

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Megan Dethier, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson,

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Matthew Colston, Tyler Davis, Sasha Horst, Kathryn Moore, Dana Oster, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Daniel Vekved, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:01 AM **Convene MRC Meeting, Coast Salish Acknowledgement**

Christina Koons

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 have been passed down from generation to generation.

9:03 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:03 AM **Approve Meeting Agenda, Approve MRC January meeting minutes**

MRC members

Kendra moves to approve the meeting agenda, no changes – all in favor. Lovel moves to approve the January meeting minutes, Kendra seconds. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

9:04 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Christina

The Commission has a new program coordinator. (Discussion regarding Commission updates to MRC members.) Annual funding for MRC's for next two years if state budget passes. The NW Straits conference next November 3-4th at the NW Maritime Center in Port Townsend. MRC members can participate in the planning committee. Puget Sound SOS bill was passed by congress, creates a Puget Sound recovery office at the EPA and puts Puget Sound on level with bodies of water like Chesapeake Bay. Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership) attended meeting last week. Next February meeting in person, and an in-person retreat in March which Christina will attend. NW Straits Commission meeting on San Juan Island for June 23. Reported about the kelp workshop. Efforts to strengthen science advisory committee. Listed some new bills this legislative session, including 1000yds around resident orcas. Everyone receives Lovel's emails from Friends of SJ's to alert us to bills we can support. Lovel: thanks to Don Gourley, he keeps track for the partnership. Conducts zoom updates on Fridays. Legislative session info from the Puget Sound Partnership: https://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php

9:13 AM **Discuss Preliminary Planned MRC projects for 2023-2025 NWSC Funding** *Sam Whitridge*

Need to prepare list of anticipated projects for the next biennium by March 1. Conceptual, not fully developed. Sam lists few from the last grant that will carry forward including PFSS, Derelict vessel, eelgrass protection work. The False Bay project will phase out/not carry forward over coming months.

A newer project that just received funding from LTAC for the Cattle Point interpretive center.

Megan: to clarify about False Bay, we have the data we need for the watershed management question

Phil: scientific monitoring and visitor interviews on the beach, are they both in same report? Both phasing out?

Megan: the interviewing could be good to continue, gives a chance to point out the sign about leashing dogs

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will provide those data to Megan

Frankie: agreed, it's valuable to continue. But caveat it was the hardest thing to get volunteers to help with. If there are MRC members who can take it on and do the outreach then we should continue, but if not, I'd say not

Karin: I am interested in continuing the education at False Bay, but I don't want to be the only one there.

Christina: it's complicated to do things on different islands. Could we start to develop a 'stack' of volunteers?

Karin: yes, how to engage more volunteers? not necessarily MRC members

Christina: what about the many small oil spills in marinas/at fueling stations, how can we address that more – look at what other places are doing. That would be a good role for us. And get a handle on vessel tracking

Tyler: Washington Sea Grant has also supported this with funding in other areas in the Salish Sea in the past, and they currently have an RFP open, [2023-WSG-RFPf.pdf \(washington.edu\)](https://www.washington.edu/2023-WSG-RFPf.pdf)

Sam: agreed, Aleutian Isle brought this issue of oil spills to the forefront, we're a good group to take lead on that
Frankie: we have submitted to Seadoc to help fund work for assessing vessel presence and usage via aerial survey efforts, along with larger HSIL application submitted in December. We are planning for that and can put together a fact sheet outlining the larger scope of the project. These are actions identified in the MSA plan

Kendra: that connects back to the notion of minimizing impact of those vessels, like work to address small spills

- More discussion of spills and measures like absorbent pads, marina behavior, consequences for small spills, etc.

Lovel: In 2017 there was a ports and waterways safety assessment conducted for Salish Sea region. Final report showed consensus that existing mitigations don't adequately address risks from small fishing and recreational boats

ACTION ITEM: That report just came out, Lovel can share it with Sam for distribution

Adam: At the Port of Friday Harbor the fuel pier is a separate business that leases the fuel dock from the port.

