



MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Scheduled for: **February 7, 2019**
 Time: **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 Place: **PW Civic Building, Garden Level Conference Room**

1.		Introductions
2.	5:00	February Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		December and January Meeting Summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:10	Port of Bellingham Nearshore and Sediment MTCA Cleanup Sites Update: Brian Gouran, Director of Environmental Programs, Port of Bellingham
6.	5:30	Review of MRC roles (staff, members, and ex-officio) Presentation and Breakout session: Provide members with opportunity to review recommended expectations from the MRC Executive Committee and provide suggestions to best support work of the MRC. Breakout questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are their concerns or questions about the roles/responsibilities that were presented? Are there things that should be added?</i>
7.	6:15	MRC Project Development Presentation and Breakout session: Project prioritization strategies/criteria that will <u>make participation more accessible to all MRC members, raise MRC awareness and elevate community impact.</u> Breakout questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are your general thoughts about implementing a project selection/prioritization procedure?</i> • <i>What project selection procedures seem like they would be most beneficial to the MRC?</i> • <i>Are there additional criteria or procedures that should be included?</i>
8.	6:55	Review Action Items and Adjourn

In Attendance: Eleanor Hines (Chair), Elizabeth Kilanowski, Atina Casas, Bob Cecile, Glen Alexander, Chris Brown, Pete Granger, Bob Seaman, Kristin Murray, Pete Sim
Others: Brian Gouran (Port of Bellingham), Kurt Baumgarten (Port of Bellingham), Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission), Dana Oster (Northwest Straits Commission).

1. **Introductions:** Eleanor started the meeting with roundtable introductions
2. **February Agenda:** The February agenda was approved with the addition of an action item for a committee vote on providing the Whatcom County Council with a letter to send to the State Legislatures requesting continued State funding to the MRC.

3. **December and January meeting minutes:** The December and January meeting minutes were approved by consensus.
4. **Public Comment Period:** No Public Comment
5. **Approval of letter to legislature:** The MRC approved providing the Whatcom County Council with a letter to be sent to the District 42 WA State Legislatures emphasizing the importance of continued WA State funding to support MRC projects. Staff will highlight MRC projects suggested by the Committee in the letter.
6. **Port of Bellingham Nearshore and Sediment MTCA Cleanup Sites Update:** Brian Gouran, Director of Environmental Programs, Port of Bellingham provided an update on the Bellingham Bay cleanup sites including: the I&J waterway, Central Waterfront, Whatcom Waterway, GP West – Chlor/Alkali, Cornwall Ave Landfill, and the Harris Ave. shipyard. Each project is in a different phase of the restoration process. Regular updates and information on the open comment periods are available through the Bellingham Bay Action Team. Updates can also be found on Ecology’s website and technical documents are open for review.
7. **Review of MRC Roles:** Northwest Straits Commission Director, Lucas Hart, facilitated the remainder of the general meeting. Lucas provided a history of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, and the role of the MRC’s. The Committee reviewed Whatcom MRC role descriptions that were recommended by the MRC Executive Subcommittee including; staff, members and ex-officios, and were provided the opportunity to discuss concerns or questions on the content that was presented. Descriptions will be added into the MRC Policies and Procedures handbook, which will be provided to all members.
The majority of members in attendance agreed that Ex-Officio’s should not have voting rights and that the role of an Ex-Officio is to provide information to the Committee.

Additions noted for role descriptions:

MRC Staff – 100% of staff time is needed to assist with overall MRC project plan support, project management, and a stronger connection to the County Council.

MRC Role – there needs regular updates from project champions on the status and needs for current MRC projects. A clear time commitment needs to be established for each members of the committee. There needs to a stronger effort to recruit an active County Council and City Council liaison to the committee.

8. **MRC Project Development:** The MRC was presented with two project prioritization matrixes, one use by Island County, and one used by Snohomish. The Committee agreed that ranking project with a matrix would be beneficial to the MRC. There needs to be diversity with short term and long term projects and frequency of outcomes. The MRC should always be considering the ecosystem impact with projects they take on and the level of MRC engagement to fulfill the project needs.
 - MRC capacity (time, funding, and expertise)
 - Balanced project portfolio
 - Public engagement
 - Education value
9. **Review Action Items and Adjourn**
The MRC was asked to anonymously indicate their thoughts on the positive impact of the Whatcom MRC and opportunity for more impacts in the community. Themes are noted below:
Positive impacts: Engaging with community, citizen science and monitoring data
Opportunities for more impacts: Increased education and outreach efforts about issues as well as about the MRC, communication with county and city councils, partnerships.

Upcoming Events:

- **Applications to join the North Sound Stewards** **due FEB 15.** Sign up [HERE](#).
- **North Sound Stewards Orientation Evening:** Tuesday, February 26, 6:00pm -7:30 pm, RE Sources library, 2309 Meridian St. Bellingham, WA.
- ***Speaker Series Event* Pinto Abalone Status Review Update:** Thursday, March 7, 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Garden Level Conference Room, Civic Annex Building, 322 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA
- ***Speaker Series Event* Million Waves Project: Turning Ocean Plastic Into Prosthetic Limbs** Thursday, April 4, 5:00pm– 6:00pm, Garden Level Conference Room, Civic Annex Building, 322 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA