

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Patti Gobin, Adam Parrott, Craig Smith, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Harriet Booth, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Dana Oster, Mackenna Pittman, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:07 AM **Convene MRC meeting with introductions around the room** Karin Roemers-Kleven

9:12 AM **Public Comment** none

9:13 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve August MRC meeting minutes** MRC members

No changes to the agenda. There was one minor correction from Lovel on the minutes. David moves to approve the August minutes with that addition, Adam seconds. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

9:14 AM **NWSC August meeting report to the MRC** Sam Whitridge

Christina was also present at the August meeting, but not here today. Some highlights:

1. Commission will present a new annual award in honor of senator Patty Murray, a new ad-hoc committee will be formed, and Patty Murray will be first award recipient
2. Registration for the conference, more on that soon
3. Commission staff are hiring a DEI position to address community needs, first task will be a needs assessment
4. Commission staff seeking speed-date-with-scientist topics, reach out to Dana if you have topics of interest
5. Commission approved the 2023-25 grant proposals for the WA State general fund and EPA award with start date of Oct 1 2023. We're getting our proposal finalized so it's ready when the grant kicks in October 1

9:20 AM **Electrification of the Marina Industry** Adam Parrot

Change in the agenda – Jason Morgan couldn't make it, so Adam will present. Adam shares screen.

Electric vessels becoming more common. Like cars, main technology is battery run electric vessels – correlation with vehicles, but few differences: consistency of how the vessel is used. Easy to determine range for a car, conditions are consistent. With a boat, different sea conditions and same horsepower on different boats can provide a different range. This produces even more range anxiety than with cars. So, boats have larger battery banks to compensate. It could be many hours to charge and now most people don't stay longer than a day. Now we supply power in the same way to all customers. But two types of marina customers – permanent, in slips year-round. And transient customers here for a short stay, on way to someplace else. The transients come in, plug in to run small appliances in their boat and top off battery, but their batteries are full when they arrive because of alternators running. Electrifying vessels will change the service we offer as a marina. Problem will be the transients needing to charge up a full bank in a short time

Possible solutions:

1. fast charging network

like with cars, fast charging network. (Adam reviews pros and cons, i.e., takes up a lot of linear dock space.)

2. On site energy storage

On the grid/infrastructure, cover walkways with solar panels, then supplement during high demand. But expensive. With the rate of tech anything we do now will be obsolete in 5 years – need to wait and see with tech

3. Scaled implementation

This is what we're doing. Turn over some charging stations, less upfront costs. Convert as needed to match demand

Tech to keep our eye on;

-hydrogen fuel cells (instead of batteries) – fuel up time fast, but explosive. Auto industry standard is to have armored fuel tanks. If we put those on larger vessels, there would be massive tanks of explosive material in marinas.

-Solid State batteries (pros and cons)

-Lithium-ion batteries (pros and cons)

QUESTIONS

Craig: question about timing to charge, and will there be programs or effort at the state level?

Adam: 50 amp is at 240 volts so will be fast. And when I gave this presentation at SOBA, we discussed how to get the State onboard. We need to come together as an industry and let them know we're seeing these vessels.

Now people come to FH for provisions, interest and convenience. If need to be at a marina for 24-48 hours, transient marinas will become part of trip-planning. Boats will need to stay overnight to get the full charge

Kim: what will you charge to charge up a battery? And what funding from port to cater to these few people?

Adam: rates not decided yet, we'll talk to commissioners. We may have a flat fee for E/V charging for 24 hours. We see this as preparing the marina for the future. Providing a service, some want to buy an E/V but need a place to charge it.

Dave: think ahead 10-15 years to a network of charging stations along small docks to allow regular eclectic boat use

Karin: with all these charging areas, is there more stray energy in the water?

Adam: with the new ECLI breakers, they're designed to trip at a point to avoid 'hot' marina.

Kari: are there opportunities with OPALCO?

Adam: yes but our biggest concern is how much energy can they provide us from the grid

Kari: they're looking more into solar energy and they're looking into grants and federal programs, could they help pipeline money? And considering the LTAC tax, let's promote the kind of recreational vessels we'd like to support here

Adam: yes we'll bring people here to charge, but then they're here and that means more economic growth.

