



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 4, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

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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	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC December retreat minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Retreat Debrief Items- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MRC Work Plan for 2024 ○ MSA next steps ○ MRC Subcommittees for 2024 ○ ERTV Subcommittee • Update on El Capitan – <i>Kari Koski</i> • Spring Vessel Turn-in event- <i>Kari Koski</i> • Scheduling for February MRC Meeting- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Resolution Discussion- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Level Pratt</i> <p>Other subcommittee updates</p>
10:15 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:20 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:20 AM	Presentation: San Juan County Salmon Recovery Program Overview- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
10:45 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 Grant Round Kickoff- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on LIO presentation to PSP Leadership Council- <i>Katie Johnson/Sam Whitridge</i> ● Update on LIO Target Setting- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● Planning for LIO Visioning process in 2024- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> ● Update on ERTV efforts- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Patti Gobin, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Audrey Coyne, Tyler Davis, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Kathryn Moore, Jessica Owens, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:07 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Kendra Smith, chair by proxy until Christina can join

Kendra: it would be easier to meet in the Beaverton Valley office than in the legislative building, we have the IT

- Matt usually joins in person, he's fine with meeting at Beaverton Valley

ACTION ITEM: in future, let's meet in the Beaverton Valley office conference room

Sam: this is the public access virtual meeting space, we'll still have in-person meetings once every quarter

9:11 AM technical issues resolved, Christina joins, the meeting official kick-off

Christina Koons

9:11 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:12 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC December retreat minutes**

MRC members

Any changes to agenda? No, all approve the meeting agenda

Lovel made language changes on derelict vessels, clarified a statement about the oil spill liability trust fund

MOTION to approve the Retreat minutes (*as changed*), all in favor, none opposed. The minutes are approved

9:14 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

Terrific conference in PT, 6 of us attended, over 100 participants. Review of a white paper by Island County on climate, a statement to their county council about plans to move ahead, a lot of consensus-building. Would be good for us to look at it maybe as part of a workplan. The MRC system is in good shape. We toured the rain-garden systems in Port Townsend, now focusing on maintenance. Great to hear the Tribal participation at the meeting.

NW Straits commission will hold a retreat in February with more planning and convening of MRC's

Lovel: did anyone bring back examples of Clallam county's coasters? Informative coasters in local restaurants.

Christina: I have one, it says "Clallam County MRC's" this one describes native oyster, QR code to MRC website.

Variety of images. Sorted through how to lower printing costs for producing. Lovel's presentation was excellent

Lovel: on the need for an ERTV. Other MRC's are also concerned about accident and oil spill risk. Some talk of a comprehensive MRC-wide spill response readiness group to engage with other MRC's for whom this is a priority.

ACTION ITEM: Christina will send the Island County white paper to Sam to distribute to MRC members

Lovel: they don't want it distributed broadly until presented to their county, but can share with MRC members

9:24 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

- MRC Retreat Debrief Items

Sam Whitridge

We had great discussion at retreat, opportunity now to review and pick up a few unresolved items:

o MRC Work Plan for 2024

Must be submitted this month as a condition of our grant. This is the most recent version we reviewed at the Retreat with the changes we discussed. Spreadsheet shows 7 grant tasks and monthly commitments/deliverables

MOTION: Adam moves to approve the 2024 workplan, Sandy seconds, all in favor, the workplan is approved.

o MRC Subcommittees for 2024

Don't need formal approval, but please let Sam know if there any changes are needed

Dave: where does the ERTV subcommittee fit into the workplan?

Sam: oil spill work is a subcommittee, not a grant deliverable. Could go under Marine Stewardship in outreach

Kendra: we've historically paid for that through Puget Sound Partnership, so it's in LIO workplan

ACTION ITEM: notify Cindy when ERTV subcommittee meetings happen (she doesn't necessarily need to go)

o ERTV Subcommittee

Sam: is ERTV subcommittee the right name for it? Reminder – we came up with the idea for this at the Retreat in aftermath of the Ecology report that we were unsatisfied with, we wanted to work together on next steps.

That subcommittee had first meeting yesterday: Kailey, sandy, Jeff, Dave, Christina, Lovel, and Marta. Working to extract the takeaway messages we feel are inaccurate or buried in their analysis. We plan to prepare a letter Cindy could bring to Council to approve, perhaps a follow up to Debra Lekanoff or other interested parties.

o MSA next steps

ACTION ITEM: Please send in remaining comments for review to Frankie!

9:36 AM •Update on El Capitan

Kari Koski

Not many recent updates. Since last meeting Coast Guard issued West Sound Marina an order to put together a plan to monitor and manage sheen, they did and it was approved. With Legislature going into session, DNR will seek more funds for their Derelict Vessel (DV) program. We want to take advantage of that, looking into costs and trying to put together proposal(s) to lift and move it. Support from Debra Lekanoff. Trying to be creative
No reconvened meeting of all agencies, probably will be soon. Still no determination of owner(s) or liable party.

9:39 AM •Spring Vessel Turn-in event

Kari Koski

Adam & Kari working with NW Straits DV work group, helping to prioritize vessels and events. Multiple partners. We have brochures, applications due by March 1. Taking 12 vessels maximum but accept as many applications as possible – this will help us know where vessels are and identify for prioritization. At the event, limited to a week at the yard to decommission/deconstruct. Working with DNR to do more events in future. If successful, could be annual. Brochure going out with invoicing to Port customers and shared with other marinas. This is federally funded, NOAA and Seagrant money coming from DNR. Tentatively planning for April 12th, it's a time of year when we have enough yard space but want to keep dates off the brochure. Must apply and if approved, a date will be given to bring the boat at that time. Also applies to boats sitting in yards because people often get rid of those by pushing them into the water. Looking to do a marine debris clean-up event in conjunction at the same time, dispose of fuels etc. This is the first time we're doing this! don't know yet what response will be.

9:48 AM •Scheduling for February MRC Meeting

Sam Whitridge

Salmon advocacy day scheduled for February 1 in Olympia, Sam will be there, Christina also unavailable.

Should we move meeting to a time when they can both attend? (several other conflicts, i.e. the Boat Show)

ACTION ITEM: Let's move forward with having the meeting February 8th, meet virtually

9:51 AM •MRC Resolution Discussion

Sam Whitridge

It's outdated. Some straightforward edits but some warrant discussion regarding MRC membership,

-one is that 'planning director' is listed as a required seat on the MRC. That hasn't happened for a while. Kendra has been filling that role as ES director. Do we want to change it to ES Director or staff so it's more open-ended?

Kendra: we should make it ES staff so it's not always on the Director

- we also talked about having an official Tribal seat, Patti has served two terms, we'd like her to stay on the committee. Do we want to pursue putting language in the resolution about that being a permanent seat?

Dave: how many Tribes are there that would be appropriate to sit on the SJI MRC? In the geographical sense

Frankie: 12 federally recognized Tribes in these areas. Do we have to restrict the number of seats to just one?

Brian: Term limits are important as is Tribal representation. Not sure about the bylaws but the MRC could possibly create an ad-hoc position for tribes to be filled and would not have a term limit

Kendra: LIO should also have representation, there could be multiple seats available. There are 12 governing bodies we can consult! As staff we're about to go through a training to learn more about this, let's revisit then

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie Johnson

Thursday Jan 12th we'll have a table at Storming the Sound in La Conner, anyone can join. And encouraging stewards to report clean-up. Contest for pickup, winner gets a gift certificate, will announce on our website

9:59 AM •Other subcommittee updates

Adam: the Islander will be removed from FH to PT this coming Monday, it was delayed due to weather

Kari: DV subcommittee next week on January 9th, virtual meeting in the afternoon, I'll send out an agenda.

10:03 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Sam: reminder to everyone to send in hours please for the October-December quarter if you haven't already!

Cindy: The National Association of Counties legislative conference in WA DC happens Feb 10-14th; if there are meetings with people in DC I should be asking for, please let me know soon!

Level: there was a mitigated determination of non-significance (MDNS), announced in the Friends of San Juans updates. This was a new trans-shipment project at the refinery that was done without proper permitting.

Kendra: This year ES will be tasked with the climate element in the comprehensive plan. Grant from commerce, working with Cascadia consulting firm. Need strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas output as well as sea level rise.

We'll likely do some tabling at farmer's markets, fairs, and other events. Jeff is liaison to the Climate and Sustainability committee, please contact Jeff if you're interested in helping as ambassadors in the community.

Sea level rise models show county property, must complete map to show whole county including private land.

Dave: How can volunteer 'ambassadors' be as informed as possible?

Kendra: we will plan some training with the folks who will be tabling and have some FAQ's. Concern after how destination management plan went over. And now we're talking about climate change, there's nervousness about the weight of topics and community's ability to absorb. Working with Cascadia, they have sociologists.

CWAC will be working on this in terms of freshwater side, Solid Waste team talking about issues. This is a big lift.

Dave: maybe a meeting where everyone is present and learn in general about the issues. I'd like to be involved

Frankie: Seattle Boat show in Seattle February 1. Whale Museum just hired a new Soundwatch coordinator. NOAA offered to run the Boat Show outreach this year. Plan to meet about this soon, great for any MRC members to volunteer. Expenses covered (by Whale Museum). Working with Katie to get information out to MRC members.

This is an important year to be in front of boaters because of new legislation and distance regulations, opportunity to reinforce messaging and get whale flags out. This booth is Be Whale Wise focused, but also other outreach

booths from WDFW, SeaGrant, etc. Appreciate anyone who can sign up; various shifts. Frankie there all day. Cheat sheet provided. Also have a contest for tickets. Location is in downtown Seattle

- Jeff is willing to help with this

Jeff: back to the climate strategy and comp plan, would it be worthwhile to have a MMW on the topic?

Kendra: yes, as we formulate community engagement strategy with Cascadia, will do some social networking.

Kim: I along with False Bay neighbors participated in a Climate Fresk last summer for citizen participation in the complexities of climate change and visualizing effects. The Fresk moderator, Nikyta Palmisani lives on Lopez. Suggest contacting her for her thoughts on planning for county climate change meetings.

10:25 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:26 AM • 2024 Grand Round Kick-off

Sam Whitridge

Grant round kicked off. Sam sent out materials. Letters of Interest (LoI's) due February 18th, project sponsors will meet with TAG in March. This will be a big grant round. May site visits. Sam will keep everyone updated.

TAG members are required to attend site visits, MRC members are strongly encouraged (sometimes there are space limitations due to space on boats) Block out May 1 and 2, we'll be going out and looking at projects.

10:29 **Presentation:** San Juan County Salmon Recovery Program Overview

Sam Whitridge

Request at Retreat to review technical priorities in the Salmon program, science behind how we select projects; SJI's in the heart of Salish Sea, map produced by Friends shows 22 stocks of chinook that pass through to the ocean. Limited spawning, but big feeding stopover for migrating juveniles. How to select projects in right places: Beamer and Fresh (2011) study provided a probability index for finding a juvenile chinook. Places with highest probability are south Lopez, and N. Waldron, President channel area. Based on that study, County and Lead Entity worked with Friends of San Juans and other technical experts to create the PIAT (Pulling it all together) report, PIAT I in 2012 was a shoreform and landscape-scale prioritization study; PIAT II in 2017 refined previous studies down to parcel and project scale. Identified areas as priority fish use regions shown on map: Waldron/President channel, Rosario SW, Juan d Fuca/S. Lopez, and Haro Strait NE. Map shows priority fish use areas by shoreform, table of shoreform types in highest priority use regions (i.e. pocket beach, feeder bluff, etc.)

We've discussed and identified protection as top local priority, restoration is second priority, and assessments are third because protection is most cost-effective, easier to protect before degradation than to restore, and more ecologically successful than restoration. Protection refers to acquisitions and conservation easements, those are protected through perpetuity, but restoration projects have a 7-year time frame within this grant process. We have a lot of high-quality habitat in San Juan County identified as in need of protection.

Dave: does protection mean protection of forage fish as food for salmon?

Sam: yes, forage fish and also habitat that's good for salmon rearing. The main factors of juvenile chinook rearing and forage fish spawning/rearing (herring, sand lance, surf smelt) combined make up fish use priorities.

We don't do dock removal projects for salmon recovery projects, just too big for us too tackle

Sam: in 2022 finalized Salmon Recovery Chapter Update, our local chapter for the NOAA chinook salmon recovery plan. Includes 15 different regions with lead entities, each provided their own local priorities chapter.

First chapter established in 2005, first NOAA recovery plan in 2007. Now all subsequent studies (like the Beamer and Fresh and PIAT, etc.) fed into our local salmon recovery chapter update. This is our guiding document.

Completed through a two-year process started in 2020, committee of TAG and MRC members, project sponsors, agency members etc. Some funding from Puget Sound Partnership and ESA. This document is available online. How it's structured: established 50-year goals and 10-year targets for nearshore habitat types (6 different types)

We also have Freshwater goals and targets for specific habitat types (like Cascade Creek that has spawning salmonids). These goals are more qualitative, further data needed to refine further. Identified 8 watersheds (on SJI and Orcas) we want to work in where we have the most data and background. We address restoration and protection strategies for salmon recovery through the Grant round, annual SRFB and biennial PSAR funds. Process is locally driven by TAG and CAG scoring and ranking projects, then a regional and statewide process.

We are one of 15 lead entities around Puget Sound. That term refers to the local salmon recovery process. In that role we participate in various regional and statewide processes.

Sam encourages everyone to review the salmon recovery chapter update doc as well as the PIAT I and II studies.

ACTION ITEM: Sam can send out these slides and links to the documents just mentioned to all members

10:55 AM **CAG updates**

Sam Whitridge

The grant round is underway now, Sam will keep everyone updated. Press releases and emails have been sent announcing applications, we try to get word out broadly. Applicants are from non-profits like Friends of SJ's, Land Bank, SJ Preservation Trust, some individual private landowners

-more discussion about showing benefit to salmon for certain projects, informing landowners about salmonids

10:59 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



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9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC January meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:20 AM	Presentation: False Bay Nutrient Study- Dezheng Zhang (Sam)
9:50 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response Towing Vessel (ERTV) Outreach Update- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Creation of a NWSC MRC Kelp Kayak Advisory Committee- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Update on Jackson Creosote Pile Removal Funding- <i>Sam Whitridge/Frances Robertson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship/Small Spills Outreach- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates

10:45 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:50 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:50 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on Salmon Day event in Olympia- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Agate Beach PSAR Project-<i>Tyler Davis</i>• Discussion on how to allocate PSAR Return Funds in San Juan County-<i>Sam Whitridge</i>
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i>• Overview on LIO Target Setting process- <i>Katie Johnson</i>• LIO Visioning process-<i>Katie Johnson</i>• Update on ERTV efforts- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Kimbal Sundberg, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Audrey Coyne, Marta Green, Sasha Horst, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Mitch McCloskey, Wendel Raymond, Frances Robertson, Laura-Jo Severson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Dezheng Sam Zhang

9:01 AM **Convene MRC meeting** *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

9:02 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:03 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC January meeting minutes** *MRC members*

Lovel sent some edits to the minutes, we'll incorporate those into the final draft – some minor language changes.
MOTION: Dave moves to approve the minutes, Jeff seconds, all in favor, none opposed. The minutes are approved

9:05 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC** *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Karin attended. We still need additional kayak monitors for kelp monitoring and also volunteers for green crabs. Jeff has been a kayaker volunteer for several years on Lopez. No green crab reported so far around Lopez or on SJI. Brian: I'd like to learn more about how I can participate as someone who's on the water a lot
Frankie: Samish already does kelp monitoring; we should ask NW Straits where to monitor, not duplicating efforts
Sasha: Counties who have established sites may be seeking additional help, Jeff Whitty would be the person to ask
ACTION ITEM: we'll circle back to Brian G. about how he can help
Brian: if we need a representative on the ground, coordinating efforts on the water, maybe I can connect with Jeff
Frankie: We have a green crab site on SJI at Westcott Bay, Jess Newley and Katie Foster have been in charge of that, effort run by the green crab team. If people are interested in helping they should contact them for training
Laura Jo: we don't look for green crab in a kayak, it involves walking into water with high boots to pick up traps
Dave Checkley: I'm interested in helping, need more information about timing commitment
ACTION: Karin will reach out to Jess for more info and then circle back with Dave about what's needed
Lovel shares an article on the Samish Tribe's kelp monitoring: <https://www.hcn.org/issues/56-2/plants-reviving-the-samish-tribes-kelp/>

9:14 AM **Presentation: False Bay Nutrient Study** *Dezheng Sam Zhang*

Sam's presentation: Unraveling marine and terrestrial nutrient interplay at False Bay. Sam thanks his advisors, Drs. Brooke Sullivan and Wendel Raymond. Green algae growing season starts in March, peaks in mid-summer. Questions about whether agricultural activities in the watershed are affecting algae growth. How does nutrient input from the Creek affect the formation of the green tide, *Ulva spp.*, in False Bay? Methods included sampling water and algae biomass. Results showed seasonal patterns in algal abundance peak in August or September. Clear seasonal pattern with higher precipitation in the fall and winter months with some sporadic high precipitation events and lower in spring and summer with sometimes no precipitation at all. Water flow can slow/stop in spring and by summer. Salinity was stable at nearshore location, but at creek mouth when there's no freshwater available there are clear marine signals. Beyond general seasonal pattern, there were also patterns in specific nutrients (Sam describes these in detail).

Isotope analysis – comparison with a study from Penn Cove which looked at seasonal variation in algal mats. In our study, samples taken in May and November suggest that green algae at False Bay are using marine origin water for nutrients, but still need more samples for definitive result. For future research, certain areas of False Bay should be sampled further. Look closer at groundwater sources particularly with concerns about agricultural

influences. Some points within False Bay could be emerging groundwater where we may see more stable populations of green algae

QUESTIONS

Karin: with this information, how can we expect climate change to make this worse? In what way?

Sam: drier summer, climate change could reduce the water level in the Creek and flow earlier in the season, possibly more tidal intrusion into groundwater, groundwater may be a bigger nutrient contribution into False Bay

Karin: then how can we use this information? how else can we make changes?

Sam: potentially better agricultural land management. Could put monitoring equipment into the Bay and Creek

Wendel: these data are available here, <https://knb.ecoinformatics.org/view/doi%3A10.5063%2FF1KD1WBG>

Still more work to do to investigate the groundwater contribution question

Craig: is it more Nitrogen or Phosphorus limited?

Sam: it's phosphate limited now, Salish sea itself is nitrogen rich compared to other parts of world

Level: are there ag best practices that would make a significant difference, and how to mandate best practices?

Kim: CWAC has been looking at impacts to False Bay watershed for years, including how to implement BMP's (Best Management Practices). Working with Red Mill Farm through SJPT (800 acres of ranch land used for cattle grazing) and Land Bank which acquired Zylstra Lake property. VSP (Voluntary Stewardship Program) hasn't done enough to mitigate impacts so we've worked on grant funding to fence cattle out from creeks. With help from partners, we've fenced about half of the length of the Creek now, working on funding to fence the rest and then invest in restoration.

Dave: hypothesis that fertilizers cause Phosphate to come into False Bay or is it about production from cattle?

Wendel: the original question was about the drainage of land around the Creek causing a notable nutrient signature in False Bay. Ulva thrives in high nutrient environments. These data suggest it could be largely just a shallow open bay, a nice place to be Ulva. Teasing apart Nitrogen and phosphorus sources would require much more isotopic analysis

Kendra: mainly it's preventing cows' poop in creek drainage, there aren't good BMP's to manage the bacteria load

Kim: there is high phosphorus detected in Zylstra Lake. The result has been some toxic algal blooms. Sam's study brought up this question of groundwater and how that may drive the system when Creek drops in summertime.

9:50 AM MRC Updates/Business

- Emergency Response Towing Vessel (ERTV) Outreach Update

Sam Whitridge

ERTV has been looking at the Ecology report to highlight buried information we felt was important to the conclusion of the analysis. Our intent was to draft a letter to Governor Inslee. We met with Inslee's top policy advisor. She was clear the governor's office is not interested in compelling Ecology to revise the report. She suggested focus on moving forward with policy steps to get the ERTV positioned in inland waters. We've worked on a one-pager to send with Cindy Wolf to DC for when she meets with Senator Cantwell's staff, continue to highlight gaps we see in the report. Marta has put in a lot of time in on this, she was instrumental in drafting that one-pager. Kendra has been working with Cindy

Frankie: has the County's analysis of this been shared with Tribes or with NWFC (NW Fisheries commission)?

Marta: yes, and this one pager we've developed is a good tool to get our message out, I'd be glad to share it. But I'm not yet giving up on changing the Ecology report. I think we need to continue to raise the concerns about it.

Kendra: If Ecology won't revise report, we can blow past and share data as we see fit with Tribes and whomever.

Craig: I agree we must go to the next step regarding the conclusions. The main point is that we need an ERTV in Roche or Sydney. That Ecology report is ludicrous; let's just bypass it and push our main conclusion. As the MRC advisory body, not the County, and maybe with other MRC's and NWSC support those short couple of points.

Marta: there was a significant reduction in their risk analysis for benefits of an ERTV in Sydney, but that's an error.

Level: we need to take up Ecology's offer to confirm the data and correct the analysis for Sydney. Need to meet again as a subcommittee and review how to undertake that communication with Ecology. Transport Canada is in the process of writing the report about their version of an ERTV, due this spring, important for them to get these revised data

ACTION: Sam will schedule a subcommittee meeting, take up Brian Kirk at Ecology on his offer for correspondence

10:09 AM • Update on Jackson Creosote Pile Removal Funding

Sasha Horst

We've had an offer to pay for the Jackson Beach project that's underway. MRC will close out its grant as planned and there will be a funding swap, then those NOAA funds will be available again for another project in 2024

Kendra: Has there been discussion of using that money to advance the vessel monitoring/benthic impact project?

Craig: the habitat survey with Greene, can we extend to other areas like northern parts of SJI and Stuart?