Christina: I would serve on a committee to address this small spill issue. Is there an inventory of places that pump fuel?

Frances: this is a project we should partner with IOSA on. Their board meeting on February 13

- ok we'll carry this small spill issue forward, what about other project ideas?

Tyler: WA Seagrant will fund some large projects for 2 years. Preliminary proposal deadline is in mid-February

Frankie: I'll see WA Seagrant at boat show & meeting on February 13. RFP may be for more academic proposals

Christina: could the MRC be notified about the status of discharge station(s)? Shut down during pandemic, should this be more of a dedicated program to help boaters be clean? - Friends Green Boating program

Adam: Right now, only POFH and Roche have pump out stations. Many other marinas have systems that are broken. If we could get together with other managers and find out which aren't functioning and how to help that would be huge.

Frankie: something like that is included in the HSIL grant, to identify where gaps are with pump outs etc.

Kendra: County doesn't run the waste management. Issues with concentration levels – how to treat/hold waste etc.

- Ecology is ultimately responsible for the pump outs.

9:54 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

• MRC Candidate Interview Process

Sam Whitridge

Two open seats (Carl Davis and Ivan Reiff's). We interviewed 4 applicants. We are recommending adding Aaron Boyles (works for Jenjay) and Craig Smith (emeritus professor). Two additional seats open in June (Megan and Phil's). We interviewed Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria, we think he'd be good for Megan's seat. Those recommendations go to council on February 7th. If approved, those new members should be present for March meeting

9:59 AM • Marine Managers Workshop

Frances Robertson

Save-the-date has gone to initial list. April 4-5th at FHL. The website from 2020 will be updated with information about registration, agenda, and a way to give feedback on strategic actions (even if not attending). Expect 40-50 to attend

10:02 AM • House Bill 1145/Senate Bill 5371 – Protecting southern resident orcas

Frances Robertson

[SB 5371](#)/ [HB 1145](#) Protecting southern resident orcas from vessels

Public hearing was on Monday, over 1000 people signed in pro-protection. There has been a shift in thinking about this. Recreational boaters not against it, reef net fishers also in favor. Going to executive session on the 9th

Lovel: Current distance requirements are confusing, different from Canada and for different operators/circumstances. One good thing from this bill is to create a simple standardized bubble.

Frankie: we'll be communicating this at the boat show. This will have added benefit of also protecting transients

- MRC and county will continue to push for funding for enforcement and education

Adam: What are the enforcement plans for actually making people follow the new distance?

Lovel: that'll be a budget proviso, a separate track from the bill. There's also a budget item regarding more pump outs

Cindy: I received letter from you, Lovel, but we haven't discussed this legislation so I wasn't able to weight in. Will there be other opportunities going forward and Frankie will you be present on Feb 7th to discuss?

Frances: Yes but I'll have limited preparation time. If it's just the question of this bill, I can weigh in

Cindy: We've also had requests to discuss the proclamation about killer whales, hope Frankie also help with that

10:13 AM • Resolution that recognizes the legal rights of Southern residents *Lovel Pratt*

Cindy: I spoke with prosecuting attorney, and she recommended using Port Townsend's as a frame. There was some language changed around the Tribes. This will come forward for adoption at the Feb 7th council meeting

Lovel: Yes there will be opportunities to weigh in on the vessel distance again in future – after it leaves the senate it'll go to the house and have a hearing there so there'll be a chance to show support there

Lovel Pratt: a few other bills of interest I've been following,

[SB 5104](#) Surveying Puget Sound marine shoreline habitat, [HB 1085](#) Reducing plastic pollution

[HB 1131](#) / [SB 5154](#) Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes - aka the Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act

[SB 5309](#) Eliminating the state public utility tax deduction for the instate portion of interstate transport of petroleum products and crude oil.

