

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Laura Jo Severson, Craig Smith, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Tyler Davis, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Kathryn Moore, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Elaina Thompson, Sam Whitridge

9:01 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

9:02 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:02 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC October meeting minutes**

MRC members

No changes to the agenda. One language change in the minutes from Matt regarding Weeks Point Barge Landing, Sam made that change. All approve the minutes as changed. (Lovel abstains since she was absent for October meeting)

No NWSC meeting report this year because of upcoming conference which will be well attended by SJC MRC

9:05 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• **Report on Jackson Beach Creosote Removal/Creosote Inventory**

Frances Robertson

Successful removal of pilings at Jackson last month. Frankie shares photos depicting removal method. 1 seal observed.

The bid included removal and disposal of piles based on an estimate for 117 piles. There were in fact 132 removed. So, there'll be a change order to cover additional costs. Piles go to a landfill on mainland (not hazardous waste). We'll apply for SRFB next round for some shoreline recovery funding, cable will be removed along with armoring. Power poles will be removed in conjunction with shoreline restoration. This work was paid for with MRC funding. This site is important history for the Island, there will be some signage around that. Property owned by SJ Public Works. There is an active barge landing there that will remain. To the west owned and managed by the Port of FH - discussion of future possible creosote removal projects and 'mitigation credit' for creosote removal in permitting

9:30 AM • **Update on MSA (Marine Stewardship Area) Plan and next steps**

Frances Robertson

For those new to MRC, let's get together to bring you up to speed. Dave, Sandy, Brian, Craig, Lovel will take part. ACTION ITEM: Frankie will send around review PowerPoint and schedule this session – probably for week after next

This plan is a road map for the MRC. Encompasses elements of the salmon recovery and ecosystem protection plans.

Dave: what is MSA? It would be nice if in minutes and agenda, all the acronyms were spelled out.

ACTION ITEM: Katie has an ongoing list we can update and add to the end of minutes

Brian: My "onboarding" materials have a reference list in the back. I have a copy printed and bound if you'd like a copy

Frankie: it's the Marine Stewardship Area, designated by county council in 2004. Original plan from 2007 wasn't very actionable. This plan outlines key threats, summaries of key biodiversity targets (habitat or species groups).

9:38 AM • **MRC Retreat Planning**

Sam Whitridge

December 7th, booked the FHL (Friday Harbor Labs) Commons. Standard MRC retreat items include work-planning (need to submit work plan to the NWSC in January), a good opportunity to look at the MSA and finalization process, some salmon recovery items to cover – finalize the grant round schedule for 2024 (Sam will provide draft) and use retreat to review active salmon recovery funding projects. We can also report about NWS conference.

Also, the MRC operating resolution. We have a subcommittee working on that, hope to have a draft ready to review and discuss.

Christina: At Orca recovery day, idea came up for Debra Lekanoff to return in the spring to further discuss orca issues

Frankie: good reminder, thank you. That may coincide well with orca action month in June. The DFW Orca work group will address outreach and education to boaters, especially regarding boaters' distance, improving Be Whale Wise

Lovel: the WDFW work group is really targeting new distance rules coming into effect in 2025. If there's interest among MRC members there is still opportunity to sign up for that group by reaching out to WDFW staff. Small spills in the marina is a needed piece of boater education around fueling. Opportunity to engage in a lot of different topics.

Sam: we included small spills in NWS grant for next biennium, now important to look at how we'll achieve that outreach

Frankie: challenges with the boater education card. The program needs improvement

Abigail: Puget Soundkeeper Alliance has done a Healthy Marinas program at marinas, gives out spill kits and other resources to boaters [Clean Marinas Benefit the Environment & Marinas - Waggoner \(waggonerguide.com\)](https://www.waggonerguide.com/clean-marinas-benefit-the-environment)

9:54 AM • **NWSI Conference Planning and final updates**

Sam Whitridge

Tomorrow and Saturday. Seven of us heading to Port Townsend. We have some time on the agenda for a 'snapshot' presentation. We heard from Caitlin at NWS that it would be ok to talk about the oil spill topic -some specific discussion of Lovel's presentation, ensuring connection to MRC. Sam and Lovel can run through it today.

9:58 AM • **2023-2025 MRC Grant Updates**

Sam Whitridge

Still in process of approving grant update. The core NWSC grant has been approved to cover MRC operations, tasks, and projects. The NOAA grant (congressionally directed funding, same funds that led to Jackson Beach creosote removal) offered again for next biennium; we proposed two projects, waiting for contract to be finalized by new year

10:00 AM • **MRC subcommittee updates**

o Outreach & Education

Katie Johnson

Sandy and I are working on a talk for high school students about MRC work and scientific careers.

Sandy: I reached out to FH elementary school principal, students in my lab working on a presentation to send to Katie

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie Johnson

Very successful GICU (Great Island Clean Up), 1500lbs. of debris and 62 volunteers. Rolling into winter, still working on adopt-a-beach and adopt-a-road stewards to contribute data so we can grow the database.

o Eelgrass Protection

Beth Tate

Meeting with transboundary group and a social marketing work group (in touch with Dana Oster) to get better connected with other people about getting info to boaters about no-anchor zones

Sandy: I reached out to Patti Gobin, she wants to be involved with this subcommittee, hope to get her at next meeting

Frankie: I understand transboundary eelgrass team is setting up focus groups with boaters and will report back - Beth, I'll help you get connected with that group, some confusion with committees/subcommittees

Sandy: met with Dana Oster and Aaron from SeaGrant and talked about the idea of geo-fencing. Could we have a workshop at FHL dock for Friends to showcase this tool? Tina helping with that too (geofencing – view on an app)

ACTION ITEM: Sandy will send information about geofencing to Jeff

-discussion of providing eelgrass maps in Navionics, Nobeltec, reducing the number of apps boaters need to use, etc.

