



MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Scheduled for: June 7, 2018

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: PW Civic Building, Garden Level Conference Room

1.		Introductions
2.	5:03	June Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		May Meeting Summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:05	Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan - Marine Resources Lands Section: Cliff Strong, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services <i>(see attached memo for more information)</i> Objective: Provide opportunity for the committee to review and approve a new section to the Whatcom County Comprehensive plan aimed to ensure the conservation of functioning marine resource lands of long-term commercial and recreational significance.
6.	5:20	Northwest Straits Foundation Update: Lisa Kaufman and Dana Oster Objective: To inform the committee of the recently awarded National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that will support a program to identify and prioritize restoration projects with MRC's that will improve forage fish habitat in areas identified as important potential habitat for Chinook salmon to improve food availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales.
7.	5:42	Staff Update – July MRC meeting Objective: Provide staff with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
8.	5:47	Project Development Update Action: Discuss status of current projects and share draft proposal for the 2018/19 grant round.
9.	6:15	MRC Subcommittee Updates: Executive, Speaker Series, NWSC, Advisory, County Council Objective: Provide subcommittee members with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
10.	6:45	Partner Committee Updates: BBAT, WWIN, Salmon Recovery Objective: Provide partner committees with opportunity to relay info and updates to the full MRC.
11.	6:23	Review Action Items and Adjourn

Upcoming Events:

What's the Point – Nature Exploration at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, June 16, 11:30-3:30

Orca Month Paddle with Moondance and RE Sources, Monday, June 25th, 6:00-8:30 PM on Bellingham Bay

In Attendance: Kristin Murray (Chair), Atina Casas, Bob Seaman, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Doug Stark, Jim Hansen, Bob Cecile, Glen “Alex” Alexander, Ryan McLaughlin, Cliff Strong

Staff: Austin Rose, Robin Klein (WCPW)

- 1) **June Agenda:** The June agenda was approved.
- 2) **Introductions:** Kristin Murray began the meeting with roundtable introductions.
- 3) **May Meeting Summary:** The May meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Public Comment Period:** No public comment.
- 5) **Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan—Marine Resources Lands Section:** Cliff Strong from Whatcom County Planning and Development Services spoke regarding the Council bringing a Marine Resource Land section into the comp plan. Councilman Weimer brought in some language that was put together by a group that included some MRC members. The group wanted descriptive language of what marine resource lands were, why they are important and general policies about protecting them. This group met three times and came up with the language included in the packet handout under Exhibit B. Cliff invited MRC members to review and endorse the language to be brought to the Planning Commission and County Council later in the year

Cliff would like a response from MRC group before June 28, 2018. Austin will send out an email to members. Suggestions, comments and votes will be done by email quorum. It can be approved as is or with suggested edits. Austin will also send copy of policies and procedures regarding email discussion for members to review. Final results of email discussion to be done Thursday 06/14/2018.

- 6) **Northwest Straits Foundation Update:** Lisa Kaufman informed the group that they have received a grant (Orca Recovery Grant), through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to help develop project prioritization. Through that they have identified a couple MRCs that might be interested in participating. The purpose is to identify project opportunities for restoration that would benefit Orcas. Austin will email the link to the old list of possible projects. They will be looking at forage fish opportunities that would benefit salmon, which would then benefit Orcas.

Plan is to take existing documents and find plans that may be feasible and look over to determine what to pursue in the future. They would like MRC members to bring ideas and information to the table to develop a list of projects. After the list is developed then feasibility and funding is sought.

Private Landowner Outreach: There will be a beach walk on July 18, 2018 at Pt. Whitehorn, led by Andrew McLennan, Coastal Geologic Services. The Northwest Straits Foundation is offering free site assessments for private properties. BB Warm and the Whatcom Conservation District are also partnering with this work in support of their outreach in the north County for drainage management and stormwater.

- 7) **MRC Staff Update**
 - The July 5th MRC meeting is cancelled, due to the July 4th holiday. On July 18, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM we will be participating in a joint MRC luncheon meeting at Padilla Bay

with Skagit and Island MRCs. Austin will send out an email with the details.

- Austin introduced Kurt Baumgarten who is the new representative for the Port of Bellingham. He will be involved in Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District and WRIA 1.
- Austin and Doug introduced Amy Keiper, who is a teacher from Blaine, working on her Master's degree. She is looking to be involved with Citizen Science.
- Austin shared pictures from the Olympia Restoration, Birch Bay Beach Fest and ribbon cutting ceremony for Jerry's Journey. Jerry's family cut the ribbon and were presented with an award to honor his stewardship for Birch Bay.

8) Project Development

- Chuckanut Pollution Identification Patrol is looking at narrowing down the source of pollution in Chuckanut Bay.
- Forage Fish surveys are ongoing. Two new index sites will be identified for the work in the next grant round, one potentially in Birch Bay because Squalicum Estuary Restoration will be at the end of the summer. Staging will be added to the process and will potentially be able to include students.
- Boulevard Park Intertidal Monitoring. Last one was done about 5 years ago. Will be going with the same protocol as before.
- General Education Outreach. We are continuing to participate in events. Some members will be manning a booth at What's the Point on June 16, 2018. SeaFeast will occur on September 22.
- North Sound Stewards—Would like to reach out to new members and volunteers and build on communication.

9) MRC Subcommittee Updates:

- **Executive**
 - Eleanor and Kirstin met and went over the agenda and made suggestions. Austin reported there is still a vacancy for the economic position on the MRC and encouraged members to let anyone who might be interested know about this.
- **Speaker Series** – There are tentatively two presentations coming up in the fall.
 - Brad Smith who is on the Governor's Orca Panel and the effort to recover resident killer whales.
 - Faculty from Bellingham Technical College's Fisheries and Aquaculture program will talk about their new curriculum.
 - It was suggested that someone from the Audubon may be willing to come and give a presentation.
- **Policy/Advisory**
 - Jim represented MRC in the initial Salmon Recovery Board funding grant process.
 - A capital project to enter into a State completion for larger projects is to restore fish passage at the Middle Fork diversion damn. This has gone from being a 20-million dollar project to a 13-million dollar project. Paul Allen Foundation is also donating money. It is a high priority project that will open up 16 miles of habitat to Steelhead and Coho.
 - Jim asked that people bring to him any public projects MRC needs to pay attention to.
- **NWSC**
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- **County Council** – No report
- **City Council** – No report

10) Partner Committee Updates

- **BBAT** – No report.

- **WWIN** –Austin reported the general membership meeting was on May 25, 2018, with an Education Outreach Expo. Austin gave information on the MRC and educational outreach they do. There were 24 presenters and other organizations also shared at the Expo. It gave the opportunity for the organizations to connect with each other.
- **Salmon Recovery Team** – Jim spoke to the manager of the Lummi Restoration Program, who reported that program has been stalled because of mitigation.

11) Review action Items and Adjourn

- Austin will send the Comprehensive document.
- Austin will send the flyer for the Beach Walk on July 18, 2018. Information is also on the MRC website.
- A link to the north shore prioritization list will be sent.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.