10:15 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates

o Outreach and Education

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Sandy: we've been working with FH elementary school to make presentations in schools about what MRC is doing. I'm interested in making ways for High School age students to be more involved in what we do here. We've been in touch with their eco club. If anyone wants to join in this effort, please let me know.

o Marine Stewardship/Small Spills Outreach

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

Sam: this is a reminder that as part of marine stewardship in our NW Straits grant this year, we identified small spills outreach as a main task. First step is outreach to marina managers, create a database about what they see as issues and needs. Then we've talked about convening a workshop for them, we want to keep this on folks' radar Boaters – if you have marina contacts/connections let us know if you're interested in participating in outreach.

Kari: I'd like to add DV (Derelict Vessel) issues to that workshop. I just compiled a marina contact database for SJC

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Subcommittee hasn't met recently. But last weekend I found shore between first and second lagoon to be contaminated with debris. If anyone wants to do an impromptu beach cleaning there, please let Karin know

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott/Kari Koski

Adam: good preparation for vessel turn-in event in April. We plan to remove all materials collected from the island

Kari: I have some things sketched out, tentative schedule for DV subgroup to do a patrol in early March, potentially after our in-person meeting in March, concentrating on getting outreach materials out to various entities

Kailey: what if we have a neighbor who could use a flyer for the vessel turn-in event?

Kari: You can send them to the SJC MRC web and Facebook page for information, you can print the flyer from there

10:25 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Craig: there's a lot of debris in those locations Karin brought up. Maybe we can arrange a group of 10-12 people

ACTION: We'll bring this up at the next PFSS subcommittee meeting and see if we can arrange something

Kendra: be sure to talk to park rangers, that's their property

10:28 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG Meeting**

Dave moves to adjourn MRC, Sandy seconds. All in favor. MRC meeting is adjourned; call the CAG to order

10:29 AM **CAG Updates**

• Report on Salmon Day event in Olympia

Sam Whitridge

This event happened for the first time since pre-COVID in the State legislative session. Salmon Day is for the three statewide groups (Council of Regions, the Washington State Salmon coalition, and the Regional Fisheries Coalition) to have a joint effort to identify shared priorities that encompass salmon recovery efforts. It's a one-day event to meet with legislators and communicate priorities including funding for projects; removal of "match requirements" that create an administrative burden, especially a barrier to state funds for smaller organizations; and improved coordination/streamlining of the permitting process. Hope to reestablish this as an annual event.

10:36 AM • 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round

Sam Whitridge

Sam shares screen to show important dates. Letters of Intent have been sent out. March 6 – TAG meet to review Letters of intent. May 1-2 site visits; typically, these replace the regular May MRC CAG meeting. Then TAG meets again May 15 and June 27. CAG will do its final scoring at the regular August 1 meeting. This is a big year in terms of funding, still a moving target for final amount – Sam reviews details, combined total a little under \$2 million

10:40 AM • Re Agate Beach PSAR Project

Kendra Smith

The project depended on moving the road, Public Works still struggling to do that. Design completed BUT with latest storm events, bluff and road have eroded. We may not be able to provide beach access at Agate anymore. The road has not yet been moved. So, we propose to turn back in construction funds so that money can be used for other projects. We'll shelve the permits and the design and circle back in future. We plan to talk more about managed retreat and inundation effects on over 13 miles of infrastructure. We've recently completed a sea level rise study looking at some of these key areas and finishing up County mapping to show effects of sea level rise We'll need to talk with our lawyer about how to communicate this to the public, what we can and can't do
Karin: we toured this area a few years ago, there was concern at that time about peoples' septic systems
Kendra: in this particular section of Mackaye, septic systems are still intact. Road is still there but it's down to one lane. But there are other areas, like Port Stanley, where inundation will make it challenging for systems to operate

10:46 AM • Discussion on how to allocate PSAR Return Funds in San Juan County

Sam Whitridge

Talking with Kat Moore, our grant manager, about the \$316K allotted to that project. We have an option to keep those funds in the region for a salmon recovery project but short window of time because these are 2021 PSAR funds that expire sooner than current round of funding, sooner than a new project would be ready to move them. Need a project that's ready to pounce now and those funds go back to the Partnership. There is an immediate need now with the CD.

We were initially only able to partially fund the initial ask for CD eelgrass project. First step we could take now is to make their project whole, plus additional costs. No other active salmon recovery project has an immediate need

Kendra: Frankie may have an additional need on Weeks Way

Frankie: haven't had a chance to look into it yet but likely we'll need to increase our budget.

Why wasn't cultural resources review study incorporated into original budget? What are concerns from Tribes?

Mitch: These funds are not for cultural review, these are just to complete our original request. The reason the cultural review was unforeseen is because of an extensive request for subtidal archeological surveys to be done for each of our planting sites. These areas have been identified as close to culturally sensitive areas. Federal funding may be able to compensate for some of that. This is in very preliminary planning stages

Frankie: where is your planting site at Jackson beach? Please coordinate with us and our restoration site

MOTION: Dave Checkley moves to approve request for CAG to make CD eelgrass project budget whole, Kendra seconds. Everyone approves, the motion passes

Sam: and for the additional funding, whether it goes to Mitch for CD project or to Frankie for Weeks, I'll just need to complete paperwork for the cost increase form with Kat. It'll need to be allocated pretty soon

Jeff: do these funds need to be in alignment with original grant proposal or can it be supplemental?

Sam: if it's just a cost increase on an existing project because of new expenses, then it's straightforward CAG approval. IF there's a change in the project scope or design, needs to go through TAG for approval.

Jeff: other projects from last year are going ok?

Sam: Sorenson project has had a lot of additional archeological costs, still no exact amount request ready. Nothing else imminent in terms of extra costs from Tina or Friends.

10:59 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 7, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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 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)

[+1 360-726-3293,746888859#](tel:+13607263293746888859) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons 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>Review meeting agenda – All Approve MRC February meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC February Meeting Report to the MRC– Christina Koons</p>
9:20 AM	<p>Presentation on proposed kelp farm pilot project- Linda Degnan Cobos, Director- Slow Food Land and Sea</p>
9:45 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC interest in restarting kelp kayak monitoring program- <i>Sam Whitridge/Brian Goodremont</i> • Update on ERTV subcommittee work- <i>Sam Whitridge/Subcommittee Members</i> • State of the San Juan County MSA, peer review process- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • MRC Membership-upcoming vacancies - <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Reschedule July MRC meeting date- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:45 AM	Presentation on Bellingham Bay MTCA clean-up and eelgrass harvest effort- <i>Jason Stutes, Iain Wingard</i>
11:05 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
11:10 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
11:10 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SRFB Letter of Interest Review- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● Planning for May 1-2 Site Visits- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● PSAR Cost Increase Requests- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
11:20 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting/Convene LIO Meeting
11:20 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> ● LIO Visioning Process Update- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● PSP Strategic Funding Team Opportunities- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> ● Upcoming Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) Request for Proposals- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● Results from National Science Foundation Puget Sound Research Study- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Kailey Genther, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Gina Austin, Carolyn Carlstrom, Audrey Coyne, Tyler Davis, Linda Degnan Cobos, Mark Donahue, Sage Enright, Ann Howell-Adams, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Craig Mueller, Mike Ramsey, Frances Robertson, Giselle Sassen, Kendra Smith, Chris Springer, Jason Stutes, Sean Wilson, Sam Whitridge, Iain Wingard, Cindy Wolf, Jennifer Wynkoop

9:01 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

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 has been passed down from generation to generation.

9:02 AM **Introductions** around both the physical and virtual rooms

9:07 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:08 AM **Review meeting agenda, Approve MRC February meeting minutes**

MRC members

No additions or edits to today's agenda. No changes or edits to the February minutes.

MOTION: all in favor of approving the minutes, none opposed. The February MRC minutes are approved

9:09 AM **NWSC February Meeting Report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

A rep from Patty Murray's office attended and gave some news, the NWS is kicking off a DEI assessment and Christina will participate, the 2023 impact report was released last week – Christina will make sure MRC gets a copy. Next conference will be November 15-16 in Snohomish, seeking people to serve on planning committee. May -16-17 is Puget Sound Day on the Hill. The NWSC approved adding a second Tribal seat. A new funding tool online.

9:14 AM **Presentation on proposed kelp farm pilot project**

Linda Degnan Cobos

Linda introduces colleagues Sean Wilson, Mark Donahue. We've had a project garden at the local school for past decade. Now looking for a local site for a kelp project in part of Jackson Bay – Sean is a landowner there.

We're looking for a site that already had DNR permitting. Sean is also interested in regenerative programs

Sean: I like the idea of lessening our impact on the world by growing kelp, specifically interested in

Mark: I applied for aquatic farm permit for seaweed in 2015 and shot down. I've been involved in Alaska shellfish aquaculture. It's a misnomer that our plans are industrial, more restoration minded. I've been helping with seasonal strings and growth. I'd like to see this as a demonstration project at Jackson beach.

Linda: We attended a Seagrant training - learned that kelp forests have been disappearing all along west coast. In the Salish sea, Samish and some others are looking at kelp, trying to map out historic and present kelp beds. In our Seagrant training, learned about permitting necessary due to multiple interests, how to apply for a JARPA permit. Kelp can sequester carbon, improve habitat and increase oxygen, decrease acidification. There's a group that's helping establish kelp farmers, they have plans available online for creating a small container lab, we're interested in exploring that. Aim to put in on the other side of where the barge-launching operation goes. We're making connections with the different agencies we need to get in touch with, creating a business plan. After harvesting, want to use kelp in soil amendment for agriculture. There's a market for it, it helps plants grow, great for mulch. Following Seagrant training, developed a WA seaweed collaborative, meet quarterly, the membership is 300 people, includes connections with consumers who want to use kelp as a crop amendment.

Mark: research from Maine shows thicker mussel shells inside kelp farms vs. outside. Hope this can be an oasis for of improved habitat. Also, there are techniques to avoid entanglement from marine mammals, that's a top priority.

Linda describes kelp operation: a couple of anchors (a helical screw instead of concrete) and then series of a few vertical and horizontal lines, weights added once kelp begins to grow; the only appearance at the surface is buoys. There's support from Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Seagrant, and similar efforts on Lummi and Hood Canal. We're talking with various entities, trying to move it all forward simultaneously and we wanted to make this group aware.

QUESTIONS

Craig Smith: how much is this mimicking the ephemeral nature of kelp beds? And when you're selling carbon sequestration, must consider the scale needed to affect it and how that would affect the marine ecosystems. AND about idea of use as fertilizer, then it's not going to store carbon because it'll go into respiration, but can it replace very fuel-intensive fertilizing alternatives?

Linda: the area we're talking about is Jackson Beach, old charts show kelp beds there. The psori we're going to take will be local so we have the best chance of preserving local genetic divert and survival. As far as using kelp as crop amendment, there's a lot of research on how they benefit crops, various methods. It can replace fertilizers, doesn't sequester carbon, but grows fast and gets consumed fast so it gets integrated in the food chain. Not trying for carbon credits but will be a benefit. Linda points to more research on benefits of kelp as a crop/soil amendment. Kelp is a filter feeder, benefits surrounding shellfish, when there are too many nutrients and acidification it can improve habitat, we'll be growing it, harvesting it and then it'll produce more spores and we'll re-grow

ACTION: Linda can provide that research to Craig

Sean: as far as not having an effect if it's not large scale, I think you can start small and be an example. If we can make it cost-effective and duplicable, and then we can find historical kelp bed locations and replant, that'll be great.

As far as the crop supplements go, having them for cattle and livestock, so we either eat less cows or else feed them something that produces less methane, maybe we'd only make enough for local cows

Craig: when you talk about sequestration you need to consider what it means at scale even if you start locally

Cindy: Mark, you may remember that we worked together on the idea of kelp at Orcas back in 2019. That was left in the permitting process. So does this JARPA take you through Tribal consultation?

Linda: we're doing outreach on that now. Looking at who has domain – Lummi, Tulalip...total of 14 tribes. Making contacts in the different Tribes and nations to hear concerns, check interests in partnering, etc. We're talking to Frankie as a resource. Starting small and not bite off more than we can chew and then scale up

Frankie: we're not talking about the Public Works part of Jackson beach, we're talking about a cove to the east, be aware there is eelgrass between those two points (and some specific advice about approaching Lummi)

Kendra: you should ask advice of Council, there's a lot of activity down there, existing barge landing and they're trying to pursue a hardened barge landing, and a large amount of restoration work

Question to Cindy, should this body make a recommendation to Council? Share what's going on and get direction? We as staff should know how to advise them and how frequency of barge landings gets considered.

Cindy: makes sense to get authorization from Council to use some county resources for some research into this.

MOTION: Lovel moves we request staff coordinate with Council regarding all the different work proposed and the partners proposing the work at Jackson beach and come up with a management plan. Sandy seconds, no further discussion, all in favor, none opposed. The motion carries.

9:55 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• MRC interest in restarting kelp kayak monitoring program *Sam Whitridge/Brian Goodremont*

Some discussion over last few weeks about NWSC kelp kayak initiative, Phil Green was the lead for some years and program stopped partly due to amount of kelp in the SJI's. And Samish is doing some research on kelp as well.

Now Brian and Jeff are both interested and ready to relaunch the program. We'd need to think about what we hope to achieve. Coordinate with Samish to understand where they're monitoring

Brian: I'm happy to be part of restarting this, I just don't know all the details about what's already being done so didn't want to start something that would be redundant or that wouldn't be helpful. Happy to restart with Jeff

Frankie: I suggest coordination with Samish nation and DNR to identify sites that would be helpful to them for you to monitor. Intensive monitoring at some sites rather than wide net would likely add/contribute to what's going on Phil was only doing this at one small site to monitor the impacts of development at Deer Harbor (the bridge there)

Kari: years ago, we talked about doing a citizen science thing using commercial kayak groups, we've done that before on the west side of SJI. If we were doing a comprehensive area maybe other companies would also want to get involved as a community service work. That was part of KELP (Kayak education and leadership Program)

Kailey: are surveys counting species?

Frankie: it's percent cover and then some specific protocol from NWS that would be followed

Aaron: can we get a short description of what the past efforts looked like on the ground?

Sam: it was really just focused around Deer Harbor looking at any silting impacts around there. Just 2-3 sites near there. Can vary in terms of timing. We could tailor it to sites and the frequency of monitoring

Brian: paraphrasing Phil, he said the survey he was doing represented less than 1% of kelp in SJC

ACTION: Sam will connect partners in the structure, make sure Jeff Whitty and the Samish are partnered up

Brian: and I'm happy to engage some of the other companies like you suggested

Dave: any aerial surveys done?

Kendra: good question, we're trying

Cindy: on the eelgrass, there was a presentation from the Samish at the ECB of drone aerials for eelgrass

Dave: I thought data existed of aerial views, getting a true picture of kelp beds might require an effort of that scale

Sam: it would be mapping perimeter of kelp, getting temperature, depth, condition of kelp and other observations

Craig: the State is doing aerial surveys; kayak surveys are coordinated and designed to ground-truth what they see

Kari: it's also a matter of getting community members involved and therefore more proactive

Kendra: Phil was concerned it wasn't integrated into larger picture, before effort from Dana Oster and DNR/Samish

Now we have a better idea of where to look and a mechanism to get that data back to NWS

Beth: DNR has a new interactive map for floating kelp, looks like they have data from 2022 but not necessarily every site. They have comparison data from different years, can see extent over different years, etc. - interactive map

Sam: we just needed general head-nods of support

Kari: one last big piece of kelp news is next May 4-9, 2025 is the international kelp conference (<https://iss25.com/>)

Sydney has a group called Cascadia Sydney doing something similar to what Linda and Sean and Mark just proposed

10:11 AM • Update on ERTV subcommittee work

Sam Whitridge/subcommittee members

Subcommittee has sent some questions to Brian Kirk at Ecology through Kendra to confirm some data in their analysis. We've discussed in the subcommittee and decided to keep it high level, just confirm data we need to move forward with the ERTV rather than get down into the weeds picking apart the report. Sent requests to Brian Kirk just for data concerning the risk reduction for Sidney and Roche Harbor. Once we get that, we'll move forward.

Level: Brian assured me they'd be responsive

Cindy: I took that one-pager to Cantwell's office and representative Larsen. Cantwell's office is preoccupied with trying to get NOAA instituted as a statutory agency. Then they'll move on to the coast guard authorization.

Level: My coworker Shannon Davis and can promote that one-pager as well, is that available for others to use?

Kendra: yes, we also have a simpler 3-bullet one-pager

Cindy: I also have a tone-policed version

Craig: moving on to the next step, we still need Ecology to respond, but still need a peer review from a competent group. That may require some funding. That could come from the MRC or other outside organization

Christina: why didn't Ecology do a peer review?

Craig: their response was that it was deemed inappropriate for peer review because was based on assumptions.

Kailey: have we been in communication with Canada?

Cindy: yes the Trans Boundary Caucus, the ECB facilitate that, they're aware, Transport Canada is aware

Level: a separate process through the Ocean Protection plan that Transport Canada is doing to look at need for emergency towing vessels. Ships calling into port pay for the Neah Bay tug, we'd need funding from Canada for this

Christina: interest from other MRC's, if there's information I can present at the next NWSC meeting I'm willing

Kendra: refers to data collected by Marta that could be shared with the Canadians

Cindy: the MRC connection is important for getting more traction with Cantwell's office

- It was Patty Murray that was instrumental in setting up MRCs

Cindy: if we could get MRC's interested for Puget Sound Day on the Hill, put this forward with our priorities

Murray has been instrumental in setting up MRC's, and Cantwell has been making big efforts in oil spill prevention

Craig: we should think more flexibly about the funding model; not just consider Canada but also shipping industry

Level: all the MRC members got the survey from Sasha Horst – if not, can Sam re-forward

ACTION ITEM: Sam will reforward the survey, it's not too late to complete it

10:26 AM • State of the San Juan County MSA, peer review process

Frances Robertson

Frankie sent the MSA out to everyone who had participating in MMW's in 2020 and 2023, shared link to the report and requested review. Hope to get those back by end of April, it went out to about 80 people and received a few responses. Sam also sent the link to the latest version along with agenda to this meeting last week.

Kendra: just to add that at some point this body needs to send that report up to Council for acceptance so the MSA plan is in the county code and it's tied into the shoreline management plan

Frankie: we plan to provide 2 months for review, and then incorporate reviews into appendices at back of report to provide transparency, that's how they did it with the 2007 MSA plan

ACTION ITEM: look at June for making a motion to move that up to Council

10:30 AM • MRC Membership – upcoming vacancies

Sam Whitridge

Check in on membership, terms expire in June for MRC members. Sam shares MRC membership on SJC website.

Terms that expire are Jeff, Kailey, Lovel, and Beth. Those are all first terms so those members are eligible to serve another term. People should let Sam know what they decide. Jeff is ready to step off. He's the only one from Lopez

Frankie: Jeff may have recommendations on others from Lopez

Sam: Technically Patti Gobin's seat has expired, she's had two terms. But how do we handle tribal engagement?

Obviously Patti just speaks for Tulalip and not all tribes. Technically seat is vacant. How to recruit Tribal members?

Cindy: could we approach the NW Indian Fisheries Commission about a representative?

Sam: we've interviewed some folks we can circle back to

Dave: there is an individual at WWU, Scripps graduate, Samish tribe member and marine scientist -Marco Hatch

Kari: how can we rewrite the rules so that there are no term limits and welcome more Tribal participation

Cindy: the two terms has been consistent, for LTAC we needed a Council vote to change that

Frankie: I would argue for the tribal position not having two-term limit.

Level: if SJC are serious about having one-to-one relations with Tribes, it would make sense to have a different type of membership on the MRC, not appropriate same type of representation with Nations

Kendra: we also have ties to the NWSC and some of their requirements, same with LIO, CAG, and SWAC.

Cindy: let's put together a memo for Amy, when she gets to the MRC let's discuss. Every committee has its own foundational document and code, Amy is working to establish a unifying code

Kari: with 14 diff tribes having UNA in the marine environment, that makes MRC different from other committees

- Cindy points out some other ways a uniform ordinance wouldn't apply to all advisory committees

10:44 AM • Reschedule July MRC meeting date

Sam Whitridge

Reschedule for July 10th Wednesday

10:45 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

GICU (Great Island Clean Up) Saturday April 20th

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott/Kari Koski

The turn in event applications are going well, we have a plan with DNR to move through as many boats as we can.

Request from the MRC: we want video from the event!

Kari: NWSC is excited, working on some storyboarding and outreach. Reminder that official turn in dates will be April 1-15, but contract dates start mid-March so can start earlier with boats that are on-site

o other subcommittee updates

Frankie: for those involved in boat counts, please remember to go out on days like today for off season counts

ACTION: Frankie will send out reminder about that with the link to the form for boat counting

10:49 AM **Bellingham Bay MTCA clean-up and eelgrass harvest effort** *Jason Stutes and Iain Wingard*

Iain and Jason introduce themselves. Colleagues from Landau associates are here as well - Jennifer Wynkoop, Gina Austin, and Carolyn Carlstrom.

The Cornwall Avenue Landfill and Salish Landing Park Project is large, an opportunity for eelgrass harvest and reuse. Beth Tate suggested this presentation to see if this group has ideas about how to reuse the eelgrass. This site is just south of Bellingham. Project proponents are the Port and City of Bellingham, we're helping to make it happen.

We'll talk about the eelgrass that's available and discuss some considerations for harvest and reuse. This material is from a couple of cleanup sites. Discuss project timeline and possible next steps for follow-up.

Project overview, 3 elements: Haley site cleanup, Cornwall Avenue cleanup, and Construction of Salish landing park.

All three elements constructed under one contract, project will impact existing eelgrass and mitigation is required. Focus here is opportunity to harvest and use the eelgrass prior to being impacted. Cornwall Ave site was historically used for lumber operation and solid waste disposal. There's debris and contaminants from past activities. This site is undergoing cleanup with oversight from Ecology. The Cornwall site is at the south end of the project area. The Haley site was used for lumber activities and wood treatment. Iain reviews some of the chemical compounds present

Salish landing park project will be constructed over top of the clean-up sites after they're capped. First phase will be implemented as part of the city's park master plan, public shoreline access, habitat improvement and amenities.