Lovel Pratt: The Orcasonian has been covering the local governments that have adopted proclamations in support of the rights of the Southern Residents:

<https://theorcasonian.com/jefferson-co-first-county-to-secure-inherent-rights-of-southern-resident-orcas/>

<https://theorcasonian.com/port-townsend-proclaims-support-for-legal-recognition-of-rights-of-southern-resident-orcas/>

<https://theorcasonian.com/gig-harbor-proclaims-support-for-legal-recognition-of-rights-of-southern-resident-orcas-becomes-second-city-in-washington-to-do-so/>

10:16AM • Kelp Plan Action Workshop; March 1-2 in Shoreline, WA

Sam Whitridge

NW Straits Commission is hosting this workshop in Shoreline. Focus is to collectively look at opportunities for moving actions forward within the kelp plan. March 2 is our MRC meeting, so it'll be tricky for staff to attend, great if MRC members can. There is an opportunity to provide feedback by reviewing materials in advance

Megan: I'll be there. If anyone wants to attend space is limited, need to register. It won't be recorded

• Other subcommittee updates

MRC Subcommittee Leads

Karin: for PFSS, we had a meeting with Katie Fleming, Tyler Davis, me, and the Friends of San Juans, discussed GICU, our mission and how to articulate it. Potential for this to be a regional presence. Seeking more members, combining forces with other MRC's most of whom work with marine debris. Collaboration with existing groups and activities. Local legislation around driving with open truck beds? Also, businesses using unrecycled plastics. How to educate.

Tyler: we'll have another meeting in early March

10:23 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:24 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:25 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

• 2023 Grant Round Updates

This will be a relatively small grant year, small amount of funding and small number of projects.

- The TAG is seeking an amendment on Griffin Bay project from 2021 SRFB funding. Preservation Trust is proposing switching from acquisition to an acquisition-and-restoration. The TAG is reviewing that request, then it may come to CAG at March meeting. There are some concerns about what changes would entail.

- In PSAR, \$50 million proposed that would cover base request as well as ranked list down to project 5 (Nooksack fish restoration), partial funding for project 6, and no funding for project 7 which is the Northshore Glenwood Inn project. Still need to wait and see what happens as budget process moves forward, but so far, it's discouraging.

Kat: a lot of other programs, like ESRP. Things are still changing, not the end of the road.

- And Neck Point Friends of San Juans project received ESRP funding, so they are reducing request from local grant round which frees up additional \$110K which goes to first alternate, the SJCD eelgrass restoration project. In new biennium in July those funds will be diverted. Sam will keep us posted as details are finalized

Cindy: on the PSAR grant, where is it in terms of lobbying so council could weigh in on governor's proposed budget?

Sam: budget released mid-December, now in process in house and senate. Lobbying would be through legislative reps

Kat: we have info from Puget Sound Partnership that shows the list and where the project would need to move

ACTION ITEM: Kat and Sam will get that to Cindy in time for her to use in Feb 7 meeting

Frankie: with the eelgrass restoration, are we able to get a progress report?

Sam: there was a good update last year during the grant round presentation back in May, but yes

ACTION: Sam and Paul will touch base about that

10:37 AM • Salmon Recovery Council rep for San Juan County

Jamie Stephens was our SRC rep but has stepped down. Sam currently acting in that role but in the past lead entity was the alternate, that's a more appropriate role for Sam

Two aspects: the ECB rep which for Jamie also served and that's more of a process. We have 30 days for the LIO to nominate someone. For Salmon recovery council, no process, simply CAG sending recommendation of who we want

I recommend one person to fill both roles: Cindy.

Cindy: advantage to having council person be that liaison?

Sam: yes, doesn't need to be but it's common

Cindy is happy to do it. Sam thinks that's the logical choice. So we'll go through the process

Kat: when will you review Lol's? you said they were due in 2 weeks

Sam: at TAG meeting, March 1

Karin: field trips in May?

Sam: May 3 and 4th. We have those dates held, we'll see how many projects we have

10:42 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**