



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 5, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC Retreat meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Sam Whitridge</p>
9:15 AM	<p>MRC Retreat Debrief – Sam Whitridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • MRC Subcommittee Structure for 2023 • MSA Updates
10:00 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Candidate Interviews Scheduling – Sam Whitridge • Puget Sound Seabird Surveys – Tyler Davis
10:10 AM	<p>Ram and Lopez Island Kelp Farm Proposal – Zack Pajka</p>

10:35 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:40 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:40 AM	CAG Updates – Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review/Approve 2023 SRFB Grant Round Plan
10:50 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:50 AM	Approve LIO November Meeting Summary
10:55 AM	Presentation on findings from Pacific Sand Lance Assessment – Gary Greene, John Aschoff
11:25 AM	LIO Work Planning for 2023 – Tyler Davis/Sam Whitridge PSP Updates- Tyler Davis/Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSP Staffing Changes• Shoreline Permitting Collective Project
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

January 5, 2023

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: John Aschoff, Matthew Baker, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Gary Greene, Erin Licata, Dana Oster, Zach Pajka, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Kim Sundberg, Tina Whitman, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty

9:02 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

9:04 AM **Approve Meeting Agenda, Approve MRC Retreat meeting minutes**

MRC members

Christina asks, any changes to agenda? No – all approve. Sam sent out a draft of the Retreat minutes with Lovel's edits. Megan moves to approve that version, Jeff seconds. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

9:05 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Sam Whitridge

The Commission approved a DEI statement, will develop a process to develop action items for each of the goals. Sam has the statement if anyone want to see it. There was a great presentation from Tessa Francis about their pacific herring study with SRFB funds, showed effects of shoreline armoring on salmon and forage fish species. NW States science advisory committee is recruiting new members, please suggest nominees. NWSC starting a Salish sea conservation program, looking for mentors for interns. League of women voters released a study on the Shoreline management act assessing effectiveness over last 50 years; Barbara Bennett is compiling resources Dana: Barbara interested in pulling together members of different MRC's – share knowledge about SMP updates and comprehensive plans. It's not a report, more like a collection of shared materials. Her email, bennbluw@gmail.com

If you are curious who is on the NWSC science advisory committee now this site has our members:

<https://nwstraits.org/about-us/science-advisory-committee/>

Phil: it would be great if MRC could invite Tessa here to present

9:12 AM **MRC Retreat Debrief**

Sam

Whitridge

It was a very productive day. Focused on Key objectives in the plan to push the MSA over the finish line. Then focused on MRC subcommittees and work plan for 2023. Based on that discussion and requirements of our grants, Sam put together a spreadsheet for our work plan – sent out to MRC members. This needs to be submitted to NWSC soon.

9:14 AM • 2023 Work Plan

Megan: in the pink section (False Bay Monitoring) of the work plan spreadsheet, what's needed here?

Sam: that's still listed as a deliverable in the grant. But hazy on what's planned for Ulva surveys etc.

Megan: this should end by June and not continue. I'll meet with Wendel next week to discuss the wind-up process.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie can send False Bay visitor survey information to Megan to put together. (We should also have a summary of the data completed by the intern)

Beth: my name is on eelgrass protection; I know there's a project involving moorings, anything else? For now, I'll say yes and let you know of any changes. I'm interested in meeting with staff to understand what deliverables

Sam: The Cattle Point project was awarded (partial) LTAC funds. It will be launched but still sorting out the work plan

Tyler: in LTAC discussion, some of request couldn't be rewarded because of legal nature of upgrading non-county infrastructure. BUT there is money for interpretative signage and public artwork. Tourist-based facilities, like parking and toilets are present, hopefully will get attended to more with more attention given to the interpretative center. Potential for cross-agency work with DNR & BLM. More visitors to American Camp in recent years. DNR currently manages the property, come out weekly from Anacortes to inspect & clean

MOTION: Kendra moves to adopt workplan, Megan seconds. All in favor. The workplan is adopted.

9:28 AM • MRC Subcommittee Structure for 2023

Sam shows table with overview of subcommittees. We discussed having leads give updates to full MRC meetings (staff can still drive deliverables). Review each subcommittee, confirm membership and correct any errors:

Jeff – lead on the Outreach & Ed subcommittee

Karin – lead on PFSS. Subcommittee is planning a retreat next week to discuss other projects beyond GICU

Adam – lead on Derelict vessels. POFH at boatyard has set up a boat-crunching station. There was a derelict vessel in Beaverton cove last week, now moved to yard to be demolished. Now we have a disposal method on island.

Marta: Did a survey with new sheriff, tagged some vessels. We're continuing to make progress

Patti – not here today; Tribal Partnership subcommittee hasn't been active over past year but important to keep

Megan – lead on Cattle Point and the MSA Update subcommittees. (False Bay has already been discussed)

Level – lead on Oil Spill Prevention & response, and providing update on recent letter to County Council

Level: Jeff presented our recommendation to Council on Lopez; then Christina and I attended the meeting here

I hope MRC can draw up lessons learned in general about process for communicating recommendations to Council.

Meanwhile, legislators are getting conflicting requests with respect to lessons learned from the Aleutian Isle incident.

Christina: I hope subcommittee can meet soon with key staff people to discuss this. My question is – if the MRC is in support of the agenda we outlined, and based on how council responded, should we continue?

Jeff: And questions about marine mammal hazing still need to be clarified

Kendra: We have four advisory committees; I have some general questions about when/how to take things to Council.

Level: great to be on same page about process to follow, ensure alignment between advisory committees and staff. After feedback from council if there's a chance to re-engage, it would be good to know we still have MRC support

Sam: we already had a motion to move forward with the recommendation. Unless any objections we can move forward

Level: there will be things in legislative session that touch on spill prevention/response issues which we'll bring to MRC

Finally, salmon recovery won't be a subcommittee going forward but CAG will still meet. Sam will update the CAG annually with respect to Salmon recovery chapter and annual projects and grant deliverables.

9:51 AM • MSA Updates

Sam: At retreat looked at key objectives. Tyler and I edited the spreadsheet based on discussion at the retreat

Frankie: I've begun addressing those edits. Should have full packet soon

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

• MRC Candidate Interview Scheduling

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

Sam Whitridge

We did PR in December, fielding applications over recent weeks. Two vacancies now and two more over summer. Sam will compile applications and share. And then move forward with setting up interviews
Karin: need to be sure that new members have time and energy to actively participate in subcommittees and activities.

9:57 AM • Puget Sound Seabird Surveys

Tyler Davis

Spoke with Toby Ross (previously with Audubon, now with Puget Sound bird observatory). Learned some history about SJC bird surveys. Monika and Jason Shields currently involved; we can prepare for next full season starting in Oct 2023.

Beth: Avian flu, WDFW is concerned about ducks/waterfowl. Public needs to not touch or move birds if suspect disease

Frankie: how does this involve hunters, particularly trophy hunting tours that come to Island? I can share a few websites. This may need to be a broader more targeted discussion.

Beth: I'll research this more, wasn't aware. Report Wildlife Observations to WDFW, with Form for Reporting, <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a384e90f69744f2e846135a9ce80027f>

ACTION ITEM: can we investigate whether County has jurisdiction over this? And Beth will look into hunting here

Frankie: this is the one outfitter that was reported to me as operating in county waters,

<https://adventureswithmayhemoutfitters.com/>

Beth: Pertains to Skagit Bay, so not SJC, <https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/wdfw-statement/wdfw-statement-avian-influenza-outbreak-among-waterfowl-around-skagit-bay>

Sam: one last MRC business issue – we need to update our contact list with current phone numbers.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will email the list, please correct any errors

Kailey: On the contact sheet can we please have a column of best way to contact, (call, text, e-mail, bells... etc.)?

Also, in LIO meeting we plan to discuss staffing update: PS partnership has had a lot of turnover recently, reorienting staffing structure. Our new partnership rep will be Kristin Hamen. All staff is stretched more thin

10: 09 AM **Ram and Lopez Kelp Farm Proposal**

Zach Pajka

Personal history in tech industry, became interested in kelp in northern WA. Bull kelp has been shown to be in decline, an important and beautiful species. End goal isn't profit but moving mariculture forward without disturbing ecosystem. There are already 8 or 9 kelp farms applying to establish in WA in coming year

The proposal: 16–20-acre rectangular kelp farm to east of Lopez, near Decatur and Ram, undeveloped shoreline away from major traffic routes. No migratory patterns of fish or whales. Territory marked off by buoys.

Multi-trophic vertically integrated sea farm: horizontal grow-lines, spool that grows down to seafloor. Zach discusses some details in terms of measurements, length of lines, timing of season. Plan to grow sugar kelp, bull kelp, and blue mussels. Mussels have water filtration properties. Trying to partner with local Tribal Nations (Lummi and Swinomish)

QUESTIONS:

Beth: are you going to reseed the lines every time? Nereocystis is annual but can grow perennially

Zach: nobody has a good method yet for growing bull kelp. Getting seeds from a partner of Lummi nation

Beth: questions about permitting. This is an underwater structure that's likely to get appealed at various levels.

Zach: I've worked with DNR, Ecology, Marcus Reaves at WDFW, I've been working with Brook Sullivan at the County. Eelgrass and macroalgae surveys conducted, no eelgrass there, mostly cobble. I'm happy to share results of that.

Tina: early communication with Tribes is key, there are 14 with UNA's here. And marine mammal entanglement could come up. Be careful with 'partners' list – that's a formal term. My advice is to hook up with some research component, like Sea Grant. Also, who owns the tidelands and at what depth is the project?

Zach: there was a thesis showing no instances of marine mammal entanglement in this type of net.

Growth will be at 47'-60'. Scanned the bottom with ROV, 10-13' depth variation. Tidelands owned mostly by one private individual. Difficult to contact all Tribes but making efforts

Paul Andersson: WA DNR is the formal owner of the aquatic lands

Beth: Yes, unless otherwise listed as private tideland owners. DNR has detailed information on ownership boundaries

Karin: I recently read "eat like a fish", extols health benefits of kelp. What happens to the critters in the kelp?

Zach: Before harvest, sometimes fish turn kelp into hatcheries and lay eggs on them, then must wait until season has passed. Depends on what has attached and how. We won't disturb any threatened species

Tina: Don't overplay carbon benefits- they are tiny unless done at a hue scale. That said- there are more localized positive benefits to pH and shellfish growth etc.

Zach: yes so the main benefit is for a sustainable food solution and ecological benefits

Phil: about mussels and possibly scallops, would you harvest those too?

Zach: just mussels not scallops – would be harvested and sold

ACTION ITEM: Zach will send proposal document to Sam for distribution to MRC following this meeting, happy to hear from anyone interested in partnering or further questions

Megan: Zach must interact with Friday harbor labs since we have jurisdiction over most marine resources in the county

10:36 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:37 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:38 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- Review/Approve 2023 SRFB Grant Round Plan

This will be a smaller SRFB year, exact amount still a moving target. All indications point towards around \$300K.

Potential site visits May 3-4 (in lieu of May MRC meeting). Pending approval, Sam will solicit Letters of Interest.

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve the timeline for the 2023 grant round, Kailey seconds. All in favor. Approved.