The project status and progress guided by the cleanup process, permits submitted and under review now. Ecology is reviewing design and we're talking to various entities about possible harvest and use of the eelgrass. Existing eelgrass in Cornwall project (shown in map), eelgrass used to plant the Cornwall site will come from the Haley site. Source of eelgrass transplants will be surrounding populations in Bellingham Bay. As part of the Salish park area, there's an additional 600 ft of e.g. available for use. Impacts mitigated under the combined cleanup/park project. Jason reviews the areas in acres that will be capped and the eelgrass shoots available (see in presentation).

Eelgrass mitigation areas for eelgrass restoration are created in the design. Change in bathymetry from capping process, overlay will create a habitat bench suitable for eelgrass growth. Project sequencing and construction date will impact when eelgrass can be harvested. Vast majority of eelgrass at Haley will still be available, only small amount going to Cornwall. Because it's a remediation site divers will need to be OSHA HAZWOPER, process developed to decontaminate both divers and eelgrass. After that, eelgrass can be handled by volunteers. Harvesting can't impede construction timeline. We assume harvesters will take from remediation site and transport to reuse sites.

We did a literature review to examine the question of whether it was safe to replant this eelgrass given potential contamination. Jason reviews results of literature review, finding low concentrations of substances like metals and PCB's in Puget Sound. Conclusions were that uptake can be limited by low lipid concentration in eelgrass tissues. We've reached out to a list of entities that may benefit from reuse of eelgrass material, maybe in the San Juans.

There'll be approx. 700,000 shoots available. We want to hear concerns about risks, timeline and how to coordinate between large projects, how to codify, and how to come up with some possible next steps

QUESTIONS

Kendra: you couldn't find enough sites in the Bellingham area to use all these shoots?

Jason: sites in Bellingham are small and can't reuse all the shoots. Some are contaminated and need remediation

Gina: and timing needs to be correct. We're looking for shovel-ready projects that are already funded. Part of the cost of those project are often harvesting eelgrass material for transplant

Kendra: so not paying, you want projects already paying for restoration work that can use this material "free"

Craig: how efficient is sediment removal to get the contaminants from the eelgrass? Are these rhizomes/shoots?

Jason: these would be as intact as possible rhizomes with intact shoots, we'll do initial, secondary and tertiary pass

Gina: the contaminant removal is very effective, should remove all the sediment

Dave: what's the success rate of transplants?

Jason: depends on site selection and how material is handled. It's disruptive, ensure not to overheat or desiccate, keep in flowing water can optimize success. We've had a success rate of up to 70% after 3 years, describes method

Dave: best density for success?

Jason: can't plant at same density that it grows, plant in a unit of varying density in one bundle, Jason discusses the considerations for morphology, resource availability etc. for transplanting

Beth: I've been involved, connecting the cleanup team with CD and Jeff Gaeckle, who has a general permit to do eelgrass restoration in Puget Sound. The CD has been working with seeds recently but this is an unprecedented opportunity to have many shoots available, it's a reason to try transplanting. As for genetic variability; it seems like there's a line for the north sound and these shoots are likely to be successful here, not a totally foreign stock. I wanted to introduce this project to the MRC and the CD is here as well to make connections. This is a huge amount of eelgrass. Monitoring progress to this area could take up to a decade. If that restoration work is successful, we'll have a big lift in amount of eelgrass available in Puget sound. if we can't use it, 3.5 acres of eelgrass gets destroyed. One opportunity could be to harvest the seed heads and get those into restoration even if can't handle the shoots. One question is about the knowledge on the toxicity of the seeds, because they have a higher lipid content

Jason: we don't know, nobody has looked at it, that would be an interesting research topic. Most of Puget Sound has some contaminant levels. Already a lot of information available at these sites

Kendra: are shoots largely healthy and don't have eelgrass wasting disease?

Jason: observational data shows morphology of grass differs with depth. At Haley, low evidence of disease

Craig: about the metals, it would be important to do some analyses of the heavy metals in the eelgrass you're distributing. Since they seem to accumulate, could this get passed up the food web in eelgrass beds?

Jason: speaking from conjecture, most seagrass not primarily consumed, enters through detrital pathway, particles that deposit feeders ingest. Need to go from primary consumers to secondary. No direct studies that I know of.

Kendra: timing is the biggest issue. Spring would be the best time right before starts doing the season.

Paul: We're targeting 6-10 restoration sites largely through seeding due to costs and efficiency but if these shoots are available ideally we could put them in embayments and study and monitor. We've been asking about toxicity etc. We've been working with Jeff Gaeckle and DNR. With a site like Westcott Bay, total remediation would be needed and it would likely be a wasted to transplant there. We want to avoid transplanting into areas where there's loss like the intertidal so that means the deep edge which means divers. We'd need more funding to be able to employ divers and boats, we'd like to be able to do this but conversation needs to continue.

Jason: because these are Ecology remediation sites I'd approach them to look at seed funding to investigate that.

Gina: It would be that expensive to do some analysis of the grass that's there and do some analysis of contaminants

Paul: We have a list of sites we're working on now and going through a review, not necessarily all shovel-ready

Cindy: at the ECB meeting when they identified the sub-basins of interest, they didn't pick SJC and I raised questions about that, that resulted in an invitation to talk with DNR more about eelgrass projects here.

I wonder if this offer is an opportunity for some kind of cooperative project, maybe even something experimental.

ACTION: Iain will send this presentation to Sam to distribute. We'll discuss further with eelgrass subcommittee.

11:33 AM Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG Meeting

11:33 AM CAG Meeting

- SRFB Letter of Interest Review

Sam Whitridge

First TAG meeting yesterday afternoon, discussed approach with sponsors.

ACTION: Sam will send Letters of Interest (LoI's) to the CAG so they know what's out there

Full proposals due April 17, two weeks before sites visits May 1-2. MRC/CAG members invited to see sites firsthand

11:34 AM • PSAR Cost Increase Requests

Sam Whitridge

In both SRFB and PSAR funds, we have more money requested than available. Plus return funds coming back from the Agate Beach project. We received two cost increase requests for that money, the Weeks Way and the eelgrass project which requested an additional 108K. TAG voted to fund the Weeks Way project for another \$20K, and not for additional funds to the eelgrass project at this point. We do have the opportunity to put those funds into the current grant round; that's what the TAG wants to do and use those funds for our current project list. If they end up not being needed, we can revisit active projects and cost increase requests

11:36 AM • another update related to Puget Sound Day on the Hill: This is Puget Sound Partnership's annual event in May. They're requesting support on letters from lead entities, MRC's and LIO's on appropriation.

Opportunity for our MRC/CAG to sign on to these budget request letters, need to be sent off by March 11th

Cindy: I'm taking this before Council, but also ask for the Local Lead entity to sign off. Sam will send this out for review, three elements to the initiative, and the appropriation for the NWS Marine Conservation Initiative

MOTION: Craig moves to sign off on these appropriations, Beth seconds, all in favor. Approved

Craig: will any of that money trickle down here?

Sam: yes, to our local salmon funding board allocation and a few of these other items are also related to our work

11:40 AM Adjourn CAG Meeting



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 4th, 2024
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

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)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the San Juan County Beaverton Valley Operations Center, at 1609 Beaverton Valley Rd. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC March meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024-2025 San Juan MRC One-Time Grant Program (OTGP) amendment updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Opportunistic Vessel Surveys 2024- <i>Sam Whitridge/Frances Robertson</i> • 2024 green crab molt search: MRC volunteer opportunities- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Update on Kelp Kayak Monitoring-<i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Membership 2nd term renewals- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Maritime Heritage Grants- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ ERTV/Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Sam Whitridge</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
9:50 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
9:55 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
9:55 AM	CAG Updates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery Site Visits are scheduled for May 1-2</i>
10:00 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> ● On-site Sewage (OSS) workshops: May 8th and May 10th- <i>Katie Johnson/Sam Whitridge</i> ● Habitat SIL Funding Opportunities -<i>Sam Whitridge</i>
10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjourn LIO Meeting
10:30 AM- 12:00 PM	MRC Field Trip to Derelict Vessel Turn-In Event Media Day- 1293 Turn Point Rd, Friday Harbor

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Craig Smith, Kim Sundberg, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria
Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Caitlyn Blair, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Jason Lim, Frances Robertson, Alex Simpson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty, Cindy Wolf

9:00 AM Convene MRC meeting

Christina Koons

Christina and MRC staff are together in the Beaverton Valley County office.

9:01 AM Public Comment

Marta Green

Action is driven by tragedy, like recent event with the ship in Baltimore. I ask this committee to take additional action with the County to communicate what we know about the need for and ERTV and reducing risk. Must put pressure on Ecology for analysis and to provide cost for tug escorts. Comparing those costs with cost of the ERTV is another data point to show ERTV cost effectiveness. This is a good time before shock of that incident fades. Let's get this information out with the real data from Ecology's report. We created a one-page fact sheet in preparation for Cindy's travel to DC in February. It wasn't widely distributed, wanted to wait for the corrected risk reduction values in Ecology's report. Or would this committee prefer to go out with what we have now?

Kendra: I'll send a follow-up email to Ecology to ask when we can expect comments back on clarifications.

Marta: yes, and to let them know that we're preparing to put out further communications.

Jeff: about the cost of tug escorts, Foss's cost spreadsheets are available online. Going up Rosario is expensive.

-some discussion of the use of generators on big ships, particularly during docking and undocking procedures

Craig: The fact sheet should be reviewed and approved by MRC; we should just notify Ecology we're sending it out

Marta: it was reviewed and approved by subcommittee. If we heard back from Ecology, could remove footnotes

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will send request to Brian at Ecology for timeline. Then send out fact sheet to MRC

-the fact sheet originates with Marta; Cindy edited a version to use with legislators.

Sam: ERTV subcommittee should approve that version, and then MRC as a whole before we send out more broadly

9:23 AM Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC March meeting minutes

MRC members

Craig proposes to strike question about kelp nutrient limitation attributed to him; change 'Trans Canada' to Transport Canada; and replace reference to the 'focus on the Victoria ERTV' with Sidney and Roche Harbor.

MOTION: Kailey moves to approve the minutes with proposed changes, Karin seconds. All in favor, approved.

9:26 AM NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC

Christina Koons

Good coverage of GICU event coming up in SJI's. Announced shellfish event in Quilcene in Jefferson. May 5th NWSC outreach event at Edmonds Yacht club, everyone welcome. Cecilia Gobin gave a great presentation to a combined Jefferson/Clallam MRC meeting, we could invite her to give it here too. Puget Sound Day on the Hill May 16-17, several people from the Commission will attend. New member to the science advisory committee, Anne Boudreau

9:28 AM MRC Updates/Business

Reminder: we have a field trip today and plan to adjourn by 10:30 AM. Great opportunity to show up for this event

- 2024-2025 San Juan MRC One-Time Grant Program (OTGP) amendment updates

Sam Whitridge

Working to amend this grant with Sasha Horst. Originally intended for vessel survey and impact work

Frankie: we're contracting with a company that general does aerial surveys for marine mammals. Kick off Memorial Day weekend, then Saturday July 6, Labor Day weekend and two other July/August dates. Just finishing scope of

work, working with scientists at Marine mammal lab about using satellite images to compare with aerial survey data.

- Opportunistic Vessel Surveys 2024

Sam Whitridge/Frances Robertson

Christina: I suggest Buck Bay as an additional place to do surveys, so much going on. Could we set up cameras?

Frankie: we can work with Ally to add that site. The sporadic opportunistic counts really capture those moments. Changing days and timing helps. We should talk to State Parks, they were planning to put out cameras at some sites

Kendra: we'll check in with Public Works for time lapse camera, we've done that before in Deer Harbor

Craig: time-consuming to extract data from time elapse video it may be better for analysis to get a single count daily

Jeff: for Lopez, Spencer spit and Hunter Bay are the biggest spots. Hunter Bay right next to Mud Bay public dock

Frankie: is there a commitment from MRC members to do boat counts on respective islands?

Craig: I can commit to sporadic counts, not specific dates unless that's the request. opportunistic counts are useful?

Frankie: yes, and it would be great to get counts on the same days as aerial surveys so we'll send those dates out

Kailey: I can probably do a few counts back at Bell Point.

Alexandra: we have a protocol, we're in process of updating the online form and it should be ready in a week or so. I can hold a zoom meeting to share step-by-step how to fill out that form if multiple people are interested.

- 2024 green crab molt search: MRC volunteer opportunities

Sam Whitridge

Training dates are coming up, it will be facilitated by Friends of the SJ's, Sam will send out information as available.

'Train the Trainers' event on April 12th in Kingston, you can be trained as a trainer for molt search surveys

- Update on Kelp Kayak monitoring program

Sam Whitridge

Jeff Whitty is here. We've explored restarting the San Juans Kelp Kayak monitoring program. Brian was spearheading, discussed setting up a meeting to address priorities with Samish and DNR. But now Brian unavailable, is there still interest? Can anyone take on next steps in planning? We'd need some commitment from volunteers

Jeff: There would be use for additional data in certain areas. We'd support you in any way you could move forward.

Craig: There are other kayak companies. I spoke with Ben Henkel from Seaquest about participating with Kayakers in the GICU, maybe they'd be willing to incorporate surveys into their tours

Jeff: most MRC's take experienced kayakers for safety reasons. We can go over the training on the protocol with you one on one, and we have a kayak kick off on May 1 and a safety course we're hoping to offer.

Christina: can it be any kind of boat, like rowboat?

Jeff: people use SUP's, but rowboats may not be quite as maneuverable. We can discuss options

Sam: we'll hold off on this until we have more of a commitment or until Brian's circumstances change. We'll revisit

- MRC Membership 2nd term renewals

Sam Whitridge

Reminder that a few (Beth, Jeff, Kailey, and Lovel) are up for a second term, let Sam know if you plan to renew.

Beth plans to renew!

- Maritime Heritage Grants

Sam Whitridge

Small grant opportunity open, \$150K total for a max of \$15K per applicant for projects to strengthen and maintain WA's maritime heritage, that educate and tell stories of the maritime and marine environment. Interpretation and signage, etc. We've discussed renewing signage at Cattle Point so I wanted to float that as a possibility.

Tyler: \$15K won't go far, we may get a couple signs. But it won't address the face lift for the building, and I think those things need to go hand in hand. Our trouble in past has been using County funds to support DNR space

-some discussion of costs, possible matching funds, costs of installation (requires some concrete)

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will follow up with some details about a similar thing got done recently at Orcas Landing
Cindy: the LTAC fund issue with Cattle Point came from the requirement that it to be a publicly owned property
Sam: we'll look into that application, it's due early May. Shouldn't be too big of a lift

9:55 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

GICU (Great Island Clean Up) happening Saturday April 20th

Clean-up efforts on main ferry serviced islands and then pick up Monday planned from non-ferry served, like Yellow. Celebration at the brewery afterwards with screen-printing on T-shirts from Alchemy

And, UW FHL Open House on May 18th, we'll have a MRC booth, need volunteers to man it

Note – on the Friends website, there's not enough information about exactly where/when to pick up and drop off

ACTION ITEM: Katie will touch base with Friends about that, pick up and drop off are both at the Brewery

Level: Katie - let me know what updates are needed. I'll be at the brewery with games!

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott

It's going better than we planned, agencies working together. crushed 14 boats so far. We're excited it's getting so much press attention. If it's an annual event it can become known in the boating community.

Christina: at the event we'll film a thank you for Patty Murray, wouldn't have been able to do this without her help

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson

We had a subcommittee planning meeting at the Beaverton Valley space, we're working on a draft. Also, noticed many construction sites have garbage/recycling debris from building site. I reached out to Health dept about it. There's no specific county ordinance that requires a bin.

Kendra: that's also a n issue for boat-wrapping with plastic, agricultural plastics. Quite a few big sources. Some things we still haven't gotten to with the comp plan etc., but we hope to get at. Provision for a no-plastic erosion control used for fencing. Need to specify that can't be used in islands, it's on our to-do list to let regulators know.

10:04 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:04 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG Meeting**

10:05 AM **CAG Updates**

• *No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery Site Visits are scheduled for May 1-2*

Site visits will be two days, all vehicle and ferry based. All invited to attend. Day 1 – SJI, Day 2 – start on Orcas (2 sites) finish with 1 site on Lopez. Sam will send out draft agenda. Encouraged to carpool in personal cars but also a County van. Site visits are in lieu of our regular MRC meeting. Next regular meeting in June

Kailey: ok if you can only attend for one day or part of a day?

Sam: yes, do your best, it's a long commitment. But great if folks can attend given MRC's role in final evaluation

Jeff: when will you send out the project proposals?

Sam: they're due April 17, two weeks before site visits. We don't have those yet, but I'll send them soon as we do

ACTION: Sam will share the one-page letters of interest – start thinking about those, and stay tuned for more info

10:08 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 6th, 2024
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)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

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	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC April meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons/Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Membership Renewals/Interview planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Liaison to the Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Youth Membership Idea- <i>Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria</i> • Update on Vessel Surveys- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Oil Spill Related Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ F/V Chief Joseph Sinking- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Board of Pilotage decision around geographic area for tug escort rulemaking- <i>Cindy Wolf</i> ○ Update on Transmountain Pipeline Expansion Project- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ ERTV/Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Sam Whitridge</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
	CAG Updates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery proposal scoring/ranking will occur at July and August meetings.</i>
	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:30 AM	Presentation: Oil Spill Progress Indicators- <i>Laura Vary, Puget Sound Partnership</i>
11:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> • On-site Sewage (OSS) workshop follow-up- <i>Katie Johnson</i>
11:30 AM	Presentation: Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead partnership- <i>Colin Hume, Dept of Ecology; Libby Gier, Dept of Ecology; Kayla Seaforth, Bonneville Environmental Foundation</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Libby Gier, Marta Green, Colin Hume, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Dana Oster, Jessica Owens, Laura Pitts, Michelle Quast, Frances Robertson, Kayla Seaforth, Elaina Thompson, Laura Vary, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty, Cindy Wolf

9:03 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

9:01 AM **Public Comment**

Marta Green

Need to review events from Tuesday of this week. Officials from the Coast Guard and Ecology spill program met with County Council following Chief Joseph boat sinking and discussion of that recovery. IOSA provided a good update of progress they're making. Not many people knew about this opportunity to meet. ERTV work was not included on a list of accomplishments, but Cindy did a good job of bringing it up. This is after Ecology's report with an incorrect analysis. Concerned about apathy around this issue. Need to make people aware of the true risk reduction values. Need more awareness about the program for derelict vessels and the ERTV conversation. Sam: thank you Marta, this was a missed opportunity, our department wasn't aware this was happening until after the fact. We do have the recording from Tuesday, it has been sent to the oil spill prevention subcommittee.

Here is the recording of that meeting, <https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2616/media>

Cindy: I'm moving on in December, staff needs to be the institutional memory for this. This is an annual meeting organized by Brendan Cowan along with the Chair. I've tried to make a point of including Environmental Stewardship. I encourage a strong communication with Brendan to be included. They don't want it to be a big public meeting (although publicly accessible); it's meant to spark candid conversations about emergency response. Christina: it's the MRC's responsibility to advise the County Council, if not given the opportunity to do so we're not fulfilling our role. We could have brought up significant issues. I'd like to call them back for another meeting. Cindy: It would help if MRC sent a note to Council Chair, who will be here next year, to express what you just said

ACTION ITEM: Christina will plan to do so

9:14 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC April meeting minutes**

MRC members

The agenda is approved. MOTION: Kailey moves to approve the April minutes, Dave seconds. All in favor, approved.

9:15 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC**

Christina Koons/KRK

Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Sixty people or more showed up from the NW; it was a big success, shows the process is working. I won't mention smaller items because agenda is so full today, let's move on

9:16 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

This is Jeff Dyer's last meeting. **Many thanks** for years of service and important input. We'll miss you Jeff! Jeff thanks everyone, he's learned a lot. Sam and Lovel mention wanting to continue calling on Jeff's expertise. Christina: and thanks to Katie and everyone else on the annual report

9:20 AM • **MRC Membership Renewals/Interview planning**

Any members willing to serve on interview committee? starts next week. If so, please email Sam directly. And, we have three members (Lovel, Kailey, and Beth) whose terms expire at the end of June and all are interested in a second term. Need approval from MRC for recommendation to Council to renew members.

MOTION: Christina moves to welcome back these three members for a second term, Dave seconds. All in favor. None opposed. The recommendation is approved. Thanks to all three of you for stepping up again!

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out application to fill out and return to Sam, then he'll take it to Council to approve.

9:24 AM • MRC Liaison to the Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Jeff has been our Liaison on this committee

Jeff: There are bimonthly meetings, largely online, contribute as you wish. It's an advisory committee to County Council, agenda mainly focused on the climate element and the action plan in the comp plan. Next meeting late July

Level: I'm interested in volunteering

Sam: anyone else? Or shall we approve Level to serve in that role?

MOTION: Adam moves to approve Level as new MRC Liaison to the CSAC, Dave seconds. All in favor. Thanks, Lovell!

9:27 AM • MRC Youth Membership Idea

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Two young volunteers in the seagrass lab have been discussing a youth position on the MRC. There are seven high schools in the County. We envision an application process for students. Maybe a small video, a couple minutes, to discuss goals and objectives of MRC. I suggest an official subcommittee to discuss this over the summer.

Sam: Some other MRC's have some sort of youth involvement. If we were to do this, we need to carefully consider the structure, how to assist, how to roll this out. Any other interest to serve on a subcommittee to explore this?

Kailey is interested (connections to the High School and a background in education); Brian is also interested

Level: is there anything in bylaws that would prohibit youth from applying?

Cindy: there may be a bylaw requirement for citizen advisory committee that members be voters.

Sam: we plan to be reviewing our bylaws so this is a good time to look at that if we're interested

9:33 AM • Update on Vessel Surveys

Frances Robertson

Surveys started, methodology working well. Focused on anchorages in known eelgrass habitat, at times of highest boat density. Further surveys planned (weather-dependent). Want a better understanding of boat numbers

- Jeff and Frankie brief discussion of AIS data – some uses in the past and possible uses for these data

e.g. a point when a survey showed 50 boats in Fisherman Bay but none were on AIS, boats don't always have it on

One more comment about shore-based counts: several members participating in vessel counts. Frankie will send out aerial survey dates, getting counts on those dates is particularly important but getting data on other dates is great as well. Thanks everyone and thanks to Christina for connecting me with friends at Buck Bay

Kailey: in the app, one field is 'tidal height' – is that meant to be real time, while there? Sometimes bad service

Frankie: yes, at the time of the count. There are some nifty free tide apps as well

Jeff: My coast has a tide graph too

Kari: let's coordinate timing with derelict vessel counts as well!

