

March 4, 2021

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

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Committee Members in Attendance: Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Patti Gobin, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith

Ex-officio, County support staff: Frances Robertson, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge

Members of the Public: Tom Cowan, Lee First, Bruce Nyden, Liz Schotman

8:35 AM **Convene Meeting**

Christina Koons, Chair

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.*

8:36 AM **Citizen input**

none

Phil Green announces upcoming Native Plant Society talk on Island biogeography, plants of SJI's

8:37 AM **NW Straits Commission update**

Christina Koons

Frances sent presentation materials on Maritime National Heritage Area. surveying interests now. Salish Sea sciences (an education group) is involved as representatives for SJI's. some potential for small grants/funding. Frankie will share as she learns more. Are they consulting Tribes?

Patti: No. But Tribes are concerned because when a designation is given to a certain area, need to be careful the language doesn't set up for future treaty rights fights. I plan to look into this more.

ACTION ITEM Frankie will keep Patti in the loop to be involved in any future meetings

Christina: Maybe we can consolidate, have MRC symposium around area to discuss this as a group

ACTION ITEM: Christina will talk to Lucas about that, maybe Tom Cowan can help too.

And, Tom reported to commission on allotment to MRC's from Governor's budget. Snohomish County started to talk about PFSS. Tom Mumford kelp webinar recorded on YouTube, 50 attendees. Salish Sea stewards program began, 41 registered. County Cultural resources page, <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1767/Cultural-Resources> includes Coast Salish acknowledgement, information about treaties in WA state, federally recognized tribes in WA with map. Recordings from cultural training sessions in December. Patti's help was instrumental. Links are available

8:49 AM **Acknowledge Kendra's work at the Orcas Ferry Landing**

Kendra: it's coming along. Carl has been amazing, pulling together MRC display bulletin board. Last issue is with the mural. I emailed for feedback on a concept. Some loved it, some questions.

Decision: to continue working with this artist and adjust for concerns, OR put out a request for proposals for other conceptual designs. County has no process for deciding about public art

Carl: like idea of a quick RFP, include current artist in it. Can MRC weigh in and vote? The building had 'Russel Landing' in historical script, bring that back, tie maritime with native/natural history
Lovel: I support the idea of a quick RFP, like idea of reaching out to Native artists.

Whatever's there will be very prominent. mural could be on banner material so it's not permanent
Patti: I love the colors. But Orcas Island is central to coast Salish people, somewhere could there be more coast Salish? An octopus in coast Salish style? I'm glad to help find a tribal artist

Consensus: all concur to make a Coast Salish theme part of the RFP concept

9:10 AM Seabed Mining: “the dawn of an industry” and the need for a precautionary approach,
Lee First and Liz Schotman

Liz works for Surfrider foundation, Lee is the Twin Harbors water keeper in Aberdeen

Liz: defines seabed mining types, what resources companies are targeting for extraction

Lee: discusses the effects of seabed mining, using heavy machinery causing toxic sediment plumes.
There is a bill now to ban seabed mining, just about to vote in senate.

MOTION: Lovel moves to recommend that the SJC Council take action to support SB 5145

Concerning the prevention of seabed mining, and to advocate for the WA State Association of
Counties to also take action to support SB 5145

9:44 AM Phil seconds the motion. Christina calls for a vote, all in favor. Motion passes

ACTION ITEM: Christina takes this to the Council to take action on behalf of San Juan County

ACTION ITEM: Lee and Liz send materials they have to share to Frances

For more background information on seabed mining and links to the sign-on letters:

<https://washington.surfrider.org/a-new-coastal-threat-on-the-horizon-seabed-mining/>

Patti: I'll contact our lobbyist to make sure they're on top of this and every tribe is on top of this

And, I think it would be important for Lee to raise this with Debra Lekanoff

ACTION ITEM: Lee to get in touch with Patti about plans to talk, get email address from Frankie

9:50 AM **Acceptance of February meeting minutes**

Cathleen moves to approve the minutes, Laura Jo seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.