10:41 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 2nd, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 360-726-3293,,746888859# United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC January meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Christina Koons</p>
9:20 AM	<p>Discuss Preliminary List of Planned MRC projects for 2023-2025 NWSC Funding – Sam Whitridge</p>
9:50 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Candidate Interview Process – Sam Whitridge • Marine Managers Workshop– Frances Robertson • Discuss House Bill 1145/Senate Bill 5371- Protecting southern resident orcas from vessels- Frances Robertson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution that recognizes the legal rights of Southern Residents- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> • Kelp Plan Action Workshop; March 1-2 in Shoreline, WA- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Other subcommittee updates- <i>MRC Subcommittee Leads</i>
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:35 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:35 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Grant Round Updates • Salmon Recovery Council rep for San Juan County
10:45 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:45 AM	Approve LIO January Meeting Summary
10:50 AM	San Juan and ECB Local Forum Prep – <i>Jillian Reitz, PSP</i>
11:15 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for Forum Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis</i> • PSP Updates- <i>Matt Colston</i> • Follow-up on LIO Work Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis</i> • Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) Rep for San Juan- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

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?

Level: 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

Level: 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

Level 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.

Level 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**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 1, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

While this is an in-person meeting, a virtual option is available via Teams for those who cannot attend in person

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,,746888859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons</p> <p>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</p> <p><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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All</p> <p>Approve MRC April meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Christina Koons</p>
9:20 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC staffing and membership updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • June 23rd NWSC Meeting on Lopez Island – <i>Sam Whitridge/Caitlyn Blair</i> • Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) Expansion Project- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> • Report on new SRKW vessel distancing regulations- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Jackson Beach Piling Removal project update- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea ○ Outreach and Education ○ Other Subcommittee Updates
10:15 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:20 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:20 AM	CAG Updates – Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decision on Salmon Recovery Council Rep for San Juan County ● 2023 SRFB Grant Round Updates ● Update on Griffin Bay Shoreline Protection Project ● PSAR/SRFB Budget Updates
10:50 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:50 AM	Approve LIO April Meeting Summary
10:55 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● San Juan County Marine Program Staffing Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● May 18th Local Forum Debrief/Next Steps- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● Update on Creosote Assessment Project- <i>Frances Robertson</i> ● PSP Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge/Matt Colston</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

March 2, 2023

MRC & CAG Meeting

Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Paul Andersson, Aaron Boyles, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Erin Licata, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Craig Smith, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Robin Alsdurf, Tyler Davis, Derek Day, Marta Green, Sasha Horst, Brian MacDonald, Jayna Ott, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

9:03 AM **Convene MRC Meeting, 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 have been passed down from generation to generation.

9:03 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:04 AM Introductions around the room, meeting in-person at the Grange. There are two new MRC members.

9:16 AM **Approve MRC February meeting minutes**

MRC members

Kendra moves to approve February minutes, Adam seconds. All in favor, none opposed, the minutes are approved.

9:17 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Table this for the moment, Christina Koons has the update and is expected to join later in the meeting

9:17 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

- Introduce and welcome new MRC members

Sam

Whitridge

Aaron Boyles and Craig Smith were introduced at the start of the meeting

9:18AM • MRC Staffing update

Sam

Whitridge

Tyler has moved from project coordinator to manager role, we have posted for a new project coordinator position.

9:19 AM • April 4-5 Marine Managers Workshop (MMW) Planning

Frances Robertson

MMW is set, invitations sent in early February with registration information and instructions to provide feedback for strategic actions as part of the MSA plan finalized last week, all at

<https://marinemanagersworkshop.weebly.com/> Introduction will be given by Patti Gobin. Even if can't attend can provide feedback; input into MSA plan. In the workshop, breakout groups with expert input to prioritize actions. Expect around 50 people. Please register.

9:24 AM • NWSC Derelict Crab Pot Removal Project off Lopez Island

Sam Whitridge

There is a NWSF Derelict crab pot removal project off Lopez with side scan sonar to survey for derelict pots, then diving later in the spring. - more discussion of derelict nets, large project in past to remove them, still a problem

9:27 AM **MRC subcommittee updates**

- Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Level: Commission is holding a special meeting this morning, should be recorded. I'll be leaving early for that.

Frankie: Here is an article in the local paper on the tug sinking incident [Tugboat partially sinks off Lopez ferry terminal | The Journal of the San Juan Islands \(sanjuanjournal.com\)](#)

- This incident is discussed in detail, the boat wasn't used as a tug but rather to transport workers. Fortunately the boat could be stabilized quickly with a crane on site and diesel didn't spill. It's likely a line broke in heavy winds.

Sam: on this topic of oil spill prevention – the ECB is a committee of the Puget Sound Partnership, they rotate meetings around the Sound, and it's being held here in May. We have an opportunity as a local LIO to highlight a concern. Oil spill prevention and the need for an ERTV station is our selected topic. We can have multiple presentations within two hours, also thinking of the vessel situation as part of the broader topic.

Frankie: unfortunately, we were not successful in our HSIL application, that would have been the county-wide assessment of buoys and sensitive areas and a potential vessel and mooring buoy plan could be for county. We're trying to get some feedback now as to why we didn't get it. I think vessels just aren't seen as a big impact.

Adam: derelict vessels are connected with the housing crisis and people living aboard.

Frankie: recreational boating is a big concern of the Tribes and it's not being taken seriously.

Level: in January the ports released the ports and waterways safety assessments, showed consensus around insufficient regulations for small recreational fishing boats and their interactions with larger boats. But no work was done to identify additional needed mitigations. The ERTV is needed to address ships' loose steerage, idea is to prevent an accident. But also concern about large commercial ships' need to avoid smaller boats crossing in front

- Discussion returns to the sunken tug at Lopez: couldn't rough weather and herring spawn season be predicted?

Questions: do we need to act on this in some way at this point? can staff run with it if they have a way to represent the county on this? is there some mechanism in permitting process to plan for adverse weather?

Beth: herring work window is January but that's for spawning beds and this is a holding area so likely wouldn't apply

ACTION ITEM: Beth can track down this particular permit and report back to MRC. It's likely it wasn't in-water work

9:48 AM • Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

Tyler, Marta and Adam did a patrol around Friday Harbor with Sherriff, included some Coast Guard boardings. Adam wants to convene the subcommittee via email to better define the role of the MRC in the derelict vessel program i.e., develop a statement on the MRC's purpose/ function. Are we logistical support or expert help?

Frankie: It's still early days of building database of vessels that need to be addressed. Like the Snohomish MRC, the idea was that at intervals the list would be brought to MRC for review to decide which vessels would be prioritized.

Adam: advisory or with authoritative power?

Frankie: unclear, we're funding prevention work through MRC, so MRC needs to be involved as a lead in the project.

Marta: monthly would be too much, but quarterly review or associated with when we do a new area would be good

Adam: so we want an MRC member on each patrol, and a quarterly review of vessels?

Marta: there are issues of commitments of county money upfront. The county can take recommendations.

ACTION ITEM: subcommittee will discuss it further and bring ideas back to MRC

- Some discussion of details from the Morning Star, derelict schooner in Blind Bay, top priority boat before it sank

Question: when you do this work, is there a personal risk to you?

Adam: no, we were multiple people, and we're with the Sheriff. And the Coast Guard was with us last time

Marta: Disagree, I have been threatened. We set up a generic email and hotline number, nobody's personal name is on any letter when we send out notices. It's important everyone here knows NOT to give out a personal number.

Kendra: county is offering a customer service and de-escalation training, maybe can do a special workshop for us.

Tyler: We want to be supportive of people living that lifestyle but not let it become a tragedy of the commons.

Adam: some vessels moored illegally but being well maintained and owner contributing to community. No slips available, this is an issue with seasonal workers who come in May and stay all season. The rule is 30 days total in a row max and no more than 90 days in one area within 5 mile radius. Need to come up with some kind of exemption.- more discussion of specifics of the rule, time for anchorage

Karin: could MRC be the entity that approaches county council with some kind of a plan for an exemption?

Kendra: that was part of our goal with the HSIL, those boats should be on moorings. We should have a system

Matt: but those boats aren't the problem, it's the ones that are going to sink

Kendra: The derelict boat program is vessel management, not yet dealing with the seasonal worker issue

Level: as to the unsuccessful grant application, could it be strengthened with a worker housing component?

Kendra: maybe we should talk with Affordable Housing about that, ask for a strategy that involves putting in buoys?

Adam: It's part of that is maritime law. A boat can anchor. There will be pushback from boaters if that's removed

Frankie: this is a great idea we need to pursue but It's a massive uphill climb until we address the issue of unauthorized buoys and tribal objections. We've had objections to no-anchor-in-eelgrass buoys.

Beth: I'd rather see mooring buoys go out that encourage people not to anchor rather than the no anchor buoys

Also need enforcement, if we generated income we could pay someone to go out and check.

- More discussion of the limited space at existing marinas, permitting to expand southern marina at Friday Harbor

10:17 AM • Outreach and Education

Frankie went to the Boat Show, Be Whale Wise booth. Shared information and flags, everyone was very positive.

Level: current status of that bill, recreational boaters' association still has some issues, requirements for some groups for outreach and education for boaters and additional time to educate them about it. Added two sections.

Frankie: the boater education includes pointers on how to judge 1000 yards and range finder cards.

Adam: we have cards and pamphlets at the port.

- More discussion of developing an app based on public sighting networks, Whale Alert System for mariners

10:25 AM • Plastic Free Salish Sea

We have the Great Island Clean up planned for Earth Day, we'll send out an email to publicize that

Kendra: Friday Harbor has a reusable bag program that's expanding to county-wide

Laura: PFSS will have a booth at Brickworks Sunday, March 5. We need more volunteers

10:27 AM • Cattle Point Interpretative

Tyler: we confirmed \$20K from LTAC for the new installation. Pursuing other funds to add amenities like power and water so we can have a water bottle filling station for bicyclists. That's a great opportunity to tell a PFSS story and a water story about the scarcity of resource for the Cape, that's the system we'd need to tie into to get water

Megan Dethier was part of a group years ago to create interpretive signage. Paul McFarland has those and plans to use them to replace outdoor signage. We as MRC need to replace interior signage and create its content.

10:30 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

Kendra moves to adjourn MRC meeting and convene the CAG, Laura Jo seconds. MRC meeting adjourned.

10:30 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam

Whitridge

- 2023 SRFB Grant Round Letters of Interest

TAG met yesterday, reviewed the 4 Lol's we received. Sam sent those out: Two from Friends of the San Juans, a shoreline restoration in Eastsound and one on Upright Head. And another two from Environmental Stewardship on Lopez, one on Weeks way and one at Odlin. This first round was informal Q& A, TAG will send in comment forms.

We also reviewed two amendment requests: An active Friends project that proposed anchor-out buoys in eelgrass needs to be rescoped due to Tribal opposition to treaty rights. They plan to return some funds that may be available to use this grant round and create education-related signage instead. The second amendment request was for the Griffin Bay project. That was a protection project with San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) we funded in 2019. Perfect example of how things change when projects take multiple years to implement. This was a family that owns two parcels, proposal to put a conservation easement on both but as newer generation moves in, they decided on one parcel to maintain use of dock that the easement would have phased out. The TAG will continue talks with SJPT about how to rescope the project, conservation easement on one parcel and more of a restoration on the other. TAG was not ready to approve the project as proposed, want to ensure benefit to salmon is maintained and maximized. Asking for more information, want them to push harder to include more of shoreline in the easement.