9:42 AM • Update/Discussion on Fishing Vessel sinking near Henry

Chief Joseph sank early May off Henry, 48' Fishing Vessel. Discussed and reported on in Council meeting Tuesday.

Karin: I still feel there is a lack of transparency between emergency management and some of the responding agencies. Also, Fred Felleman, a Seattle Port Commissioner. He deals with a lot of ports and shipping issues, wrote a recent op ed in Seattle times. We hope in another oil spill we could move the needle a bit more

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/the-tmx-project-this-ship-should-not-have-sailed/>

Cindy: I learned on Tuesday that the Pilot's commission, appointed by Governor, oversees setting rules for mid-size cargo vessels. They voted to confine their rulemaking to a small area right around refineries, around Bellingham and Anacortes. If anyone has information on Pilots' commission or rulemaking process, I'd love more information

Level: There was legislation that established this process. Part of it required tug escorts for smaller boats that aren't required to have escorts by federal regs. Those expanded requirements have been in place in Rosario for a couple of years now. There was a process in place to look at expanding those rules to other parts of Washington. One possible outcome of rulemaking process could also be to rescind the rules put in place in Rosario two years ago. There will be reviews periodically (every 5 years). In an environmental process, they need to consider keeping the status quo but also look at rescinding requirements. One issue is that there are some impacts from additional tug escorts. When in service, their noise is absorbed as part of a 'package' with the vessel they're escorting. That's also being weighed in the environmental rule-making process. Haro and Boundary Passes would require a more complicated process due to transnational waters. It's a complicated process. Ecology and the board of pilot commissioners make these rules together. The same model used for ERTV analysis is being used for this rulemaking

Dave: is noise from ships being adequately considered in these discussions? It wasn't a value in the Ecology model

Level: yes, I believe they're aware of the research and science

Abigail: Quiet Sound program, <https://quietsound.org/program> developed in coordination with both US and Canadian authorities focused on underwater noise pollution, the only one I know of that gets into transboundary marine mammal issues. Lea Shields (NEP) works with a variety of authorities, including Canadian, on addressing transboundary non-point pollution but haven't extended to other pollution sources such as noise.

Marta: current tug escort requirements are shown to have notably reduced oil spill risk by 5-11%. Based on the Ecology ERTV report, the increased tug escort requirements have reduced oil spill risk in Rosario Strait by up to 11%.

Frankie: I believe that Quiet Sound is Puget Sound proper focused – one of the main actions is to implement a shipping slow-down through Puget Sound, mirrored off the Port of Vancouver's ECHO program.

Level: in the future if there's an opportunity to expand these rules into transboundary water ways, we'd want to engage the appropriate folks in Canada in that process. That may be a Puget Sound Partnership conversation. This also raises the importance of the need to be prepared for whale deterrence operations.

Kari: I also wasn't at the Council Meeting Tuesday and would have liked to be informed, I already poked Brendan. There was another boat that went down recently in the Cactus Islands and I wonder if that's been brought up.

Cindy: Brendan just emailed that the Marina has engaged a contractor to remove El Capitan by 6/20.

- Frankie describes some whale deterrence tools and who can use them, very little work done on the efficacy of these tools at keeping killer whales away from a spill event. This area of research is desperately needed. Some information from the recent whale deterrence workshop; volunteers using these methods must be trained

Marta: I believe USCG reported Tuesday that NOAA deterrence personnel were involved in Chief Joseph response.

Kailey: as an MRC, could we all get IOSA training done together? We could work as a committee toward full training

Elaina: <https://www.iosaonline.org/training>, our schedule and how to reach out about training is on our webpage!

Frankie: we were on standby, 1-2 teams were deployed on Sunday during the response. A helicopter was also deployed on Sunday but the SRKW were outside the potentially impacted area by the time it arrived on scene.

Level: update on Transmountain pipeline expansion project, a second pipeline that triples production of dilbit oils. Significantly increases tanker traffic. The way the project was presented there were oil spill prevention measures in place, however prior to completion of the project new considerations for sizes of vessel that will be heading to Asia.

I'm in the process of drafting an email to the Coast Guard that I'll forward to this group. I wish I'd had the opportunity to be at Tuesday's presentation to address spill preparedness. It's really concerning. This is like oily sand that they mix with products to make it able to move through a pipeline, not a lot known about what this product will do if introduced into marine environment but likely to submerge and sink. Greene & Aschoff report, "Oil Spill Assessment Maps of the Central Salish Sea" looked at vessel route maps overlaid with bathymetry data to look at where oil may collect if there were a spill of that kind of product:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0278434322002333>

and associated story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/91bd4f36152f403cb2aae2bb16bcc499>

ACTION ITEM: Lovel will forward her message to the Coast Guard to this committee and copy Council

Cindy: Ecology governed by Dept. of Commerce. Need to look at circumstances under which project was approved

Lovel: this is a Canadian project, they approved and issue the permits. They knew from studies that it would impact SRKW but given what they saw as economic benefits the project was approved. And there is some litigation ongoing, Lummi nation has a legal challenge in Canadian courts regarding their treaty interests.

Cindy: Senator Cantwell made it clear that Canada needs to be a good neighbor on this

Lovel: these tankers only have tug escorts when they're laden, when not still contain volume of propulsion fuel

Dave: did you say that Ecology is responding to Federal Commerce

Cindy: no, State Commerce

- Some discussion about the current Neah Bay rescue tug and how it's funded. When it responds to a vessel in distress, that vessel pays expenses. But it still needs to be funded while it's on standby.

- More discussion about next steps, raising awareness, how to move the needle

Neah Bay Rescue Tug/ERTV interactive map of ERTV call-outs:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/coastalatlant/storymaps/spills/spills_sm.html?&Tab=nt2

10:29 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott, Kari Koski

Kari: good news, there were some updates on the El Capitan. CG, DNR, and Ecology were supportive of helping the West Sound Marina with some shared costs. The Marina has been arranging for boat to be moved by next week.

Adam: we did 14 vessels through the turn-in event and 17 total as part of the program. Average cost per boat was a little over \$4K, about 4x less than if each vessel had been done on its own. We're talking with DNR about doing this again next year. This was their largest turn-in event ever, an efficient use of funds. Increased visibility to the public.

Kari: statistics on what was saved out of land fill: almost 50 tons, mostly recycled (scrap metal, composite plastic)

Dana is here, thanks for support from NW Straits, looks promising for being able to do it again

Dave: will there be a report available to document what you just talked about?

Kari: yes, we're working on that with all the partners, there will be a press release, we want to celebrate it.

Dana: \$4,300/boat. we learned so much from that event, advertising for one in Skagit later this summer!

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

none

10:37 AM **CAG Updates**

• *No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery proposal scoring/ranking will occur at July and August meetings.*

Sam: final proposals at end of June, stay tuned for more information from me, CAG will weigh in later in summer

10:38 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Wednesday July 10th, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

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 on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 228 676 291 399

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9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons 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>Review meeting agenda – All Approve MRC June meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC June Meeting Report to the MRC– Karin Roemers-Kleven</p>
9:20 AM	<p>Presentation: Salish Sea Coastal Climate Resilience Consortium – Chuck Greene, UW Friday Harbor Labs</p>
9:50 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview Committee recommendations to fill MRC vacancies- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Chair and Vice Chair Positions- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Marine Program Intern Introduction- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> • Maritime Heritage Grant for Cattle Point- <i>Katie Johnson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:45 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:50 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:50 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> -Planning for final CAG proposal final scoring and ranking in August
11:10 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting/Convene LIO Meeting
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> • Funding for Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Action Plan Implementation- <i>Katie Johnson</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, David Checkley, Kailey Genther, Christina Koons, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Chuck Greene, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Roan Ontjes-DeGroot, Marisol Ramirez-Buckles, Frances Robertson, Sara da Silva, Kendra Smith, Jeff Thompson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:10 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Introductions around the room

9:13 AM **Coast Salish Acknowledgement**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

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.

9:14 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:14 AM **Review meeting agenda, Approve MRC June meeting minutes**

MRC members

The agenda is approved, no additions. There were no corrections to the June minutes Sam sent out.

MOTION: Sandy moves to approve the June minutes, Dave seconds. All in favor, the June minutes are approved.

9:15 AM **NWSC June Meeting Report to the MRC**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Various MRC's projects discussed, there was a lot of interest in the San Juan County work with derelict vessels. Karin is on the Retreat planning committee for November, we hope to share some accomplishments there too.

9:16 AM **Presentation: *Salish Sea Coastal Climate Resilience Consortium***

Chuck Greene

Last year FHL began a strategic plan for the consortium. Aim to align with UW College of the Environment (COE) on confronting challenges. Seek to build research and education partnerships, expand FHL outreach. New initiatives at FHL, focusing on local and regional scale:

- proposing development of a Salish Sea Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Consortium. Worked with WWU (the project lead) and a number of other partners – the proposal didn't get funded but still working on the idea.
- Working on a COE task force to develop a new professional master's program in environmental sustainability.
- Last September/October 2023 held a Climate Action Speaker series on San Juan Island with the Madrona Institute Local Sustainability Opportunities for FHL campus and beyond include,
 - Electrify our vehicle and vessel fleet. Boats are a significant source of carbon inputs
 - Replacing the RV Kittiwake with a lower carbon alternative, some discussion of good alternative to diesel
 - Eliminate wood burning on campus. This is a significant carbon input to the atmosphere we should reduce
 - Improve our building energy efficiency (better insulation, heat pumps, solar, etc.)
 - Getting involved in OPALCO's tidal power generation project
 - Becoming a community solar provider would while reducing FHL's fire risk (more on this shortly)

FHL has Biological Preserves both on San Juan and Shaw islands, nearly a third of Shaw Island is biological preserve of which UW is meant to be the steward. But no funding for the stewardship/maintenance. (Chuck shows maps).

FHL campus is on the edge of 476 acre preserve. Idea of a fire break between campus buildings and the rest of the forest where solar panels could go, generate not just power for the labs but enough to export to community

There's also Argyle lagoon, False Bay, and Ellis and Cedar Rock preserves on Shaw totaling over 2.5 square miles.

The Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Consortium will have a coastal climate ready workforce Training at FHL; seeking funding to support a 10-week coastal climate resilience program each summer for post-baccalaureate and gradu-

ate students. Two-week professional training followed by 8-week apprenticeship for 15 students to participate, introduced to field methods in coastal and resource management. The non-credit Training Workshop Model at FHL: The first one will be this summer, August 18-31, 2024. This was funded by the CO2 Foundation. Instructors from all over the world, received 49 applicants. 15 students accepted, another 32 will participate remotely (as well as others)

Feedback about how to put together this consortium? need partners beyond FHL that would benefit

QUESTIONS

Q: who else is in the consortium?

Chuck: we had 20 organizations in the proposal to NOAA. A lot of interest

Cindy: NOAA is providing infrastructure-related grants. Could the consortium include local governments and Tribes?

Chuck: we're talking about doing an ocean-based CO2 workshop, in discussion with PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Lab). We have courses set up for 2025, but also looking ahead to 2026.

9:42 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• Interview Committee recommendations to fill MRC vacancies

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

We have two vacancies, Sam and Katie and Aaron and Karin on the interview committee. Based on interviews, the committee is recommending two candidates, Sam sent out their application materials via email. Olivia Graham is still interested and would be great; we liked her previous application a lot last round but had no open seat at that time. We're still having trouble getting island-diversity, we're quite San Juan-heavy. No one from Lopez on the committee, but we've had no Lopez applicants. Maybe Jeff could help with that in future. Now we just have these two open seats that Mike and Olivia will slide into. More open seats in 2025 in a year.

The next step in the process is that we'll need approval from County Council.

Question: Is Jamie Stevens on the invite list for this meeting? He's also quite active as a board member with IOSA.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will make sure he's back on that invite list

MOTION: Sandy moves we put both Mike and Olivia forward for recommendation to council, Dave seconds. All in favor. Now this needs to get on Council agenda – Sam will move it forward, hope to have them in August meeting.

- Meanwhile, Beth, Kailey, and Lovel were all approved by council move forward for second term

9:47 AM • MRC Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Sam Whitridge

Karin and Christina were both appointed in 2023. We're ready for a change, plan to elect a new chair and vice chair next meeting. Anyone can throw their hat in the ring or nominate someone else

9:49 AM • Marine Program Intern Introduction

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

Introducing Roan, our new intern for the summer. We're excited to have them on board

Roan: I'm from Orcas, majoring in environmental science at WWU. Want to learn about stewardship efforts in my community and happy to share any work I do on projects this season. I look forward to attending in person

Sam: we've had our past interns give a short presentation about their experience at the September meeting

9:51 AM • Maritime Heritage Grant for Cattle Point

Katie Johnson

We were awarded \$13K for education and outreach. We have a year for this project, any members interested?

Kailey, Beth were on the previous subcommittee – let's revive that group. Tyler was part of it too

Tyler: we do have some materials queued up and ready to go, great we have this money now to carry it forward

9:53 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

Katie and Roan did a dock talk last Saturday at Roche Harbor, next one on July 20th. Then plan to expand to Orcas and do Westsound August 3rd and 10th. Plans for August 24th but still not sure yet where. We pass out whale

warning flags, talk about Be Whale Wise, pass out flyers for derelict vessel program and try to connect with boaters.

Question: do we have pumpout information, pump don't dump, green boating materials?

Katie: we need to get more. We have a few eelgrass maps from Friends. But nothing about oil spill prevention

Frankie: on July 20th chinook king salmon is opening, and that's also one of our days for the aerial boating survey

Katie: if anyone wants to participate with dock talks that would be great, and the County Fair will be August 15-18th. PFSS will have a booth there, please volunteer at the booth (we'll get you a free pass). Dock talk hours are 10am-3pm. People want to donate (they can donate to Soundwatch or the marine program, not to the County).

9:57am o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott, Kari Koski

The El Capitan was picked up and removed and crushed. That was major for the County. I have some ideas for the Fair for the Derelict Vessel group. Hopefully not too many vessels to retrieve this season, just a lot of outreach.

Q: what were total costs for the El Capitan?

Kari: the marina bore most of the costs together with the vessels' insurance, and then DNR and Coast Guard money for dismantling. Total estimates were around \$1.5 million. Interventions prior to sinking were up to \$20K

Marta: that response for one day to remove the water it was taking on at that time and all the hazardous materials was \$80K, and the estimate we got was over \$400k. DNR couldn't fund that because it's a private marina, not

State-owned aquatic lands. We don't want other private marinas to think they can tap into those funds

Kari: they used the voluntary vessel turn-in for the State (which the State was reluctant to use)

Question: what's the incentive to get to a boat like this before it sinks in future?

Kari: normally there's a clear path of ownership and the owner is responsible. If they don't have the funds, they can take advantage of the voluntary turn-in program, but in this case ownership was unclear. One thing we want to work on this fall is round-tabling with marinas; we'll use this as a case study to not get stuck in this kind of situation

Sam: we've touched on the retreat coming up in November and how each MRC will have a station to present their work, we've talked about having DV work be our station. Kari will you be available and able to assist with that?

Kari: Yes, and I've been in discussion with other MRC's about DV programs and how they can set them up

10:05 o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

We've been meeting monthly, had a successful GICU (Great Island Clean-up) turn out in spring and now planning for our fall clean-up. We want to encourage more people to sign up for beach stewardships

Frankie: I attended the stranding network training a couple weeks ago. It would be good to connect with them because they have volunteers out monitoring beaches so there may be some partnership there

10:07 **Committee member updates and any other business**

- Kailey: I'm working with Sandy to set up a youth position on the MRC. We've been reading through the bylaws and in order to have a youth member we'll need to create something like a petition or letter to Council. According to County Council, members of advisory committees must be over 18 and a legal resident of SJC. We wanted to petition two youth (High school age). They may not be able to attend all meetings during school hours, but they should commit to a certain number of volunteer hours per quarter. And they can bring their ideas to the committee

Cindy: would it be appropriate to ask County Council to change the language so that up to two youth members can be added to any advisory committee? and each committee can decide if those will be voting memberships or not.

It's the bylaws language and we're working on that right now so this would be good timing

Kailey: what would we need to prepare for that?

ACTION ITEM: Kailey will email Cindy to remind her about this

Kailey: our goal is to call out for this in September when school starts, get a commitment for the academic year

- Christina: Patty Murray has requested to meet with MRC's, she's been a huge supporter. She just proposed to reauthorize funding for the NWSC (Northwest Straits Commission). All MRC's are putting together presentations for next week on the 16th at Padilla Bay. We plan to present about the Jackson Beach creosote removal project
 - More discussion of how NWSC and MRC's are funded by NOAA

- Frankie: update on vessel assessment work. We've flown three aerial surveys so far, circle main anchorages around county. Twice as many boats on July 6 as the previous surveys. Flying again July 20, August 3, and Labor Day weekend. Frankie is working to amend contract to get in a seventh survey in September

Karin: when you reported about that to NWSC, Jefferson was very interested in how it was funded.

Question: any special equipment requirements?

Frankie: visual observations, inclinometers. Datalogger with software recording cloud cover, glare, sea state, etc. No specialized aircraft equipment. For insurance purposes hire San Juan airlines, generally not with volunteers.

-more discussion of timing of surveys

Sam: the other program we're using one-time NOAA funding for is the benthic habitat mapping with Gary Greene

- Karin: this brings up the issue of pumpout stations that came up during Covid. If you're seeing twice as many boats on one day in the summer, likely means those resources are stretched thin. Should we investigate this more?

Christina: now there are mobile pumpout services on Sucia

Frankie: State Parks boating program has brought up their pumpout boats, they have funding for us but we don't have the infrastructure to manage those programs. Mobile pumpouts need to go back to the mainland, they can't put that waste into our system here. If there's no mobile pumpout, a boat will need to go to where the service is

Beth: We had a presentation about this a year ago, funding from Parks could be used for salaries/staffing

Frankie: private marinas get support from the State, Roche Harbor has both mobile and shore-based stations. They got overloaded in 2020, Other marinas less so because they only offered pumpout to those moored there. Most private marinas should be offering pumpout systems, that'll be part of our marina roundtable this fall. There are a number of docks whose pumpout systems have failed on Lopez and there are efforts to get the Port to fix them.

- Katie: we just wrapped up spring quarter – please fill in volunteer hours on spreadsheet, send in hours to Katie

- Cindy: the supreme court decision regarding Chevron will affect the EPA

Dave: the funding of the ERTV is basically a tax on vessels. That may be affected by this court's decision as well.

Cindy: PSP groups haven't met since that ruling. EPA won't be reporting on that. Need to find a way for legal analysis

Karin: and other agencies like Public Health etc. will be looking at their jurisdictions. It's a bummer

Cindy: we'll have our work cut out for us with advocacy for legislation

10:32 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting/Convene CAG Meeting**

10:32 AM **CAG Meeting**

Sam Whitridge

- 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Updates

Sam Whitridge

- o Planning for final CAG proposal final scoring and ranking in August

CAG needs to finish scoring by August meeting. TAG scores 85%, remaining 15% by the CAG. Sam will send out materials by email. Everyone needs to review proposals and submit scores to our rankings. The State review panel isn't complete yet so we won't know for another 10 days if all these proposals have been cleared. Once we know, we'll move forward with our evaluation and ranking. A lot of moving parts this year with riparian funding added in. We have a good deal of money to distribute. Sam explains more about the process of ranking.

- discussion of land acquisition as a high priority for its effects on habitat and the environment

Sam will send out the updated Salmon recovery chapter. Our top priority is acquisitions for their protection value. If we have two projects scoring similarly but one involves an acquisition, it will rise higher in the ranking. We have slightly more requested than we have available, but there is room to creatively move things around

10:38 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 1st, 2024
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)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the San Juan County Beaverton Valley Operations Center at 1609 Beaverton Valley Rd in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC July meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:20 AM	Presentation: Northwest Straits Foundation Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearshore Programs- <i>Don Hunger</i> • Derelict Gear and Monitoring- <i>Jason Morgan</i> • Nearshore Programs- <i>Lisa Kaufman</i>
9:55 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update- <i>Kendra Smith</i> • Welcome new MRC Members- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Chair and Vice Chair positions- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSI Conference 2024- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i>○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i>○ ERTV/Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Sam Whitridge</i>○ Other subcommittee updates
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:35 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:35 AM	CAG Agenda – <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Final CAG Scoring and Ranking of 2024 Salmon Recovery/Riparian Funding proposals
11:30 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:30 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i>● On-site Sewage (OSS) funding update- <i>Katie Johnson</i>● Other LIO Updates
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Matt Arata, David Checkley, Kailey Genter, Brian Goodremont, Olivia Graham, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Katherine Dietzman, Fred Felleman, Marta Green, Don Hunger, Katie Johnson, Lisa Kaufman, Jason Lim, Hannah Liss, Kat Moore, Jason Morgan, Frances Robertson, Alexandra Simpson, Kendra Smith, Elaina Thompson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:01 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

Welcome to guests and new members

9:02 AM **Public Comment**

Fred Felleman

We've been separately but jointly pursuing the goal to support an ERTV in San Juan waters. I believe it needs to be in Canada. Traffic the vessel will be serving is bound to Vancouver, and problem with Neah Bay tug is the funding mechanism. The Transmountain pipeline just opened its floodgates and came with a great deal of funding from Canadian government. The question is how to make it happen politically. There is a Canadian group in maritime research about to produce a report similar to work Lovel has been doing; it'll be an official document. It would be great if we had a forum to review this new report and threats to our waters to which we'd invite our representatives. Make it clear what needs to happen to strategically protect our waters, show the risk, and make sure our elected officials know who to talk to. This would be an expedient way to get the tug near the San Juans, but this timing window is short. I'd like the opportunity to further discuss this with the subcommittee

Lovel: thanks for coming and speaking with the MRC. Just to assure you, we're not at cross purposes. We recognize the appropriateness of Canada funding this. You have a great idea with this upcoming report from Clear Seas, I connected them with the Salish sea institute so they can collaborate on transboundary projects. And if appropriate, can we invite non-MRC members with expertise to participate in subcommittees?