9:51 AM **MRC housekeeping & project updates**

- Action: Approve MRC Annual Report

Frankie incorporated everyone's changes, can send copies to Council and NW Straits commission

MOTION: Christina moves to approve report, Carl seconds. All in favor, Annual Report approved.

- PFSS: Adopt a beach launch & GICU *Frances Robertson & Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Adopt-a-beach soft launch emailed to all MRC. We'd missed few things now added to home page
It includes a map of beaches available for stewards, collaborating with National Park service

<https://plasticfreesalishsea.org/adopt-a-beach/>

GICU set for April 24th, traditional but with social distancing. Planning is underway.

- SRKW: Bringing Killer Whale Tales to grade 5 students *Kailey Genther*

non-profit run by Jeff Hogan, hands-on science/story-telling. <https://killerwhaletales.org>

Among Lopez/Orcas/FH, 67 students will participate virtually, Targeting 5th graders

- MSA Update: update *Frances Robertson*

continue writing, hope to bring the group together in next couple months for feedback. suspect
we'll need to amend grant in terms of deliverables, won't get done before Frankie's leave in June

- Navy Jet Noise symposium update *Lovell Pratt & Christina Koons*

Symposium on Tuesday March 16th 4-6pm, cohosted by MRC and Salish Sea Institute.

Researchers will discuss published work about noise pollution in Olympic wilderness area

ACTION ITEM: Christina to send registration once it's live, encourage you to forward to contacts.

Lovel: it'll be great to have the recording so we can make more accessible to general public

Christina: Navy declined attending, referred to the op-ed that was published in Seattle times
Laura Jo: Barbara Bentley had some information about the pattern the jets took.
Christina: I'll bring up what you said about patterns. We'll be able to tell you more in April
Patti: tribes are involved because they're a federal trustee, how they practice on our fishing areas

- EPIC: work sessions and boating season monitoring *Frances Robertson*
EPIC is the Eelgrass protection Initiative Consortium. protection efforts, researchers, policy and permitting at state agencies. first meeting March 24, next a month later. First session looking at where barriers are and second session at how to break down those barriers. Third session will be of most interest to MRC members, monitoring protocols where there are buoys/anchor-out zones
News from Dana: Next Friday Forage Fish Update, results from recent data analysis and reports of what some other MRC's have been doing. Friends also does some forage fish sampling

10:26 AM MRC Member news and comments
Lovel: 23 contingency plans were updated to meet new state oil spill response planning requirements. I drafted an organizational sign-on I'm circulating specific to the wildlife response requirements. A lot of the other update requirement are relevant to the MRC.
ACTION ITEM: Lovel will share links to the comment portals

10:28 AM Back to Discussion of the mural at the Orcas Ferry Landing
Carl: I move we get an RFP for the mural on Orcas. Lovel seconds, all in favor. Good luck Kendra!

10:29 AM Megan moves to adjourn MRC Meeting and Convene CAG meetings, Phil seconds

10:30 AM • 2021 SRFB Letter of Intent Review
TAG met on March 1 to weed out projects and provide important feedback to sponsors early on
Sam shares screen, this is a smaller grant year, just SRFB allocation, only three projects
CAG is familiar with two of them – the Hunter Bay land bank proposal. Last year it didn't make it through State Review, they were concerned there wasn't adequate development threat. It's a different climate now. 4-acre on Lopez, 600' beachfront, the mouth of a seasonal type F stream. The second is an eelgrass restoration project. Mike Ramsey recently spoke to MRC about initial part. Working with Gary Greene from Tombolo on phase 2 of project
SJ Preservation Trust, Vickie Edwards. property has overhanging riparian habitat and feeder bluff, important for salmon. current landowners bought this property as bridge hoping to protect it.

- SRFB Grant Round Next Steps
TAG submits scores, projects must be labelled as green by whole TAG to move forward. but more money requested than we have to give, may only be able to fund one, partially fund another.
Scheduling: site visits will be virtual; May 6th MRC meeting – should we devote it to site visits?
Consensus: everyone is happy to do site visits on that Thursday (they will likely fit in one day)
Sam: TAG ranks after virtual site visits, CAG at August MRC meeting for final ranking/scoring

10:49 AM **Adjourn MRC and CAG Meeting**