Sam: next step for the TAG are site visits

10:35AM • May 3-4 SRFB Site Visit Planning

We only have 4 projects, one in Eastsound. May 4 is Thursday, typically have site visits instead of meeting. We can do it all in one day. This is not a PSAR year, which happens in even years. This is a smaller round, just SRFB funds.

Amount is somewhere around \$350K, more based on what Friends returns from buoy project. 2024 will be larger.

- Some discussion of the process, funds can be traded between entities for active project, can't save/roll over

- CAG members are strongly encouraged to attend site visits. Sam will put together an agenda and logistics

10:41 AM • Salmon Recovery Council rep for San Juan County

Sam: This is an advisory group to PSP leadership. Jamie Stephens was rep for many years now need to recommend a new council rep to Partnership. Tandem with ECB rep, same person can serve in both roles. We can choose the former but latter requires application and resume. Cindy Wolf is the only person who has expressed interest. It could be anyone from County, usually an elected official but not required. They need to attend quarterly meetings. Cindy is our marine liaison to county council. I'd spend time getting her up to speed. Jamie had a lot of experience and Cindy is probably newer. Science background is helpful but there's a large legislative background

Kendra: it can't be a staff member. I'm a little concerned that she's not here now, maybe her plate is too full. Other things coming up with Tribal relations. If we could table this for another month would give a chance to explore.

Sam: sure and I can fill in in the interim. We had an application deadline for ECB and Cindy was the only applicant

10:48 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 6th, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons</p> <p>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</p> <p><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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All</p> <p>Approve MRC March meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – Christina Koons</p>
9:20 AM	<p>NWSC '23-'25 Request for Proposals for MRC Funding – Sam Whitridge</p>
9:50 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Managers Workshop Debrief – <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Planning for June 23rd NWSC Meeting in San Juan County- <i>Caitlyn Blair</i> • MRC subcommittee updates- <i>MRC Subcommittee Leads</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education (2023 San Juan County Fair Planning) ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cattle Point ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:35 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:35 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● May 4th SRFB Site Visit Planning ● Salmon Recovery Council rep for San Juan County ● Update on 2023-2025 budget process
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:05 AM	Approve LIO March Meeting Summary
11:10 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSP Updates- <i>Matt Colston</i> ● Introduce SIL Liaison to San Juan LIO- <i>Audrey Coyne (WA DOH)</i> ● May 18th San Juan Local Forum Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● Update on Creosote Assessment Project- <i>Frances Robertson</i>
12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Dyer, Matt Arata, Paul Andersson, Aaron Boyles, Kailey Genther, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria
Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Dave Checkley, Audrey Coyne, Tyler Davis, Sasha Horst, Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:02 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

9:10 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC March meeting minutes**

MRC members

Sam has a quick change to the CAG agenda, we can table the salmon chair. All approve. Lovel abstains from approving minutes. All in favor of approving the minutes, none opposed, the minutes are approved.

9:05 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

Christina attended the retreat last week in LaConner. It was a day and a half, items of focus:

- post pandemic shifting and priorities
 - increased funding, ability to expand and plan projects. Patty Murray met with Coast Salish Tribes and MRC members on peninsula this week to discuss green crabs, specifically asked about NW Straits commission volunteers
 - Climate change, warming and ocean acidification
 - Messaging, complexity of talking about the NWSC and MRC's around the region. And more diverse messaging
- Cindy: could you come talk to County Council meeting about what NWSC is? We're the largest employer in county.
 Christina: I'm not available on those dates, I can put out the word to commission staff. Tom Cowan may be able to
 ACTION ITEM: Christina will send out a copy of the commission's strategic plan and other retreat materials

9:12 AM **NWSC '23-'25 Request for Proposals for MRC Funding**

Sam Whitridge

This is an RFP for funding the next biennium. This is due by late May and this is our last MRC meeting before then. Important opportunity to solicit input. I submitted a preliminary list of anticipated projects for the next biennium.

Ongoing project anticipate to continue: Derelict vessel, PFSS, eelgrass protection effort

New projects in development: Cattle point interpretative center, small oil spills, and the vessel impact project – we've submitted to Seadoc society for funding but there are other components we're still looking to fund.

Craig: is there an opportunity to add projects? I think there are two low hanging fruit that came from MMW, -communication at chokepoints for visitors coming to islands on ferries and at marinas, like naturalists on ferries.

-Also there's a gap in seabed habitat assessment which is a baseline for management. contact Gary Greene?

Frankie: great if you could get a cost from Gary, that could be something to do with congressionally directed funds.

As for the naturalist idea, I want to caution that we'd need to see a show from MRC members for who would be willing to do that. the whale museum puts naturalists on ferries, may be opportunities to partner, like dock talks.

We also participate in the FHL Open House and in the County fair, opportunities to share information

Lovel: I think Wild Orca is also conducting naturalist talks - at Lime Kiln and the Land Bank westside preserves

Lovel: if we're talking about staff capacity, could we do something like signage and QR codes on ferry

Frankie: I would like to explore that further with them, I have some contacts, like Kevin

ACTION ITEM: Craig will follow up with Gary, pursue that in the proposal

ACTION ITEM: staff to talk with Angela Broadrick about outreach

Christina: Cynthia from State parks said they have funds to help counties with new pump out facilities.

Frankie: I'll follow up with her because I'm putting together a proposal for recreational boaters at the end of August, if smaller marinas need that specific help maybe we can see where there are gaps

Christina: mobile pumpouts would be more suitable for the islands for tourists' use

Craig: Frankie - Be sure to entrain me in the boating impacts proposal writing process.

Tyler: Catherine from State Parks and was keen on replicating the South Sound Mobile Pump-out Program in SJC

Level: what Hawaii is considering: <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/paying-for-paradise-hawaii-mulls-fees-for-ecotourism-crush/>

Frankie: I plan to follow up more with Heather Spore about why our HSIL application was unsuccessful because it seemed like a theme of the MMW that we need to get a handle on identifying the physical disturbance to habitat -more discussion on where pumped out materials can go, must be mainland, not suitable for FH treatment plant

9:40 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

• Marine Managers Workshop Debrief

Frances Robertson

Frankie: Everyone appreciated having so much face time. I made some good staff connections with the Samish who were thrilled about the creosote pilings we're taking out at Jackson. Great to meet Heather.

Thanks everyone for coming to this meeting after spending two whole days at the MMW

Karin: I thought the workshop was fantastic. I really liked the networking. I was impressed with the number of scientists that participated I loved their enthusiasm, excitement for their specialties and their willingness to share

Craig: yes it was a great meeting, as a new MRC member it was fantastic for getting up to speed on a lot of issues. Is this a regular thing every two years? I think having it every 2-3 years would really be valuable.

Frankie: MM meetings came about after the 2007 MSA plan. These also sparked the terrestrial managers group. Discussions recently about combining terrestrial and marine managers, a lot of what we discuss overlaps. We can consider that going forward. Many of the same people were at both meetings.

Christina: I want to compliment you for pulling that off, also Tyler, Sam, and Kendra - such a resourceful bunch

Cindy: public lands should be supported by public money San Juan Islands cannot support unlimited visitation

Level: Great idea to combine terrestrial and marine. MMW has historically been an opportunity for the Trust staff to participate. When we have a specific topic, we get more participation from other agencies.

Sam: I think the MMW was a great combination of structured and networking face time that can't be replicated over zoom, synergies developed at an event like that are very valuable. valuable to do every couple years

Frankie: Also, we don't want to put off the revision of this plan as long as we did last time. This as a living document we should continue checking back to, green box actions we've completed and keep looking at those we're struggling with. These MMW are great opportunity to remind our partners what we're seeing as priorities and where their responsibilities are. These are the things we want to see happen in the Marine Stewardship area

Craig: it's free peer review, I understand the document much better after discussing it with people at the meeting. My priorities changed a lot during the meeting from my first read. I'd be glad to help organize in the future

9:58 AM • Planning for June 23rd NWSC Meeting in San Juan County

Caitlyn Blair

I'm the program coordinator with the NWSC. I'm meeting with Tom tomorrow about potentially having the meeting on Lopez because he wants to host a BBQ there. I may have more of an update in the next week

Christina: all MRC members are encouraged to attend, if a BBQ bring your family. Have a chance to talk to people about what's going on the islands. This county is different from others in the commission

Caitlyn: we hope to invite MRC members to talk about projects at these meetings, maybe a project site visit. I'll be reaching out about having someone talk at the meeting. Date is June 23rd, a Friday

10:01 AM • MRC subcommittee updates

• Outreach & Education (2023 San Juan County Fair Planning)

Two combined tables for Environmental Stewardship to highlight all of our collective work, including MRC and advisory committees - all the work in our department. We'll reach out to volunteers to help staff booths in August

- Plastic Free Salish Sea

On April 22nd GICU, we hope all MRC members can participate. The organization is different for the different islands, but each involved in beach and road clean up. In FH meet at 10am at the SJBrewery. We hope to get folks interested in beach and road cleanups to adopt a beach. Then when we have ability to adopt a road we'll do that. Several groups collaborate in development of GICU. Managers of the dump weigh our garbage, come back at 2pm to the brewery for fun activities. Last year we had about 100 participants

Sam: And FHL Open House is May 13, 11am-4pm. Set up a couple hours in advance and contact lab staff in advance if you need any materials for your booth. It would be great to have MRC members help there

Craig: how can boating community help with the GICU?

Tyler: I'll talk to Katie and GICU subcommittee about that. We're also planning pick-up for non-ferry-served island

10:10 AM • Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

Tyler: so far this year more marine patrols and so far fewer derelict vessels. We have a good handle on Friday Harbor and Blind Bay. There's an issue with folks anchoring for too long but it's beyond our scope to deal with them, that's for the Sherriff. We're looking for vessels that seem abandoned/neglected.

We also want people to keep their eyes out for derelict vessels, working on an outreach video to get the community involved with vessels of concern and direct folks to the vessel-turn-in program that DNR is running

10:14 AM • Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Level: I hope it'll work to have a further debrief on the MMW in terms of this topic area at the next meeting. I'm trying to schedule the subcommittee to get together following discussions from the MMW I'll invite Aaron from Seagrant and Elaina from IOSA to our next meeting, great progress made at the MMW

10:15 AM • Cattle Point

Subcommittee has been sharing good ideas for the interpretative panel, issue is more ideas than signage space so next step is to pare things down, come up with a short list, 2-3 topics we can put on those panels.

10:17 AM • other subcommittee updates

Frankie: the permitting for the Jackson Beach pilings is working its way through hopefully in time to bid project and pull pilings in September. Beth has been helpful in her role as habitat biologist

Tribal liaison: county has given the go-ahead to put together more formal effort in providing Tribal consultation and how we can progress, make sure work we're doing is in right direction and in partnership with Tribes.