Sam: I agree with Lovel, a great next step would be to schedule a subcommittee meeting, include Fred and Marta

9:21 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC July meeting minutes**

MRC members

Everyone approves the meeting agenda. Adam moves to approve the July minutes, David seconds. All approve.

9:22 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC**

Christina Koons/KRK

Meeting in PT last week. Clallam Tribe Shellfish manager talked about work with Dungeness crab all over Salish Sea, trying to understand why some fisheries have collapsed, research and genetic testing among groups to see if there are separate species. Jefferson County MRC gave a talk about aerial imagery and kelp monitoring. Salish Sea institute is producing an emerging issues series, <https://salishsea.wvu.edu/emerging-issues-salish-sea-series>. Retreat on September 19th and upcoming leadership change. November 15-16, NW Straits Initiative conference at the Delta Hotel in Everett, a chance for MRC members to get together and share information and goals. NW Straits initiative bill passed yesterday, the culmination of seven years of work. Larsen and Murray are pushing for it. The Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be hosted by San Juan County on September 26, 2025. No location picked out yet. NWSC last came in 2023 and met on Lopez. It would be great to show them Jackson Beach.

9:25 AM **Presentation: Northwest Straits Foundation Updates**

Don Hunger

Update on NW straits foundation's work with MRC's, agencies, and consultants. This is a collaborative presentation

• Nearshore Programs –

Lisa Kaufman

Restoration and shore-friendly programs. Four core programs including nearshore restorations and shore-friendly landowner. Jason will discuss derelict gear and citizen science monitoring, Don will discuss the internship program. 2022 Milestone: 1 mile of shoreline restored, working on small stretches at a time, total 12-13 projects, plans projected into 2028. Working with landowners on Weeks point, slow pace dealing with archeological issues. Stewardship – ensure we have ongoing funding once construction is done. Vegetation or adaptive management. Fundraising currently focused on this effort, e.g., ensuring there's staff to water riparian vegetation. Shore friendly program – primary goal to reduce effects of armoring while protecting habitat. Friends of San Juans is the lead for shore-friendly projects here, we contract through them for many things. Goal to work with communities and private owners on projects they may find overwhelming on their own. Education to know bulkheads aren't best solution to deal with shoreline erosion. Friends have conducted at least 90 site visits. We're working on a development curriculum for land-managers. Education about what's required on a shoreline. Lisa shows poster available to intercept planning departments before they put in a bulkhead. Starts with outreach – beach walks, site visits, helping through engineering/design/permitting – all of that can be free for landowners. Then there can be grants, cost-sharing, etc. We require consultants who work with landowners to focus on setbacks and dealing with issues of erosions. Every report needs to discuss whether homes need to be moved back. We've been working on a series of short videos, we have six out now. Focus on native plants, trees & views

- Derelict Gear and Monitoring –

Jason Morgan

In 2014, we started restoration monitoring – physical and biological surveys. We analyze individual sites (28 restoration sites throughout Puget Sound). A lot of work in Skagit, Jefferson, and Whatcom counties. The derelict gear program aims to retrieve objects that are harming animals and degrading habitat, like fishing nets degrading rockfish habitat. A lot of funding from NOAA and fisheries. Jason shows map of nets removed. A lot of them in SJ's. Over 5000 nets removed, over 11 million lives saved each year in terms of entangled marine animals. Many removed were old 'legacy' nets. Now we have a hotline, derelictgear.org or 360-733-1725, anyone can report. Divers on standby to do the work. In future we want to have a reporting app. Derelict crab pots, we're losing 11K each year. Over 85% recreational, but some are commercial. The main impact is on the Dungeness crab population. Map showing where derelict pots are removed, not feasible to get them all, try to target areas of high-density. A big part of the issue is education – pots without weights etc. A lot of MRC members have been helping distribute information. Sometimes distributed with the crab pots when they're sold. Jason shows stats for nets and crab pots removed and acres restored in SJC – represents 40% of total work done

Don Hunger: 2-3 years ago, we got an AmeriCorps grant for a conservation corps in WA state. We launched a program during school year for 10 individuals – provided mentors for each student, monthly field trips, and training seminars with scientists/experts. Allow students to apply academic studies in real world projects, teamwork and collaboration. We've had three interns with Island, Skagit and Whatcom MRC's. We found that we can write grants for college students in conservation services, many students looking for internships (received a lot of applicants) and rewarding for MRC members to work with interns. We continue to write grants to fund the school-year based conservation corps. There would be an opportunity to have one or more members come out this fall/winter/spring as part of a workshop or working on a specific project. We want to involve MRC's more. We may look for SJC MRC to pay for transportation or some costs. Could be a pipeline for future MRC interns for SJC.

On grant-writing and collaboration with MRC's: I've been executive director for over 5 years. In pursuit of money for projects, learned we need to be specific – a project needs a location, timeline, and benefit. No open-funding grants. Donors are looking to invest in a County for certain types of work that'll benefit communities. Not just 'various projects'. I created a simple form to help with this: "what are goals/dates of projects? What's needed – partner, grant, in-kind resources?" the form can be emailed to Don. We're always looking for sources of corporation or foundation funds that can support restoration work. Typically, a grant proposal takes 6-12 months. These are things we need to think about for the coming year or for projects on which there will be a gap in funding

QUESTIONS:

Olivia: do you have a link where folks could submit ideas for proposals for projects?

ACTION ITEM: yes, Don will email it to Sam to distribute

Olivia: Do you have some of those materials about the derelict gear and catch more crab campaign? I can help take those to local business on SJI. Are derelict gear observations on the surface or underwater?

Jason: prior to crabbing season we reach out to all MRC's, we have plenty of those materials and thanks, here's my contact, morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org. Legacy nets are identified using side-scan sonar.

Olivia: if there could be an opportunity for recreational divers to keep an eye out and have the information about reporting, maybe WA Reefcheck or local dive shops could share that with their network

Jason: some of our reports come from divers, e.g. one net found off Eagle Point by Joe Gaydos

Cindy: Ferries are having increasing difficulty navigating around crab pots. How much of that is derelict gear?

Jason: establishing lanes where folks can't set gear is difficult, it's more about education as to how to set gear

Kendra: I wonder if we could produce a map to show where the lanes are and make a request they avoid those areas for ferry navigation. Not prohibiting but communicating, just a lot of new boaters.

10:07 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

- Welcome new MRC Members

Sam Whitridge

Welcome new members Mike Ramsey and Olivia Graham! We're excited to have you both on board

10:10 AM • MRC Chair and Vice Chair positions

Sam Whitridge

Christina was elected chair in August of last year and Karin elected vice-chair, terms are one year.

Christina: we've been in these roles for about 5 years. We've seen a lot of growth in recent years, formation of new agency in SJC and talented new hires. MOTION: I would like to nominate Adam Parrott for chair

Karin: and I'd like to nominate Beth Tate for vice-chair. Dave seconds those nominations

Level: Beth isn't here today, may need to make sure she's on board.

Sam: some of us have chatted with Beth about this, she is interested but concerned about extra time required

- Caveat: we'll circle back with Beth to confirm acceptance

All in favor, none opposed, the motion passes. Thanks Adam, for stepping up!

Karin: it's been exciting to be part of so much good work. I'm not leaving the MRC, staying on as a member

Level: thanks Christina and Karin, you've been wonderful all these years. Kendra and Sam; you brought on the stability this program needed, look forward to continuing to work with you

10:17 AM • Marine Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update

Kendra Smith

Kendra shares spreadsheet and briefly discusses status of ongoing projects: MacKay Harbor Beach restoration, Weeks Way, Jackson Beach, Ocas Landing interpretative area, County mooring Buoy system. Agate Beach cancelled because road couldn't be moved. Some projects in a holding pattern not included in CIP because of funding issues. Need to submit to council at start of September; we can revisit at September meeting if there are more questions.

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will circulate this spreadsheet electronically so we MRC review over August

10:24 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

- o Outreach & Education— *Katie Johnson*

Two more dock talks, this Saturday on Orcas and August 10th. And, County Fair August 15-18th. ES will have a booth.

Kailey: I've been working with Sandy and others to develop a youth membership for the MRC. The Climate and Sustainability committee, formed in 2022 includes a youth member, 16-19, 2-year term, voting member.

We'll provide a statement, vote it in as an MRC and present to Council. We hope to provide a draft at September meeting. May not be realistic for the youth member to attend meetings in mornings while they're in school

Sandy: one response we received was that an exit interview would be a good idea. Also, since Cindy is leaving soon would be ideal if she could have an exit interview or some interaction with the next person

Cindy: I'd be glad to do that. I hope Kendra/Sam can help. I can offer that to the next person but I can't compel.

With the youth member, is that an ordinance change? I can get council ready for this

Kailey: not sure about legal procedures but it needs to be updated in our bylaws as an amendment

Level attended Climate and sustainability committee meeting: report on Initiative 2117, presented by Sarah Severn. [https://ballotpedia.org/Washington Initiative 2117, Prohibit Carbon Tax Credit Trading and Repeal Carbon Cap-and-Invest Program Measure \(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Washington_Initiative_2117_Prohibit_Carbon_Tax_Credit_Trading_and_Repeal_Carbon_Cap-and-Invest_Program_Measure_(2024)) <https://riskofrepeal.cleanprosperousinstitute.org/>

If I-2117 is approved, the Climate Commitment Act will be repealed, and state agencies would be prohibited from implementing cap-and-trade or cap-and-tax programs. That committee plans to make a recommendation to Council to oppose the initiative, I think it would be appropriate for MRC to do the same

o Derelict Vessel Prevention- *Adam Parrott*

We'll be presenting on this at NWS commission meeting.

10:38 AM ERTV/Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Cindy: Some background on what's gone on – a lot of focus on having Canada pay for this/having it stationed in Canada. Cantwell has been waiting for the Ecology report to come out. After that, data didn't make it apparent enough how important it was. I love the idea of a conference

Fred: it doesn't need to be a bilateral convention. Report will likely be done late august/September so I was thinking October would be an appropriate time frame. Clear Seas is amenable to the idea, not just another technical conference but different inviting politicians. Many thanks to Marta and Level

Marta: we really need to convene and get more partners, specifically the Tribes.

Fred: I've given up on Ecology, they know they're out of their jurisdiction and they put out a report that underrepresented the data and minimized the need. Their relationship with the Coast Guard is important to them. But now Ecology is not the audience, it wouldn't be the first time we had to get things done without Ecology.

Marta: They still need to be held accountable about the errors they made and come forward with correct values

Fred: but target audience for me is the Legislature, we want to make sure they get the right information and the substantive report once corrections are made

Level: meanwhile Trans Mountain pipeline spur is full . Between May 26-July 26 there were millions of barrels of Canadian crude oil delivered to our northern refineries -- a significant amount of Canadian crude oil being transported over water and delivered to refineries here

Dave: what's the route that Canadian tar sands come down and is there a tug escort for those vessels?

Level: Vessels go from Victoria to Port Angeles, then proceed to Vendovi anchorage or one of the refineries.

Condition of Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project permit is to have two tug escorts, but if they stop at Victoria before coming across, two tugs aren't required for tankers in the US, it was a special permit requirement for vessels from the Transmountain project.

Unclear if they have tug escorts when crossing Straits of Juan de Fuca

o Eelgrass Protection

Sandy

Sandy: this summer I worked with some HS students from the Salish Sea sciences program who were interested in eelgrass sea hares that clean eelgrass blades; these sea hares are in decline. We'll continue working on this

10:53 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:54 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:55 AM **CAG Agenda**

- Final CAG Scoring and Ranking of 2024 Salmon Recovery/Riparian Funding proposals (Sam shares screen)

This is the meeting to finalize our scores and rankings, final rankings due mid-August. This has been a big, complicated grant rounded, over \$2million in funding including riparian funding. Sam provides a brief overview of the process and timing starting in March with letters of interest to the TAG, four SRFB and three Riparian proposals. Stie visits and preliminary evaluations in May, SRFB review panel completed evaluation in May and provided status designations for each project which must be cleared by that panel. At that time, one project was cleared – the Land Bank East Sound acquisition, and one project of concern (the Friends of San Juans’ Davis Bay), the others were designated ‘need more info’ which usually means project is in good shape. Final proposals were submitted by late June and all seven projects were cleared by mid-July. Sam reviews funding what’s available vs. what’s requested. Total WRIA current WRIA 2 2024 Salmon recovery allocation estimates (including PSAR and return funds swapped last year because unused by Agate Beach). And WRIA 2 Salmon recovery proposal budget, we have a little more requested than we have available. For riparian funding, Sam shares total funding budget plus proposed budgets – also a little more requested than what’s available

Rankings: Sam explains basis of scores and percentage of each component (benefit to salmon, fit to plan, and socioeconomic). CAG scores on socioeconomic benefit to Islands community

Sam shows ranking:

1. Jackson Beach
2. Davis Bay & Richardson Marsh
3. Land Bank acquisition in Eastsound
4. eDNA fish assessment

TAG recommends funding for all four projects. The difference between what we have available vs. what’s requested is almost exactly price tag of eDNA project but TAG wants it to be funded. TAG proposes pulling form request for third project and reducing by amount needed to fund the eDNA fish assessment, approx. \$84K

Sam spoke with Land Bank to see if reducing amount would torpedo that project, they said no.

Cindy: the eDNA assessment is important to determine which streams have salmonids.

Level: do we need to make a motion to support TAG’s recommendation or just vote on the rankings?

Sam: we need to do both, can lump together in one motion

Olivia: For the eDNA assessment, my team has eDNA data from five sites for past several years, glad to share those

Tyler: Thanks, Olivia - I'll follow up with you

MOTION: Adam moves approve the ranking with the recommended reduction of \$84 K from the Eastsound acquisition applied to the eDNA project. Dave seconds the motion.

Sam: for Riparian, if we fund the top two projects, leaves \$47K for the third, Lower Cascade Creek Riparian Restoration project. TAG was in favor of boosting budgets for the first two projects. Since then, clarified with Friends of San Juans as to whether partial funding would be helpful - they’d revise the scope. What does CAG think - partially fund third project or reallocate to the top two?

Dave: I like the idea of getting partial funding, if Tina says it can get the ball rolling I’m for that

Kailey: I think we should also give that remaining money to the Cascade Creek project, the Cascade falls is already protected, why not keep the protection going further downstream?

Kat: Or they can add match if they get another funding source

Kat: my only concern is that we’d need a scope of work reduction, I’d need to talk to the panel. And there are other sources for riparian funding, perhaps they could use the \$47K and find another source to match – then they’d have the full scope with our funding making up a smaller portion. Maybe they could partner with a CD for funds

Adam: if there’s a plan in place for how they’re going to spend that extra money I’m in favor

Sam: Ok then I’ll circle back with Tina and Kat and the panel and ensure there’s a plan toward implementation

Kendra: consideration for sea level rise given its location, there will be inland migration of the sea in that location

MOTION: Adam moves to fund all three projects proposed for riparian funding, allocating \$47K to Cascade Creek on condition of a reasonable plan being put together. Dave seconds. All in favor

Sam: thanks everyone. This round represents a significant investment. great to take advantage of Riparian funding.

11:24 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 5th, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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 on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 212 807 706 411

Passcode: cWG2A4

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Phone conference ID: 807 980 994#

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Review meeting agenda – All Approve MRC August meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	NWSC August Meeting Report to the MRC– Sam Whitridge
9:20 AM	MRC Introduction to new San Juan County Manager- Jessica Hudson
9:25 AM	Presentation: Update on San Juan Islands Conservation District Eelgrass Restoration Project- Paul Andersson
9:50 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on MRC Intern Position- <i>Roan Ontjes-Degroot</i> • Marine Capital Improvement Plan Approval- <i>Kendra Smith</i> • Update on Vessel Surveys- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Northwest Straits Initiative Conference (Nov 15-16 in Everett)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Vice Chair Position- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Open Public Meetings Act Training (OPMA), September 16th- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • WA Initiative-2117, Climate Commitment Act Repeal- <i>Sam Whitridge/Lovel Pratt</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPALCO’s planned tidal project off the east side of Blakely Island- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> • Review of MRC procedures for making and approving motions- <i>Matt Arata</i> • Update on ERTV Outreach Efforts- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:45 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:50 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:50 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report on 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round • Upcoming September Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting • Update on Friends of the San Juans’ Neck Point Project (Shaw Island)
11:10 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting/Convene LIO Meeting
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> • Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Action Plan Implementation Next Steps- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Local Forum evaluation and feedback- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Update on Year 3 of LIO agreement- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Kailey Genther, Patti Gobin, Brian Goodremont, Olivia Graham, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Kate Combs, Sydney Cook, Tyler Davis, Gregg Dunphy, Jessica Hudson, Jason Lim, Mitch McCloskey, Roan Ontjes-DeGroot, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Heather Spore, Kim Sundberg, Tina Whitman, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

- 9:10 AM **Convene MRC meeting** *Adam Parrott*
- 9:10 AM **Public Comment** *none*
- 9:10 AM **Review meeting agenda, Approve MRC August meeting minutes** *MRC members*
 Everyone approves the meeting agenda. Lovel submitted some edits for more accurate wording in the minutes.
 MOTION: Lovel moves to approve the August minutes as amended, Sandy seconds. All approve. Minutes approved.
- 9:12 AM **MRC Introduction to new San Juan County Manager** *Jessica Hudson*
 Jessica introduces herself and talks briefly about her work history in local government. MRC members and other meeting attendants introduce themselves around the room.
- 9:18 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC** *Sam Whitridge*
 Caitlyn introduces herself and talks about the annual NWSC conference. Working now on the agenda based on survey from MRC members. November 15-16 at the Delta Hotel in Everett. Discusses details of keynote and other speakers. Please email Caitlyn with any questions. Sam can help with travel reimbursements
- 9:22 AM **Presentation: Update on SJI Conservation District Eelgrass Restoration Project** *Mitch McCloskey*
 Mitch presenting in place of Paul Andersson. Mitch introduces the concept, collecting seeds avoids destruction of the donor meadow as well as other benefits like genetic diversity. Steps for restoration success: adaptive management, regularly assessing implemented practices – evaluate and adapt. Address problems systematically.
1. Project Site Identification, potential planting sites and harvest sites
 2. Project Site Assessment, CD doesn't have resources for scientific diving. But a new HSIL just approved for eelgrass meadow health assessments. Involves sensors monitoring conditions in eelgrass meadows
 3. Final step is project site evaluation, workbook for site evaluation, collect data systematically
- This year had the opportunity to use student volunteers from the Marine Subtidal Ecology (MSE) course at FHL, that and field collection at Padilla Bay meant a big bump in seed volume collected relative to last four years 2020-2023.
- We also want to know the impact on the meadows we're collecting from. During the MSE we assessed subtidal harvest techniques for collection. We've also been expanding relationship with Padilla Bay, ran a pilot study to build "harvest best practices" – plan to continue for the next three years with Sylvia Yang. Padilla Bay is the largest eelgrass meadow in the lower 48 states, and with a similar genetic signature to eelgrass in the islands. Eelgrass Cultivation System (funded in part by SRFB grant) at FHL to maintain flowering eelgrass heads. Viable Seed inventory – testing seeds, counting seeds by weight, etc. Planting planned next spring, injecting seeds SRFB objectives – to expand collection sites (Padilla Bay, plus sites in SJI's – Jackson Beach and Shaw County Park) -expanded eelgrass cultivation system, as well as analysis and techniques -community involvement with future scientists, hope to continue involving students from FHL and maybe also YCC -and finally, adaptive management to maintain seed bank. Develop site selection workbook etc.
- Looking forward: continued partnership with FHL, WDFW, and WDNR. Thanks to collaborators and funding sources

QUESTIONS

Kendra: how are you assessing study locations relative to physical disturbance?

Mitch: the goal is to look at all environmental variables, long term-monitoring data from DNR and Friends of SJs.

Kendra: needs to be conservation measure i.e. publicly owned or blocked so not destroyed by anchoring. Should look at boating traffic for best success. And work with partners like DNR to cordon off areas as no-anchor zones

Frankie: We are also partners on that HSIL to look at physical disturbance and impacts from crab pots and vessels. You should mention our vessel impact work and involvement in those efforts, boater education and outreach for eelgrass. Were there no restoration/monitoring efforts as part of SRFB?

Mitch: we didn't get full approval for planting until just a few weeks ago due to cultural resource issues.

Frankie: at least one of those sites has been slated for restoration efforts so we should talk about timing

Mitch: part of the workbook effort is to facilitate conversations; we don't need to seed at all of these sites this year.

Kendra: we do have anchor out buoys in some locations and DNR leases, if those sites align you may want to look at them first because they have a protection standard. As does the Land Bank with a number of shoreline properties.

Mitch: the workbook can facilitate input from experts, rank elements in importance – is it more important that there's an anchor-out area or that there's an historic meadow?

Adam: how are you going to survey for those expert opinions?

Mitch: we've been targeting specific individuals, doing literature review, build relationships with scientists

Tina: kudos to everyone for all the momentum around this habitat – Sandy, Olivia, Drew, etc. We've been re-mapping eelgrass county-wide. Olivia has a new paper out on eelgrass disease in the SJI's.

ACTION: can we get a link out to Olivia's paper?

It's exciting to have all these data and the MRC in role as CAG is helping to facilitate this work. But we have an eelgrass crisis in the islands. Now from county-wide data we're understanding that deeper beds are more resilient and we're losing the upper beds. You said that's informing the seed collection but is it also informing the planting for best chances of success? I think depth will be a critical factor

Mitch: we've been largely working at the seed collection part of the process but plan to work on next steps Jeff and Wendel coming to the islands soon. Plan to get everyone in the room to talk

Tina: we also plan to have a meeting

Olivia: can you remind me when Jackson Beach restoration will occur?

Frankie: we're putting in for remaining permits now, likely work for next September 2025.

