. Eelgrass protection. Vessel monitoring and counts. How's that going so far this year?

Katie: there was a training with NW Straits. Charles and Lola participated. There's a request to do counts monthly. Sites on various islands, including the Odlin Park anchor-out zone. We contract with Jenjay to maintain those buoys.

Frankie: the anchor-out buoys at Odlin park were a requirement of the DNR lease when Public Works (PW) upgraded the facility there. Environmental Services (ES) continues to maintain those buoys as a service to PW Task 4. Marine Stewardship. this includes Marine Managers Workshop, outreach and education, outreach to marine operators. This catches a lot of tasks associated with stewardship of marine environment, recreational boaters, etc.

5. PFSS (Plastic Free Salish Sea) – this includes the GICU (Great Island Clean Up).

Karin: PFSS update – we had a successful subcommittee meeting last week at Eagle Cove. We want to use some of the plastic boat-covering materials Kari K. is collecting for the trashion fashion show at County Fair. Also discussed some of the laws around plastic use – plan to interact with businesses on not automatically issuing straws and caps.

The Eco Club at the High School is doing interesting things, Kate Fleming is involved. e.g. Clothing swap, sneaker drive. Katie could use help with their shopping bag drive.

Kari K.: we're finishing up the pilot project for 'Think Before You Shrink'; some users took the bags we provided. Can fit the plastic wrap from several boats into one bag. Need to collect bags and assess costs for recycling and pass that on to the user. May find sweet spot where the cost of disposing becomes prohibitive to shrink wrap

Sam: last few tasks,

6. NOAA funding we received for kelp/eelgrass marine stewardship area community engagement.

7. MRC Advisory directive. We prioritize this for our MRC, helping advise County Council. e.g. we played a big role with the OPALCO tidal energy project proposal and the ERTV issue which has been a priority for us for many years. And our MRC plays a role as the CAG (Citizen Advisory Group) as part of SRFB (Salmon Recovery Funding Board).

10:17 AM • Planning for San Juan County Fair Green Village Speaker Series

Katie Johnson

Stewardship network meeting yesterday. Plan to pair ES with the Ag tent at the Fair. There will be eight different slots for each of Ag and ES, can be an hour long talk or activity. This is a captive audience we can engage.

Christina: last year at Wooden Boat fest in PT, Jefferson MRC offered a series of talks, 80 people attended – so much interest in the topics. May be good to check with Jefferson MRC about what they did. The point of the talks is to share a story, discuss a project we're working on, or some advocacy/call to action. Or scientific talk about data we've learned. There won't be electricity or presentation capability. Last year we did the litter critter activity.

Kari K: Olivia's talk about eelgrass that she did at Science Uncorked with eelgrass and critters to look at was great

Kari M: in general, just letting people know someone else isn't taking care of everything – it's up to each of us

Frankie: that's also the message we got in DC with PS Day on the Hill – we need to share our story, like MSA history

Flora: if youth group/voices can help with getting out of the message, we're happy to help

- List of people who are interested in helping: Flora, Lola, Olivia. If interested, please contact Katie

The County Fair is August 13-16th, four talks each day (two from Ag, two from ES)

10:23 AM • Report on Sustainability Workshop/Senior Project

Lola Walker

I organized and held a workshop on Orcas over Memorial Day weekend. We talked about Climate change and sustainability, brainstormed ideas. At the end we ranked solutions, and the top one was advocating and using our voice. The County Fair sounds like an ideal place to do that

10:27 AM • MRC subcommittee updates

o Outreach & Education

Katie Johnson

Katie has a sign-up sheet – volunteer for dock talks etc. You can do this online too, but Katie passes around the piece of paper. On Monday June 8th at Brickworks the County is discussing the 'Nature Record' together with the Whale Museum and FHL. It's June, Orca Action month, we have some videos our intern last year made about using the whale flag etc. Many other events this month around whales, the Orca Sing at Lime Kiln on June 20th. And BC has increased regulations to require 1000m for resident whales

Frankie: with FIFA on the horizon, we've created some extra materials around Be Whale Wise we'll distribute soon

o Seagrass Protection

Olivia Graham

Our team continues work on the eelgrass stressors HSIL project. Frankie's aerial surveys are going well.

June 25-July 31 Olivia will be on or under water every day; lots of sampling and data collection in eelgrass meadows. Plan to have data by end of July and then several months of processing/reporting

Sandy: the REU program at UW is planning to look at sediments at Picnic Cove over this summer, investigating why the intertidal meadow there disappeared, analyzing core samples.