Pulling together a training, looking at our Coast Salish Acknowledgement, looking at the wording again

Level: SRKW bill has been something of a roller coaster, went through a lot of changes. Approved in senate and now it's in the house, dramatically changed there. WDFW is maintaining the 1000 yd from whales rule applicable to all recreational boats, non-voluntary. But still some way to go in legislative process. The recommendation from DFW based on recent NOAA science of a 1000' distance for all boats is being proposed in the current bill. There are exceptions. New exemption for oil spill response and deterrent operations which require proximity to whales.

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

Christina: if there's any wine leftover maybe we can use it for the June 23rd Frankie: yes, there's a whole box!

10:27 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

10:28 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- May 4th SFRB Site Visit Planning

Site visits are a month from today. Here's how they'll work: the TAG is required to attend, CAG strongly encouraged to attend. Logistics can be hard. We're trying to fit them all into one day, May 4th, will replace the May MRC meeting. It's an opportunity to see the projects on the ground, ask questions. We'll have our two State review panel members come out. I'll work on itinerary, secure a county boat. We have three projects on Lopez, one on Orcas at Eastsound. Sets up nicely for being able to dock at Madrona Point see the Eastsound site. Then maybe we can dock at Odlin, have vehicles available for the other two sites, upright head and Weeks. Plan on the whole day

Christina: do you know what budget is for recovery dollars?
Sam: still don't have exact number, a couple moving parts. Expecting our allocation, just SFRB, around \$350K. No PSAR money. We have some return funds from Friends they're not going to use, we're working with Kat Moore to get those added in this time, about \$80K, a little funding gymnastics. A moving target, between \$350-400K.

Budgets aren't finalized for projects yet. \$450K is an amount that would enable us to fund all projects

Craig: I'll be in Hawaii on the 4th, is there a way to have a zoom link with someone with a cell phone.?

Sam: we'll see what we can work out, maybe a recording that we can share. I'll follow up with you on that.

After sites visits, move forward with evaluation process. Remember CAG is responsible for scoring the socio economic criteria, TAG looks at it through the technical lens. I know it can be hard to take off your technical hat and look through that lens and you can provide feedback to the TAG. I'll get materials out to you as we move forward through the grant round.

10:41 AM • Update on 2023-2025 budget process

Legislative update, salmon recovery legislation has also been a roller coaster (Sam shares screen)

Item most relevant on PSAR budget is #7, the Glenwood Inn North shore project. That was a project we funded with a portion of our allocation. Large grant round, over \$2million for salmon recovery and we awarded it \$940K.

They also applied to PSAR for the rest. Sam describes details of the project ranking. North shore would be getting a little over 2.1million in this proposal, now going through negotiations, winding down budget process for 2023-25.

As far as other salmon recovery funding news, the senate fully funded the lead entities and their budget, so looking good in terms of capacity funding which funds a portion of my position and salmon recovery funding program

We're going to circle back to the salmon council rep discussion, that won't come back with the Council for a couple of months, we'll probably get to that item at our next meeting.

10:42 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 1, 2023

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

While this is an in-person meeting, a virtual option is available via Teams for those who cannot attend in person
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i> 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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC April meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons</i></p>
9:20 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC staffing and membership updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • June 23rd NWSC Meeting on Lopez Island – <i>Sam Whitridge/Caitlyn Blair</i> • Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) Expansion Project- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> • Report on new SRKW vessel distancing regulations- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Jackson Beach Piling Removal project update- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention Program ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea ○ Outreach and Education ○ Other Subcommittee Updates
10:15 AM	<p>Committee member updates and any other business</p>
10:20 AM	<p>Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting</p>
10:20 AM	<p>CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision on Salmon Recovery Council Rep for San Juan County• 2023 SRFB Grant Round Updates• Update on Griffin Bay Shoreline Protection Project• PSAR/SRFB Budget Updates
10:50 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:50 AM	Approve LIO April Meeting Summary
10:55 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• San Juan County Marine Program Staffing Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• May 18th Local Forum Debrief/Next Steps- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Update on Creosote Assessment Project- <i>Frances Robertson</i>• PSP Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge/Matt Colston</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



June 1, 2023

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Erin Licata, Craig Smith, Kim Sundberg,

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Harriet Booth, Matt Colston, Audrey Coyne, Tyler Davis, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Makenna Pittman, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Elaina Thomson, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:10 AM **Convene MRC meeting, Coast Salish Acknowledgement** *Christina Koons*
 Many of us are here in person at the Grange, nice to see each other in person! *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.*

9:11 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:12 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve April MRC meeting minutes** *MRC members*
 Phil moves to approve the agenda, Jeff seconds, all in favor. The agenda is approved.
 Craig moves to accept the April meeting minutes with Lovel’s one change, Matt seconds, all in favor, approved.

9:13 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC** *Christina Koons*
 The ECB meeting on SJI was a big success. The message about vessel traffic and needing an ERTV is sinking in. 20th anniversary event at Jerry Master’s house near Seattle on June 10th. Christina sent out instructions for RSVP. Puget Sound Day on th Hill – getting traction with congressional offices. NWSC has access to Cantwell’s office. Work continues on reauthorization, Cantwell plans to cosponsor. NWSC is coming to Lopez June 23rd, everyone can attend.
 Heard about funds available to rural courts that could be valuable. Christina sent that information to staffers.
 ACTION: Christina will send that rural court funding information out to everyone

9:19 AM **MRC Updates/Business** *Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis*
 • MRC staffing and membership updates *Sam Whitridge*
 Introducing Katie Johnson, new Grant and Project Coordinator, assisting with projects, reporting, meetings, etc. This is Megan and Phil’s last meetings as MRC members. Laura Jo’s term also expiring end of June. We have three vacancies.
 Frankie: We’d like a broader representation particularly from Orcas, Lopez, and outer islands.
 Katie: the call for applications is on the website and on Facebook (What’s up Friday Harbor), and stewardship network
 Sam: Sandy interviewed; he will be official when his name is sent together with this slate of three to council.
 Craig: what is the process? Do MRC members have opportunity to provide input?
 Sam: we had an interview process with staff including Christina as chair, invited Karin as vice-chair and council rep. We’ll share applications with MRC as we did during last round. We’ll communicate with applicants about timing.

9:26 AM • June 23rd NWSC Meeting on Lopez Island

Sam Whitridge/Caitlyn Blair

Caitlyn: We're excited to come to SJC and to have MRC presentations. Meeting from 10:45-2pm, start at Odlin with welcome from councilperson Jane Fuller. One MRC member presentation there and another at Episcopal church

ACTION: let Caitlyn know by June 9th what we want to present, or by latest June 14th

After the meeting Tom Cowan will host a BBQ, all are invited, please send Caitlyn information on if you plan to attend, dietary restrictions, and carpool needs. Tom will be emailing. He lives close/short drive from the church and Odlin

ACTION: Caitlyn will confirm location of Tom's house, distance from Odlin

Christina plans to bring boat, tie up at the county dock at Odlin, we'll coordinate regarding transportation

- Sam can talk about the Odlin anchor out project at Odlin and Lovel can present at the church about oil spills

9:40 AM • Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) Expansion Project

Lovel Pratt

Marta: Lovel reminded us that BC government is accepting comments now until June 8th

Cindy: June 6th is the next council meeting, if we can develop a correspondence we can address it during that meeting

Christina: Lummi is filing a lawsuit. Maybe we could file a response together as the seven counties, as NWS initiative

Marta: We're also keeping the ECB apprised because they said they would echo our requests at the federal level.

Cindy: ECB plans to bring idea of ERTV forward at Transboundary Caucus with Canadians.

Christina: how is the county tracking that information, agency interactions? Is marine program responsible?

Cindy: Sam has been the point person, Marta, Kim Sundberg, and Lovel. There's engagement from MRC members

Sam: we debriefed with Matt at the partnership, put the post-ECB process in place, they'll be tracking that around the Caucus. I'll be point-person to work with the Partnership on that and make sure the ball moves forward

Christina: seems like there's a lot of momentum on this, maybe we can discuss this briefly at the meeting on the 23rd

9:50 AM • Report on new SRKW vessel distancing regulations

Frances Robertson

On May 15 Inslee signed the bill into law pushing the buffer distance out to 1000yds for recreational boaters and whale watch boats. It goes into effect January 2025. WDFW is setting up working group to determine how to improve outreach and education to boaters, Frankie will participate. The message is if there are whales, slow down, move away, give them space. This is specifically toward SRKW but hope it shifts attitude about whales in general. The bill also modifies licenses for whale watch and kayak tour companies to address streamlining fees and distinguishes between paddles and motorized vessels, consistent with other ways that WDFW does enforcement. The bill passed with strong bipartisan support. Frankie attended signing in Olympia, gave the governor a whale warning flag.

This summer we've put out boards at the port, RH, and Lopez. Whale warning flag packs are going out.

We're planning dock talks this summer at Roche with Mackenna (the intern, based in Bellingham), at least two a month. Katie and Mackenna will head up those efforts (probably weekend, 11am-4pm). Craig Smith is interested.

Megan: we want to give a little blurb to places that give out shellfish licenses about where people shouldn't crab

Frankie: those can go out with information about whale warning flag and Catch more crab info from NWS. This is about the general message to give whales space and not approach. The 1000 yd buffer is strongly supported by latest available science that shows their foraging success drops dramatically with boats nearby. If whales surprise you, cut engines and echo sounder and let them pass. Trying to shift behavior so it's not ok to pursue these animals. Hoping this ripples out to other species like baleen whales for whom the distance is only 100 yds which is unacceptable, even from a boating safety perspective when talking about large unpredictable animals. The whale warning flag isn't written in actual legislation because there was no funding for that, but we'll continue to pursue that

Jeff: funding stream for enforcement? Will that be driven through promotional fees from WDFW?

Frankie: I'll ask Julie, the DFW policy lead, about what that will look like. DFW will continue prioritizing outreach first.

10:05 AM • Jackson Beach Piling Removal project update

Frances Robertson

We received HPA, still waiting on federal permit. No objections from Tribes, just two Tribes want to be notified.

• MRC subcommittee updates:

10:06 AM - Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Christina: I did the hazwoper training last year. Required to participate in response as a volunteer if there's a spill

Elaina: I've been here since January, it's been a transition, I'm trying to get everyone's names. info@iosaonline.org,

elaina@iosaonline.org . www.iosaonline.org has a training page. Training on September 19-21, 24-hour hazwoper.

8-hour refresher will be the final day of those 3 days. There are 2 categories for volunteers, Tier I commits to quarterly trainings. They'll do site assessment and first response in an incident. Then general IOSA volunteers or

generally trained will be on a master spreadsheet of resources people can provide. Don't always need hazwoper

training, Laura Jo is in as a person who wants to make food. Housing or transportation for people can be a resource

IOSA has been through a lot of transitions over last few years. I'm here to stay and trying to organize everything

into a helpful master list. Please feel free to reach out to me. The training is provided free to the community

10:11 AM - Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

Tyler: I've been working on a master database spreadsheet of boats present over 6-8 months, end of boating season last year until now. We've ended our series of marine patrols for the past year, now it's too busy to do marine patrols.

Finishing up a PSA, short video we'll circulate soon in the community as a call to action and awareness of the program, how to contact about our vessel turn-in program. The database has almost 60 boats. Removed 4 boats since January.

