



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

## Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

**Thursday July 7, 2022**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 892 8687 4949 Passcode: 105206

Call in number: +1 253 215 8782 US

*While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Small Meeting Room at 55 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.*

9:00 AM	<p><b>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons</b>  <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b>  <i>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 has been passed down from generation to generation.</i></p>
9:05 AM	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
9:10 AM	<p><b>Approve meeting agenda – All</b>  <b>Approve April MRC meeting minutes – MRC Members</b></p>
9:15 AM	<p><b>San Juan County Marine Program - Sam Whitridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Who is your team?</i></li> <li>• <i>Welcome Tyler!</i></li> <li>• <i>MRC Logo</i></li> </ul>
9:30 AM	<p><b>Review of Marine Advisory Committee meeting format &amp; expectations – The Marine Team</b></p>
9:45 AM	<p><b>NWSC meeting report to the MRC – Phil Green</b></p>
9:45 AM	<p><b>Project Updates</b>  <b>MRC projects – Frances Robertson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PFSS – SeaBin and other project updates – Adam Parrot</li> <li>• False Bay</li> <li>• Vessel Monitoring</li> </ul>

- MSA strategic action review – what to expect for August meeting.

10:00 AM

**Adjourn MRC Meeting  
Convene CAG Meeting**

**2022 Grant review and scoring**

10:55 AM

**Crescent Beach Feasibility Study final report - *Byron Rot***

11:25 AM

**Committee member news and any other business**

11:30 AM

**Adjourn CAG Meeting  
Convene LIO Meeting**

**2023-2025 LIO Contract – *Sam Whitridge***

**Puget Sound Partnership update – *Matt Colston***

11:55 AM

**Approve LIO Minutes – *LIO Members***

12:00 PM

**Adjourn LIO Meeting**



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## Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Minutes July 7, 2022

July 7, 2022

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Matt Arata, Carl Davis, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Megan Dethier

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Paul Andersson, Matt Colston, Ray Glaze, Marta Green, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Kat Moore, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Kendra Smith, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge

9:02 AM **Convene Meeting, Coast Salish Acknowledgement**

*Christina Koons*

*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.*

9:03 AM **Public Comment**

*none*

9:04 AM **Approve meeting agenda and June MRC meeting minutes**

*Christina Koons*

Lovel proposed one edit, Sam has made that change. Lovel moves to approve June minutes. Minutes approved.

9:05 AM **San Juan County Marine Program**

*Sam*

*Whitridge*

• *Who is your team?*

excited to introduce restructured team. introductory materials sent out last week to help orient to new format.

- *Welcome Tyler!*

Tyler Davis, new Marine Project Coordinator – support, outreach, committee coordination, grant work. Sam is Marine Program coordinator working with NW Straits and PSP, coordinating with SRFB, lead with local and regional advisory committee coordination. Frankie is Marine Project Manager, developing/implementing capital and marine projects.

Kendra: now we have three full-time equivalents in the marine program, it's the biggest program we have

- *MRC Logo*

Frankie: plan to refresh our logo, one of Tyler's first efforts. who's interested in participating in a branding subcommittee? work with a local designer, hope to have something by September meeting to decide on.

-> Carl, Kailey, Christina, Adam are interested

Carl: could we also strengthen slogan? Current one is weak YES

Kailey: has MRC ever had swag?

Frankie: we need vests for outreach events, tabling, dock-talks. But it's difficult due to how funding works

Sasha: things like vests that can be used for events are great, but give-aways that people keep can be problematic.

- Discussion of products that may have been produced in distant past: tote bags, other 'logo-wear', etc.

ACTION ITEM: let's pick this up again once the committee has a logo

9:18 AM **Review of Marine Advisory Committees meeting format & expectations** *The Marine Team*

Some questions came up after last meeting about how to function as a combined MRC/LIO, e.g., how often LIO meets.

Sam: -MRC will continue to operate separate from LIO and maintain separate membership

-MRC will continue to serve in CAG role, Citizens Advisory Group to Lead Entity for salmon recovery. Combined meeting time down to 3 hours, encourage cross-pollination among committees. Other counties have adopted this structure

-MRC and LIO will continue separate projects, MRC may review LIO workplans but not with power of approval

-This includes restructuring of staff responsibilities to better facilitate committees and collaboration between them

Megan: this sounds less radical than what was discussed, is that because there was pushback to original proposal?

Sam: discussion with NW Straits and PSP about how to structure and importance of committee maintaining autonomy

Lucas: NW Straits executive committee saw differences in necessary membership of MRC v. LIO. From PS Partnership, reasons behind structure of committee makeup. Process fatigue came up, for MRC members now 'serving' on LIO

Sam: to create clear delineation between committees we will continue to adjourn between meetings

Christina: so MRC members could exit at conclusion of MRC meeting but invited to attend LIO if they'd like?

