



MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Scheduled for: September 6, 2018
 Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Place: PW Civic Building, Garden Level Conference Room

1.	5:00	Introductions
2.		September Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		June Meeting Summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:10	Kids on the Beach Event (<i>Brief sheet #1</i>) – Amy Keiper, Blaine Elementary School Objective: Assess interest and availability from MRC members to participate in the event.
6.	5:30	Staff Update – MRC Conference and IGNITE presentation, Bellingham SeaFeast, Vacation, MRC vacancy and update on member terms, status of 2018-19 grant proposal, SHARP workshop, subcommittee recruitment. Objective: Provide staff with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC. Action: Identify member who will give the IGNITE presentation at conference, and identify member who is available to help with SHARP workshop.
7.	6:00	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.
8.	6:40	Partner Committee Updates: BBAT, WWIN, Salmon Recovery Objective: Provide partner committees with opportunity to relay info and updates to the full MRC.
9.	6:55	Review Action Items and Adjourn

In Attendance: Eleanor Hines (Chair), Austin Rose (Staff), Robin Klein (Staff), Jim Hansen, Chris Brown, Atina Casas, Kristin Murray, Bob Cecile, Bob Seaman, Doug Stark, Glen “Alex” Alexander

- 1) **Introductions:** Eleanor began the meeting with roundtable introductions.
- 2) **September Agenda:** The September agenda was approved as final.
- 3) **June Meeting Summary:** The June meeting summary was approved as final.
- 4) **Public Comment Period:** There was no public comment.
- 5) **Kids on the Beach:** Presentation by Amy Keiper, Blaine Elementary School to assess interest and availability from MRC members to participate. A handout was provided as Amy discussed the objectives, instruction and materials needed for the program. The program is modeled after the Skagit MRC program “Kids on the Beach”. Amy is proposing the children could do a forage fish survey, clam survey, beach signing on a local beach, and possibly an abbreviated version of an intertidal survey. The program would integrate a good scientifically-based environmental education into the school system. After the presentation, members asked questions and provided feedback. Some members offered to meet with Amy and go over further recommendations and ideas.



6) **Staff Update:** Austin will be out of town September 14 to October 1, 2018.

- MRC Conference will be November 16, 2018. For members to be reimbursed they will need to submit all original receipts for hotel and for mileage reimbursement they will need to submit a MapQuest printout of their travel. It does take a while to process so get into Austin as soon as possible.
- Ignite Presentation. An MRC representative presents 20 slides. Austin will put the presentation together, but will need someone to present. Eleanor volunteered if no one else was available. Please contact Austin if you would like to represent the MRC at the presentation.
- Bellingham Sea Feast, September 21 & 22, 2018. MRC has booked a booth. Austin will be out of town during that time. At this time Bob Seaman is the only person signed up. Austin asked that members use Signup.com to sign up for a shift to schedule time to man the booth. Ideal would be for two people to be manning the booth at the same time to allow for breaks.
- MRC Vacancies—Jeremy's economic has been vacant since the beginning of the year. We are still looking for someone and it is usually filled by a fisherman. Bob S. suggested contacting Bobby Bristol, who is a port commissioner, as he might know of someone who would be interested. Doug Stark, conservation/environmental interests, will be resigning at the end of the year. Austin asked that anyone interested please contact her. There are 2 partial terms. Alex and Eleanor's positions are expiring January 1st.
- 2019 Grant Proposal—Is still in the finance office at Ecology to get the terms and conditions approved that come through Puget Sound Partnership. Hoping that it will be at the September 25th County Council meeting.
- During Water Weeks there will be a Shark Workshop on September 18, 2018, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Civic Center Garden Room. This is something the MRC has partnered several times with the NW Straits Foundation. The workshop will focus on native vegetation to manage shoreline property. They are looking for someone from the MRC to attend represent the MRC as a partner in this work. Please contact Austin if you are interested in helping at that event.
- Subcommittees such as Executive and Speaker Series are operating at a low level and Austin encouraged members and public to participate.

7) **MRC Subcommittee Updates**

- **Project Development:** There was no meeting in September. The next meeting will be in October to kick off all the projects in the new grant round.
Austin: MyCoast will be going statewide will be available to everyone, including the public, to participate and provide information on king tides, storm surges and providing general beach photos to provide a time lapse of how the beach has changed over time. We are hoping to get Amanda Weiss, our intern with forage fish, to help with the input of beach photos.
- **Executive:** Austin and Kristin met via conference call and set up the agenda for this meeting and for the October meeting. Austin will send out the October agenda next week.
- **Speaker Series:** At the next meeting we will have Brittany Palm-Flawd, PhD Candidate, Hatchery Manager, and instructor at Bellingham Technical College. She will talk about the new fisheries and aquaculture curriculum. She will also talk about some of her research pre and post the Deep Horizon oil spill and fisheries management in the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:**
 - Bob reported that they have had 2 meetings since the last MRC meeting. The last meeting was held at the Bellingham Yacht Club and they discussed the budget.
 - The external relations subcommittee of the commission are meeting with Senator Kevin Rankin. They would like to obtain double the amount of funding they got last time.
 - Eleanor did a presentation on marine plastics and Jerry Masters proposed that a committee be formed to see where this could be taken. There were volunteers that offered to participate.
 - There were discussions regarding inviting elected officials to events and to see some of the special projects.
- **Advisory:**
 - The chapter on Marine Resource went to the Planning Commission where it was tabled. It is going to be considered in the same process as updating the Shoreline Management Plan. Feedback from some environmentalists that it was wrong for us to buy into objectification of Natural Resources by trying to



assign them monetary value. This will be followed up when it is opened up in Planning Commission. There appears to be good support in Council.

- Eleanor will send out an update on Cherry Point.
- **County Council:** No meeting in August. No report.
- **City Council:** No report.

8) Partner Committee Updates

- **BBAT:** No report. Next meeting will be September 18, 2018.
- **WWIN:** Planning for Water Week, September 15-22, 2018. There will various events taking place around Whatcom County. Information is on the MRC website, Cascadia Weekly, WWIN website and other sources.
- **Salmon Recovery:** Jim reported that they are working on the final budget on what will be funded in the next couple of years. Projects considered include North Fork (highest priority), South Fork, and design project on Middle Fork and confluence.

9) Review Action Items and Adjourn

- A representative from Congresswoman Susan Del Bene's office, encouraged MRC to utilize her as a resource for coordinating assistance with such things as writing letters of support for Federal grants. MRC discussed inviting elected officials to events. Susan Del Bene and other Congress members all have support staff that would be able attend events if members are not able to make it. They can also help with communication over issues with other agencies. They would like feedback on any difficulties with obtaining Federal funding and may be able to advocate on MRC's behalf.
- Doug Stark spoke regarding resigning his position at the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.