10:14 AM - Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie: I'll be helping promote this and getting on board with it

Christina: GICU was a huge success, 300+ volunteers and 1000's lbs. of garbage over many islands

10:15 AM - Outreach and Education

Kailey: we have a hurdle with the Cattle Point interpretative center funding

Tyler: LTAC letter several months ago awarding \$20K but prosecuting attorney has final say and rescinded the award based on it being a non-county building. We're following up with DA to find out how to contest that.

Another avenue could be to go after other funding, so it's not a dead project, it's a hurdle/bump in the road

Jeff: so it's owned by DNR? Can county lease it from them?

Kendra: yes it's owned by DNR. But land isn't required to be owned by county when using LTAC funds, it is the case if using public facility funds. We need to follow, this is about interpretation. Amanda and I are working on this

- Other Subcommittee Updates

Christina: Julia Parrish who is with UW CoE and governor appointee to NWSC scientific advisory board. She's promoting COASST, wants to work with MRC's to recruit local residents as volunteers and citizen scientists. Want to craft a proposal for all MRC's through COASST. SJC has 47 current volunteers and over time has had 492 volunteers. Other MRC's have groups of volunteers they train for some things. Do we need a subcommittee to discuss? Staff feedback?

Frankie: where would the funding come from? It sounds like pass-through funding, they want the commission to fund COASST? Why not just funnel the money through MRC's for their projects? We have adopt- a-beach. I'd like to

get Jess in from the stranding network to build on what we've already adopted. Folks could add surveys for stranded animals.

Phil: I was a COASST volunteer for 10 years when I lived on Yellow. I also have a question about funds. They just give you a packet and you do it. Are they looking to fund the training? The staff? I don't understand what they're asking for

Christina: I'll ask Julia and other MRC reps to see if there's any traction and what they're thinking

Phil: COASST is a good program. IF adopt a beach volunteers also want to do the COASST training that's great

Kailey: how often did you find dead birds or bird parts?

Phil: not that much on SJI's but zero as a data point is also valuable. so many predators on SJI they get scavenged fast.

Megan: we do trainings at FHL at least once a year. And we don't have large breeding aggregations around here. I agree sending this back to Julia and asking details about exactly what we'd be agreeing to would be good

Sam: and whether traction with other MRC's and how much money

Christina: \$35K/year across the 7 counties

Frankie: is that coming out of our annual project budget or out of commission? just submitted proposal for full amount

10:32 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Meet Makenna, undergraduate at UVic, intern helping for the summer with dock talks, county fair, a map of buoys.

10:33 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting**

-

Break for cake to thank Megan and Phil!

10:48 AM **Convene CAG meeting**

Frankie: Thanks to Jeff and Karin for help at the FHL Open House, a great event for locals, opportunity to engage Another announcement about Makenna, she'll help with the boat counts at Bell Point. Christina and Jeff help with that as well on Orcas and Lopez, let's start now and add it to the apps as in the past. Want to hit holidays, weekends, and randomly throughout day types and times, but likely to see most boats at anchor in the evening/early morning

Craig: is there an app for that? I'd be glad to provide opportunistic counts

ACTION: we'll send that link around, you need to sign up for the app

Phil: at Bell Point, you' have to sweep through and get 3-4 photos to cover the whole area

Jeff: any more information about Watmough? Could we count there?

Kendra: that would be a great site to pick up, it's one of the use-limiting sites we're looking at with tourism planning

Craig: what about state marine park?

Frankie: they are setting up cameras so they can record vessel presence

10:54 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- Decision on Salmon Recovery Council Rep for San Juan County

We've had no official rep since Jamie Stephens stepped down. Discussed as staff and recommend Cindy as SRC rep.

MOTION: Christina moves to appoint Cindy Wolf as representative to the Puget Sound Recovery Council. Jeff seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Thank you, Cindy! (Sam as alternate if Cindy unavailable.)

Sam will let the partnership know and they'll get Cindy on the mailing list (they're already sending her stuff)

10:57 AM • 2023 SRFB Grant Round Updates

We had a great day of site visits: Eastsound shoreline, then Lopez Weeks Pt. Way and Upright Head armor removal.

They've gone through preliminary review by TAG and the SRFB, all three given a 'needs more information' status by review panel. We get a final decision on ranking but it needs to be cleared by review panel. Next is a phone call with review panel and project sponsors (Frankie and Tina) to clarify feedback. Sponsors were also given feedback by TAG. June 26th deadline to submit final application. Move into final scoring and ranking at August meeting through the CAG.

Jeff raises the issue of concern about barge landing at Weeks on Lopez

Kim: Has anyone contacted Nickels brothers to ask for video or photos of what it looks like when barges come in?

Frankie: happens infrequently (once or twice a year). They need a permit from County, it is a barge landing site.

Need to work with Nickels bros. to better understand practices (i.e., only certain size barge, prior notification, etc.). Haven't specifically looked at long term impacts from the barge. Often bring them in during winter months, need certain tides

Kim: reviewers want to know more about barge impacts before approving this project, needs to be addressed with some tangible information. Maybe it tears up something in the restoration area, like beach grasses and soft shore

Jeff: may be a simple matter of just talking to Nickels, maybe that's not an important site for them

Cindy: They bring houses in there because it's a shorter distance to where the house is going. It's a historical barge landing so automatically an established barge landing. That seemed to me like a short stretch, would it really make a difference to forage fish? Or more like a message to the neighbors, because there's private beach on either side

Sam: that site and the Eastsound site are both potentially good demonstration sites, high visibility and public access.

11:10AM Funding News:

- PSAR/SRFB Budget Updates

For current grant round, SRFB met last week to set amount. Sam reviews financial details. This year's grant round will be \$20-22 million for the State, that puts SJC between \$308-340K for this year. We have about \$400K in total requests.

If we decide we want to fund all three projects there is room for some creative swapping with other MRC's, allocate from next year's grant round, there will still be options. Next year's grant round will be a big year with PSAR funds.

A couple other funding notes: Getting a bump up in capacity for part of Sam's position, Katie's position, and other staff.

And regarding state budget, enacted budget included PSAR funds. First 30million of PSAR goes to regular grant round and beyond that goes to the capital project round. This came up last year in funding the North Shore project that applied for PSAR large cap projects and got fully funded. State reps worked hard to make sure that project made it.

11:16 AM • Update on Griffin Bay Shoreline Protection Project

This was funded with PSAR funds in 2019, the Chadwick family conservation easement project. This project met some roadblocks, ultimately Preservation Trust had to pull the plug. Good example of what happens when a project takes a long time and multiple generations get involved. We'll find out whether those funds need to go back to the State or if we can find other ways to use them locally. It's important to get conservation projects done in a timely manner

11:18 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 6th, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,74688859#](tel:+1360726329374688859) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons</p> <p>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</p> <p><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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All</p> <p>Approve MRC June meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC June Meeting Report to the MRC – Christina Koons</p>
9:50 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Staff Meeting Report (June 12th)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • 2023 Northwest Straits Initiative Conference- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Membership Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dock Talks Update - San Juan County Fair Planning ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Tyler Davis</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates ● Sea Duck Hunting Discussion- <i>Tyler Davis</i> ● Report on Managed Retreat Conference- <i>Tyler Davis</i>
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:35 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:35 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare for final Salmon Recovery Grant Round Scoring in August ● Salmon Recovery Outreach Opportunity
10:50 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:55 AM	Approve LIO June Meeting Summary
11:00 AM	Presentation on WDFW Development of a Shoreline Restoration Revolving Loan Fund- <i>Kelly McCaffrey, WDFW</i>
11:25 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report on June 23rd Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) WA-State Government to Government Training – <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● PSP Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge/Matt Colston</i>
12:00 PM	● Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Aaron Boyles, Paul Andersson, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Caitlyn Blair, Harriet Booth, Tyler Davis, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Kelly McCaffery, Jessica Owens, Alexandra Simpson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:03 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.

9:04 AM **Public Comment**

none

9:05 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve June MRC meeting minutes**

MRC members

All approve the agenda, Lovel abstains (wasn't at the last meeting). Craig moves to accept the June meeting minutes, Aaron seconds, Lovel abstains, all in favor, approved.

9:06 AM **NWSC June meeting report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

Met at Lopez end of June, Sam/Craig/Christina attended and many from the Commission. Sam gave a report at Odlin about County projects. Then a full meeting at church near town. Discussed support for new distance from whales, ECB visit to SJI's. Efforts for reauthorization for the MRC system are somewhat stalled, trying to get this bill on the docket.

9:10 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

- MRC Staff Meeting Report (June 12th)

Sam Whitridge

Held in person at Padilla Bay, featured all MRC staff around the region, great to get together in person. Discussion regarding communication issues between MRC's and NWSF. Late summer/early fall plan to meet to address that.

- 2023 Northwest Straits Initiative Conference

Sam Whitridge

-discussed NWS conference, November 3-4 in Port Townsend at NW Maritime Center. Registration information going out in August. There's a call for conference submissions, opportunity to provide a presentation/poster/table display to highlight local work here. Deadline for submission is in late August. Snapshot presentation is up to 15 minutes, to showcase a project. Could be a poster/table display in the gallery room and could contribute to a combined slide show.

Caitlyn: one slide show for photo submissions asking MRC's to submit recent photos with credits; the other is shared slides that will have all the snapshot presentations instead of separate slide shows. Caitlyn can provide the template.

Christina: possible to present on the Roberts bank terminal?

ACTION ITEM: Caitlyn will loop in Lucas and Sasha on that question and follow up via email

Sam: it seemed more focused on MRC projects but given the relevance of the terminal to all MRC's it's appropriate.

Craig: Inclusion of the ERTV issue with Roberts Banks would also be good

Cindy: I'd like to see some focus brought to the amount of nearshore habitat we have here, how much restoration is happening and how much more is left to do, and it's important to frame the Roberts bank issue in terms of the ERTV. This conference can be about looking for allies regionally to help advocate for why that's important

Sam: staff will put together a poster to highlight the issues Cindy just brought up, we'll also plan a presentation.

- neither Karin nor Christina can attend the next NWSC meeting on July 28th 11am-4pm it's at Padilla Bay, there is a ride available from Anacortes. Please let Sam or me know if you can attend. It would be great to have representation.

- Craig is available interested.

- MRC Membership Updates

Christina Koons

Sam: Sandy's membership is now official. (Congratulations all around)

Christina: we had two open seats on the MRC, advertised widely. Three applicants interviewed over last couple of weeks. There is a question of diversity and representation. Katie, Sam, Tyler and Christina participated in the interviews. There is one candidate we feel strongly would make a valuable member because of science background. But, what about diversity in the San Juans? a strong geographic representation is important. Open that conversation:

Tyler: what does diversity mean to this group? Can be defined many ways, demographic, geographic, expertise, and experience. We have some good science/research but no tourism representation now. We value representation.

Craig: these trade-offs are difficult to assess without knowing the candidates and their specific expertise.

Level: Have you identified barriers to applying? Are we not getting diverse pool of applicants? Having remote meetings helps for that geographic distribution. But can still be challenging for folks working at time when meetings take place.