Dave: it would be interesting to know what noise levels are in the air and the water

Adam: the vessels very quiet compared to gas engines

Jeff: have you calculated what it would take to offset more of the power use? Now we have the inflation reduction act, maybe that's worth a conversation with OPALCO – we need to offset energy by this much

Adam: there have been talks with OPALCO about setting up solar fields on port property

Jeff: and you mentioned a lot of boats as they electrify, maybe some of the boats sitting here with huge battery banks could be used to charge transients, and be compensated somehow

Adam: that's a new kind of technology done through specific chargers that aren't on electric boats yet. But yes!

Cindy: one thing brought up at National Association of Counties was making sure we have trained firefighters that understand the differences in tech, and know how to deal with those type of fires

Adam: Our department will get that training for the auto industry first, a lot of that has to do with lithium ion batteries

Cindy: this discussion was specifically about the chargers, DC fast chargers

Adam: if that tech comes here, we'd want to talk with the fire dept and get a plan in place. A fire in a marina is real bad

9:51 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

MRC subcommittee updates:

- Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Preparing for GICU (Great Island Clean Up), we'll convene at Jackson's beach instead of the brewery this fall. At Jacksons there's a lot of use and debris, want to work with the Port to do some kind of teaching ahead of time for when people use that structure. E.g., no balloons, they're bad for wildlife. Little things we can do to educate at that site.

We also want to engage both POFH and RH so if boaters come in who want to participate, don't need to come to Jacksons, they can clean any beach. Adam has agreed that boats that do that can put trash and recycling in port bins.

GICU is September 30th. We'll sign up more people there to be beach and road stewards. And we've been involved in the 'catch more crab' program, about how to properly weight and provide enough line for crab traps

ACTION ITEM: Craig Smith is still working on editing the Roche Harbor poster, can send Karin the pdf

Craig: has Roche Harbor agreed to take the trash brought into the marina on the GICU? (YES)

10:02 • MRC Membership – discussion on next steps

Sam Whitridge

We have one open spot and several good candidates. Sam sent out applications for review. Interviews went well Opportunity here for membership to chime in. We keep coming back to the question of diversity – geographic, different islands, different stakeholders (i.e., Science background, tourism), and gender diversity.

The process runs through Christina as the Chair as well as Sam as MRC coordinator as well as Cindy as rep on council

Q: What's the rotation? - Nobody will term out in the next year, those who will are eligible for additional terms

Frankie: think in terms of what individual member is bringing not just in composition of the group, This MRC struggles with hands-on getting out and doing the work. It's not just about sitting around the table. Staff has limited capacity

- Discussion around representation from science vs. tourism, gender diversity, conflicts of interest, etc.

Craig: we will have openings in the future, important to communicate that to those who we don't select

10:24 AM • Report on summer 2023 internship experience with San Juan MRC

Mackenna Pittman

I'm from Bellingham, going into third year at U Victoria, Marine Bio is my field of study, and I became the MRC intern. Learned how to communicate with public, about be whale wise, how to use basic GIS mapping skills and field data collection skills. It was an incredible opportunity. Very excited to use the skills I learned in this internship.

10:30 AM • NW Straits Conference Registration

Sam Whitridge/Caitlyn Blair

Registration is open. November 3-4 in Port Townsend. Travel and hotel should all be covered by MRC grant so ask Sam/Katie/Sasha and Caitlyn can help as needed, feel free to email or ask now.

Craig: at last NW Straits meeting there was mention of educational day beforehand on the 2nd, are we invited to join?

Caitlyn: I'll send an email about that. NW Straits foundation is hosting, it's a separate event, planned to coincide

Sam: do we need to adhere to per diem limitations?

Caitlyn: all the hotels listed are within our rate, please let me know if not

Frankie: if they don't meet the Jefferson County per diem rate, we won't get reimbursement

Craig: could the MRC book a block of rooms and pay for it directly?

Frankie: yes but we'd need a firm head count (*Discussion of potential payment method*)

10:36 AM • Maritime Washington National Heritage Area event (September 26)

Sam Whitridge

Tuesday, 3-5pm at Cease. The new Maritime WA National Heritage area spans 3000 miles of saltwater shoreline. Invite-only event, MRC members are invited. Sam will send out invitation. There will be presentation and a short Q&A

10:37 • Recreational Boat Conference Debrief

Frances Robertson

State's organization for boating Access, Adam was there too and a lot of state agencies, DNR, state recreational boating, WDFW and RCO. Killer whales, new vessel regulations and the new whale warning flag were highlighted in introduction. There were industry pitches. WA state seems to be ahead of the game when it comes to environmental regulations and working with Tribes. A lot on pumpout efforts. Dana presented on eelgrass anchor out efforts

Electrification issues that Adam discussed, permitting discussions. New Tribal liaison to State Parks, a Tulalip Tribal member. But general lack of consideration at conference of Tribes and treaty rights when discussing boating access

- Discussion of increasing boat size and impacts to shoreline, noise levels, marinas, etc.