Kendra: there's still some discussion with Public Works about the possibility of a barge landing there. We want to make sure that doesn't happen in an eelgrass area but that is a major barge location for the County

Olivia: the team hopes to put out a sensor in the eelgrass meadow there in the next month or so

ACTION: Olivia, Mitch, and Kendra will connect about this offline

9:59 AM MRC Updates/Business

- OPALCO's planned tidal project off the east side of Blakely Island

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Karin: OPALCO has announced they're planning a wave energy project, a floating device with turbines. Must be somewhere with a lot of current. They identified several areas, like Cattle Pass, but settled on Blakely. It would be great to have someone from OPALCO talk about this to us

Frankie: we have several representatives from Tribes here (Gregg, Heather, Patti), a lot of interest in this. Tidal can be extremely expensive, early days in terms of engineering. Some objections from Tribes over treaty access

Heather: I'm the environmental policy manager for Swinomish, my colleague Sydney Cook is here. We recently had a call with OPALCO and their consultants. They've been communicative but light on details. As Frankie mentioned, the Tribes have concerns about impacts to treaty fishing, and on mammals and on resources. The preliminary designs for tidal turbine and how they intend to anchor it to the sea floor has a lot of potential for entanglement

with marine mammals and fishing gear, could obstruct access. We plan a follow up call in October, we expect additional materials, when they apply for permits and EIS there'll be additional opportunities to engage Level: Friends of SJ's has also had preliminary talks with OPALCO. MRC could encourage Council to ask OPALCO to have a completely transparent process. We haven't received all available information. There may be factors they didn't consider in choosing this site in terms of marine resource issues that we could inform them about.

Adam: for transparency, are you suggesting we send a letter as an MRC?

Level: I think we can make the recommendation to the County Council and it's up to them how to encourage OPALCO ways to improve the process. I appreciate the County's efforts

Sandy: could you circulate the WSU study on salmon? It would be good to see the structure they used

ACTION: Level will share the link

Patti: It's good practice to contact every single Tribe that has treaty rights there. Thank you, Swinomish, for the work you're doing. Before they get too far down the road better to get into consultation. We need to protect the salmon, the eelgrass, everything on the bottom of the Salish Sea. Tulalip receives billions of consultation letters and by the time we get to all of them it may be too late. We're just beginning eelgrass restoration efforts on our reservation; we want to be involved in this. In general, why not invite all the Tribes to see what this is about.

Heather: thank you, Patti. When OPALCO reached out to Swinomish I encouraged them to reach out to other Tribes. My first recommendation was to reach out to NW Indian Fish commission to get contacts for other Tribes. Sounds like we need to push them a little harder on that, an all-tribal presentation is a great idea – I wonder if the MRC could work with NWIFC on that. Tribal consultation needs to be early, often, and continuous

Olivia: can anyone bring me up to speed on this initiative? OPALCO is trying to move ahead – is it happening?

Frankie: there have been two public meetings so far. One six months ago and one last week. Not much movement. They've received funding to explore and do studies with that site in mind. that may be as far as they get

Tina: they're getting grant funding for various stages. They got an early scoping grant that helped them select the site and the technology. Now a new grant for the next phase. But the economics don't pencil out exactly for how many turbines they would need. They are planning to apply next April for a permit to put it in. It'll be a long process, but I agree that we can encourage more transparency. They're pursuing it but don't have a permit yet

Cindy: I'm very glad to see Tribal partners at the table. When OPALCO first called about this project I said they needed to hire a Tribal consultant. I'm disappointed there hasn't been more communication.

Heather: Swinomish staff reviewed a Corps of Engineers permit request to deploy a buoy offshore in this location to collect data so they continue to investigate this area.

10:24 AM • Review of MRC procedures for making and approving motions

Matt Arata

The Chair has a big role in handling motions and we have a new chair, seems like a good time to review. Parliamentary procedure = accepted rules and ethics, intended to protect everyone. Robert's Rules of Order, first published in 1876. The chair refers to itself in third person. The main motion is how business is brought before the meeting, "I move that" or "I move to". After a member seconds a motion, chair says "it has been moved, any discussion?", "... we shall proceed to vote". And the chair should recognize the person who made the motion.

10:36 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• Report on MRC Intern Position

Roan Ontjes-Degroot

For the NW Straits, I visited five sites among Lopez and Orcas where there are eelgrass buoys. So far, I've done 65 site visits. I also compiled all SJC data into a separate spreadsheet to make it easier to see. One interesting thing I saw looking at the different vessels is that locals used mooring buoys more.

Frankie: when recording boats, did you also record the ones on mooring buoys?

Roan: I asked NW Straits and they asked me to count the ones that were on anchor; I also counted the ones that were on mooring buoys but included those in the notes. They can be edited to add those in

Olivia: how often did you see boats anchored and mooring balls empty?

Roan: where there were only a few buoys they are generally all in use. For places with more buoys not always

Frankie: we've heard from boaters that they're concerned about the state of mooring buoys at Watmough

Kendra: we've had no dedicated funding or strategy for this

Tina: Friends of the San Juans has been paying for some of it

ACTION: we should get together and talk about these buoys

Roan: I spent about 16 hours tabling for outreach and handed out over 80 flags. The majority of people I talked to on Orcas wanted flags. More organizations need to hit Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw. I also did the Trashin' Fashion show

– Katie Johnson suggested designing an outfit using plastic bags. I created a vest and shorts with fused plastic from mesh produce bags. I took a lot of lessons and seeing how these meetings run and what projects you're doing.

Frankie: we're planning to use Roan's help on a few more things, satellite images that can collect

10:49 AM • Northwest Straits Initiative Conference (Nov 15-16 in Everett)

Sam Whitridge

We already covered this, contact me for help with hotel booking etc.

10:49 AM • Open Public Meetings Act Training (OPMA), September 16th

Sam Whitridge

Upcoming requirement for everyone to take OPMA training. Options;

- at September 16 Council meeting you can attend in person or virtually to take care of the requirement,

- or each member can watch the video on their own and then complete a form afterwards for verification,

- or we could reserve time during the next MRC meeting, every member must complete by the end of 2024

Sam: I'll be sending out reminders about this. You can also watch the recording of the 9/16 meeting

Kailey: how long does it take? - likely an hour or less

10:53 AM • MRC Vice Chair Position

Sam Whitridge

Adam was approved as chair last month, we approved Beth Tate but she followed up to say she has no capacity

Karin is willing and able and interested in being vice-chair for another year.

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve Karin as our vice chair. Sandy seconds. Chair calls the vote, all in favor. So moved.

10:55 AM • WA Initiative-2117, Climate Commitment Act Repeal

Sam Whitridge/Lovel Pratt

This initiative would do away with the climate commitment act that supports many projects, including the riparian funding just approved. Kendra provides the details for millions of dollars that have been spent or committed to the County in connection with this Act. We've drafted a letter to the County to specifically point out all these benefits.

MOTION: Lovel moves to request staff draft a letter to County Council to express the importance of climate commitment act to our work, both in funding and reduction to carbon emissions highlight how this act funds projects in the County. Sandy seconds. The Chair calls the vote, all in favor, the motion passes

Tina: this act is meant to be economic incentive for companies, it's a cap-and-trade project for our state

11:02 AM • Update on ERTV Outreach Efforts

Sam Whitridge

Inslee has taken an increased interest in this topic, Lovel had a conversation with him about it

Lovel: he came for a boat trip with Friends. Initial focus on climate commitment act on eelgrass and kelp protection. But we talked about vessel-related issues and concerns. It was amazing to me that he said, 'what about that study that said an ERTV would only have a 2% effectiveness rate' and I was able to respond. He said, even if effectiveness rate was low, we still need to do more to prevent oil spills. That study has been the bane of our existence, really hasn't communicated well the need for an ERTV and that's filtered through to the Governor's office

Kendra: Brian Kirk has been called in, we have a scheduled meeting with them for the 16th. We want to put aside the existing report and ask them to just do a one-sheet that talks about the effectiveness to this region if you parked this at Sydney and benefit to all regional waterways (Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, etc.)

11:07 AM • CIP

Kendra Smith

These are projects funded by SRFB and other sources – Kendra runs through projects (Weeks Way, Jackson Beach, Orcas Landing interpretative, etc.). The County Mooring Buoy system is in Capital Planning, addressing some infrastructure needs. Council has already approved the grants we've gone after for these, but I've bundled these together and submitted similar plans for clean water utility and solid waste utility.

MOTION: Kailey moves to submit this CIP to county council. Mike seconds. No further discussion, Chair calls the vote. All approve, the motion passes.

Kendra: thank you, let us know about any additional projects coming forward.

11:10 AM • vessel survey

Frances Robertson

We've flown six survey days since Memorial Day. Still waiting for contract amendment and then final survey day on the 14th. Two line transects each survey day, in the morning and afternoon. Collect data on every vessel or group of vessels. Then we do targeted flights. Photographs as back up for visual count. Image of Sucia with over 40 vessels in Shallow Bay tells a thousand words. Working with Jeff Gaeckle to discuss consequences for eelgrass. Potential to use satellite imagery. As we've done these counts, also took counts from marine traffic on AIS –many boats are on anchor in real life but not on AIS. We plan to show some habitat overlays – probably ready by Jan or Feb.

Kailey: significant uptick in boats over this past weekend?

Frankie: there's been an increase over the season, August 3 there were 200 boats at Sucia, July 20 there were too many to count. During good weather, peak summer/good weather

Olivia: are there any other counties that limit the number of boats that can anchor out?

Frankie: Jefferson has an anchor out zone they deploy each season, they do regular counts. We put one in at Odlin which was a requirement of the aquatic lease because there's a dock there.

Tina: we had a number of anchor-out buoys for herring spawning sites, never made it through permitting with that. It's too much stuff in the water. Pivoting to mark in navigational. And issues of whether they're public or private

11:19 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott

We're planning a presentation at NW Straits commission conference, Kari will discuss next time

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Frankie: save the date for Great Islands Clean up (GICU), Sept. 21.

Adam: you should contact port to make sure you can drop off trash with them

o Eelgrass Protection

Sandy: planning to build a 'geo fence' to show where eelgrass is, an app

And, Kailey and I continue to work on the youth member, more to report in October

11:22 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting** Adam moves to adjourn, Kailey seconds

11:22 AM **CAG Agenda**

• Update on Friends of the San Juans' Neck Point Project (Shaw Island)

Tina: Friends of SJ's are working on a shoreline armor removal restoration on Shaw. It's fully permitted. Engineer cost estimates (which were written several years ago) have changed since grant approval. Need to do shoreline

work after salmon migration but while there are still good daytime tides – if we postpone it means a whole year because we need to target this specific window of time. Reopening project to bids so that affects timing.

11:24 AM • Final Report on 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round

Now it's a slower time of year for SRFB but Sam reviews what we approved for funding in the grant round that just wrapped. A lot of moving parts with various panels to put together final funding amounts

• Upcoming September Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting

This is final approval on September 25th. Then contracts with project sponsors (PSAR funds not until next summer). Thank you Sam! Another round coming up in a few months

11:28 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



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

**Thursday, October 3rd, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 288 841 854 70

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Phone conference ID: 537 675 866#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the San Juan County Beaverton Valley Operations Center at 1609 Beaverton Valley Rd in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC September meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training Reminder- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Member Vacancy- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSI Conference Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSI Retreat Debrief- <i>Katie Johnson</i> • Report on Vessel Surveys- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Update on ERTV Subcommittee Meeting with Ecology- <i>Subcommittee Members</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Lovel Pratt</i> ● Other subcommittee updates
10:15 AM	Presentation: Sea Level Rise in San Juan County- <i>Tyler Davis, San Juan County Environmental Project Manager</i>
10:45 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:50 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:50 AM	CAG Agenda –<i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CAG Review of revised scope for Friends Cascade Creek riparian project ● Report on September Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Meeting ● New Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program
11:10 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> ● Discussion regarding San Juan representative on PSP Boards- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● On-site Sewage (OSS) funding update- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● Year 3 LIO Funding- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● Other LIO Updates
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

October 3, 2024

MRC & CAG Meeting

Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Dave Checkley, Kailey Genther, Olivia Graham, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Tyler Davis, Katherine Dietzman, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Mitch McCloskey, Frances Robertson, Kim Sundberg, Elaina Thompson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:01 AM **Convene MRC meeting** *Adam Parrott*

9:02 AM **Public Comment** *Marta Green*
Marta would like to discuss some developments regarding ERTV advocacy, we can do that later in the meeting

9:03 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC September meeting minutes** *MRC members*
Dave moves to approve the agenda, Sandy seconds. Nothing to add or change, all in favor, the agenda is approved.
Kailey moves to approve the September minutes, Dave seconds. Lovel sent no changes. All in favor, approved

9:06 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC** *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Presentation by WDFW scientist about Olympia oyster fossils. Should we get involved with this species' restoration?

And, do we want to send anyone to be part of the DEI committee? training between now and December

And, some information on the increase of Green crab in locations in Skagit and Whatcom

Craig: is there any link for more information about the oyster study? ACTION: Caitlyn can send something on that

Sandy: this paper may help – Hatch, M.B.A. and S. Wyllie-Echeverria 2016. Historic distribution of *Ostrea lurida* (Olympia oyster) in the San Juan Archipelago, Washington. *Tribal College and University Research Journal* 1: 38-45

Caitlyn: about the DEI committee, we are looking for people interested in joining a learning cohort that provides guidance, tools to bring back to your MRC. If any questions, contact Caitlyn at blair@nwstraits.org
Time commitment is 1-2 group meetings per month, some other review. Working with a consultant, the Athena group. Kick off meeting likely scheduled for October 16th. Olivia, Karin, and Sandy are all interested in the training

9:17 AM • NWSI Conference Planning

Caitlyn Blair

Reminder to register. Registration closes October 15th. Book hotel, email Caitlyn if help needed. Some fun collaborative events planned, networking time for MRC members. We're excited about the speaker line-up.

Sam: for those who signed up, please work with me to get reimbursed for your hotel and travel

Level: you can only register for one hotel night through the portal, but call the hotel directly if you want more

9:21 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training Reminder

Sam Whitridge

Six members have taken the training, Sam sent out the information via email. Once everyone has done it, would be good to discuss implications in terms of how we conduct our meetings. Training takes about an hour
Craig brings up the financial penalty of violating the act and importance of getting up to speed

Sandy: it would be good to put out a sign at the Grange when we meet to help advertise the meeting

ACTION: set agenda item for November to review this. Sam can lead that discussion. November meeting is virtual

9:27 AM • MRC Member Vacancy

Sam Whitridge

Aaron Boyles has moved away from the area; he was a committee member from Orcas. We can do the usual publicizing. Please keep in mind island diversity, we are very SJI-based now with no one from Lopez. Some discussion of how to get the word out – ask Jane Fuller for help, social media, notice in the paper. Paul suggests 'Lopez Rocks' and the Stewardship Network www.lopezrocks.org , erin@madrona.org.

9:33 AM • NWSI Retreat Debrief

Katie Johnson

There were 40 people in attendance, Commission and MRC staff. We reviewed each organization and their strengths, challenges. Produced a statement about what the NWSI (NW Straits Initiative) is now which Katie reads in full. The Foundation is not included in the Initiative, but it's a key partner. The initiative is the Foundation + seven MRC's, discussed good partnership and how to collaborate. Data from the retreat will be compiled and available.

9:35 AM • Report on Vessel Surveys

Frances Robertson

All surveys successfully completed. Conducted line transects in the AM and PM; we'll be able to see seasonal trends in vessel presence. Data are currently being analyzed. Some challenges due to issues with Canadian air space.

Karin: how can we use these data? What are the opportunities?

Frankie: we'll create a heat map, overlay with resource maps and mooring buoys. Use as a tool to highlight challenges with recreational vessels. We are partners on a HSIL grant. Vessel usage has changed over time, this study is important to show that. Shows efficacy of different methods to assess vessel presence (like AIS, satellite)

Craig: Gary Greene's side scan surveys should show anchor scarring, would be neat to overlay with your survey data

Olivia: as you think about drone imagery, our team has done some mapping of our 5 sites since 2017. Primarily focused on intertidal but also some shallow subtidal. And some considerations for mapping from parks

ACTION: Frankie and Olivia should discuss this more

9:45 AM • Update on ERTV Subcommittee meeting with Ecology *Subcommittee members*

Sam: several subcommittee members are here (Lovel, Marta, Dave, Craig). We had a call with Ecology a few weeks ago, somewhat disappointing in terms of them responding to our requests

Lovel: Marta has created a spreadsheet in which Ecology can fill in blanks to correct data. We still find it important to pursue a review of the model for the accuracy of the effectiveness of an ERTV but also concerned about this model being used for future projects and studies despite its inaccuracy

Marta: Ecology acknowledged they had found errors that affected risk reduction results. It included 24 numbers. The changes may be minor, but measurably affect results They have said they won't pursue peer review. This model could be used for future decisions using State funds and affecting policy/regulations regarding shipping. We think it's necessary and valuable to proceed with peer review. We'd like to hear comments from MRC about justifying that

Craig: I support the peer review but must be realistic about what it involves. normally review involves subsequent revisions with Ecology is unwilling to make. The alternative to revising following review is to reject the study.

Lovel: One important detail is to approach the Governor's office with our request – Sam and I met with staff there

MOTION: Lovel moves that MRC support ERTV subcommittee in pursuing corrected values and a peer review from Ecology. Craig seconds

Adam: how do you foresee us showing support?

Lovel: signify support to proceed to next steps. Kendra is in touch with staff at Ecology and appropriate for that to continue. But a formal request would need to be a recommendation to Council

Cindy: I'd like to hear more about Sam and Lovel going to the Governor's office. Sam should come to County council meeting and bring this letter. Good to get Council's buy-in if you're in communication with Governor's office

-Lovel provides more detail about meeting with Governor's staff, discussed next steps, didn't request peer review

Cindy: when they went through methodology, made it clear they thought error was insignificant. I believe we need to push for peer review of that model. One idea is to do another study

Marta: need to go back with the spreadsheet and ask them to provide the 24 numbers we want. Some of these results just don't match with our response study. In the correction statement, it's referred to as a 'small change across the study area' but we want the new numbers for zones that are higher than what they've reported.

MOTION *restated*: Lovel moves to support the ERTV subcommittee's request that Ecology provide corrected values for tables in the ERTV Effectiveness Analysis appendices and identify next steps to secure a peer review of Ecology's model. Craig seconds (again). All in favor, none opposed. The Motion passes.

Sam will follow up after today's meeting to schedule a subcommittee meeting for next week

10:05 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Outreach & Education

Katie Johnson

Kailey: still moving forward with the youth position. Our goal is to have a draft (mission, position description, etc.) to review by the December retreat. Then, search to fill youth position in January

10:07 AM o Marine Stewardship

Frances Robertson

State of the MSA report is done. Now consider when we want to present this to Council. It's a long list of recommendations for work we need to do to address threats/stressors. Much of this work is underway by several entities, including us. It's a document that should help guide grant writing going forward by identifying priorities.

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Katie: we had a successful GICU (Great Island Clean up) this fall, 130 volunteers collected 1072lbs. trash from Lopez, SJI, Shaw and Orcas. Much of it was able to be recycled. PFSS is now doing monthly beach cleanups at Jackson, cohosting with local organizations. The next one will be hosted by the Orca network this Sunday 11am-1pm. Then Nov 3rd with Sherriff's guild. Still looking for someone to host in December. These dates are all on the PFSS website

o Eelgrass Protection

Beth Tate

Beth: Several MRC members involved in big new grant for eelgrass. Discussion (meeting today) about best use of eelgrass which will be damaged in Bellingham

Sandy: working to develop a warning (app) to alert boaters to eelgrass zones. I'll share with MRC in a month or so

10:12 AM o Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Lovel Pratt

Most of our recent focus is on ERTV preparedness, discussed above

10:13 AM o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Kari Koski

Two drifting boats so far with onslaught of weather but both owners dealt with it. Discussion among subcommittee about having another turn in event. Meeting October 29th for NW Straits and DNR – collaborative phone call about events from last year and consider doing another turn-in. We'll get the Port in on that call. Upcoming presentation at NOAA marine debris meeting October 23 in Port Angeles and at NWS conference in November, we plan to have a roundtable about derelict vessels, we'll meet with subcommittee beforehand to plan for that

10:17 AM **Presentation: Sea Level Rise in San Juan County**

Tyler Davis

Our study on sea level rise vulnerability risk assessment has come out. Final report approved by county council 9/17. Full report at <https://engage.sanjuancountywa.gov/>

The purpose of this exercise was to identify coastal areas in the county vulnerable to climate-driven sea-level rise to help plan for the future. County has the FEMA maps of 100-year flood plains but now have various GIS layers for different scenarios. Looked at 12 specific sites known for sea level erosion issues and four Scenarios (2' and 5' sea level rise in the 1-year and 100-year flood plains, respectively). Tyler shows the 12 sites. Just False Bay on SJI, two sites on Shaw, several each on Orcas and Lopez. 100-year flood plain parameters likely to start happening almost annually. Tyler shows list of roads and community assets (e.g. Ol airport and Orcas and Shaw ferry terminals) at risk of erosion and other issues like inundation. Table 6.1 details building and other infrastructure in the county that would be affected. Story map, easier to consume than entire technical report.

Next steps are backshore roads feasibility study, looking at different alternatives to roads at four sites. This winter, we plan to share findings directly in those communities.

<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30803/SJC-Sea-Level-Rise-Vulnerability-Assessment>

QUESTIONS

Dave: what does Anacortes ferry terminal look like under those scenarios? (Answer: Tyler can find out)

Frankie: was there a reason why only one site was looked at on SJI? What about Westcott Bay, White point road?

Tyler: this project started under county manager's office and then we absorbed it. Original 12 sites were likely selected as sites we needed to learn more about and we have more data for sites on SJI. If you look at Cattle Point and the Cape, county wide maps show those low-lying tombolo's will be underwater eventually as well.

Craig: any plan to overlay this with tsunami inundation zone map provided by the state? (Answer: not yet)

Olivia: any plans to share this report with local schoolteachers on different islands, get kids thinking about how their communities may look different in the future. Any mechanism to get reports to schools? Also the MSA

Tyler: we are strategizing how to bring these to the public, want to ensure we have a unified message/strategy. Children today could see up to 3' of SLR in their lifetime, children in our community will see these changes.

