



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees **MRC-CAG-LIO** **Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday July 10th, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons Coast Salish Acknowledgement <i>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.</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Review meeting agenda – All Approve MRC June meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	NWSC June Meeting Report to the MRC– Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:20 AM	Presentation: Salish Sea Coastal Climate Resilience Consortium – Chuck Greene, UW Friday Harbor Labs
9:50 AM	MRC Updates/Business Interview Committee recommendations to fill MRC vacancies- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i>

	• MRC Chair and Vice Chair Positions- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Marine Program Intern Introduction- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> • Maritime Heritage Grant for Cattle Point- <i>Katie Johnson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates: ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:45 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:50 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:50 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> -Planning for final CAG proposal final scoring and ranking in August
11:10 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting/Convene LIO Meeting
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business • PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> • Funding for Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Action Plan Implementation- <i>Katie Johnson</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, David Checkley, Kailey Genther, Christina Koons, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Chuck Greene, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Roan Ontjes-DeGroot, Marisol Ramirez-Buckles, Frances Robertson, Sara da Silva, Kendra Smith, Jeff Thompson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:10 AM Convene MRC meeting

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Introductions around the room

9:13 AM Coast Salish Acknowledgement

Karin Roemers-Kleven

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.

9:14 AM Public Comment

none

9:14 AM Review meeting agenda, Approve MRC June meeting minutes

MRC members

The agenda is approved, no additions. There were no corrections to the June minutes Sam sent out.

MOTION: Sandy moves to approve the June minutes, Dave seconds. All in favor, the June minutes are approved.

9:15 AM NWSC June Meeting Report to the MRC

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Various MRC's projects discussed, there was a lot of interest in the San Juan County work with derelict vessels. Karin is on the Retreat planning committee for November, we hope to share some accomplishments there too.

9:16 AM Presentation: Salish Sea Coastal Climate Resilience Consortium

Chuck Greene

Last year FHL began a strategic plan for the consortium. Aim to align with UW College of the Environment (COE) on confronting challenges. Seek to build research and education partnerships, expand FHL outreach. New initiatives at FHL, focusing on local and regional scale:

- proposing development of a Salish Sea Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Consortium. Worked with WWU (the project lead) and a number of other partners – the proposal didn't get funded but still working on the idea.
 - Working on a COE task force to develop a new professional master's program in environmental sustainability.
 - Last September/October 2023 held a Climate Action Speaker series on San Juan Island with the Madrona Institute
- Local Sustainability Opportunities for FHL campus and beyond include,
- Electrify our vehicle and vessel fleet. Boats are a significant source of carbon inputs
 - Replacing the RV Kittiwake with a lower carbon alternative, some discussion of good alternative to diesel
 - Eliminate wood burning on campus. This is a significant carbon input to the atmosphere we should reduce
 - Improve our building energy efficiency (better insulation, heat pumps, solar, etc.)
 - Getting involved in OPALCO's tidal power generation project
 - Becoming a community solar provider would while reducing FHL's fire risk (more on this shortly)

FHL has Biological Preserves both on San Juan and Shaw islands, nearly a third of Shaw Island is biological preserve of which UW is meant to be the steward. But no funding for the stewardship/maintenance. (Chuck shows maps).

FHL campus is on the edge of 476 acre preserve. Idea of a fire break between campus buildings and the rest of the forest where solar panels could go, generate not just power for the labs but enough to export to community

There's also Argyle lagoon, False Bay, and Ellis and Cedar Rock preserves on Shaw totaling over 2.5 square miles.

The Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Consortium will have a coastal climate ready workforce Training at FHL; seeking funding to support a 10-week coastal climate resilience program each summer for post-baccalaureate and gradu-

ate students. Two-week professional training followed by 8-week apprenticeship for 15 students to participate, introduced to field methods in coastal and resource management. The non-credit Training Workshop Model at FHL: The first one will be this summer, August 18-31, 2024. This was funded by the CO2 Foundation. Instructors from all over the world, received 49 applicants. 15 students accepted, another 32 will participate remotely (as well as others)

Feedback about how to put together this consortium? need partners beyond FHL that would benefit

QUESTIONS

Q: who else is in the consortium?

Chuck: we had 20 organizations in the proposal to NOAA. A lot of interest

Cindy: NOAA is providing infrastructure-related grants. Could the consortium include local governments and Tribes?

Chuck: we're talking about doing an ocean-based CO2 workshop, in discussion with PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Lab). We have courses set up for 2025, but also looking ahead to 2026.