Frankie: yes but encouraged to stay because many issues and projects are the same, this is a good way to familiarize MRC with other things going on. E.g., creosote work, it'll make MRC members more strongly informed

Phil: LIO once had bigger membership. looking to expand LIO back to original size? will Frankie take over Byron's work?

Frankie: I'll be taking some duties, and I'm not leaving the MRC – we've just delineated more of what specific duties will be, so I'll no longer be getting into the minutia of collecting volunteer hours – and note, those are due now

9:35 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

*Phil*

*Green*

- Save the date: there will be a one-day conference on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 11am-5pm in La Conner, details to come.
- New app, 'passport to marine adventure' – it's a game that gets to local sites where projects are happening, links

Frankie: it would be great if some of you could test-run the app, some things for the San Juan sites weren't correct.

Question: update on congressional funding?

Lucas: proposal submitted to NOAA, now waiting for feedback. If approved, we'd have a year to use those funds.

ACTION ITEM: Lucas thinks amount for SJC would be a little over \$200K, he'll check on that and send to MRC

9:39 AM **MRC Project Updates – Frances Robertson**

- Plastic Free Salish Sea (PFSS) – SeaBin and other project updates – *Adam Parrot*  
Adam is leading the charge– when installed SeaBin found it needed a new pump so now working on that. It's plastic-free July. We're putting out materials on Facebook. The subcommittee continues to meet  
Kendra: solid waste team is putting out an article to inform businesses about state law regarding plastic utensils
- False Bay  
Sierra has begun monitoring; at least every other week/sometimes weekly. There are opportunities to join her, I've emailed her contact information to some of you who were interested. Visitor outreach has been slow
- Vessel Monitoring –  
Volunteers have been monitoring since Memorial day, seems like hiccups have been worked out of the online form  
Phil: was Bell Point put in as a site? It automatically enters FH tide height, no option to change that  
ACTION ITEM: Phil please email issues regarding tide station to Franke to forward to developer  
Jeff: Wondering what size photo to submit, there's a delay – I'm not sure if I'm duplicating or resending  
ACTION ITEM: Tyler will check into that this week (specifically, what has been received from Jeff)  
Carl: photo must be less than 10 MB
- MSA strategic action review – what to expect for August meeting  
The review/compilation is complete and in draft format. Will focus on actions in the table for the August meeting  
ACTION ITEM: Please be on the lookout for this material coming out soon in next few weeks

9:49 AM **Adjourn MRC, Convene CAG Meeting. 2022 Grant Review and Scoring**

*Sam*

*Whitridge*

Scoring Salmon Recovery proposals. TAG has had two meetings, Sam sent out TAG's average scores and rankings.

Sam shares budget spreadsheet and explains details. Still sorting out what will happen with North Shore Easement.

Also, three projects of concern: the SJC coastal wetland mapping, SJC 20 year eelgrass health assessment, and stream and culvert mapping update. We won't know until end of next week if those have been cleared by State review panel.

We have until mid-August to submit ranked list so we can discuss one more time at August meeting. The TAG will have one more meeting and they'll provide a recommendation for the CAG to consider in August.

Megan: in some past years there's been fund-swapping with other counties, so could we bank some of these funds?

Sam: I can investigate that. And we do have an allocation trade coming back to us from North Olympic lead entity.

Karin: in local newspaper when they talked about the Glenwood project, MRC/CAG weren't mentioned.

Sam: seems like that article focused on the acquisition and maybe funding was still in the proposal stage at that time.

Christina: what did TAG say about North Shore Conservation easement

Sam: The TAG and SRFB were supportive, but wanted more information. TAG still hopeful this can go forward for PSAR large cap. There wasn't a lot of project-level resistance, it was #2 on their list just after the Watmough project

Christina: there's a lot of buzz about it on Orcas, the opportunity to have that much access to shoreline doesn't exist on our Island. Plus it's far from highly trafficked areas so relieves pressure. How to make it viable for salmon recovery?

ACTION ITEM: Sam will notify CAG with more about this project outcome and circle back after meeting with SJPT

Phil: all the POC are planning projects, doesn't seem to be a coincidence – they don't like to fund that type of project?

Sam: different reasons for each. More scrutiny on planning projects that they'll lead to real salmon recovery actions.

Ray: About public access to North Shore, we share a tension between the importance of public access and the need to preserve the habitat for salmon. The management plan will be an important component for that reason.

Level: It seems like there aren't questions that specifically address the areas we're supposed to be scoring. Can that be considered in future re-writes of the application form? This was a bigger challenge this year more than most

Sam: After this grant round we could look at the criteria and how to make it fit better into application structure

10:11 AM      **Scoring**

Sam: I received scores from six of you via email. Folks can still send me scores by next week if you're not ready today.