Sam: we haven't identified specific barriers, mostly people are just busy. Katie did a good job of recruitment.

Christina: *provides more details about current applicants/candidates.*

MOTION: Christina move we accept David Checkley as a member and then move ahead with collecting more applicants

Karin: in your discussions, are you considering how much time the candidate has to volunteer?

Sam: we do bring up commitment expectation. We ask if they are on MRC to sit on at least one subcommittee.

Level: Great if council members can identify candidates from their respective districts, good way to get applicants.

So Jane Fuller may identify folks on Lopez, maybe Cindy knows some on Orcas, that's a great way to do outreach

Sam: to proceed, if we move forward with approving Dave Checkley that'd be 14 members and still one vacant seat. We'll keep current candidates under consideration.

Beth Tate seconds accepting Dave Checkley as a member.

All in favor, MOTION approved. Sam will follow through to put it before Council, likely on agenda in late July.

Cindy: we could do it on Decatur on the 25th (Sam will aim for that)

ACTION ITEM: let's do the outreach Level recommended, asking Jamie Stephens and others who they recommend.

9:40 AM • MRC subcommittee updates:

- Outreach and Education Update

Katie Johnson

Dock Talks are going well, Mackenna is great, passing out flags and educating about what they mean. Shipped some flags up to BC, Soundwatch folks are encountering people with whales. A few more Dock Talks planned: Saturdays July 15th and 29th at Roche, August 4th and 26th – we'd love to have MRC members join us

- Karin wants to help with Dock Talks. Whale Flag poster on the main dock is very effective.

ACTION ITEM: Katie will send out the Dock Talk schedule of dates to MRC members.

Level: are you providing information about WDFW recent press release about the 11 whales identified at risk?

Recreational boaters aren't required but urged to keep 1000 yd distance.

Press release: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/news-release/wdfw-calls-boaters-be-whale-wise-reports-several-southern-resident-killer-whales-poor-condition>

- San Juan County Fair Planning

Environmental Stewardship booth, it would be great to have some volunteers sign up. Katie has a schedule.

- Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

There was an entangled whale in our marine waters, young T-65A5. NOAA came out to disentangle him. This reinforces the importance of the Catch More Crab program. So far, we have outreach in the form of flyers that

come with newly purchased crab pots. Heard report Port Townsend identified 500 derelict crab pots. This is a major problem. I hope Ken will allow me to have pictures of this whale to help reinforce importance of avoiding entanglements.

On a different note, whales have been coming by Eagle Cove, noticed a float drifting in the current, I don't have the means, but we need to get that out of there, it's in the path of whales and there are babies.

Craig: on the derelict trap issue, I checked with Gary Greene to see if we'd get the resolution to visualize traps in places like Lopez Sound. He said yes. We'd likely set out reference crab pots in known locations.

Sam: on that topic NWSF has been in touch with Jason Morgan, they have been doing some derelict pot removal around Lopez, I was planning to have Jason come present results at an upcoming meeting, possibly September.

- Derelict Vessel Prevention

Tyler Davis

Welcome Kari Koski, she'll be 0.5 FTE, coming on board to replace Marta Green.

Phil Green isn't here, that means we need a new representative to NWS derelict vessel working group

We've been working off a law enforcement grant that ended last month, coordinating with sheriffs department we developed a database of over 60 boats, we've rescued a few boats and a few will be on watchlists.

ACTION ITEM: Tyler can share that report from sheriffs' department

Replacing Phil as rep to the NWS dv work group:

Christina: who else serves on that committee?

Adam: I'm not quite familiar with what Phil's representation was for that position? What does that role consist of?

Sam: Every MRC has a representative on that working group. Commission got funding from DNR to form work group.

Next meeting July 24th. They're working through remaining budget and priority list of vessels.

- Adam volunteers for that role

Tyler: Matt Arata was also on that subcommittee, Jeff was involved too

- Craig also wants to be on the SJC MRC derelict vessel subcommittee

Kari: it's been a busy transition with Marta wrapping things up and handing over reins. Over holiday weekend at least four boats on the rocks, didn't need to respond but keeping abreast was a good way to meet up with all the players.

ACTION: Let's have a subcommittee meeting prior to July 24th meeting so we can touch base about our priorities

- Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Level Pratt

Subcommittee last met in April.

- On Roberts Bank Terminal, in April federal government in Canada approved the project. Then BC had their own environmental review process with an unadvertised 30-day comment period. We've been advocating for an ERTV, but comment letter from Ecology to BC said we needed more studies to address need for an ERTV. Unfortunate because this is the window of opportunity for permitting, not hopeful that BC will require additional conditions like an ERTV. WA State agreed to engage in a collaborative discussion to evaluate the effectiveness, not a very strong requirement.

Still a few outstanding permits the project needs and outstanding litigation from the Lummi Nation. There's a requirement for the project to receive a SARA (Species At Risk Act) permit from Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, DFO, like the counterpart of NOAA. Now efforts to convince DFO to deny the permit or at least require conditions. This is a brand-new project, large footprint over the water covering Fraser River habitat, and would promote traffic for huge container ships that would need to round Turn Point, wouldn't require tug escorts cargo could be hazardous.

- Grant to address small spills, we applied for some funding for small spill education funding, still waiting on approval, hope to hear in coming weeks. We'd work in cooperation with IOSA to target some outreach around fueling stations.

Level: We have a meeting scheduled 10:30 on July 10th, if there's interest in joining the subcommittee let Level know

- Craig is interested in being on the subcommittee, he's done research on oil spill impacts

Sam: we have a Phil sized hole on almost every subcommittee.

Expecting to hear soon from the ECB about our requests to help on the ERTV issue at the transboundary caucus.

- Sea Duck Hunting Discussion

Tyler Davis

Tyler discussed this with DFW, motivated by sea duck conservation work. learned a lot about sea duck hunting:

- DFW does an amazing job of regulating it but some changes in the landscape they're trying to grapple with.

There's been a significant increase in commercialized guiding of sea duck hunting. There have been a few bad actors in that space, figuring out how to navigate. Unlike fishing, duck hunting doesn't have regulations, certifications, permits, etc.

- There's 107 days of hunting in any given year, bag limit of 7 for any given species (including two hens, other specifications). Certain moratoriums like on harlequin ducks, people come here specifically for them. There was a spike in their harvest in recent years. Trying to get more information on locations where harvest is happening. WDFW has made some considerations, like a no-hunting zone similar to an MPA like Cattle Point. But enforcement is a challenge

Karin: I hate hunting period, it's just awful. And when I clean beaches, most prevalent plastic is from guns - can we use that to force the industry to change, how can we articulate the larger impact when there are this many as litter?

Tyler: Gun wads are the most prevalent plastic, some push to have manufactures move away from plastic and back to cardboard which would decompose. They could be floating here from Skagit Valley

Craig: is this on marine waters or coastal adjacent?

Tyler: this is on marine waters, hunters in a bow or stern shooting at ducks on the water

- We could have Cal from WDFW come present to the MRC about this (YES, there is interest)

- Report on Managed Retreat Conference

Tyler Davis

Tyler attended this conference June 20-24 Columbia Climate School in NYC, multiple workshops. Some takeaways:

1. Sea level rise is happening and largely we're not ready
2. Best practices for managed retreat don't exist yet, significant difference in proactive and reactive approach throughout the world. Nature-based solutions are largely absent, litigation and legal implications represent uncharted territory. The concept that we're not ready, large-scale sea-level rise isn't new in theory but it is in practice. Here in San Juan County, we're on the ground floor/blazing trail which feels a burden but also an opportunity, we're a small progressive county we can come up with some new ideas, not a lot of regulations yet.
3. Some themes coming up – people come first, words matter. Even the term managed retreat is triggering for some. Transparency is important, visuals are important to share with community. Governments have a duty/obligation to educate/involve the community in sea level rise. Decisions need to be made clear
4. Much of conference was focused on reactive solutions, managed retreat as a response to huge natural disasters and very little being done proactively. PEOPLE FIRST theme is critical, but not mutually exclusive with nature-based solutions, very little discussion of the opportunity to prioritize people-first solutions that are also nature-based.
5. Legal implications represent uncharted territory. We have setbacks here but they aren't based on elevation
6. Timing is good, current administration has political will and funding available for climate resilience.

This conference happens every 2 years, also happens virtually, if anyone else is interested in joining.

Cindy: we have a very relevant discussion coming up in Council July 17 on the application for a grant that will require shoreline armoring to preserve a road. Should we be going after grants that require shoreline armoring in a situation in which you have water coming in from two sides? Would you be available to present about this to council July 11 or 17? <Tyler can do July 11th, Cindy and Tyler will touch base, Cindy will add it to the agenda>

Sandy: The young generation should be hearing this information. If I can work out an arrangement with science teachers at the high school like Tim Dwyer, important to reach out to that generation that will inherit these issues.

ACTION ITEM: Sandy can connect Tyler with Tim Dwyer, also Adam from Salish Sea Sciences program (in session now)

Christina: NWSC meeting on Lopez this topic came up briefly, I mentioned the process with Crescent Beach. Now County is having an engineering study done. This would be a great case study to present in Port Townsend

Craig: Hawaii has been very pro-active in outreach and planning for sea level rise, including widely available inundation maps (e.g., through press stories). The Hawaii state approach could be good model for SJC.

Level: Tyler - great presentation - thank you! Would you send us your slides? ACTION ITEM: Tyler will send slides

10:40 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Katie: reminder that we have a quarterly report coming up, please send in volunteer hours ASAP

Aaron: just time from the meetings? YES and any hours spent on an MRC task, also travel, site visits etc.

Cindy: I've had inquiries from interested citizens about the foamy red stuff that comes in on beaches in April/May and different colored tides and correlations with shellfish. Would the MRC like to engage in that, maybe with FHL?

SWE: Dave Checkley would be a good first place to start

Kendra: could we use a fact sheet about algae, these questions often come up

Christina: could there be a PR blurb once a month about marine happenings in the SJ's, what's on beaches, etc.?

10:46 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting**

10:46 AM **Convene CAG meeting**

10:47 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- Prepare for final Salmon Recovery Grant Round Scoring in August

Reminder that CAG does final scores. TAG will do their scores and evaluations at meeting tomorrow

Sam shares spreadsheet showing 3 projects. Upright Head project from Friends has been shifted from a planning/restoration project to just planning/design. So now the total ask is reduced meaning this grant round we'll have less requested than total available. We'll have some funding leftover even if all projects get completely funded. That leaves options we'll discuss with TAG tomorrow. We can give funding to an active project that needs a cost increase or do a swap with another entity around the region in exchange for funds back in a coming year. If you're unable to attend August meeting, please send reviews/scores to Sam in advance. It's a tight turn around right after that meeting. Sam will send materials soon; we will plan to discuss scores at that meeting.

10:54 AM • Salmon Recovery Outreach Opportunity

Agreement working through County review process, but once funding is in place we have the capacity to pay for an educational component at a salmon display at San Juan Museum of History. There'll be a bathymetry map, a map showing salmon migration routes through San Juans, etc. (support from Gary Greene, Tina Whitman, etc.)

They're asking for \$750 to support an artist to help with illustrations for the display. It's a great opportunity.