10:59 AM • Jackson Beach Creosote Removal Update

Frances Robertson

We awarded the bid, it's under contract, hope to see pilings pulled by end of this month or early October. Great if MRC members could help with sea mammal monitoring efforts over the duration. It involves scanning the area for marine mammals during work, there's a small shut-down area. We have a Jackson pile pull press release in the paper with information about each of the projects' progress. (You can sign up to be notified about updates)

- Frankie takes show of hands, several members available to help scan for marine mammals

Aaron: with marine mammal monitoring, what about seals? Not protected the way SKRW are, do we stop work?

Frankie: for precautionary approach I'd say yes and stop work. The noise impact will be large, and we've calculated a conservative impact area. I'll see if SMRU wants to put out hydrophones to measure the noise while we're doing it

11:05 am -Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

MRC blog is up and running if members want to post anything let Katie know, maybe a welcome to new members
At yesterday's meeting with commission staff we discussed social media outreach about virtual no-anchor zones
SWE: Beth and I have been talking about getting together another sea grass meeting, maybe in October

11:06 AM - Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott

Moving forward with DNR for a vessel training event at POFH, to use up some available funds. Hopefully that gets extended into next calendar year and we can hold it in April

11:07 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Matt Arata

Matt: I'd like 15 min at next meeting to discuss possible projects

ACTION: Sam will be sure to schedule that for the October meeting

11:08 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

11:08 AM **CAG Meeting**

Sam Whitridge

- Preparations for September 13-14 SRFB Meeting

We are through the grant round, the SRFB meeting will be virtual if anyone wants to attend. That'll be discussion of all state-wide SRFB projects including our three. Once approved they can go through contracting and work this fall. Another decision covered at that SRFB meeting will be final decision on how new riparian funding from state 2023-2025 budget will be allocated. The State Legislature appropriated 25 million from national climate solutions grants to SRFB to support riparian areas. Options for allocating those funds:

-a little less than 9 million for a statewide competition, grant solicitation AND each entity would receive an additional \$250K for riparian projects lumped into the 2024 grant round, money eligible to grant out next year and remainder to various other regions (including the Puget Sound Partnership). So, there will be additional riparian funding available for 2024 grant round. That money could go toward acquisition, planting, stewardship projects, assessment, habitat restoration, etc. We also want the CWAC to be aware.

Aaron: Army corps of engineers requires their own mitigation in addition to WDFW for federal permits for expanding new in-water structures, one of the few options for mitigation is riparian planting and it's hard to motivate individual landowners to do it. It stops some projects that there isn't mitigation available to do on every property

Kari: what about bog type habitat on Land bank properties? not riparian but it is freshwater habitat that needs help

Sam: that's possible, I'll have more info after SRFB meeting next week

Cindy: can we use it for culverts/fish passage? stormwater control and filtration around salmon spawning sites?

Sam: likely not culverts. they have discussed beaver dam analogs etc.

11:18 AM • Update on Jackson Beach and MacKaye Harbor SRFB projects

Frances Robertson

We have a preliminary design for Jackson beach, will finalize by end of the year. Plan to apply for construction in 2024. There have been a couple Tribal events at Jackson. It's an important site for facilitating these. Work already approved by TAG, now we're in design. Power lines will move up onto the ridge as we do the restoration. Opalco is on board.

For MacKaye: the beach nourishment on the SE side where private beaches are has been largely washed away. As those banks/ bluffs start to do their natural thing that'll feed the beach. Now you can walk on that beach. And the smaller beach to the north of the groin is a sandy, it's become popular with community members. We are going to do some landscaping there to keep the site clean, it would be great to do some things that aren't part of the SRFB funding for the actual facility. And for the signage we'll have the same artist Larry as the Orcas landing; three signs and the one in the middle will have the islands and land masses and then dive down below the surface see what's under the surface and then come in close and see the nearshore and the linkage between

And the other two signs: importance of commercial fishing and the other will look at Coast Salish fishing - using the one we have that was meant originally for the Orcas piece, very salmon focused

Jeff: there's been some buzz on Lopez about Public works interrupting work to relocate?

Frankie: they are relocating their office, that is one of the main barge landings

-More discussion of images for the sign(s) on Lopez

11:27 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**