



WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Scheduled for: **February 4, 2021**
 Time: **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 Join Zoom Meeting: **Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99550731250>**
Meeting ID: 995 5073 1250
Passcode: 98225
One tap mobile: +1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

1.		Introductions and Determine Quorum
2.	5:00	February Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		Approval of January meeting summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:10	Introduction of new MRC members (roundtable introductions)
6.	5:20	Brief on MRC Retreat Status (Hilary) Objective: Hilary or Melanie will brief the MRC on the current status of the retreat
7.	5:30	Bellingham Bay MTCA Update (Port of Bellingham Staff)
8.	6:00	Summary of 2020 MRC Projects and Successes Objective: MRC Staff and MRC Chair will share MRC project highlights from 2020. The <u>DRAFT</u> 2020 MRC Annual Report will be shared with full committee
9.	6:20	Discussion of new project ideas Objective: Roundtable discussion of potential projects to include in the 2021-2023 grant proposal to the Northwest Straits Commission. Identify preliminary champions for new projects.
10.	6:40	MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWIN – Austin • County Council – Councilman Elenbaas • Port of Bellingham – Kurt B. • NWSC – Bob C.
11.	6:50	Adjourn

In attendance: Austin Rose (MRC Staff), Jackie Bourgault (alternate – Economic), Bob Cecile, Mike MacKay, Paul Troutman, Bob Seaman, Colin Wahl, Kurt Baumgarten (Ex-officio – Port of Bellingham), Andrew Gamble, Elma Burnham, Heather Spore, Rachel Arnold, Dan Sulak

Others: Elizabeth Kilanowski, Lindsey Parker, Julie Hirsch, Melanie del Rosario, Sasha Horst, Ben Howard (Port of Bellingham), Brian Gouran (Port of Bellingham), Kristine Penrod

- 1. Introductions and Determine Quorum:** A quorum was established at the start of the meeting. Introductions were tabled for later in the meeting.

2. **February Agenda:** February agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of January meeting summary:** approved as written.
4. **Public Comment Period:** Julie Hirsch, Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum (GSSC) introduced herself and Lindsey Parker, staff with GSSC. The GSSC has been doing marine resource education with schools in Whatcom County since 2012, focusing primarily on shellfish. Rick Beauregard with the Drayton Harbor Shellfish Advisory Committee has joined with the GSSC to start harmful algae bacteria (HAB's) monitoring. The groups have been sampling at Semiahmoo and hope to expand the monitoring near the Drayton Harbor Oyster Farm. Lindsey shared information on the upcoming Sound Toxins training in order to recruit more trained volunteers that can help with the monitoring. Austin shared the registration information via email. The MRC provided a letter of support for the Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum's application for the NOAA Bay Watershed Education (B-WET) grant.
5. **Introduction of new MRC members (roundtable introductions):** Eleanor began round table introductions and members shared their favorite marine resource. This provided an opportunity for new members to introduce themselves.
6. **Brief on MRC Retreat Status (Melanie del Rosario):** Melanie provided an update on the upcoming MRC retreat and reminded the group to follow up on an email which asked for member's responses to breakout group preference.
7. **Bellingham Bay MTCA Update (Port of Bellingham Staff):** Brian Gouran and Ben Howard provided an update on the status of the environmental clean-up sites (MTCA) in Bellingham Bay including the Central Waterfront, Cornwall Avenue Landfill, Georgia-Pacific West, Harris Avenue Shipyard, I&J Waterway, Weldcraft Steel and Marine, and the Whatcom Waterway. More information can be found [here](#).
8. **Summary of 2020 MRC Projects and Successes:** Austin presented the Whatcom MRC's 2020 Annual Report which featured MRC highlights from 2020 and updates on projects. The MRC 2020 Annual Report can be found on the Whatcom MRC homepage [here](#).
9. **Discussion of new project ideas:** Austin reviewed a list of new project ideas that have been shared with her including: rain garden development, educational video series – particularly focusing on the working waterfront, targeted outreach on marine debris to marinas, and remote beach cleanups.
10. **MRC Partner Committee Updates:**
 - **WWIN** – Austin reminded the group of the general WWIN membership survey and Speaker Series survey that was sent via email.
 - **County Council – Councilman Elenbaas** – no report.
 - **Port of Bellingham** – Kurt mentioned that the Port has designs and permits in place for the Squalicum Beach Restoration. There may be funding in the Governor's budget for some Bellingham Bay Action Team projects. The tsunami siren is has been installed in Fairhaven.
 - **NWSC** – Bob Cecile mentioned that Lucas Hart, NWSC Director, will be issuing the NWSC 2021-2023 Request for Proposal on March 15. The NW Straits 101 will be occurring twice a year to orient new members.
11. **Adjourn**