9:42 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

- Interview Committee recommendations to fill MRC vacancies

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

We have two vacancies, Sam and Katie and Aaron and Karin on the interview committee. Based on interviews, the committee is recommending two candidates, Sam sent out their application materials via email. Olivia Graham is still interested and would be great; we liked her previous application a lot last round but had no open seat at that time. We're still having trouble getting island-diversity, we're quite San Juan-heavy. No one from Lopez on the committee, but we've had no Lopez applicants. Maybe Jeff could help with that in future. Now we just have these two open seats that Mike and Olivia will slide into. More open seats in 2025 in a year.

The next step in the process is that we'll need approval from County Council.

Question: Is Jamie Stevens on the invite list for this meeting? He's also quite active as a board member with IOSA.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will make sure he's back on that invite list

MOTION: Sandy moves we put both Mike and Olivia forward for recommendation to council, Dave seconds. All in favor. Now this needs to get on Council agenda – Sam will move it forward, hope to have them in August meeting.

- Meanwhile, Beth, Kailey, and Lovel were all approved by council move forward for second term

9:47 AM • MRC Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Sam Whitridge

Karin and Christina were both appointed in 2023. We're ready for a change, plan to elect a new chair and vice chair next meeting. Anyone can throw their hat in the ring or nominate someone else

9:49 AM • Marine Program Intern Introduction

Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson

Introducing Roan, our new intern for the summer. We're excited to have them on board

Roan: I'm from Orcas, majoring in environmental science at WWU. Want to learn about stewardship efforts in my community and happy to share any work I do on projects this season. I look forward to attending in person

Sam: we've had our past interns give a short presentation about their experience at the September meeting

9:51 AM • Maritime Heritage Grant for Cattle Point

Katie Johnson

We were awarded \$13K for education and outreach. We have a year for this project, any members interested?

Kailey, Beth were on the previous subcommittee – let's revive that group. Tyler was part of it too

Tyler: we do have some materials queued up and ready to go, great we have this money now to carry it forward

9:53 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

- o Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

Katie and Roan did a dock talk last Saturday at Roche Harbor, next one on July 20th. Then plan to expand to Orcas and do Westsound August 3rd and 10th. Plans for August 24th but still not sure yet where. We pass out whale

warning flags, talk about Be Whale Wise, pass out flyers for derelict vessel program and try to connect with boaters.

Question: do we have pumpout information, pump don't dump, green boating materials?

Katie: we need to get more. We have a few eelgrass maps from Friends. But nothing about oil spill prevention

Frankie: on July 20th chinook king salmon is opening, and that's also one of our days for the aerial boating survey

Katie: if anyone wants to participate with dock talks that would be great, and the County Fair will be August 15-18th. PFSS will have a booth there, please volunteer at the booth (we'll get you a free pass). Dock talk hours are 10am-3pm. People want to donate (they can donate to Soundwatch or the marine program, not to the County).

9:57am o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott, Kari Koski

The El Capitan was picked up and removed and crushed. That was major for the County. I have some ideas for the Fair for the Derelict Vessel group. Hopefully not too many vessels to retrieve this season, just a lot of outreach.

Q: what were total costs for the El Capitan?

Kari: the marina bore most of the costs together with the vessels' insurance, and then DNR and Coast Guard money for dismantling. Total estimates were around \$1.5 million. Interventions prior to sinking were up to \$20K

Marta: that response for one day to remove the water it was taking on at that time and all the hazardous materials was \$80K, and the estimate we got was over \$400k. DNR couldn't fund that because it's a private marina, not

State-owned aquatic lands. We don't want other private marinas to think they can tap into those funds

Kari: they used the voluntary vessel turn-in for the State (which the State was reluctant to use)

Question: what's the incentive to get to a boat like this before it sinks in future?

Kari: normally there's a clear path of ownership and the owner is responsible. If they don't have the funds, they can take advantage of the voluntary turn-in program, but in this case ownership was unclear. One thing we want to work on this fall is round-tabling with marinas; we'll use this as a case study to not get stuck in this kind of situation

Sam: we've touched on the retreat coming up in November and how each MRC will have a station to present their work, we've talked about having DV work be our station. Kari will you be available and able to assist with that?

Kari: Yes, and I've been in discussion with other MRC's about DV programs and how they can set them up

10:05 o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

We've been meeting monthly, had a successful GICU (Great Island Clean-up) turn out in spring and now planning for our fall clean-up. We want to encourage more people to sign up for beach stewardships

Frankie: I attended the stranding network training a couple weeks ago. It would be good to connect with them because they have volunteers out monitoring beaches so there may be some partnership there

10:07 **Committee member updates and any other business**

- Kailey: I'm working with Sandy to set up a youth position on the MRC. We've been reading through the bylaws and in order to have a youth member we'll need to create something like a petition or letter to Council. According to County Council, members of advisory committees must be over 18 and a legal resident of SJC. We wanted to petition two youth (High school age). They may not be able to attend all meetings during school hours, but they should commit to a certain number of volunteer hours per quarter. And they can bring their ideas to the committee

Cindy: would it be appropriate to ask County Council to change the language so that up to two youth members can be added to any advisory committee? and each committee can decide if those will be voting memberships or not. It's the bylaws language and we're working on that right now so this would be good timing

Kailey: what would we need to prepare for that?