Jeff: there are many platforms for navigation, do they all pull from NOAA data available?

Beth: yes, makes me wonder if we need to get someone from the Coast Guard involved

-Lovel may be able to help make some connections

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott/Kari Koski

Adam describes derelict vessel, *the Islander*, at Port that needs to be taken care of before winter storms.

Kari: virtual meeting on November 14th to talk about spring vessel-turn-in event. Funding has been extended for a year.

-Working with Sherriff to get a few patrol days scheduled

Adam: when the Coast Guard came out for the diesel spill they asked about reporting. And within last month four reports logged on oil spills; working to pinpoint source of routine (likely bilge) spill between mainland and Brown Island

Kari: Need to link the message about maintenance in the boater ed program to responsibility for good care of your boat. A lot of spills are due to negligence, it would be great to get that language in that program

-more discussion about the vessel, *the Islander*, recent history and owner's liability

Adam: best course of action is to get this boat somewhere safe and salvage it

10:25 AM o Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Sam will update in the LIO meeting

10:26 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Craig Smith

Craig sent out email about work with FHL, Chuck Greene spearheading proposal effort for a Climate efforts consortium. Requesting funding from NOAA for this consortium, workshops and networking opportunities. It would be good for MRC to connect with other groups on this effort. Goals overlap with NWSC goals and activities, not competing

Dave: I read it and support it. There's only one Tribe included, the Swinomish

Frankie: most of the tribes have climate action plans, I have three of them listed in the MSA plan

Abigail: Helpful resources for understanding climate change work: [Adaptation Plans | Tribal Climate Change Guide \(uoregon.edu\)](https://uoregon.edu)

Frankie: The State of the Salish Sea Report is also a good source for climate change impacts as well as other threats to the Salish Sea. This report was guiding document for the MSA plan update:

https://cedar.wvu.edu/salish_pubs/1/

10:32 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

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10:33 AM CAG Updates

• **Update on SRFB Riparian Funding for 2024**

Sam Whitridge

Kat: I'm the grant manager for RCO for the San Juans, covering SRFB money. Our board approved riparian funds to go through regular allocation process. We have around 24 million available for the whole state (SJ allocation about \$485K)

Funding not limited to fresh water; also considering shoreline habitat. Bulk of funding is for riparian restoration.

Stewardship of sites previously restored. E.g., beaver dam analogs to support riparian habitat. Acquisition is eligible. That'll be next year starting January 2024. That funding will be used next year.

Jeff: about tide gates, removal/management/upgrading – would that be eligible? Moving toward wetland conservation

Kat: we'd need to make link to riparian function for a specific project; focus on it as a secondary restoration function.

It's a limited amount of funding, so for example, a levy setback project is off the table. Depending on project, may be able to get work done via two separate contracts to cover associated restoration

Jeff: what about using funding for feasibility study?

Sam: there's a limit for each salmon recovery region. 15 lead entities in Puget Sound, limited amount for assessments.

Kat: we can use PSAR funding for assessments, but that money won't come through until 2025. These projects normally aren't engineered designs, so as alternative we have the riparian enhancement plan

Dave: are Tribal entities able to use these funds?

Kat: yes, they're eligible. There's a work group involving different agencies and Tribes supporting this funding. This money is from a new climate fund that requires a certain portion of funding to benefit Tribal communities

Sam: tide gates may be a better candidate for SRFB allocation than riparian

Kendra: in considering riparian projects, loss of cedar. That's a significant cultural plant for native Tribes. In locations where cedar is appropriate should try to get it back into system. As for tide gates, we'll look to leverage other funding

Kat: I forgot to mention that no match is required, including for acquisitions. To be eligible for riparian funding, can't be more than 50% upland. This next year with PSAR and SRFB regular match rules apply, that may be removed for the following year. Meeting in December, Sam will keep us posted about what happens at December meeting

10:49 AM • **Planning for 2024 SRFB Grant Round**

Sam Whitridge

Process kicks off in January, Sam will put together grant timeline and finalize at December meeting. It's a big funding year includes PSAR allocation, combined regular funding + PSAR + riparian will be around \$2 million total in funding. Sam is connecting with project sponsors and getting an inventory of what's out there

Kat: let me know about anything large cap-wise so we can be sure to arrange site visits

- Estuary and Salmon (ESRP) grant round competition kicking off with a webinar 11/28 to describe grant categories

ACTION ITEM: Sam can send around info about that webinar and grant round

Kat: ESRP is an awesome program for the SJ's, often used for matching funds for SRFB projects being implemented

10:53 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting, convene LIO meeting**

ACRONYMS from this meeting

CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
ESRP	Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
FHL	UW Friday Harbor Labs
GICU	Great Island Clean-Up
LIO	Local Integrating Organization
MRC	Marine Resource Committee
MSA	Marine Stewardship Area
NWSC	Northwest Straits Commission
PSAR	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration
RCO	Recreation and Conservation Office
SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife