



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

Thursday, August 6th, 2020
8:30 AM-10:30 AM
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

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Meeting ID: 825 0563 4540
Passcode: 860708

Call in number:
+1 253 215 8782

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene Meeting <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i> Coast Salish Acknowledgement <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people, who have taken care of these Islands since time immemorial</i>
8:35 AM	Citizen input
8:40 AM	Acceptance of July meeting minutes
8:45 AM	NW Straits Commission update – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:00 AM	Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly beach cleans, GICU participation• MSA plan revision –• Orcas Landing – <i>Kendra Smith</i>• Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk & westside MSP project.• Grant applications – what we're applying for.
9:30 AM	County Marine Program & MRC Resilience - Christina Koons What do you want to see in the marine environment in the future? Where should the MRC focus and what should the County prioritize? What do you want to engage in? e.g. Outreach and education, monitoring, How the MRC's work influences the county over the next few years will impact the future.
10:15 AM	Any Other Business
10:30 AM	Adjourn meeting
10:30 AM	Convene CAG meeting: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	Salmon Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review/Approve SRFB Ranked Project List- Salmon Recovery 4 Year Workplan San Juan Chapter Update progress report
11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjourn CAG meeting

Attached files: July minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Kailey Genter, Marta Green, Pema Kitaeff, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt ([departed meeting at 10:00](#)), Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson; Kendra Smith; Beth Tate (awaiting appointment)

Ex-officio and County support staff: Kate Harris, Lucas Hall, Lucas Hart, Marcus Reaves, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Sam Whitridge

8:31 AM **Convene Meeting** *Christina Koons, Chair*

Open meeting with the following statement: "Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation."

8:31AM **Citizen input** *none*

8:32 AM **Acceptance of July meeting minutes**

Megan moves to accept July minutes, Laura Jo seconds. All in favor. July meeting minutes accepted.

8:45 AM **NW Straits Commission update** *Christina Koons*

-Presenting to the commission in October about science advisory committee actions around whale watch license program, Christina recommends all attend end of October, very relevant to SJ county

-Pivot from 1-2 MRC symposia to an online symposium. Each symposium has featured one of 7 counties, spend several hours talking about details of projects, focus on one MRC

-Puget Sound day on the hill turned into multiple virtual days, all should have received invitations

Lovel: I'm on [the](#) advisory committee for [the Commercial Whale Watch Licensing Program](#) rule-making. [My understanding is that](#) at [the](#) Dec. 3-4 [WDFW](#) commissioners' meeting [their will be an opportunity for public comments](#) regarding [the commercial](#) whale-watch [licensing](#) rules. ~~public testimony opportunity on one of those days.~~

Christina: thanks, MRC should comment

8:44 AM **Project Updates**

• Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched, Monthly beach cleans *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

We have a dedicated web page now with tool-kits and tips for being plastic-free.

Amy Cadwell is organizing regular beach clean-ups, this Saturday is the next one

Kendra: we should quantify how much of that is happening, helps solid waste plan which funds PFSS

ACTION ITEM: Christina and Carl will discuss that

The website will have a beach adoption interaction piece in phase 3

Jeff Dyer interested a subcommittee meeting; Karin: Please join us if you're interested

ACTION ITEM: Karin will let Jeff know details of next meeting (Tuesday before MRC meeting, usually 1pm)

• MSA plan revision

Organizing strategies identified in original plan. Input from Sam & Tina regarding salmon, Kendra regarding clean water and storm water. Next year focus on socioeconomic aspects

Kendra: we brought in public works GIS coordinator, she's now on environmental resources team

• Orcas Landing *Kendra Smith*

Plants are doing well. Need to replace benches in coming week, we can use volunteers. Interpretive displays coming by September. Still need more help for building stairs etc.

Carl: I'll help if I can, and I may know someone who can donate and provide lavender. I can also contact the Orcas garden club, maybe they want to sponsor a plot; Christina: I'll also help

Kendra: planning to work on it more this winter/spring so that next season it'll be done

Carl: what if there was a community ecological bulletin board with volunteer opportunities?

Kendra: that was in the grant, planned for the north side of the building

- Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk & Westside MSP project

Boater safety kiosk is being constructed, complete by end of summer. Be whale wise signage is simplified.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will email pdfs of the signage there

Frankie is working see if there is a way to compare reactions to the new simplified sign vs. the old one.

Thanks to Carl for getting the signs up around Orcas and Jeff for doing it around Lopez

Marine spatial planning effort on west side – surveys went out to whale watch and kayak guides, working on recreational fishers and boaters. Plugging away on outreach and messaging, webinars

- Grant applications – what we're applying for

We want the marine program to be viewed as important as solid waste. This is where boater services and protection of marine environment comes into play. New donation button on web-page within a few weeks

Frankie: recreational boating community. I've asked George Harris, head of NW Marine Trade Association and the Wagoner's Cruisers guide to see if they would talk at one of our meetings. As Kendra mentioned, SJ's is full right now. 200 boats anchored in Sucia. Even when mooring buoys are available, they're not suitable for larger boats. It's been suggested that we need a network of around 2000 buoys in popular spots where 80% are reservable by a phone app. It's a huge sector that we're not thinking about in terms of users in the marine environment.