ACTION ITEM: Kailey will email Cindy to remind her about this

Kailey: our goal is to call out for this in September when school starts, get a commitment for the academic year

- Christina: Patty Murray has requested to meet with MRC's, she's been a huge supporter. She just proposed to reauthorize funding for the NWSC (Northwest Straits Commission). All MRC's are putting together presentations for next week on the 16th at Padilla Bay. We plan to present about the Jackson Beach creosote removal project
- More discussion of how NWSC and MRC's are funded by NOAA

- Frankie: update on vessel assessment work. We've flown three aerial surveys so far, circle main anchorages around county. Twice as many boats on July 6 as the previous surveys. Flying again July 20, August 3, and Labor Day weekend. Frankie is working to amend contract to get in a seventh survey in September

Karin: when you reported about that to NWSC, Jefferson was very interested in how it was funded.

Question: any special equipment requirements?

Frankie: visual observations, inclinometers. Datalogger with software recording cloud cover, glare, sea state, etc. No specialized aircraft equipment. For insurance purposes hire San Juan airlines, generally not with volunteers.

-more discussion of timing of surveys

Sam: the other program we're using one-time NOAA funding for is the benthic habitat mapping with Gary Greene

- Karin: this brings up the issue of pumpout stations that came up during Covid. If you're seeing twice as many boats on one day in the summer, likely means those resources are stretched thin. Should we investigate this more?

Christina: now there are mobile pumpout services on Sucia

Frankie: State Parks boating program has brought up their pumpout boats, they have funding for us but we don't have the infrastructure to manage those programs. Mobile pumpouts need to go back to the mainland, they can't put that waste into our system here. If there's no mobile pumpout, a boat will need to go to where the service is

Beth: We had a presentation about this a year ago, funding from Parks could be used for salaries/staffing

Frankie: private marinas get support from the State, Roche Harbor has both mobile and shore-based stations. They got overloaded in 2020, Other marinas less so because they only offered pumpout to those moored there. Most private marinas should be offering pumpout systems, that'll be part of our marina roundtable this fall. There are a number of docks whose pumpout systems have failed on Lopez and there are efforts to get the Port to fix them.

- Katie: we just wrapped up spring quarter – please fill in volunteer hours on spreadsheet, send in hours to Katie

- Cindy: the supreme court decision regarding Chevron will affect the EPA

Dave: the funding of the ERTV is basically a tax on vessels. That may be affected by this court's decision as well.

Cindy: PSP groups haven't met since that ruling. EPA won't be reporting on that. Need to find a way for legal analysis

Karin: and other agencies like Public Health etc. will be looking at their jurisdictions. It's a bummer

Cindy: we'll have our work cut out for us with advocacy for legislation

10:32 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting/Convene CAG Meeting**

10:32 AM **CAG Meeting**

Sam Whitridge

- 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Updates

Sam Whitridge

- o Planning for final CAG proposal final scoring and ranking in August

CAG needs to finish scoring by August meeting. TAG scores 85%, remaining 15% by the CAG. Sam will send out materials by email. Everyone needs to review proposals and submit scores to our rankings. The State review panel isn't complete yet so we won't know for another 10 days if all these proposals have been cleared. Once we know, we'll move forward with our evaluation and ranking. A lot of moving parts this year with riparian funding added in. We have a good deal of money to distribute. Sam explains more about the process of ranking.

- discussion of land acquisition as a high priority for its effects on habitat and the environment

Sam will send out the updated Salmon recovery chapter. Our top priority is acquisitions for their protection value. If we have two projects scoring similarly but one involves an acquisition, it will rise higher in the ranking. We have slightly more requested than we have available, but there is room to creatively move things around

10:38 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**

July 10, 2024

LIO Meeting Summary

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, David Checkley, Christina Koons, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Roan Ontjes-DeGroot, Marisol Ramirez-Buckles, Frances Robertson, Ethan Schmidt, Sara da Silva, Kendra Smith, Jeff Thompson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

10:38 AM **Convene LIO Meeting**

LIO Updates/Business

- Funding for Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Action Plan Implementation *Katie Johnson*

Thanks for approving our action plan last month, now we have \$180K funding to put out on the ground. As a staff we discussed what would be possible, two ideas:

- one idea is part climate preparedness/part conversion to onsite septic. Update our baseline map for pollution identification and sea level rise. Look at where there are pollution problems, shellfish beds and sea level rise and at hot spots where there will be inundation and where to do outreach. Maps could be available as a tool for many.
- the other proposal is to look more closely at the pumpout problem. This money may be enough for a pilot for that.

