



MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Scheduled for: May 3, 2018

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Please note adjusted meeting time.**

Place: PW Civic Building, Garden Level Conference Room

1.	5:00	Introductions
2.		May Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		March Meeting Summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:05	The Salish Sea Institute: Strengthening Our Sense of Place and Connection to the Salish Sea – Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Salish Sea Institute at WWU Objective: Information about the ecology and ecosystem of the Salish Sea will be discussed. Ginny will provide an overview of the work of the Institute on transboundary environmental issues and campus curriculum.
6.	6:10	Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Project – Dan van Hees, Ecosystem Coordinator, Northwest Straits Commission Objective: Discuss the general objectives of the NEI project and provide opportunity for MRC members to provide input.
7.	6:25	Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC) Debrief Action: Roundtable discussion and information exchange from members who attended the SSEC.
8.	6:35	MRC Subcommittee Updates: Project Development, Executive, Speaker Series, NWSC, Advisory, County Council Objective: Provide subcommittee members with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
9.	6:45	Partner Committee Updates: BBAT, WWIN, Salmon Recovery Objective: Provide partner committees with opportunity to relay info and updates to the full MRC.
10.	6:55	Review Action Items and Adjourn

Upcoming Events:

- **Intertidal Survey Trainings**, May 5th, 12:00-4:30, BP Heron Center, Birch Bay State Park OR May 6th, 12:00-4:30, Fidalgo Bay Resort, , Anacortes. *Hosted by the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve and RE Sources for Sustainable Communities.*
- **MRC Forage Fish Survey**, May 25th, 10:00-1:00, Little Squalicum Beach and Marine Park, Bellingham. Please contact Amanda Weiss for information amandaw@re-sources.org
- **Birch Bay Beach Fest and Feast**, June 2, 11am-3pm, Birch Bay State Park **includes Jerry's Journey ribbon cutting**
- **What's the Point – Nature Exploration at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve**, June 16 (more details coming soon)

In Attendance: Eleanor Hines (Chair), Austin Rose (Staff), Jim Hansen, Chris Brown, Atina Casas, Kristin Murray, Bob Cecile, Bob Seaman, Pete Granger, Ryan McLaughlin, Doug Stark, Alex

Others: Ginny Broadhurst (WWU), Dan van Hees (NWSC)

- 1) **Introductions:** Eleanor began the meeting with roundtable introductions.

- 2) **May Agenda:** The May agenda was approved as final.
- 3) **March Meeting Summary:** The March meeting summary was approved as final.
- 4) **Public Comment Period:** There was no public comment.
- 5) **The Salish Sea Institute: Strengthening Our Sense of Place and Connection to the Salish Sea:** Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Salish Sea Institute at WWU, provided an overview of the work of the Institute on transboundary environmental issues and campus curriculum.
- 6) **Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Project:** Dan van Hees, Ecosystem Coordinator, Northwest Straits Commission provided detail on the Northwest Straits Commission's Net Ecosystem improvement project and the goal of quantifying the ecological impacts of the work of the MRC's. As a quantitative ecological assessment, the first the first step in this process is evaluating various characteristics of restoration and monitoring projects. These characteristics include: data quality, pre- and post- restoration monitoring, geographic scope, volunteer involvement, continuity among other MRC efforts. The Whatcom MRC suggested that the Chuckanut PIC project would be a good fit for an evaluation and may work well in the NEI framework. .
- 7) **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC) Debrief:** Members who attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference shared information they learned from sessions they attended.

[Brief Staff Update]: Austin brought to the attention of the group that the July MRC meeting would be scheduled the day after the July 4 holiday. Members of the group suggested that the meeting date be adjusted to another date and perhaps a joint meeting/luncheon with the Skagit MRC could work. Austin mentioned that she would talk with Skagit MRC staff to see if that would be a possibility. Austin also mentioned that the MRC was invited to attend the Bellingham Technical College Fisheries and Aquaculture Open House on Friday, May 11 from 3-6pm. Austin will be there with the MRC display and she encouraged more members to attend.

8) **MRC Subcommittee Updates**

- **Project Development:** The subcommittee has been refining a detailed list of projects to include in the 2018-19 MRC grant round. The proposal will be shared with the full committee at the June MRC meeting. Austin previously sent out a detailed summary on the Olympia oyster deployment logistics. Eleanor mentioned that intertidal survey trainings were occurring May 5-6 and work continues to develop the North Sound Stewards program. Doug mentioned that a beach naturalist training will occur on May 16 up in Birch Bay State Park in preparation for the Birch Bay Beach Fest and Feast and other community outreach events occurring this summer.
- **Executive:** The Executive met via conference call to develop the May meeting agenda. Eleanor reminded the committee that there is still a vacancy for the Economic position on the MRC.
- **Speaker Series:** no report
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Meeting minutes were share with the full committee. Austin reminded the group that the MRC's will be presenting projects to the Commission at their June meeting. The project development committee will work to choose a project to present.
- **Advisory:** Jim informed the group about an initiative in Alaska "Yes for Salmon" aimed to update salmon habitat protection laws. This initiative is going to the Supreme Court as the state is arguing that the initiative goes against the state constitution as it forces the legislature to prioritize salmon habitat. Jim has been attending meetings discussing the development of the Marine Resources Lands section of the Whatcom Comprehensive plan.
- **County Council:** no report.

9) **Partner Committee Updates**

- **BBAT:** the group met this quarter. Waypoint Park will open this June. Little Squalicum Estuary will start construction in 2019. The Squalicum waterway needs to be dredged. Department of Ecology provided a

presentation on the wood waste in Bellingham Bay. This study remains inconclusive. Eric Grossman provided a presentation on the storm models and sea level rise.

- **WWIN:** The next general membership meeting will be on May 22 and it is an Education and Outreach expo where several organizations will be describing their education programs and needs/opportunities to collaborate. Austin will send out more information.
- **Salmon Recovery:** no report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm