



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 5, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

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Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i> Coast Salish Acknowledgement <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>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC Retreat meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Sam Whitridge</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>MRC Retreat Debrief – <i>Sam Whitridge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • MRC Subcommittee Structure for 2023 • MSA Updates
10:00 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Candidate Interviews Scheduling – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Puget Sound Seabird Surveys – <i>Tyler Davis</i>
10:10 AM	<p>Ram and Lopez Island Kelp Farm Proposal – <i>Zack Pajka</i></p>

10:35 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:40 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:40 AM	CAG Updates – Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review/Approve 2023 SRFB Grant Round Plan
10:50 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:50 AM	Approve LIO November Meeting Summary
10:55 AM	Presentation on findings from Pacific Sand Lance Assessment – Gary Greene, John Aschoff
11:25 AM	LIO Work Planning for 2023 – Tyler Davis/Sam Whitridge PSP Updates- Tyler Davis/Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSP Staffing Changes• Shoreline Permitting Collective Project
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting



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Marine Resources
Committee



January 5, 2023

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: John Aschoff, Matthew Baker, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Gary Greene, Erin Licata, Dana Oster, Zach Pajka, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Kim Sundberg, Tina Whitman, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty

9:02 AM **Convene MRC 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, Approve MRC Retreat meeting minutes**

MRC members

Christina asks, any changes to agenda? No – all approve. Sam sent out a draft of the Retreat minutes with Lovel's edits. Megan moves to approve that version, Jeff seconds. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

9:05 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Sam Whitridge

The Commission approved a DEI statement, will develop a process to develop action items for each of the goals. Sam has the statement if anyone want to see it. There was a great presentation from Tessa Francis about their pacific herring study with SRFB funds, showed effects of shoreline armoring on salmon and forage fish species. NW States science advisory committee is recruiting new members, please suggest nominees. NWSC starting a Salish sea conservation program, looking for mentors for interns. League of women voters released a study on the Shoreline management act assessing effectiveness over last 50 years; Barbara Bennett is compiling resources Dana: Barbara interested in pulling together members of different MRC's – share knowledge about SMP updates and comprehensive plans. It's not a report, more like a collection of shared materials. Her email, bennbluw@gmail.com

If you are curious who is on the NWSC science advisory committee now this site has our members:

<https://nwstraits.org/about-us/science-advisory-committee/>

Phil: it would be great if MRC could invite Tessa here to present

9:12 AM **MRC Retreat Debrief**

Sam

Whitridge

It was a very productive day. Focused on Key objectives in the plan to push the MSA over the finish line. Then focused on MRC subcommittees and work plan for 2023. Based on that discussion and requirements of our grants, Sam put together a spreadsheet for our work plan – sent out to MRC members. This needs to be submitted to NWSC soon.

9:14 AM • 2023 Work Plan

Megan: in the pink section (False Bay Monitoring) of the work plan spreadsheet, what's needed here?

Sam: that's still listed as a deliverable in the grant. But hazy on what's planned for Ulva surveys etc.

Megan: this should end by June and not continue. I'll meet with Wendel next week to discuss the wind-up process.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie can send False Bay visitor survey information to Megan to put together. (We should also have a summary of the data completed by the intern)

Beth: my name is on eelgrass protection; I know there's a project involving moorings, anything else? For now, I'll say yes and let you know of any changes. I'm interested in meeting with staff to understand what deliverables

Sam: The Cattle Point project was awarded (partial) LTAC funds. It will be launched but still sorting out the work plan

Tyler: in LTAC discussion, some of request couldn't be rewarded because of legal nature of upgrading non-county infrastructure. BUT there is money for interpretative signage and public artwork. Tourist-based facilities, like parking and toilets are present, hopefully will get attended to more with more attention given to the interpretative center. Potential for cross-agency work with DNR & BLM. More visitors to American Camp in recent years. DNR currently manages the property, come out weekly from Anacortes to inspect & clean

MOTION: Kendra moves to adopt workplan, Megan seconds. All in favor. The workplan is adopted.

9:28 AM • MRC Subcommittee Structure for 2023

Sam shows table with overview of subcommittees. We discussed having leads give updates to full MRC meetings (staff can still drive deliverables). Review each subcommittee, confirm membership and correct any errors:

Jeff – lead on the Outreach & Ed subcommittee

Karin – lead on PFSS. Subcommittee is planning a retreat next week to discuss other projects beyond GICU

Adam – lead on Derelict vessels. POFH at boatyard has set up a boat-crunching station. There was a derelict vessel in Beaverton cove last week, now moved to yard to be demolished. Now we have a disposal method on island.

Marta: Did a survey with new sheriff, tagged some vessels. We're continuing to make progress

Patti – not here today; Tribal Partnership subcommittee hasn't been active over past year but important to keep

Megan – lead on Cattle Point and the MSA Update subcommittees. (False Bay has already been discussed)

Level – lead on Oil Spill Prevention & response, and providing update on recent letter to County Council

Level: Jeff presented our recommendation to Council on Lopez; then Christina and I attended the meeting here

I hope MRC can draw up lessons learned in general about process for communicating recommendations to Council.

Meanwhile, legislators are getting conflicting requests with respect to lessons learned from the Aleutian Isle incident.

Christina: I hope subcommittee can meet soon with key staff people to discuss this. My question is – if the MRC is in support of the agenda we outlined, and based on how council responded, should we continue?

Jeff: And questions about marine mammal hazing still need to be clarified

Kendra: We have four advisory committees; I have some general questions about when/how to take things to Council.