10:33 AM o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Kari Koski

- Derelict Vessel Press Release/Community Outreach

Kari brought in some laminated signage for reporting derelict vessels, planning for end-of-life of vessels. Kari has also sent this as an attachment but here are some physical copies. QR code goes to Derelict Vessel website.

NWSC has reconvened regional Derelict Vessel (DV) work group. Some additional funding from DNR for prioritizing vessels and looking at successful turn-in events. We want to ensure other counties get a chance to use that money

10:36 AM o Oil Spill/ERTV

Charles Bookman

- Update on County Letter to Transport Canada

This letter was issued with three Council people's signatures. It has been widely distributed; Sam can share the list of who received it. Council President Paulsen hosted the second forum together with Islands Trust and Tribes; spill preparedness was discussed at a breakout session, Lovel and I participated. Our key message was importance of prevention and risk reduction. Discussed the idea that the Neah Bay tug responds to both American and Canadian vessels. Elizabeth May from Canadian parliament was a key participant and urged the U.S. to weigh in on spill prevention. It's important because of how Canada is aggressively increasing shipments – more transit, more dilbit, more expansion. There would be value in a joint-spill response exercise in Boundary pass.

Frankie: I participated in that forum as well, agree with Charles. Also, there was a fair amount of confusion over the oil spill response and preparedness already in place between the two countries. I've reached out to suggest we host a workshop or presentation with folks from the oil spill response community to share response plans

Kim: Canada working on a second transmountain pipeline and increasing the throughput of existing pipeline, acting aggressively to increase output. Kim reviews the three options for where a new port could be; Alberta favors Prince Rupert. Carney pushing for Roberts Bank/mouth of Fraser River. They decide by July. If in Roberts Bank, that'll be a huge increase in oil passing through SJ's. That makes this the ideal time to focus on new regulations.

-some discussion: Fraser River delta would need to accommodate huge infrastructure.

Charles: specific request by Elizabeth May that because former Gov. Inslee's letter had been helpful and given current circumstances, a letter from our current governor would be timely and influential. That may be a next step

Dave: this is one of the most important functions of the MRC. Strongly encourage MRC to keep on advocating for an ERTV, together in partnership with Tribes in the U.S. and First Nations in Canada.

10:50AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Sandy: my lab and others at FHL are developing seagrass restoration projects in the SJ's. We've done two ceremonies at FHL and Picnic Cove. Also want to thank Katie for posting the annual report on the website

10:52 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting**

11:25 AM **Convene CAG Meeting**

11:26 AM **CAG Business**

Sam Whitridge

- Update on the 2026 Grant Round Allocation for San Juan County

Sam shares screen with spreadsheet. Still waiting to learn what total allocation will be for 2026. RCO was hoping for \$18 million statewide, now it looks more like \$17 million. That'll bump local allocation down to about \$260K. This will be \$40K less than last year. And we had a loan we needed to pay back from last year to a different entity. And we have a little over a million from PSAR, which would make total allocation \$1,160,037. Total request is for 1.5 million

Now moving into final stage of grant process, we had site visits, TAG and SRFB both made evaluations of proposals.

- Preliminary Review of 2026 SRFB Proposals

Two projects have been cleared: the SJC Land Bank Picnic Point, and the Friends of San Juan Protecting Eelgrass. The project on Bayhead for fish passage was not cleared – not ready, work needs to be done downstream before that can move forward. And the SJC eDNA assessment was not cleared to go forward. The local TAG is in favor of it, but the review panel deemed it a project of concern. Not sure this is the right funding source for this project. Picnic Point is a moving target. This round has fewer projects, but we'll need to divide funding carefully based on ranking

- Remaining steps in the 2026 Grant Round

TAG final review will be in late June. that information will be sent to CAG to do their final review at August meeting

QUESTIONS

Olivia: If there's leftover funding available, can we hang onto it for next cycle?

Sam: no; they need to be allocated each grant round. We could loan it out to other entities

Mike: as for that eDNA project, my question is that with the lack of data we have about populations here, what should we do differently? That's the crux of getting salmon recovery funds here for freshwater

Sam: we'll meet with Paul next week and get advice for going forward. There is a framework to challenge review

Kari: we have an ongoing pike problem. eDNA would be a way to help figure out where they're coming from.

Sam: it seems like where they need to be sold is, where does this make a difference for salmon recovery?

11:38 AM

Adjourn CAG Meeting