- All in favor of supporting. Sam will put that in motion and let everyone know when the display is in place

10:56 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 3rd, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,74688859#](tel:+1360726329374688859) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the San Juan County Beaverton Valley Operations Center at 1609 Beaverton Valley Rd in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	<p>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></p>
9:05 AM	<p>Public Comment</p>
9:10 AM	<p>Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC July meeting minutes – MRC Members</p>
9:15 AM	<p>NWSC July Meeting Report to the MRC – Craig Smith</p>
9:20 AM	<p>Presentation on the expansion of mobile pumpout services around the Salish Sea- Catherine Buchalski Smith, WA State Parks</p>
9:45 AM	<p>MRC Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Chair/Vice Chair Elections- <i>Sam Whitridge/Christina Koons</i> • Potential MRC Support for NSF funded Placed Based curriculum for community college students at FHL- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC 2023-2025 Grant Update- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - San Juan County Fair Planning - New MRC Blog ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Katie Johnson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vessel Surveys at no-anchor zones ○ 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
10:30 AM	Presentation/Discussion on Sea Duck Hunting in San Juan County- <i>Kyle Spragens, WDFW</i>
10:50 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
11:00 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
11:00 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final CAG Scoring and Ranking of 2023 SRFB Proposals
12:00 PM	Adjourn CAG Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Kailey Ginther, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Aaron Barnett, Catherine Buchalski-Smith, Tyler Davis, Kurt Licence, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Kathryn Moore, Makenna Pittman, Frances Robertson, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith, Kyle Spragens, Bridget Trosin, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:02 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

As a county policy we've adjusted use of the Coast Salish Acknowledgement based on conversations with Tribal leaders, we've decided to use it only when we're gathered together for special ceremonies, not at every meeting.

9:03 AM Introductions around the virtual room, starting with staff

Welcome to Dave Checkley, our newest member whose position will be voted on by council later this month.

9:11 AM **Public Comment**

Laura Jo: carry on, keep up the good work!

9:05 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve July MRC meeting minutes**

MRC members

All approve the agenda with no additions. All in favor of approving the July minutes, the minutes are approved as is.

9:12 AM **NWSC July meeting report to the MRC**

Craig Smith

- Discussion of messaging about climate change and sea level rise that's not political, from the Commission level.

- Looks like funding is coming through for commission this year, looking at ways to not need to update it every year.

- Discussion of rain gardens, effectiveness at improving water quality and then how to properly maintain them

- Presentation about crab trap recovery in Jefferson county that discussed current efforts, such as habitat mapping.

Christina: also, the MRC conference coming up November 3-4. SJ County has an opportunity to present there.

9:17 AM **Presentation on expansion of mobile pumpout services in Salish Sea** *Catherine Buchowski-Smith*

State Parks in the Boating program, on behalf of the Clean vessel Program, working to address impacts from recreational boating. In 2018, EPA designated areas in Puget Sound/Salish Sea as no discharge zone. Waste must be captured and transferred to an appropriate facility by law. There are pumpout locations in the SJI's, but facilities are insufficient. In Pierce county they had similar challenges. So piloted a mobile pumpout program. We provided boats and funding to take it out at select times to pump out directly from boats. Pilot programs starting in other counties

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will share the link to the news story she just shared about the Pierce County boat

In Pierce county they're taking advantage of the pumpout timing for outreach and education opportunity with boaters.

As of last Sunday, nearly 12K gallons of waste pumped this year. This is free for boaters. Funded through grant program, money comes from sport fish and boating restoration trust fund; funded by Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grants fund: pumpout stations, marine dump stations, pumpout barges, floating restrooms, pumpout boats, also some of the time for the personnel doing operation and maintenance. There's funding to ensure the program continues. We can capture/transport the sewage, but not treat. There is a 25% matching cost share requirement. CVA will reimburse up to 75% of eligible costs. Some of cost share can be in kind (property value, labor).

State Parks has appropriated funds to assess marine pumpout facilities to understand gaps and other funding opportunities beyond CVA. We partner with WA Sea Grant for this pumpout WA program. Boater outreach. - States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) 2023 Education and Training symposium will be in Washington for first time since 1990, August 28-31, 2023 in Tacoma. Adam Parrott and many other local speakers, Frankie will be there.

QUESTIONS:

Beth: can CVA funds be used for purchase of pumpout vessel and salary for someone to do that job?

Catherine: yes, Jeff Barney has a whole package of materials to share about how to get up and running

Craig: Is a mobile pumpout boat really feasible? What about a barge that could rotate around the San Juan Islands?

Catherine: yes, the grant could be used for that. We hope the needs assessment coming up will show exactly that.

We can't just collect sewage, need to take it somewhere. Anacortes can take the discharge but need to have the line built.

Adam: we have a time release tank now at POFH to help with sewage load from recreational boaters at the marina.

Aaron Barnett: describes where pumpout goes from each location – it's mostly trucked off, depends on the island.

Kendra: the barge is needed because trucking sewage on the ferry is not effective. But tied to this is a problem with pumpouts for RV's. FH can't accept those. So with this grant program, if we identify we need a barge, if we can't fill it on weekly basis with boats, can we add the on-land capacity? Can it be a general pumpout?

Catherine: yes, we'd pay for the proportion that's related to boaters, we can share.

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will talk to Kyle about putting together number for that (Catherine is in touch with Kyle too)

Adam: what is carrying capacity of pumpout boats? Our pumpout vessel has 200-gallon tank, can do 15 small boats.

Catherine: largest possible is 700-1K. There are already some boats here that we may be able to use as partners

9:53 AM MRC Updates/Business

Sam Whitridge/Tyler Davis

- MRC Chair/Vice Chair Elections

Sam Whitridge/Christina Koons

Christina: Karin isn't here today but we discussed and we're both happy to continue in these roles.

Craig: how long are the terms?

Sam: one-year terms, but no limit on number of terms

MOTION: Craig moves that both Christina and Karin remain in their leadership positions. Adam seconds. All in favor.

Sam: we have one additional position. Dave's membership will go before council August 8th. then one seat still open and we have some new candidates' applications received so we'll do a couple more interviews

Craig: I'd like to participate in interviews, when are they?

Katie: one on the 8th at 2pm, haven't heard back from the other one. **ACTION ITEM:** Katie will send Craig a link

Sam: we'll be in touch after interviews to update if we have a recommendation for that 15th seat

9:59 AM • MRC Support for NSF funded curriculum for community college students at FHL *Sam Whitridge*

Program at FHL for community college students, testing if a place-based issue-based program geared toward diverse students will result in greater retention in the demographic they're targeting in geosciences. 10-day program in September, is anyone interested in participating - have MRC members give a presentation OR provide a project that could occur during that time (e.g., policy, vessel impact issues, oil spill prevention). Please follow up with Sam

Sandy: We're already in touch. It would be great if other MRC members could be involved at some level. And it would be great for them to hear about the meeting that was attended in WA DC about sea level rise

Cindy: could students work on something with middens and shellfish-use differences over time?

Kendra: have we shared that we're almost done with the sea level rise analysis? We currently have ESA finishing up some sea level rise modeling, planning to bring that to council September 18th.

Christina: I'd like to discuss the work that was done at Crescent Beach on Orcas either with these young people or at the conference in November. The issues of moving a whole road, the process the county has gone through.

Sam: I appreciate you bringing up the conference, we need to get back to them about that by end of month
Craig: with respect to this workshop for education at FHL, it's an opportunity for highlight positions at the County

10:13 AM • MRC 2023-2025 Grant Update

Sam Whitridge

We submitted grant proposal back in May, working through process with Straits to respond to comments from their scientific advisory committee, then we'll have our grant in place for the next few years to deliver on slate of projects

10:14 AM • MRC subcommittee updates:

- Outreach and Education

Katie Johnson

- San Juan County Fair Planning

We're close to County Fair, County will have two booths – one about marine Salish sea issues and one about climate sustainability. We still have slots needing volunteer help at the booth, especially on Thursday and Saturday mornings

- New MRC Blog

Our new blog is up on our website. It would be great to get entries from members, what you're interested in/doing, engage the community in projects going on, your travels. Please send Katie a message if you can contribute

10:16 AM - Eelgrass Protection

Katie Johnson

- Vessel Surveys at no-anchor zones

In the past we've been doing Bell point, Crescent Beach and Odlin. Please let Katie know if you're going to continue and use the app toolbox to submit the information, Katie can provide a tutorial in how to do that. We are supposed to be doing it throughout the summer, weekends/evenings/mornings etc. Please get back to Katie if you can be involved

10:18 AM - Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott

We did the NW Straits Commission workshop. We came up with a couple of vessels to put up for consideration. Pauline (large tug that had an emergency pullout in early spring) is ready to be chopped up. The Winsome was successfully donated. The NW Straits committee is working on an extension for this year's leftover funds to carry over to next year

Christina: can you please get photos of the boat being chopped up for the blog? ACTION: YES, Adam will get photos

Adam: We're working on a boat turn-in program to invite owners to bring boats that may become derelict for a crunch.

- some discussion of El Capitan (large derelict tug) it's in a private marina in West Sound, some issues with removal.

Kari: I discussed this with Tyler and Marta and the marina owner there. This will stay on our subcommittee discussion list for creative solutions. There will also be a haul out of a long-time derelict boat at Orcas just next to ferry landing

10:29 AM - Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness

Level Pratt

The presentation made to the ECB was a great opportunity to connect in person, moving forward with advocacy for the ERTV seems to be progressing, the transboundary group has a meeting coming up and Sam and I are preparing for it.

Want to continue addressing the issue of small spills, finalizing a grant to fund that education/outreach now.

Sam: met with Partnership yesterday, have a date now for transboundary meeting, we'll stay involved in the process

10:32 AM - Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie: Adopt a Road program is up and running. And Adopt-a-beach program is ongoing, we have stewards signed up

Kendra: and plastic film recycling is set up now at FH Marketplace. This is a pilot program just on SJI for now. Also, climate and sustainability meeting earlier this week, greenhouse gas report forwarded to council then release to public. In this report, the third item on the list for amount of greenhouse gas emissions was 1. ferries, 2. Wood-burning, and 3. Recreational boaters. Transportation over all is the biggest hit in the county.

- Other subcommittee updates

Adam: I'm speaking at SOBA next week, my presentation will revolve around marina infrastructure and preparing for electrification. Let me know if anyone else has other information they want me to present. Thanks for any help!

10:39 AM **Presentation/Discussion on Sea Duck Hunting in San Juan County**

Kyle Spragens

Kurt Licence is here too, he's the regional rep for San Juan and Snohomish county. (Kyle shares slides.)

Flyway management of migratory birds is connected to original treaties, formalized in Migratory Bird Treaty Act from 1916. There are Flyway Councils but ultimate authority rests with US DFW. Focus on conservation and habitat are a large part of the North American Waterfowl Management plan signed by Canada, US and Mexico in 1986.

These habitats support waterfowl and many other species. There's federal law guiding dates and regulations, e.g., no game bird season outside of sept 1-March 10 and a maximum number set of 107 days for any species.

Washington can't be more generous than federal framework but can be more restrictive, like with sea duck harvest. In WA state, we use federal guidance for species like mallards but for sea ducks we take a state-restrictive exception. Federal framework in WA (part of flyway) allows a full 107-day season in which bag limit could be 7 ducks, but no more than 2 can be hens.