Level: great to be on same page about process to follow, ensure alignment between advisory committees and staff. After feedback from council if there's a chance to re-engage, it would be good to know we still have MRC support

Sam: we already had a motion to move forward with the recommendation. Unless any objections we can move forward

Level: there will be things in legislative session that touch on spill prevention/response issues which we'll bring to MRC

Finally, salmon recovery won't be a subcommittee going forward but CAG will still meet. Sam will update the CAG annually with respect to Salmon recovery chapter and annual projects and grant deliverables.

9:51 AM • MSA Updates

Sam: At retreat looked at key objectives. Tyler and I edited the spreadsheet based on discussion at the retreat

Frankie: I've begun addressing those edits. Should have full packet soon

9:54 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• MRC Candidate Interview Scheduling

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

Sam Whitridge

We did PR in December, fielding applications over recent weeks. Two vacancies now and two more over summer. Sam will compile applications and share. And then move forward with setting up interviews
Karin: need to be sure that new members have time and energy to actively participate in subcommittees and activities.

9:57 AM • Puget Sound Seabird Surveys

Tyler Davis

Spoke with Toby Ross (previously with Audubon, now with Puget Sound bird observatory). Learned some history about SJC bird surveys. Monika and Jason Shields currently involved; we can prepare for next full season starting in Oct 2023.

Beth: Avian flu, WDFW is concerned about ducks/waterfowl. Public needs to not touch or move birds if suspect disease

Frankie: how does this involve hunters, particularly trophy hunting tours that come to Island? I can share a few websites. This may need to be a broader more targeted discussion.

Beth: I'll research this more, wasn't aware. Report Wildlife Observations to WDFW, with Form for Reporting, <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a384e90f69744f2e846135a9ce80027f>

ACTION ITEM: can we investigate whether County has jurisdiction over this? And Beth will look into hunting here

Frankie: this is the one outfitter that was reported to me as operating in county waters,

<https://adventureswithmayhemoutfitters.com/>

Beth: Pertains to Skagit Bay, so not SJC, <https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/wdfw-statement/wdfw-statement-avian-influenza-outbreak-among-waterfowl-around-skagit-bay>

Sam: one last MRC business issue – we need to update our contact list with current phone numbers.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will email the list, please correct any errors

Kailey: On the contact sheet can we please have a column of best way to contact, (call, text, e-mail, bells... etc.)?

Also, in LIO meeting we plan to discuss staffing update: PS partnership has had a lot of turnover recently, reorienting staffing structure. Our new partnership rep will be Kristin Hamen. All staff is stretched more thin

10: 09 AM **Ram and Lopez Kelp Farm Proposal**

Zach Pajka

Personal history in tech industry, became interested in kelp in northern WA. Bull kelp has been shown to be in decline, an important and beautiful species. End goal isn't profit but moving mariculture forward without disturbing ecosystem. There are already 8 or 9 kelp farms applying to establish in WA in coming year

The proposal: 16–20-acre rectangular kelp farm to east of Lopez, near Decatur and Ram, undeveloped shoreline away from major traffic routes. No migratory patterns of fish or whales. Territory marked off by buoys.

Multi-trophic vertically integrated sea farm: horizontal grow-lines, spool that grows down to seafloor. Zach discusses some details in terms of measurements, length of lines, timing of season. Plan to grow sugar kelp, bull kelp, and blue mussels. Mussels have water filtration properties. Trying to partner with local Tribal Nations (Lummi and Swinomish)

QUESTIONS:

Beth: are you going to reseed the lines every time? Nereocystis is annual but can grow perennially

Zach: nobody has a good method yet for growing bull kelp. Getting seeds from a partner of Lummi nation

Beth: questions about permitting. This is an underwater structure that's likely to get appealed at various levels.

Zach: I've worked with DNR, Ecology, Marcus Reaves at WDFW, I've been working with Brook Sullivan at the County. Eelgrass and macroalgae surveys conducted, no eelgrass there, mostly cobble. I'm happy to share results of that.

Tina: early communication with Tribes is key, there are 14 with UNA's here. And marine mammal entanglement could come up. Be careful with 'partners' list – that's a formal term. My advice is to hook up with some research component, like Sea Grant. Also, who owns the tidelands and at what depth is the project?

Zach: there was a thesis showing no instances of marine mammal entanglement in this type of net.

Growth will be at 47'-60'. Scanned the bottom with ROV, 10-13' depth variation. Tidelands owned mostly by one private individual. Difficult to contact all Tribes but making efforts

Paul Andersson: WA DNR is the formal owner of the aquatic lands

Beth: Yes, unless otherwise listed as private tideland owners. DNR has detailed information on ownership boundaries

Karin: I recently read "eat like a fish", extols health benefits of kelp. What happens to the critters in the kelp?

Zach: Before harvest, sometimes fish turn kelp into hatcheries and lay eggs on them, then must wait until season has passed. Depends on what has attached and how. We won't disturb any threatened species

Tina: Don't overplay carbon benefits- they are tiny unless done at a hue scale. That said- there are more localized positive benefits to pH and shellfish growth etc.

Zach: yes so the main benefit is for a sustainable food solution and ecological benefits

Phil: about mussels and possibly scallops, would you harvest those too?

Zach: just mussels not scallops – would be harvested and sold

ACTION ITEM: Zach will send proposal document to Sam for distribution to MRC following this meeting, happy to hear from anyone interested in partnering or further questions

Megan: Zach must interact with Friday harbor labs since we have jurisdiction over most marine resources in the county

10:36 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:37 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:38 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- Review/Approve 2023 SRFB Grant Round Plan

This will be a smaller SRFB year, exact amount still a moving target. All indications point towards around \$300K.

Potential site visits May 3-4 (in lieu of May MRC meeting). Pending approval, Sam will solicit Letters of Interest.

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve the timeline for the 2023 grant round, Kailey seconds. All in favor. Approved.

10:41 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**