Sam shares spreadsheet, shows CAG scores already submitted. It will automatically show ranking with scores

Note: if conflict of interest, please recuse yourself – muted on that project. Brief discussion of who is recused on what

- Sorenson Shoreline Armor Removal  
9, 9, 9, 8, 10, 6. Matt and Adam new to process – will observe for now. Sam will compile comments received.
- Garrison  
8, 8, 6, 9, 6, 7. Needs more information. TAG liked it but it fell lower on their list, related largely to unpermitted culvert.  
Phil: I understand the culvert was a big issue at Garrison, but it also seemed like not all landowners were on board.  
Sam: the biggest concern was that culvert  
Ray: no overarching strategy for the whole system. Also the bass was an issue. It's such a highly impacted system.
- Eelgrass Recovery phase 2  
8, 7, 8, 7, 6
- Neck Point (Friends of SJ's) – this one also needed more information  
8, 8, 8, 5
- Coastal wetland mapping  
8, 9, 9, 9
- 20-year eelgrass health assessment  
9, 9, 8, 7  
Megan: there are many embayments experiencing decline in eelgrass, can't respond to change until it's documented  
Sam: Tina did well responding to review panel feedback, I hope it conveyed the importance of this study
- Watmough, one of two projects that cleared initially  
10, 9, 9, 9, 10  
Megan: project looks amazing but nothing in there about how public access would be managed, signage, etc.  
Jeff: that seemed to be a consideration, I think Land Bank will do that in time  
Megan: we're supposed to score on evidence that this is a plan, nothing about what they'd do in the future if funded  
Sam: TAG gave feedback that for management plan, they're concerned about BLM involvement, and potential transfer of the property. There are some restrictions in the funding programs, management partnership restrictions
- Stream and Culvert mapping updated, also a POC  
9, 9, 9, 6  
Jeff: wetlands are carbon sinks, huge mitigators for climate change. That's why I scored this high  
Sam: this was mentioned as a data gap in the salmon recovery plan, and review panel made it a POC. Part of that was due to not seeing previous work done by Wild fish Conservancy not leading to projects. And landowner access issues.

- Backshore roads feasibility, the third ranked CAG project (7<sup>th</sup> for TAG)  
9, 9, 9, 8
- North Shore Conservation Easement – we’re scoring this in terms of a scaled down project  
9, 8, 10, 10, 9  
Level: this project documented public support they received. It should be a factor that this will to provide public access.

ACTION ITEM: Send Sam scoring sheets via email (scan or send as word doc/pdf), also send comments for sponsors

Sam pulls up new rankings as they currently stand and reviews ranking:

Watmough, then North Shore, then Sorenson, Neck Point, SJC Coastal Wetland Mapping & Recovery, etc.

Sam: we’ll finalize this in August meeting so we can submit by mid-August

10:44 AM      break

10: 50 AM      **Crescent Beach Feasibility Study Final Report**

*Byron Rot*

This was funded between 2019-2020 grant rounds

Byron: one of the best salt marshes in the San Juans. Shows culvert on map. Wetland is evident behind the house/kayak business. This project is about upsizing the culvert, look at different alternatives to provide full tidal flush into the salt marsh. Wetland is restricted by current culvert (undersized 1’). 3 houses potentially impacted by flooding.

Photos shows the 1’ culvert opening - regularly plugged and then water accumulates in the wetland. The feeder bluff erodes, deposition along crescent beach. Sea level rise combined with winter storms. Property owner is in denial

Study design: Coastal Geo surveyed, LiDAR, used existing model, other geomorphic inputs (wave action/sea level rise,).

Study results: Crescent Beach Dr. is a sea level rise poster child. Byron shares FEMA 2016 projections for sea level rise. Table shows specific projections for each property, e.g., the house with the kayak business could be flooded 9 times a year by 2100. Study shows the impact of sea level rise. Model shows risk if culvert stays in place, waves over-top road.

Byron reviews potential alternatives, first three options are non feasible. Coastal Geo modelling, if culvert stayed in place road overtopped by 2050 with two closest houses flooding. By 2100, road is 2-3’ under water.

QUESTIONS

Ray: what about increased rainfall, not just sea level rise. When floods start, won’t those people start armoring?

Byron: they’d need to raise houses, septic wouldn’t be permissible. They have no way forward

Kendra: this study is the first of many conversations we’ll need to have with communities with this coastal/freshwater squeeze. May not be able to accommodate septic systems. As we start toward managed retreat we’ll be working with lawyers, etc. about a reasonable policy. This is a good example report to share with others. In the sustainable tourism plan, this location was identified as a destination improvement opportunity, back off road to make beach available.

Carl: graphs show increased flooding, but said sea level rise wasn't included. What else makes flooding increase?

Byron: one slide showed FEMA's flood modelling without sea level rise. But Coastal Geo models included sea level rise. There's the pool elevation but the real impact is the wave action from storms, what we'll feel first is more big storms.

Karin: what about this stubborn property owner, at the mercy of her own denial? What are the options?

Byron: She could sell now, Land Bank would be interested. In future County could decide whether to condemn or not.

Kendra: With a mortgage, flood insurance is required. But many owners own properties outright so not in place

-More discussion of FEMA programs to help property owners elevate homes, one model with a 'breakaway' garage.

11:30 AM      **Adjourn CAG Meeting**