



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

**Thursday, August 1st, 2019**

**8:30 AM-10:30 AM**

**CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Call in number: 1 (360) 370-0599** Conference ID: 285694

**The Grange**

152 First St N, Friday Harbor

**Agenda**

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of July meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>Samish DNR Kelp monitoring research in San Juan County</b> <i>Todd Woodard, Director of Natural Resources, Samish Indian Nation</i>
9:30 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:45 AM	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> San Juan County Fair booth presence – call for volunteers MRC Officer elections
9:50 AM	<b>Project updates</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales <i>Frances Robertson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Status of flag project</li> <li>b) Status of outreach efforts and communications efforts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea: <i>Frances Robertson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LTAC grant applications for water bottle refill stations</li> <li>• Website and branding for PFSS campaign</li> <li>• Beach clean-up with Whatcom MRC August 17<sup>th</sup> Sucia Island.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marine Stewardship Area Plan review <i>Megan Dethier</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of subcommittee meeting</li> <li>• Next steps</li> <li>• Intern</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:15	Any Other Business
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>2019 SRFB Grant Round Update</b> - Finalize and approve ranked proposal list
11:00 AM	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Carl Davis, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Marta Green, Phil Green, Karin Roemers- Kleven, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff (on the phone), Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Abigail Ames (on the phone), Krista Davis, Laura Ferguson, Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge

**Public:** Mark Donahue, Marc Schmidt, Todd Woodard

8:30 AM Convene Meeting *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

8:31 AM Citizen Input  
Mark Schmidt: encourage more drastic measures to end salmon fishing. Karin notes the comment

8:35 AM Acceptance of July meeting minutes  
Phil moves to accept, Kendra seconds. All in favor, Lovel and Karin abstain. Minutes are approved.

8:40 AM Samish DNR Kelp monitoring research in San Juan County *Todd Woodard*  
Most of this presentation is available on Samish website as a story map, <https://www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/environment>  
Bull kelp bulbs and blades have been used traditionally by Samish. Friends of the San Juans did a baseline map from aerial surveys in 2004-6. By 2016 aerial photography was more developed, worked to hand-digitize kelp map for the San Juans, created a chart map.  
General findings: compare acreage between 2016 and 2006, over 30% loss kelp coverage in County. Next steps: continue ground-truthing by comparing substrate (using ROV) in sites where there was loss vs. gain. Working with NOAA and NW Straits to identify potential restoration sites.

9:15 AM Marine Debris Clean-up in Samish Traditional Territory *Todd Woodard*  
Creosote is a good wood preservative, also full of carcinogens. 5 years ago started working with WA DNR, Conservation Corps, Veterans' corps. Earth Corps. In 2017 started going to beaches, removing treated wood, Styrofoam, net pieces. We started a dataset to ID where there is most need. Surveys, walking beaches with GPS and cameras, that guides clean-up efforts for the following season. In 2017-8 we covered most of San Juan County. Map showing locations of most debris, mostly creosote pilings. Total amounts removed per island per year: bar graph shows weights per year per location 2017 – 160K lbs removed, 2018 – 122K removed, in 5 years over 750K lbs. removed from beaches. By next summer we'll top a million pounds just in San Juan County since 2014. Waste us taken to the Burlington transfer station, sealed land fill. The state is handling the disposal costs. The best way for citizens to identify waste ready for disposal is using the MyCoast app.

9:33 AM NW Straits Commission Update *Christina Koons*  
A bill, H.R. 2247: Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound Act looking for funding for restorative work  
Salish Sea is equal size to Chesapeake, should get equal funding (approx. \$50 million)  
ACTION ITEM: Laura Ferguson will send out a PSP letter in support of the bill to MRC and Samish DNR if people want to sign on

The MRC conference is Nov 15-16 in Everett, want to see a lot of people from San Juan County.

National Estuary Week is September 14-21<sup>st</sup>. Local: Sucia clean-up on August 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Jay Inslee came out to a project a couple weeks ago, got a lot of press

Question: at the Inslee event was there anyone from San Juan County? Could NW Straits commission folks let the MRC know when there is an event like that with an elected official?

A: yes, there are a lot of local politics and we need to work more on media and communications  
Christina is now on the communications committee and the legislative committee. One idea is to be more proactive, call the governor's office and invite him to come here. target communications

Laura: add that Jeff Parsons is our political liaison, always looking to set up tours, highlight MRC's

Christina: can we do a media blitz here around this Bill, invite Maria Cantwell & Patty Murray.

Cantwell staff came to the last commission meeting. the governor has taken note of the MRC system

9:47 AM MRC business

*Frances Robertson*

Hillary Shedd – communications fellow, doing MRC member spotlights. She will email members to follow up regarding individual meetings. This gives us visibility in the community & on social media

ACTION ITEM: Frances will send the link to the committee member spotlight *DONE 8/2/19*

San Juan County Fair booth presence – call for volunteers. Thanks Phil, Cathleen, and Kristina. Looking for Wednesday 8/14 5-9pm slot. ACTION ITEM: Frankie to find out if there are passes for volunteers.