Adam: maybe outreach/ed committee can help

<https://engage.sanjuancountywa.gov/sea-level-rise-shoreline-habitat-infrastructure-adaptation-strategies>

<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30803/SJC-Sea-Level-Rise-Vulnerability-Assessment>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0d1db5ad2d63476b83a14579c56be639>

<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30868/Shoreline--Infrastructure-Resiliency-Framework->

10:40 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Sam Whitridge

Sam: quick update on the Climate Act Resolution MRC signed on to, discussed at County Council meeting last week

Cindy: We met last week and unanimously approved adoption of resolution to vote no on this act

Level: Friends of SJ's also formally supports the No on Initiative 2117 campaign. Must recognize that if we lose this funding, we lose construction funding for new ferries which would make transportation issues a lot worse

Cindy: we found the list of local projects funded due to the tax very helpful

Karin: I volunteer for the no on 2117 campaign, I'll be at Farmers Market this Saturday. need more volunteers!

Cindy: I'll also bring this up in the LIO meeting, but at Salmon Recovery Council we were introduced to an initiative from Long Live the Kings, working on coordination of non-profits and Tribes to shift more funding to salmon recovery issues. Also, PSP is dedicating a couple staff members to help counties in the midst of their comp planning to adopt salmon recovery funding into their plans. Staff member dedicated to helping local governments that are at the nexus of transportation and restoration, help identify funding sources and how best to apply for grants. <https://no2117.com/>, <https://riskofrepeal.cleanprosperousinstitute.org/>

10:47 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

Adam moves to adjourn, Kailey seconds. All in favor.

10:47 AM **CAG Agenda**

Sam Whitridge

- CAG Review of revised scope for Friends Cascade Creek

As a matter of process, must formally approve the re-scope of the riparian enhancement project. Sam sent out the rescope via email. Reminder: we partially funded this at about a third of the requested amount. Friends

submitted a rescope. The rescope scales back to project to focus on a smaller parcel. Lovel will abstain from this vote

MOTION: Adam moves to approve the rescope for Cascade Creek marine riparian enhancement, Dave seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

10:50 AM • Report on September Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Quarterly funding meeting last week, all statewide recovery grants were officially approved at end of 9-month process of vetting and review. The State awarded more than \$50million for 145 projects. Seven in San Juan County for over \$2million. Almost half of that (\$26million) funded by Climate Commitment Act. There's another \$23 million in projects that could happen if the Act succeeds in remaining in effect after November.

<https://rco.wa.gov/state-awards-50-3-million-in-grants-to-recover-salmon/>

10:54 AM • New Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program

There has been a revision of how monitoring grants are done. In the past they were part of local SRFB allocation. Now program is being overhauled into a statewide competitive process for monitoring grants. They've made just shy of \$1million available for this first go round. Monitoring statewide RFP will be released in January. Still not sure if we'll have riparian funding again in the coming year, it'll depend on initiative 2117

10:56 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting,**



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 7th, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 275 375 842 278

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While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the San Juan County Beaverton Valley Operations Center at 1609 Beaverton Valley Rd in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC October meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	Presentation: Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Funding Team Update- Sadie Normoyle, PSP
9:45 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training Reminder- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Member Vacancy Update and next steps- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Retreat Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> • NWSI Conference Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSC DEI Workshop Report- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> • Cattle Point Project Update and Planning- <i>Katie Johnson</i> • Early Planning for Marine Managers Workshop- <i>Sam Whitridge/Frances Robertson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Lovel Pratt</i> ● Other subcommittee updates
10:55 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
11:00 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
11:00 AM	CAG Agenda –<i>Sam Whitridge</i> Presentation: Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead Program Follow-up presentation, <i>Colin Hume and Libby Gier, Dept of Ecology</i>
11:30 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> ● EPA Funding Model/LIO Action Plans- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● LIO Executive Committee- <i>Katie Johnson</i>
12:00 PM	● Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Paul Andersson, Dave Checkley, Kailey Genter, Olivia Graham, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Katherine Combs, Victoria Compton, Audrey Coyne, Libby Gier, Colin Hume, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Sadie Normoyle, Frances Robertson, Kayla Seaforth, Kendra Smith, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:04 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Adam Parrott

9:05 AM **Public Comment**

9:05 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC October meeting minutes**

MRC members

A few members absent but we have a quorum. Nothing to add or change to the agenda, it is approved.

No edits for the minutes. Lovel moves to approve the October minutes, Dave seconds. All in favor, approved.

9:07 AM **Presentation: Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Funding Team Update**

Sadie Normoyle

Background on the strategic funding team – Sadie breaks down each member and who to go to for help.

Five-person team, Sadie is Funding Coordinator – increases collaboration, connect partners pursuing same things.

Funding Barrier Specialist, Jessica, works to remove barriers that hinder funding, support partners to secure funding

Restoration and Transportation Funding Strategist, strengthen alignment between these sectors through planning & implementation of projects. Nexuses include culverts, bridges, roads, etc. Grant Writer specialist, help with grant proposals and monitor grant progression. The overall focus of the team is to accelerate implementation of Puget sound recovery. Documenting funding needs.

Sadie elaborates on long term vision for the team, and on each position:

The Restoration and Transportation funding strategist – focus on partnerships, planning, projects and funding.

Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new connections, highlight common goals and values. Streamline planning processes, pursue funding jointly for projects with a nexus of restoration and transportation goals

Grant writer and Strategist, Michelle, can help with grant application development. She doesn't submit for an entity but help with writing, reviewing and editing. That's grant assistance vs. grant strategy, which is about a

project's desired outcome, potential timelines, etc. Can investigate potential funding pathways and sources over multiple years. Must approach Michelle with a project already in mind, there's and intake form,

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d835519e3c454ef286dbbdcdf9ae008b>

Strategic Funding Coordinator – understanding communicating and documenting funding needs. Sadie is happy to attend LIO meetings or contact me directly, Sadie.Normoyle@psp.wa.gov.

PS RAFTR, Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Funding. Sadie shows its home page, section for showing funding resources, active announcements. Button to opt in for email alerts,

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6f12941d99644b0e93deaed86f1674f0/page/Home/?views=Active-Announcements>

Monthly Funding calls – first Monday of the month 9-10am (unless Monday is a holiday, then following Tuesday).

Sadie provides funding opportunities, answers questions, guest speakers, other team members. Opting in for the email alerts includes reminder of the funding calls and link to join them.

Wrap up/FAQ for the strategic funding team: The funding team helps connect with opportunities and partners. Not apply for the funding on your behalf or award funds, but help in various ways – application and development, writing/editing, coordination with partners for submission, guidance on strategy development, overview of

rules/reporting requirements, etc., technical assistance support, can provide grant-writing workshops if there's interest and template development Strategicfunding@psp.wa.gov

QUESTIONS:

Frankie: does the transportation include marine infrastructure?

Sadie: yes, confirmed that marine infrastructure could be part of Sound infrastructure

Cindy: I want Colin Huntimer to get this message, Sam will make sure he does

9:30 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training Reminder

Sam Whitridge

Hopefully everyone can complete this in the next few weeks, before the retreat next month so we can discuss

9:32 AM • MRC Member Vacancy Update and next steps

Sam Whitridge

We need diversity from different islands. We'll be moving forward with interviews in coming weeks, hope for new member by end of year. Please pass along recruitment to people you know, especially Lopez/Shaw outer island

9:33 AM • MRC Retreat Planning

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

Scheduled for Friday December 6th. In person at the grange in FH. A few may need to attend virtually. Framework for the retreat: We need to spend a chunk of time on work planning for the coming year, projects/ subcommittees. We'll have a couple presentations –kelp aquaculture, applications in Puget sound.

Level: great opportunity for the MRC to learn more and perhaps make recommendations to County for best practices in processing those applications, and anything we think the applications should address

9:40 AM • NWSI Conference Planning

Sam Whitridge

Next weekend! Olivia, Lovel, Kari, Katie attending. Friday & Saturday in Everett, Kari Koski will present about DV

9:41 AM • NWSC DEI Workshop Report

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Sandy attended, working through notes, will present about it next month. Circle back on this.

Olivia: I also attended; team met twice so far. More scheduled, we'll have updates at the retreat or beyond

9:43 AM • Cattle Point Project Update and Planning

Katie Johnson

Smaller iteration of what was previously planned, just interpretative signage. A previous subcommittee worked on this (Phil & Megan) now looking for others willing to work on this for next few months. Progress Report due in January. Tyler Davis originally headed this up a couple years ago. Kailey Genter and Beth Tate volunteer.

9:45 AM • Early Planning for Marine Managers Workshop

Sam Whitridge/Frances Robertson

We've discussed idea of holding this in conjunction with terrestrial managers' meeting.

Frankie: There is a lot of overlap between attendees. The other idea that would tie nicely between groups is opportunity to share results of vessel impact work because a lot of it revolves around state parks, BLM sites, etc. Bringing together regulators and land managers to look at maps of vessel impacts.

Level: this is a great idea; I have another suggestion for the marine managers workshop – there's been a request from Clallam County MRC for Coast Guard to participate in upcoming NW Straits conference and address increase in vessel traffic. Also a great topic and would be of interest to other MRC's in the region as well as transboundary.

Cindy: I sat next to Lucas from NW Straits at Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting and we discussed that idea

Matt: at the last MMW, first day was intense and second day more laidback. We should have first day be our

MMW (and terrestrial have their own) and second day combine so that not duplicating or running out of steam

Craig: I like the idea of combining the managers as well as Lovel's idea, and I think one of the goals could be to get broader support for an ERTV because an oil spill would affect terrestrial managers too.

Frankie: for the vessel impacts this annual meeting is a good opportunity. There's overlap and interest in crowding

9:56 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Outreach & Education

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Sandy & Kailey continue to discuss the youth member, Sandy will report at the retreat.

Also, in the DEI workshops we've been discussing getting younger members involved with the MRC

9:57 AM o Marine Stewardship

Frances Robertson

The MSA is on the MRC website. Last remaining task to include it in an MRC update to County Council.

9:58 AM o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson

Recent website revamp. New monthly beach cleaning effort with hosts. In September Sherriff's guild hosted, 30 people showed up and picked up lots of trash. December 1st 11am-1pm to be hosted by Whale Museum

10:00 AM o Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Lovel Pratt

Sam: I sent that outreach to Ecology October 15th, haven't heard back yet beyond initial response

Lovel: let's get in touch if we continue not to hear. I've been monitoring oil tanker traffic from transmountain terminal, they're transiting then going to Vendovi anchorage. Vendovi is protected by the Preservation Trust. I'm concerned about increased traffic and this area being used as a parking lot and offshore drift at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is an ongoing issue that touches precisely on our confidence in Ecology's model

Craig: Ecology report doesn't include Rosario strait, that's unfortunate, does anything else look at Rosario?

Lovel: only the vessel traffic assessment from 2016, I can share those

-Craig and Lovel will continue this discussion offline

10:10 AM o Eelgrass Protection

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

work continues on an app for boaters to warn when they're coming into a seagrass zone. Sandy will report about that at retreat. National Park service is having a virtual symposium in February for projects in Washington's parks. Two students in Sandy's lab will talk about eelgrass protection, Sandy will send out an announcement about that.

10:13 AM o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Kari Koski

We've started patrols for the fall, looking at some usual suspects and some new ones. Tagging and notices of concerned vessel. We've had some good response. I'll send an invite in case anyone wants to join in patrols, usually 10am-4pm. And whenever you're by the shore or on a boat keep an eye out, this is the time of year for issues.

10:15 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Sam Whitridge

Sam: event Saturday at SJ Community theatre, the documentary Fish War will be screening, hosted by Friends of SJ's and the Stewardship network. Film screening, opening performance with Lummi nation Blackhawk dancers and then a panel discussion following the screening led by Tribal leaders. Screenings on Orcas and Lopez, nothing virtual.

<https://sanjuans.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/sanjuans/event.jsp?event=1852>

<https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/life/fish-war-tours-the-san-juan-islands-november-7-8-and-9/>

10:19 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:20 AM **CAG Agenda**

Sam Whitridge

Presentation: Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead Program Follow-up

Colin Hume and Libby Gier

Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead. Colin shares map showing Puget Sound funding regions. With partner engagement identified investment priorities to inform our investment plan. We have a Summary Report on our website, <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2406013.html>

Looking for programmatic proposals. Strategic funding within a focus area including priorities for salmon recovery, water quality, climate adaptation etc. Encourage collaborative riparian applications across watersheds.

Investment Plans and Priorities – invest in riparian programs at a watershed scale. Six focus areas:

1. Reach-scale approach to planning and outreach, strategic approach. Regional coordination and planning, landowner engagement and recruitment activities, etc. We want to help pay for those efforts
2. Native plant materials: plant propagation, procurement, holding facilities, etc. Ensure no roadblocks to getting plants when needed. Getting plants in the ground – design, procurement, and establishing plants.
3. Maintenance, Monitoring, and adaptive management. Focus on providing long-term riparian project support
4. Landowner incentives – still working on this. Focus on BMP's that help address needs of landowner while we're planting i.e. fencing, watering. We're interested in novel approaches from applicants
5. Permanent Protection of Riparian Habitat – acquisitions, easements, etc. to preserve lands intact when they're under threat of development or being restored
6. Future eligible proposal activities – innovative landowner incentives, maintenance support stipends, and other activities to consider for future, we're still figuring out

Projected funding availability and key dates – approx. \$9million, solicitations potential in summer 2025. Contract start in March, work next summer. Minimum awards of \$500,000 and max award of \$2,750,000, no match required because that's already coming from federal funds. Focused on large-scale programs

https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/climate-resilient-riparian?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Eligible Applicants: Special purpose districts, Tribes, etc. Ineligible: state agencies or for-profit agencies.

Ineligible proposals/activities: Proposals with no direct benefit to riparian restoration in Puget sound watersheds, no funding of mitigation or flood control, culvert removal/installation etc. There's a Riparian buffer width requirement, there's a chapter on this in the funding guidelines. This is part of conditions EPA puts on funding.

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2406020.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

List serve for update info, there's a link to sign up, https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/puget-sound/helping-puget-sound/riparian-restoration/grant-application-resources?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Workshop December 10th 9am-3pm with Snohomish Conservation District, Climate Resilience Riparian Restoration.

There is a virtual attendance option but more activities in-person. This is what we want to do with this award – knowledge sharing, identifying barriers, focus on region-wide success and long-term stewardship. To sign up,

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1i8hzsQ79aOzHWUuaMbDbXEoeyGz9IYT5zxGF0oxg7zwy0Q/viewform>

Best contact for questions – Libby.gier@ecy.wa.gov

Kendra: in Snohomish training, I wish I didn't see those plastic tubes! They add no benefit, costly and wash down stream and cause problems, encourage not using them. And we may not be eligible because it's expensive in the islands and limited salmon use of system but if truly climate focused there would be some water quality benefits.

Craig: landowner incentive payments, especially for ecosystem services, are those just for the duration or ongoing? Because if there are costs incurred for loss of land it'll be ongoing

Colin: we're working on that, emerging challenge

-More discussion of how this will look on an applicant-by-applicant basis, adaptive with respect to climate resilience

-some discussion of use of specific plant species and where to source from

Dave: what other things could we do to enhance salmon spawning grounds?

Colin: different versions of assisted migration, etc. We'll help support those conversation over coming years.

Kendra: use of GIS analysis of climate resilience and identifying cold water refugia.

Kayla: I'll follow up on that

11:00 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



MRC Annual Retreat
Friday, December 6, 2024
San Juan Island Grange, 152 1st Street N, Friday Harbor WA

Agenda

8:45 AM	Meet and Greet
9:00 AM	Convene Meeting: <i>Adam Parrott, MRC Chair</i>
9:05 AM	Member Updates and Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve November Meeting Minutes
9:15 AM	Presentations/Panel on Kelp Aquaculture <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Emily Buckner and Jodie Toft, Puget Sound Restoration Fund- Amy Carey, Sound Action
10:15 AM	MRC Business Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwest Straits Initiative Conference Debrief- <i>Retreat Attendees</i>• Open Public Meetings Act Training Debrief- <i>All</i>• Youth Membership on MRC- <i>Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria</i>• MRC Membership and Interview Scheduling- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Planning for San Juan MRC- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
11:15 AM	MRC Member Team Building Exercise- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
12:00 PM	Networking Lunch (Opportunity for Networking and debrief from morning sessions)
12:45 PM	Recap of 2024 MRC Accomplishments – <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
1:15 PM	MRC Work Plan for 2025- MRC Staff/Subcommittee Leads <i>Projects and work areas, Deadlines and key dates</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plastic Free Salish Sea2. Derelict Vessel Prevention Program3. Eelgrass Protection4. Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness/ERTV5. Marine Stewardship6. Vessel Surveys/Benthic Habitat Project7. Other projects of interest for 2025
2:30 PM	MRC Subcommittees- MRC Staff and Subcommittee Leads <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Subcommittees identified for 2025 and status update• Planning for subcommittee work going forward
3:00 pm	Adjourn Retreat

*This is an in person meeting, but a virtual option is available for those attending remotely:

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Meeting ID: 298 205 671 008

Passcode: fhASzn

Dial in by phone

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Phone conference ID: 954 647 025#

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Dave Checkley, Brian Goodremont, Olivia Graham, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria
Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Emily Buckner, Amy Carey, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Jodie Toft, Tina Whitman, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

8:45 AM **Meet and Greet**

9:04 AM **Convene Meeting**

Adam Parrott

9:05 AM **Member Updates and Public Comment**

- we could have a sign outside announcing that we're having a public meeting, and it is posted on our website

9:07 AM **Approve November Meeting Minutes**

No comments or edits. Dave moves to approve the minutes, Olivia seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.

9:08 AM **Presentations/Panel on Kelp Aquaculture**

Emily Buckner and Jodie Toft, Amy Carey

Emily: We're here from Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) to speak about kelp cultivation. Our mission is to design, test and spearhead in-water actions to protect species in PS waters. We have many collaborators and partners. I'm the crab and seaweed programs manager. We help scientists, tribes, and fishermen work together. I'll talk about previous work with NOAA to develop best farming practice recommendations, and ways to promote algae growth.

Jodie: I've been at PSRF for six years as the deputy director and then transitioned to executive director role. Here today to talk about kelp restoration and action. We hope we can be a good set of resources to talk about kelp farming.

Emily: I'll talk about ecological considerations for commercial kelp farming. We published a paper on this topic in August 2024, in Marine Fisheries Review, written with NOAA. Big regional interest in kelp farming, a new industry we want to get right, put in regulations to set up for success and not make mistakes in marine environment. First, identified potential ecological impacts, looked broadly in literature and talked to experts around the world about what could go wrong. Second step was to apply those broad issues to our local context and native species. Third step was to move into research and adaptive framework for the industry, pilot projects to test questions. Step four –develop best farming practices, continue to monitor, assess and back to step 1 – look for potential impacts. Here we're really talking about the first two steps. Potential impacts from review of global literature:

Habitat Impacts, Crop could provide habitat/refugia for native species. Then harvested and refugia are removed.

Forage fish spawn on marine vegetation; if regionally important fish like herring spawn on kelp that's harvested then spawn could be lost. Farm infrastructure itself (buoys, lines, etc.) could also cause disruption or entanglement hazard.

Water quality and nutrient subsidies, Crop extracts nutrients, chemical s and metals from water column and absorbs carbon/stabilizes pH. But if water is nutrient-poor, crop could compete with other organisms. Crop can provide nutrient subsidies in the form of detritus, particulates, etc. but could also overload the system

Hydrology Impacts, Farm infrastructure/crop dampens wave energy, potential for shoreline protection

Benthic Impacts, Farm anchors/moorings create habitat-forming reefs, but these can also disturb the benthic vegetation and seafloor. Cultivated kelp could overshadow benthic vegetation, compete for light

Genetic Disease Impacts, Crop could populate environment with reproductive material, influencing wild genetic diversity, crop could spread disease. But can also assist in restoration efforts, reforestation of wild beds.

Our local context led us to zero in on a couple areas of emphasis kelp farm regulators will need to pay attention to: First is marine spatial conflicts. If kelp farming takes place in public waters, shipping and other vessel movement, infringement on tribal treaty fishing rights. As well as infrastructure, chains/moorings/etc.

And the issue of genetic diversity. Also concern around forage fish like herring spawning and not removing crop with spawn. Emphasize risks to marine mammals considering their importance in our region. Most of these concerns can be handled with good siting and research. Need to test best farming practices to see what works. Best practices may alleviate many concerns. E.g. with treaty right fishing, siting farm properly and include Tribes in the process from the start. With marine vegetation, it can be a matter of type of anchors used and siting away from eelgrass beds. As for genetic material drift, we can source genetically local strains. Siting to stay away from spawning areas and rules about not harvesting crop with forage fish spawn on it. For marine mammals, it's about smart siting and avoiding high traffic areas, like the west side of SJI. There are no known examples of mammals locally entangling in kelp farms.

Jodie: shift focus away from commercial side and into restoration aquaculture. This part of PSRF exists because for a while we were the only ones doing kelp aquaculture, and we were doing it to test the availability of sugar kelp to affect local water conditions and pH. We've been doing this for a while – figuring how to put seaweed back in the water and how to test what it's doing, we have experience permitting and growing the seaweed.

How do we reintroduce bull kelp in places where it has declined? Need to reflect on what we know about bull kelp. They're the forest builder kelp in the inland Salish sea. It's not doing great anywhere; we don't know how it's doing everywhere. Jodie shows data from Floating kelp forest indicator for WA State with assessment of where there's kelp. Colors on map show areas of decline, concern, stability, and patches of no data. South there's a lot of decline, some insufficient data in Admiralty Inlet and some areas of concern in North Sound and SJ waters. There's been 305 acre loss from 2006-2016, a 36% loss in one decade. Some beds matter a lot to certain groups. Our goal is to introduce “plants” (actually protists) and have them generate the next generation canopy the next year; for them to grow up and create seed bank on the sea floor that can restart the cycle. We hope those methods can be feasible and scalable.

Jodie tells about one bed in central Sound, “Jefferson Head”. Chart from 1800's shows kelp as a navigational hazard. Local Tribe wanted kelp bed to return but needed keep restoration work shoal-ward of existing geoduc tracts.

