



## MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY March 1, 2018

**In Attendance:** Eleanor Hines (Chair), Bob Seaman, Doug Stark, Chris Brown, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Atina Casas, Kristin Murray, Jim Hansen, Glen “Alex” Alexander, Todd Donovan

**Staff:** Austin Rose (WCPW), Robin Klein (WCPW)

**Others:** Emily Schaller, Erica Reed, Mary Kudla, Madelyn Voelker, C. O’Brien, King Dahl, Stacy Dahl, Judith Akins, Steve Tuckerman, Jennie Tuckerman, Fritz Ulrich, Bert Rubash,

Prior to the general MRC meeting, a marine conservation class from Western Washington University presented on the application of citizen science for Olympia oyster restoration and monitoring micro plastics, to the MRC and visiting guests.

- 1) **Introductions:** Eleanor began the meeting with roundtable introductions and welcomed Todd Donovan, who is representing Whatcom County Council.
- 2) **March Agenda:** The March agenda was approved.
- 3) **February Meeting Summary:** The February meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Public Comment Period:** There was no public comment.
- 5) **Tipping the balance: Impact of eelgrass wasting disease in the Salish Sea**—Presentation by Morgan Eisenlord, PhD student at Cornell University, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.
- 6) **MRC Staff Update**
  - MRC Opportunity Fund--\$10,000 from the Northwest Straits Foundation is available for MRCs to apply for to support a citizen science project. The application deadline has been extended to the end of April. The MRC is hoping to apply to support the North Sound Stewards Program.
  - The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference is occurring April 4-6. This timeframe conflicts with the April MRC meeting. Members voted to cancel the April meeting.
  - Austin referred to e-mails she sent out with a draft letter of support for the WSU Shore Stewards Near Term Action (NTA). There was no opposition from members and Austin will send out as final.
- 7) **MRC Subcommittee Updates**
  - **Executive**
    - Met by phone and discussed agenda and speakers.
  - **Speaker Series**
    - At the May MRC meeting there will be an update on the Salish Sea Institute from director Ginny Broadhurst.
  - **Project Development**
    - North Sound Stewards—a re-engagement email was sent out to the volunteers that participated last year and to provide opportunity to those on a waiting list to sign up for

the 2018 season. A survey was included to receive feedback on the program. 80% of last year's participants were from the Bellingham area.

- Marine Debris Advisory Team—EPA is working on a North American plastics protocol (escaped trash). They are identifying the sources of plastics and determining a plan of action to keep them from marine waters. RE Sources and other organizations that are doing citizen science are testing the protocols. There is a stakeholders meeting at the end of April. Any input/suggestions should go to Eleanor.
- The group will be working on the 2018/19 grant proposal—Ideas, i.e. water quality monitoring, displays, outreach should be shared with the project development subcommittee.
- **NWSC**—No report.
- **Policy/Advisory**
  - Marine Resources lands chapter of the Comprehensive Plan is on the docket.
  - Work is starting on the shoreline management plan update.
- **County Council**
  - Marine Resources lands chapter for the comp plan is docketed.
- **City Council** – No report
- **Jerry's Journey**
  - The sixth and final sign is complete. Welders will replace existing signs at three locations within the park. Help will be needed to prep for the main triangular kiosk.

#### 8) Partner Committee Updates

- **BBAT** – Meeting was cancelled. The comment period for the Cornwall landfill engineering design report was just finished.
- **WWIN** –There will be a general membership meeting in May.
- **Salmon Recovery Team** –No report.

#### 9) Review Action Items and Adjourn –

- The April MRC meeting is canceled due to members attending the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.
- The next MRC meeting will be May 3, 2018, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ginny Broadhurst will be presenting on the Salish Sea Institute.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.