Karin: New boaters using marine resources for the first time should be our focus

Frances: we applied to a Pew charitable trust for funding to plan and coordinate efforts for eelgrass protection. For example, restoration effort in Westcott Bay. Mike Ramsey wants protection buoys out there. We want to coordinate, find out what protections are most effective and engage the boating community.

Beth Tate: my organization already received some money from Rick Hughes to identify locations where people are anchoring where we could install mooring buoys, we have identified up to 40 sites. These are geo-referenced on maps. We also have estimates of numbers of buoys possible at each site

Kendra: If there are opportunities for folks to get permits those come with information for boaters

Level: in terms of preventing anchoring in eelgrass and increasing mooring buoys MRC should connect with

Friends. Jefferson County [MRC has had a great success with their positioning of buoys to mark eelgrass/voluntary no anchor zones \(https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/voluntary-no-anchor-zones/\)](https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/voluntary-no-anchor-zones/) [funding their mooring buoy program](#)

We have the issue of oil spill response resources. Important to continue to protect county marine programs.

Kendra: its 2021 that we need to worry about more than 2020, we'll let you know when that comes up.

Christina if you could speak up as chair of the MRC meeting at that next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: that meeting is on the 18th, Christina will attend to speak for funding for [SJC's](#) marine resources

9:30 AM **County Marine Program & MRC Resilience**

Christina Koons

What do you want to see in the marine environment in the future? Where should the MRC focus and what should the County prioritize?

Go through participants and hear statements about what people have in mind. Some ideas:

- outreach and education, so people who live here know more about the marine environment

- ensure the marine environment is viewed as an essential island service, like roads. Find stable funding and show people the value so not dependent on the grant cycle. Still thinking about the discovery pass idea.
- Is academic research collaborating well with citizen science groups? more communication between entities
- help people become more self-reliant in terms of food, develop a system to make our island self-sufficient.
- outreach and making sure people feel like park rangers for their island, key to protecting and restoring
- education and outreach, in schools. Maritime-related inventory of economic benefits and jobs. the idea of a lecture series into the fall. It'll be more challenging to connect people in the fall when weather is bad
- Frankie: 1. I put in the grant for next year to do series of workshops (webinars) for helping to share who the MRC is and what we're doing in the SJ's, we can start discussing those in the Fall. And 2. For school outreach, it would be good to gather organizations that have curricula (Friends, Seadoc) maybe a couple of MRC members can do some info gathering, identify what's being covered in classrooms and what are gaps.
- stewardship, education and outreach. moving away from tourism. the idea of boater permits to visit islands as a revenue stream
- more communication between entities. MRC's have great data which we collect and compile. the idea of collaboration between private entities and MRC
- The labs has a fully-engaged science outreach program on SJI in both public school and spring street.
- importance of communication between agencies.
- stewardship, that was one of our original missions for the MRC. We need more infrastructure to make it easier for visitors to do the right thing (eg. Buoys like in Port Townsend)
- work on fish recovery and protection, working with more MRC's
- more maritime work, less tourist-based.
- more marine education for public, wish we had a small community-based aquarium here

10:37 AM Adjourn MRC Meeting

10:38 AM Convene CAG Meeting

Sam Whitridge, Chair

Sam: I have a few items for review, final stage is to submit our ranked list to the State by next week (Sam shares screen with summary spreadsheet)

Salmon Recovery

- Review/Approve SRFB Ranked Project List:

Hunter Bay was not funded going forward. Sam has developed a list of key elements project sponsors must include in the future so that proposals can be more robust.

Where remaining funding is going: \$35K to Friends to extend sand lance surveys another year, and \$79K to phase 2 of the Crescent beach feasibility study that we weren't able to fully fund last year.

MOTION to adopt final ranked list as presented by Sam: Carl moves to accept, Kendra seconds. All in favor.

Kendra: this is a great example of why we need to have a marine program, with Sam and Byron here to facilitate and arrange all this. Otherwise money available at the state level couldn't be implemented here

New requirement this year: RCO is requiring all entities to provide a project list of what's needed for salmon recovery. We'll need to fight for funding but this is a great exercise, represents what we might be able to get done over next grant round 2021-22. This list needs to be submitted to State by the end of next week, going into the State database, 'Salmon recovery portal'. But this is not a final list, doesn't mean a commitment to these particular projects – still need lead entity approval by TAG

MOTION to approve list of planned projects as presented by Sam: so moved by Megan, seconded by Laura Jo. All in favor of the motion, it passes

11:07 AM Adjourn CAG meeting