Early trials: tried making “green gravel” (i.e. seeding gravel and moving it into the marine environment,). Then tried sporophyte and psori transfers – this is feasible but not scalable. Made a notched-pyramid, unspooled a seeded twine. It worked – kelp grew up with reproductive patches; produced mature sporophytes (adult kelp) but did not reach surface and did not produce next-generation forest. But a promising technique. Adapted that technique to use thick anchored line and shuttle seeded twine along it. This strategy approximates farming. Seeds were collected from kelp around Salish Sea. In Central Sound we try to take samples from nearest neighbors. But we're glad to have a seed bank. Ideally, we need reproductive material in January to plant in February, but often kelp is senesced by then. In recent years we've been able to grow bull kelp and keep it on surface, it behaves much like real kelp beds. Environmental monitoring arrays have instruments measuring temperature, salinity, PAR, DO, and pH data. We have an experiment at Port Angeles funded by WA Sea Grant for finding parameters of kelp growth with a reciprocal transplanting experiment with north/central Sound and hybrid individuals, measuring reproductive output and time of emergence of reproductive material, looking for any hybrid vigor and at what portions of genome are activated at different sites. In 2026, working with Samish on bed loss in SJC, testing methods used in Central and South Sound.

We also have a draft manuscript which is an evaluation of the population genetics study and variability of kelp throughout the region, looking at which parts of the genome are activated in different parts of the subbasin. There's a similar population genetics study with sugar kelp -looking at where there's genetic differentiation across the region.

QUESTIONS

Karin: How significant is the carbon sequestration factor, to what extent is that a real impact or is it overstated?

Jodie: you didn't hear us talk about that at all – that's a clue. The amount provided by kelp/seaweeds is murky and it's much clearer that there's a biodiversity benefit. Focus should be on habitat benefits, water quality etc.

Craig: you mentioned biodiversity benefits – are you looking at those in your study?

Jodie: yes, there's a great program called Reefcheck foundation. They use a standardized protocol throughout the region, they do four different types of surveys. We pair that with snorkel surveys. We have an ROV run by Zach

Randall from Seattle aquarium. Lots of ways to look at diversity underwater. It's important to do that both at restored site and paired adjacent wild bed so we can assess change. And it's clear – with habitat, the critters come.

Emily: PSRF does restoration aquaculture which has similarities to commercial techniques, but the goals are different. I'd like to see more monitoring efforts at commercial farms to see their interactions with environment.

Jodie: we've been working with farmers in Vashon because DNR has asked that they have some monitoring program, the farmer in Colvos passage does Reefcheck surveys, similar work going on in Hood Head.

Tina: There are folks interested in farming in SJC with applications in the works. MRC should consider best practices so we can support aquaculture where appropriate and be clear about what specific siting means.

Emily: the second half of our paper sketches out considerations for best farming practices and what's needed for local research. It includes recommendations. There have been a couple farms going through this process with regulators. DNR has been actively thinking about this for a couple years.

Tina: unrealistic for every county's regulator to be kelp experts

Jodie: I would connect with folks from King County. And talk with the folks associated with permitting at Lummi

Emily: but for siting, you'll be the best people for that because you know your local waters

Dave: Twofold question, issue of restoration vs. adaptation. Are the species the same inside the Salish sea and in Straits of Juan de Fuca and outside? And what are your thoughts on ultimate causes on decline of kelp and the role of heat events in particular that aren't preventable? Can we accommodate with what species we put in?

Jodie: yes, *Nereocystis* is the bull kelp and we're not seeing signs of subspeciation. If anything, there are a couple different ancestral groups but all the same species. To your second question, there is temperature tolerance – bull kelp don't like warm water. Above 16 C is like a seawater fire wall, bull kelp has trouble reproducing under those conditions. Nothing is static, there are places with persistent warmer water and kelp does fine there. How does genome activate differently in those areas to give that persistence advantage? We have new funding to look at that. Megan Dethier is doing a big study in causal factors. We can't cool down the water, but we can change nutrient inputs where those drive changes in conditions. What can we do on the terrestrial that can change the environment? What if we find that the kelp in Whidbey basin is the kelp that would be more tolerant everywhere? We don't want to weaken diversity over region, need to answer more questions about effect of hybridization

Tina: Friends of the San Juans (2007) and Samish Indian Nation (2017) have ten years of data for bull kelp in SJC from work done with DNR showing 30% declines in the county.

Craig: The carbon storage/sequestration benefits from harvested commercial farms where the kelp biomass is removed from the ocean will be much less than natural beds where drift kelp detritus can sink into deep water, unless commercial kelp farming is harvesting and sinking/burying the kelp for carbon credits

Tina: Perhaps Megan Dethier could present to MRC about collaborative study into causal factors of kelp declines.

Beth: I am curious what you've learned about competition between understory and bull kelp. How does competition affect site selection or success of restoration? are there collaborative restoration actions that balance the grazer/predator interactions to allow success?

Jodie: In some places, competition seems to be a factor, and in some places it doesn't. When it is an issue, it may be because the understory establishes first and creates a less-than-ideal situation for recruitment of canopy kelp (i.e., the kelp 'seed' doesn't have a place to land and grow). OR that both understory and canopy kelp are finding spaces to land, but then the understory species use the nutrients more quickly, leaving the bull kelp in the lurch.

Beth: How does competition affect site selection or success of restoration? Or are there collaborative restoration actions that balance the grazer/predator interactions to allow success?

Jodie: we and others are trying to understand kelp crab predation better. Lots of kelp crab, and they love to eat kelp. Regarding competition - Megan Dethier's team is, as Tina mentioned, doing very cool work on understanding conditions during bull kelp emergence. Those results should shine light on the degree of competition/predation

Kari Koski: are sea urchins still a problem without sea stars keeping them in check?

Jodie: Sea urchins are a big part of the downfall of kelp forests in CA, but not the main stressor here. We have our eyes on them! And the effect of the sea star die-off along the coast was certainly part of the CA story

10:09 AM Amy Carey from Sound Action presents:

With the introduction of commercial longline kelp aquaculture in marine waters of WA, aquaculture applicants are not required to get HPA permits but we at Sound Action have reviewed approximately 5,000 permits among broad regulatory processes. With permits that don't meet mandated standards, we want to participate in the process, provide information, last option is take legal action either administrative or judicial. I've lived on Vashon and worked on killer whales for 20 years, they come here in winter for chum runs. I've been part of the work group for orcas, looking at habitat loss. There has been interest in benefits of commercial aspects of kelp farming and plans to use long line arrays in the Sound, set horizontally/vertically. There's a significant amount of line going in the water. Entanglement is a real risk for large whales and for orcas, there's evidence of that from various sources. There's an application for a kelp farm commercial permit on the SW part of Vashon, highest whale use area. Southern residents, humpbacks, sometimes they're there for 45 days straight. We see cases where laws aren't being applied, e.g. starting with federal level, the Vashon applicant provided incorrect whale information – applicant said summer-was the whale-use time for orcas in this area and that there's limited use in fall and winter. And no mention of humpbacks. NMFS accepted that as fact throughout the process. This is especially critical for orcas that are close to extinction. We saw the same thing at King County level. Shoreline permits can take time, but applicants are excited to start on projects. A process that should have taken a year was pulled to the front of the line. For the biological evaluation they accepted a towed video from the applicant, not a biologist, not in correct season. Very little opportunity for public comment, fast tracked process but the permit was still allowed to go in directly over native vegetation despite comment letters and some participation. At the State DNR level, many efforts to try to bring some better information in. There's native bull kelp adjacent to this site. Rather than a 12-year lease, they issued four years.

I mentioned before that our last resort is legal action -an appeal on this is still in process. There is no monitoring requirement, no reporting about whales, no parameters in permitting or leasing to stop work if whales are entangled.

We're not opposed to kelp farming, but we need to get this right. Both for the whales and for the emerging industry.

We've started talking to entities early on and developed this 'hold the line' campaign – we want to ensure these farms aren't sited in high whale use areas. And there are alternatives to using rope – i.e. fiberglass structures that wouldn't entangle. Siting in shallow areas away from whale-use. We brought forward a body of information about weak-link/breakaway lines. We've been mapping from available datasets, we know where high whale-use areas are.

Local experts (Amy provides names) have noted the risk of entanglement. Tighter lines are not an avoidance and wouldn't prevent a whale's weight from disturbing lines. Another issue ignored by regulatory agencies is "kelping" – whales are attracted to kelp. Bringing these issues up to highlight what's happening in regulatory process, and where we see problematic gaps. As the MRC you have a unique opportunity as projects are being proposed in SJ's. The lease for the farm in SW Vashon was granted despite the case in court. We've confirmed presence of whales next to buoys of the new farm, even though all lines aren't in yet. Need improvements in the industry.

QUESTIONS:

Adam: Which is the regulatory group or organization making these faulty decisions?

Amy: All of them. With whale data the Army Corps, King County with shoreline permitting and DNR for leasing

Frankie: there was a presentation this week regarding the orca occupancy model that is being built and will be used for the orca indicator, I think that will have benefit to these real-life with permitting. Not all that siting is necessarily getting into the databases that regulators see when they put those permits together. It's a more complicated question of how to get more comprehensive siting databases available for these purposes.

Amy: We have this body of information and different technology, we used various databases in our own mapping

Frankie: more about available databases, it's important to be wary of pseudo replication if you're just mapping from public sightings directly. The Whale Museum is collating from a lot of different sources.

Level: if we consider making recommendations to the County in terms of their role in permitting process it would be helpful if there's anything in writing that would summarize your recommendations, if you could send that to Sam

ACTION ITEM: thank you presenters, please share your PowerPoint presentations with Sam to share with members

10:52 AM **MRC Business Items**

- Northwest Straits Initiative Conference Debrief

Retreat Attendees

Sam: folks who attended should summarize main takeaways – Lovel, Karin, Olivia, Kari, Mike, Christina, and Katie.

Kari: we highlighted the DV program, I brought copies of the one-page handout. Generated great discussion

Lovel: NW Strait Initiative will be providing all the handouts there online

Dave: did you learn about anything other MRC's are doing that we should be doing?

Lovel: Islands County MRC provided their engagement around their comp plan update. They had some great advice

Mike: we have a direct line to County staff and County Council but not every MRC has that

Katie: many other counties have their marine programs in public works

Kari: We're also unique in that we don't have a local Tribe within our area. We have a lot of Tribes with stakes

Mike: before this, we went to WSN and there was a great presentation there about a Tribal led nonprofit. We have some transboundary issues – it would be great to work with a foundation/nonprofit that works with all Tribes

Karin: something I took away was from the keynote speaker, Elin Kelsey, who wrote the book Hope matters

Lovel: Seadoc has a podcast with an interview with the author

Olivia: I'd like to see if she could give a seminar maybe at FHL, her message was so great. It was a valuable meeting.

Frankie: we have a marine program supporting the MRC's work and allowing us to pull off substantially bigger projects, so it's a shame that as staff we're not able to participate and share with local counties.

Sam: we have several staff billing to our MRC grant, it would be good to have our staff members included.

Lovel: could applications for projects include the costs of attending these conferences?

11:14 AM • Open Public Meetings Act Training Debrief

All

- reminder, everyone must attend that online and let Sam know. Sam sent out the link to the training via email

Adam: Should we put something on the agenda for January – discuss implementing from that training in future?

11:17 AM • Youth Membership on MRC

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

We have a description of the role and list of expectations, hope to have a final doc for MRC to review by February.

We want to have two high school students. They can pass along info to their cohort and parents

11:19 AM • MRC Membership and Interview Scheduling

Sam Whitridge

This is a call to participate in interviews. One spot on committee is open. We'd like to fill it sometime in the new year

It's not island-specific, it's open to all. But we do have a priority of having a non-SJI person.

Staff participate in the interviews but need another committee member. Adam and Karun are both available

11:21 AM • Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Planning for San Juan MRC

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Karin: Sandy and Olivia were also there. It was led by the Athena group by the NWSC. The point of meetings wasn't always clear– seemed directionless. That was difficult feedback for the Athena group. They put the cart before the horse – they want to talk about how the MRC increases diversity without talking about what DEI is. the end product wasn't really identified. Concluded that we don't need the Athena group, we know people within our own community. I suggest we start with training first.

Olivia: I was also confused, the meeting lacked structure and didn't address issues, just skirted around

Sandy: we also have a DEI group at FHL, we can bring some information from there

Frankie: the County also has a DEI taskforce.

11:25 AM **MRC Member Team Building Exercise**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

We've had some membership changes but not a lot of opportunity to network. We'd like everyone to talk about themselves, tell us something special about yourself, what brought you to MRC, and what brings you hope.

12:00 PM **Networking Lunch** (Break & opportunity for Networking and debrief from morning sessions)

12:46 PM **Reconvene**, special thanks & gift for Cindy Wolf, she's leaving big shoes to fill!

12:48 PM Resume and complete the MRC member team-building exercise

1:30 PM *quick group photo!*

1:32 PM **MRC Work Plan and Subcommittees for 2025**

MRC Staff/Subcommittee Leads

• Review of Subcommittees identified for 2025 and status update, Planning for subcommittee work going forward
Sam: we need to approve workplan, I emailed a draft. Let's discuss that simultaneously with subcommittee list.

1. Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin: This year we created monthly beach cleanups at Jackson, largely thanks to Katie. We've done three so far
Challenge: how do we branch out more? want to reach out to other MRC's about joint ventures and activities, that should be in our workplan. In terms of membership, I think we need a little new energy. I'd really like Kari to join us, because she has lots of ideas and energy and issues of plastics ties in with marine debris

Sam: we're 14 members, so a quorum would be 8. Each subcommittee needs to be below that number

Committee members: Karin R.K., Craig S., Adam P., Sandy W.E., Kari K.

1:38 PM 2. Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

Adam: we had a great year, record-setting spring event in partnership with the Port. I hope we can do that again.

Kari has been amazing getting the word out about derelict vessels and she was great at the fair!

Kari: I'd like voices from community that aren't on MRC, can we explore having a liveboard on the subcommittee?

Committee members: Adam P., Kari K., Christina K., Matt A., Craig S.

3. Eelgrass Protection

Beth: We're still looking at ways to get eelgrass beds on navigational charts, that may happen by this spring

Sandy: I'd like to expand this to seagrass protection. Not as impacted by anchoring but still a native grass here

MOTION: Sandy moves to change the name of the subcommittee to 'Seagrass Protection'

Motion augmented by Olivia: let's broaden it to include all submerged vegetation. Kari seconds. Motion passes

Committee members: Beth Tate, SWE, Christina Koons, Olivia Graham

Note: add a column on our chart of 2025 subcommittee members for "Interested community members"

4. Tribal Partnerships

Discussion: we had a subcommittee called "Tribal Partnerships", it's no longer active but the idea is relevant

Sandy: I have some connections with the NWIC, they have a Coast Salish youth group, and they'd be interested

MOTION: strike this as a subcommittee and leave it for more general discussion

Discussion: but we want this to remain at forefront, can we put it language about making sure it stays in the mix?

Cindy: if strike the subcommittee, instead "adopt tribal partnerships as part of the work plan"

Dave: there's been a tribal representative, Patti Gobin. The best way is to have a person at the table

Mike: with 14 different tribes! I've worked with most of them. we are on their land for most of what we do

Frankie: It's a process because every Tribe is different, so we'll engage with each Tribe as much as they wish. I can share the Tribal engagement framework that was approved by Council a couple weeks ago. I can also send out the training parts 1 & 2 that were super helpful. I'd love to have the NWIC come talk to the MRC about new initiatives.

Adam: then can we make it a monthly update that happens at the MRC meeting?

-Question, should we strike this subcommittee without all members present

Frankie: The stewardship group is a subcommittee, there's a good opportunity to engage the Stewardship network tribal engagement group. That's about elevating tribal events that happen here, celebrating native awareness month – like the screening of the Fish wars movie. The MRC is meant to have a Tribal rep on the committee. In terms of understanding the government-to-government relationship we need to make sure we do things right

capacity. But we need to avoid actions/projects that Tribes don't even know about

ACTION: Frankie will talk to Patti about this before the January MRC meeting

ACTION: members that are present will check with members that aren't present, meet as a subcommittee to decide what to do going forward, this will be on agenda for January

ACTION: Sandy will check with Jeff Dyer about remaining on the subcommittee as a citizen member

Committee members: Patti G., Christina K., Jeff D., Kendra S., Mike R., Sandy W.E.

5. Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness/ERTV

We've merged these two subcommittees into one, ERTV planning is a measure for oil spill prevention

MOTION: Mike moves to combine these two subcommittees, Karin seconds. All in favor, the motion passes.

Marta: Efforts in the County have been stymied due to Ecology's report on the oil spill risk assessment. The subcommittee's work has helped inform the County, but the report's results were damaging and misleading. They averaged the risk across the Salish Sea and diverted efforts to get more of a voice here and in Canada to solidify this message. I offered you all a final review of Ecology's report; we still have unresolved questions; we need to rely on the work that's been done in Canada and by NUCA study that we commissioned to come together with Islands Trust (who Cindy met with yesterday together with County Council). I encourage the MRC to get behind that movement, we've been at this for 10 years. Please help educate the new council on this. Governor Inslee wants to talk about this with Canada before he leaves office at the end of this month. The County's decade-long efforts in support of an ERTV were put on hold by Ecology's 4-yr modeling project. This year the ERTV subcommittee has accomplished much to inform the County's inquiries to Ecology, yet many concerns of the misleading conclusions and implausible results (Sidney v RH) remain unresolved. Let's put a pin in the Ecology report with the updated 1-pager on our review and findings. The point is not to let Ecology detract from all the support for an ERTV. We heard from Islands Trust yesterday that they could support a Joint statement with First Nations to Transport Canada. I hope the MRC will seek Tribal, elected and other partners for such a joint statement as a matter of urgency.

Level: thank you Marta for your tenacious work on this. Let's draft some outreach materials for the Council to use in their advocacy of an ERTV. We have two new council members and we're losing an important advocate with Cindy.

Marta: Senator Cantwell's and the Governor's offices have been reliant on the Ecology report. So, please look at the one-pager I've produced to say we acknowledge the work that's been done. We can say, 'this is what the Ecology report provided and this what it didn't do', but meanwhile still need to show the importance of an ERTV.

Adam: do we have an action item for January to have those one-pagers ready to send out?

Level: the staff has Marta's one-pager and the other handout we've been using. Now those need to be put together

ACTION ITEM: For January meeting we'll have a draft presented that we can review to send to Council

Cindy: We must keep Marta's information circulating and use it to educate. Ecology won't change the report, and they don't want to be criticized for it, but they are on the same page about wanting a ERTV. So now it's about how to move forward to get acknowledgement that the ERTV is needed. Ecology will cooperate, but not by retracting that report.

Craig: we can highlight the part of the report that showed zones around the SJI's and directly connected waterways. That part does strongly support an ERTV so we can use this report to our advantage even without being critical

Dave: would Ecology co-sign a letter from the MRC to the Governor's office advocating for an ERTV?

Cindy: Ecology's position is about how narrow a question was asked, and they addressed that question. But this is a marathon, it's not a time to give up. I don't know if a statement from Ecology would be enough. I think it's about getting the attention of the new governor and getting him involved as an advocate himself

Adam: the first step is agreeing as an MRC about the information we want to send up the ladder

Cindy: also with new Council members coming in, putting together a comprehensive briefing for them. Kari

McVeigh and Jane fuller – get on their calendar and give them a compendium of all the materials that have been developed

Marta: I appreciate that Ecology is saying don't rely on the report, but the fact that it devalues the presence of an ERTV in Sidney is a major impediment. That's wrong and it's a big problem. I just hope everyone in this room has a sense of urgency about this, to work with Canadians and Tribal partners

Lovel: we are an advisory committee to the Council, so we'll be sending the necessary information to them

Frankie: and there's still value in the report we had done, we can focus on the results of our report

Adam: let's table this discussion and see what the subcommittee comes up with for January

Committee members: Lovel P., Christina K, Matt A., Craig S., David C., Brian G., and Marta G. as member of public

6. Marine Stewardship

We can disband this committee because the MSA is done.

MOTION: Lovel moves to disband this subcommittee, Beth seconds. All in favor. Yay Frankie!

7. Outreach

Sandy: we met, and we reported earlier about the subcommittee

Sandy will take lead on that subcommittee, he'll work with Katie

Committee members: Sandy W.E., Kailey G., Beth T., Adam P., Pema K.

8. Vessel Surveys/Benthic Habitat Project

Sam: These two projects were funded with NOAA federal funding, these can fall under the submerged vegetation subcommittee discussion. Majority of field work completed in 2024, we can report more on these in the new year

Mike: in terms of the OPMA, for the subcommittees, since there's no quorum, we don't need to consider?

Discussion: the subcommittees don't make decisions, they gather information and advise the MRC.

Lovel: but subcommittees can be subject to OPMA if involve other MRC members inadvertently to create quorum

Question: can subcommittees vote on something or just discuss it? - they come to consensus, but not a formal vote

Kari: some of the activities are confusing for DV because they overlap with paid staff activities

Craig: the PFFS does a lot of actions. Do all of those decisions need to get run by the MRC?

Adam: it should be every month when we meet, each subcommittees reports on what they've been doing and what they'd like to do in the next month. Action items don't necessarily need to be voted on, just more communication at each monthly meeting about what each subcommittee is doing

2:44 PM WRAP UP

Karin: one more thing, to create a subcommittee for DEI. There are underserved members in our community

MOTION: Sandy moves to create a DEI subcommittee, Dave seconds. All in favor. That's a new subcommittee

ACTION ITEM: Karin will give a briefing about that in the January meeting and then we can add members

Marta: Ecology senior management came to Friday Harbor to present to Council in June on Oil Spill Prevention. Any mention of their ERTV study was absent. We had no notice - A missed opportunity for ES and MRC members to engage with Ecology on oil spill prevention and ERTV to reduce risk. Ecology isn't standing behind their study so we should be clear that we don't (especially in international discussions)

Note: we may meet a week later than regular schedule for next MRC meeting, Jan 9th.

2:48 pm Adjourn Retreat