Discussion

Paul: I'm a shoreline septic owner. The language in the action plan is confusing because for Onsite septic I think of houses and properties, not RV's and boats. I think of boats as a marine issue and RV's more about park grounds. I see the biggest issue as homeowners without enough information or resources to make needed updates. All the septs out there that aren't being maintained. I'd like to see something like a revolving loan fund with low or no interest, an incentive to get involved. All these independent on-site systems is a huge disparate issue. Mapping and looking forward is great, but we need to get a healthy culture going and catch up before looking ahead in that way. With the CD (Conservation District) we have shellfish funding and can put forth 75% of a project cost with 25% match. There may be other funds that could be leveraged to help address failing systems. CD hasn't historically run a program like this, but we could help support the County if it was

Dave: what's the grant for and how does it relate to what we just heard?

Katie: this is money that PSP (Puget Sound Partnership) has gotten in partnership with the EPA to put toward the LIO collective project. This is a pilot action plan we're trying together with all the LIO's. The money can go toward various components (support for positions, data collection and mapping). We can decide as an LIO how we want to use this \$180K. We decide by next month and then we have two years to spend the funds

Paul: I like some of what's in the action plan. That money could fund a temporary position with technical assistance for two years. There's a separation between County's code around septic and what homeowners are doing, and how to bridge that gap? Education and assistance. There are limited resources for inspections and compliance.

Ethan: to address some of those concerns, we've been short-staffed in the Health Department. We just hired a fourth full-FTE position whose focus is on On-site septic and compliance. Some of those activities will be captured by this new capacity. We're working to address some of the concerns that Paul brought up

Paul: then could this money be used as leverage with this position, as match, to start a revolving loan fund to help with inspections, repairs, etc.? A lot of grants do allow that as an expense

Ethan: one complication would be with managing a revolving loan fund. Would it require another staff position?

-more discussion of how a revolving loan fund works

Cindy: we do have one of those available at the County

Paul: no, it's not low interest, it's been listed on the Health Department website but it's not working as advertised.

\$180 K is not enough to establish one. But maybe that could go to support this new FTE

- discussion of how near shoreline septic systems must be for funds to be connected with supporting marine environments

Sam: we have until August to decide how to spend these funds, this seems to need further discussion.

Paul: can we schedule a separate meeting to review proposals in writing among folks who participated in the May workshop? We could spend \$180K on marketing alone to all private septic system owners, homeowners and RV's,

or leverage some money for other incentives to get participation. Or a 'piggy bank' to support homeowners for doing their regular inspections, subsidy for low-income/elderly/etc., incentives for people to do the right thing

- some discussion of the self-inspection course, no mention in it about if something fails near water

Paul: or could there be a different self-inspection process not requiring the 8-hour course? Perhaps online training?

Ethan: there is a one-time fund available for folks to get up to \$250 to help with inspections and maintenance

upgrades. Part of our new position is to reinstate the mailer process. That outreach has been lacking in our

program because we switched over septic inspection management databases. Once that new database gets more

comprehensive our mailing system will grow more robust. Opportunity to send out more educational mailers as

well. Uncertainty about whether that's needed, but when we were brainstorming about this funding allocation, we

didn't consider spending this \$180 K on something that we're already planning to capture with our current increase in FTE and programming particularly with annual inspection and outreach

Paul: could we add a column to the action plan that indicates whether that item is already being addressed or not?

Look at opportunities and where are the remaining gaps - you're already doing that work, but what's the timeline?

Would none of this funding be useful to those other plans? That was part of the proposal – to get data and maps –

but how? First query the database, identify the systems that are failing, sounds like a difficult task

ACTION ITEM: set up a subcommittee meeting among the folks who attended that May workshop

ACTION ITEM: Katie will send out the invite to the whole MRC, other members welcome

Abigail: About the OSS, from the shellfish SIL a lot of programs are addressing septic issues in various parts of Puget

Sound. Technical assistance is great, incentives are huge for getting programs off the ground. Some folks just don't

know how to maintain their septic system so we encourage the education. A lot of programs want to do more

targeted outreach. From a high-level infrastructure view, it's about getting the information out and also asking,

where are the septic systems and how can it be feasible to find and address the ones that are failing and keep

them sustainable? This discussion can be valuable on the ground. I would love to be a resource! feel free to reach

out

Puget Sound Funding Requests for Proposals - <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/rfp/>

11:08 PM **Adjourn LIO Meeting**