*DONE –vendor passes available for those that have signed up.*

MRC Officer elections: nominations for Chair and vice-chair. Karin willing to stand as Chair. Christina agrees to stand as vice-chair. Karin nominates Christina as NW Straits Commission. Laura Jo is willing to stand as an alternate NW Straits Commission SJ county representative

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve slate of candidates, Laura Jo seconds. All in favor, motion passes

9:50 AM Project updates

- Southern Resident Killer Whales

*Frances Robertson*

We're in the last 2 months of the grant, trying to close that out. Could use a press release

a) Status of flag project

Youth Conservation Corps is out doing dock talks, gave out all free flags and also sold a few

b) Status of outreach efforts and communication efforts

- Plastic Free Salish Sea (PFSS)

*Frances Robertson*

• LTAC grant applications for water bottle refill stations on ferries, working with Friends of San Juans and Lopez Solid Waste, also rotary clubs are supporting

• Website and branding for PFSS campaign, we've engaged a design company. Hope that other MRC's adopt that name, PFSS (Skagit & Whatcom MRC's have similar projects)

Christina: can Karin come talk about that at NW Straits commission meeting? Karin: yes

Kendra: it didn't pass legislature last go-around (issue of single-use plastics) but it will come around again this year. IF state implements something it could supercede local regulations. Solid Waste Committee meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. IF we want a ban on single-use plastics that the state can't override, we need to mobilize MRC's and PFSS in Olympia to help move the needle.

Todd: WA state Marine debris action plan has a section on controlling sources of marine debris. Not formally adopted by legislature, but provided to Governor's office. Statewide effort, may be leverage

Kendra: this year I'm doing budgeting, moving some resources from Solid Waste to PFSS. Need to acknowledge that overlap. Integrating and communicating with solid waste folks for their support

- Beach clean-up with Whatcom MRC August 17<sup>th</sup> Sucia Island

• Marine Stewardship Area Plan review

*Lovel Pratt*

• Summary of subcommittee meeting – we met with intern, Abigail Ames, who will be updating the MSA Plan's detailed excel workbook. End goal is to have the updated MSA Plan adopted by county.

• Next Steps – Marine Manager Workshop next year, March 10-11, 2020 at FHL. Bringing in relevant marine managers. Ensuring that we address relevant updates. Identify gaps

Kendra: the existing plan/record doesn't contain maps, this time we need maps as a guiding element.

Lovel: then we need to include another spreadsheet to reference maps and update them.

September meeting will be dedicated to bringing everyone up to speed

10:15 AM Any Other Business

Kendra: Sampling of marine visitors and boaters to help identify where visitor facilities are needed, Confluence Consulting needs some assistance. Kendra will send an email. Doing outer islands (Sucia, Patos, etc.) want to hit Fisherman Bay & Friday harbor, Westsound, etc. They need people roughly 2 hours, 8:30-10:30 AM. There will be a drop box where surveys can be returned. They need a minimum sample of 200. We may try to piggy back with YCC and flag efforts. The State is also using this data to help identify where to invest, ties into broader requests, this will help us with management strategies. Please look for the email and respond if you can do it

Christina: Marta will attend next NW Straits Commission meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sequim, she will be given 40 minutes to talk about oil spill consequences. Public is invited, please come if you can

Lovel: Whatcom County issued a Mitigated Determined of Nonsignificance (MDNS) for the Phillips 66 refinery project. The applicant, Phillips 66 didn't list Southern Resident Killer Whales under endangered species in the SEPA checklist. SRKW Task force rec #27 addressed this issue, 'look to see how state permitting processes can be required to address impacts to SRKW'. The MDNS comment deadline is tomorrow August 2. Lovel requests people call Governors' office. Laura Jo, Christina, Karin are ready to comment. Frankie will forward Lovel's email *DONE*

Karin: Cindy, Giles, and I have gone to meetings of North of Falcon, WADFW – probably clocked more than 400 volunteer hours, driving/traveling/testifying at meetings, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Want to make sure this is on the agenda for a vote to September, so we can represent MRC. Want to move forward on negotiations regarding salmon

10:33 AM Adjourn Meeting

Kendra moves to adjourn, Kailey seconds, All in favor. MRC meeting adjourned

10:35 AM Convene CAG meeting

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Last meeting we finalized rankings. Handout summarizes the amount of money available. KWHIAT project will not be funded. The CAG expressed interest in funding all 4 projects. Sam inquired with

project sponsors about potential reductions in their asks, and there isn't wiggle room in their budgets. We can submit top 4 ranked list now as is, and then put 4<sup>th</sup> project on list as an alternate. That means that if funds become available in next few months it can be applied to the fourth project. The ask for the Crescent Beach project is 65K, we're short on funds by 16K. We may be able to start in on it. Next grant cycle is shorter, funds could be available by September.

MOTION: Laura Jo moves to support funding all four, recognize that the last project is only partially funded this year and will rely on a small amount of next year's funds to cover the fourth. i.e. this will be the #1 priority project for next year's funds (won't need to re-apply, already been through review) Christina seconds. All in favor, Lovel, Karin & Kendra abstain, none opposed. Motion passes.

10:46 AM Adjourn CAG meeting

10:46 AM Re-convene MRC meeting

The Whale Sanctuary Project – seeking a sanctuary for whales held in captivity. Could also be utilized for an ailing whale that needs medical attention (e.g. a situation like J-53).

One site under discussion now is Sucia, in between two big islands in Echo Bay (also considering Deepwater Bay on Cypress but that's not in our County). Concept: full time employees, divers maintaining pens, etc. Maintenance, materials, many ways SJC would be affected \$50 million in start-up costs, \$2 million per year (Frankie thinks that's a vast under-estimate), all of that should be part of a feasibility study. They also need to do an Environmental Impact Statement, then get a permit. This group came to the Council, which isn't taking a position yet They have some big financial backers, but seems like it's still in a dream phase. Their tour was largely to introduce the ideas and get public feedback, next they can work on the proposal

Timeline is to start permitting by end of 2019, have it by 2021. Have first whale by 2022 Consultations with experts suggest you can't do proper rehab in a net pen, need a controlled environment, even then can't always be released into the wild

Kendra: the County has a restriction on net-pens that may be a barrier, they should look at our code Lovel: the council should ask us to provide a recommendation or have it on our work plan for the MRC to review further and make a recommendation.

11:01 AM Kendra moves to adjourn, Phil seconds. Meeting adjourned