1994 – part of Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring program (PSEMP) focused on marine birds and mammals, funding has changed over time and aerial flights for water fowl now done by WDFW. It's a 27-year dataset across Puget Sound.

2004 – restricted daily bag limit on 7 of 11 species, the only species not affected are mergansers and buffleheads. All sea duck hunters required to self-identify with mandatory reporting card recording harvest by date/county/species

2010 –additional boat-based composition survey allows for greater resolution of species composition, male to female ratios (these species tend to be male dominated) and adult to hatchling ratios. Sea fowl are difficult to monitor

2022- season closure for harlequin. During this next 2023-2024 season this closure will be extended.

Now looking at the sea duck hunting strategy set 10 years ago, ways to spatially refine areas of concern, unclear how to invoke closures in open-water areas. Issues of plastic on beach clean-ups, uptick in plastic shotgun wads related to uptick in hunting. We're interested in partnering to help promote eelgrass, benthic forage and bivalve habitat

QUESTIONS:

Frankie: Are there opportunities to work directly with guiding outfits to do things differently? And, what is the actual compliance and how do we know that they're only getting what they're allowed to be catching? Where's the control?

Kyle: yes, starting in 2019 there was an uptick in number of guiding outfitters. It wasn't just more numbers of hunting, but also the effectiveness of hunters. Bird-guides don't have requirements the way fishing charters do, only the 6-pack captains' license requirement enforced by Coast Guard. Tough enforcement task in the winter.

Craig: I'm pleased the plastic wad issue is on your radar, and it's illegal by federal law to dump plastic in oceans. Why not mandate use of biodegradable wadding for waterfowl like cardboard?

Kyle: There are three companies on the verge of rolling out an alternative but no place to get it from yet. That's the focus of WSU extension discussion with those companies – seeing where they are at and how soon to transition. We have a waterfowl regulations pamphlet we're putting in front of hunters. It's easy to smear all guides, but it's

the shortcut. By working with community-based hunters and conscientious groups, ability for momentum on these topics

Kendra: we're seeing this in the tourist industry across the board, not just hunters, but photographers and bikers etc. we need help from the State from these groups that come use up natural resources and take profits away elsewhere. And it affects other parts of economy like bird-watching. Is there regulation at county level that can be done?

Kyle: there are county level decisions that could be invoked like a county ordinance on firearm restrictions

Cindy: waterfowl probably taste bad, are they hunted for taxidermy?

Kyle: depends on motivation for the hunter, locals are usually after food, commercialized model is more about trophies

11:30 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

11:31 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

11:32 AM **CAG Updates**

Sam Whitridge

- Final CAG Scoring and Ranking of 2023 SRFB Proposals *Beth departs meeting, recused from scoring*

Sam shares screen, spreadsheet showing three projects. Total ask is under \$300K after Upright Head switched to design only based on TAG comments. Total ask is \$294K for all projects; there's \$60 more available than requested. Two other lead entities are short on funds on a couple of projects, so tentatively worked out an allocation loan for approximately \$25K to North Olympic Peninsula lead entity and \$34K to Stillaguamish. They pay us back in 2024. We're looking at 1.4 million in next year's grant round, a PSAR year, a good time for sponsors to bring forward big projects.

11:36 AM Final Scoring

A few recused from scoring. Anyone who hasn't submitted scores? Anyone have comments for discussion?

Sam pulls up current scoring spreadsheet based on scores received so far. Ranking = 1. Eastsound, 2. Upright head, and 3. Weeks Way. Scoring is close and there are ample funds for all projects. Sam will compile scores received.

MOTION: Kailey moves in support of both the ranked project list and the allocation trade, Sandy seconds, All in favor.

Craig: back to duck-hunting and plastic pollution, it's dumping plastic and we should address that at the County level

Kendra: DFW has already designated wildlife reserve areas around the county. In MSA plan, are there refugia for ducks we should be mapping and designating? At minimum find out who's operating here, maybe opportunity to educate

Kari: it looked like in the map Kyle provided hunting areas overlapped with wildlife refuge areas. Harlequins aren't out in big masses in open ocean, they're in shoreline areas. So we might have some good mechanisms within what exists.

Frankie: we have some data on gun wads from GICU results.

Cindy: could there be a state regulation that would require color-coding wads to track where they're coming from?

Kendra: harlequins are gone, I didn't see any this year. We should start collecting local data to use as argument

Dave: some of this could be coming from Canada where we have no regulatory power

Kendra: Our team will meet this coming Monday to go through and prioritize,

Cindy: the business license argument has a lot of good reasons throughout county

11:52 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 7, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

While this is an in-person meeting, a virtual option is available via Teams for those who cannot attend in person:

Microsoft Teams meeting
 Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,746888859#](tel:+13607263293746888859) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC August meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	NWSC August Meeting Report to the MRC
9:20 AM	Presentation on derelict crab pot removal project off Lopez Island- Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation
9:45 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on summer 2023 internship experience with San Juan MRC- <i>Makenna Pittman</i> • MRC Membership-discussion on next steps - <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Northwest Straits Conference Registration- <i>Sam Whitridge/Caitlyn Blair</i> • Maritime Washington National Heritage Area event (Sept 26)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Recreational Boat Conference debrief- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Jackson Beach Creosote Removal Update- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:55 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
11:00 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
11:00 AM	CAG Meeting – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparations for Sept 13-14 SRFB Meeting ● Update on Jackson Beach and MacKaye Harbor SRFB projects- <i>Frances Robertson</i>
11:15 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting/Convene LIO Meeting
11:15 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ad hoc transboundary caucus meeting update (Sept 29th)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ● Report/debrief on August 22nd LIO Coordinators Retreat – <i>Katie Johnson</i> ● Other Puget Sound Partnership Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> ● National Science Foundation Puget Sound Research Study- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

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**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 5th, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC August meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC September Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:20 AM	Presentation on derelict crab pot removal project off Lopez Island- <i>Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation</i>
9:40 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Membership Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • San Juan MRC Resolution Revision Process- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • 2023 Northwest Straits Initiative Conference Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSC No Anchor Zone Social Marketing Campaign Workgroup- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Planning for potential 2023 MRC Retreat- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MSA Finalization Process- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Update on Jackson Beach Piling Project- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Orca Recovery Day (Oct 14)- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • WDFW Mussel Monitoring- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Potential MRC Projects- <i>Matt Arata</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee member updates and any other business
10:35 AM	<p>Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting</p>
10:35 AM	<p>CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on 2024 SRFB Grant Round including new riparian funding- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Al Giorgio San Juan TAG appointment- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Broken Point Restoration Project cost increase proposal- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
11:00 AM	<p>Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting</p>
11:00 AM	<p>LIO Updates/Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Ecology ERTV Analysis released in September- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Report on Sept 29th Ad Hoc Transboundary Caucus Meeting and ERTV advocacy- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • 2024 LIO Contract Amendment Process- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i> • PSP ERC Restructuring Update- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i>
12:00 PM	<p>Adjourn LIO Meeting</p>

September 7, 2023
Minutes

MRC & CAG Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Matt Arata, Aaron Boyles, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Patti Gobin, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Norris Carlson, Tyler Davis, Sasha Horst, Katie Johnson, Jason Morgan, Jessica Owens, Frances Robertson, Lea Shields, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:00 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

9:01 AM **Public Comment**

Norris Carlson

Norris: What is being done with the Snake River Dams by MRC? This is a concerning issue for orcas with not enough focus on breaching the dams. Tribal leaders want their rivers and salmon back. This feels like a critical moment.

There is an orca recovery meeting coming up; I hope Debra Lekanoff can be motivated to speak on this issue.

Thank you.

Frankie: I'll be talking more later in this meeting about the content of Orca day, it'll be a public event

9:07 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve September MRC meeting minutes**

MRC members

All approve the October agenda with no changes. David moves to approve the September minutes, Jeff seconds, all in favor, the September minutes are approved. And welcome to Brian here for the first time, thanks for being here

Brian: I've lived in Friday Harbor since 1998, I look forward to working with everyone and learning about current events

9:10 AM **NWSC September meeting report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

- The meeting was held in person at Coupeville library. Presentation by Island County, they drafted a white paper on climate change. Fascinating process coming to consensus about managing climate change. We have similar issues.

- Presentation by Ginny Broadhurst about the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 and concerns about scale increase and shipping transits. On October 10th at 10:30am, there will be a free virtual panel presentation and Q&A with Ginny Broadhurst

ACTION ITEM: Sasha has a pdf of the Island County white paper and will email it Christina and Sam for distribution
Cindy: SJC Council sent a comment letter about the Roberts Banks 2 and discussed it at the Trans Boundary Caucus

- Discussion of the American Shoreline podcast on Coastal News Today – could MRC's restructure commitment to coastal education? <https://www.coastalnewstoday.com/podcasts/could-the-marine-resource-committee-model-be-americas-coastal-solution>

9:14 AM **Presentation on derelict crab pot removal project off Lopez Island**

Jason Morgan

This past spring, we conducted a derelict crab pot removal project off Lopez Island. Program started in 2002, removed over 5800 fishing nets (over 95% gillnets) and 7000 crab pots in Puget Sound, restored habitat, largely on rocky reefs.

In 2012, launched a reporting/response/retrieval program so with no fault, fishing industry can contact via hotline. Jason shows map, 40% of nets removed across Puget Sound were from the San Juans, over 2400 nets removed and 30 crab pots removed opportunistically. We were largely focused on net removals up to 2015.

We chose area off NW of Lopez, Leo Reef. For every crab license sold, \$1 goes to management of derelict gear. Surveys showed a lot of crab pots in that area when we had been surveying for nets. Funding available helped determine location (among several choices around Lopez), estimate for Leo Reef matched the amount of funds available.

Map shows survey lines within Leo Reef. Removed 104 crab pots, 81 commercial and 23 sport pots. 1 shrimp pot. When possible, gear returned and otherwise recycled/reused. 706 acres cleared of marine debris. Total cost was \$43K.

We'd like to do another crab pot project in the San Juans, either Lopez or elsewhere, maybe in 2024. Interested in local knowledge and to find out what sites there's interest in. We'll have a technical report to share next month.

Questions:

David: do the pots have timed release mechanism?

Jason: they have rock-cord, which is biodegradable in the marine environment, that's meant to be a release mechanism. Doesn't always work but we can make some simple modifications to it to make release more effective.

David: How do you do the transects for surveying for crab pots and what are costs associated with doing more?

Jason: we use a side-scan sonar at high level, depending on factors we get a 50m swath. One total survey is \$5k/day. The project at Leo reef was relatively small, took one day. Lopez sound would likely be at least three days of surveys.

Tyler: why was some debris left? And with rate of loss, how many crab pots will be there again in 10 years?

Jason: Some things like mooring blocks are too big and heavy to get out. Or something partly submerged that needs sediment pump to remove. And the rate has lowered but still not great. There's been some progress with outreach.

Q: Approximately how many derelict nets remain in the County?

Jason: We were confident that we had cleaned up nets a decade ago, but there are still more coming in. We're not having a good compliance rate from fisheries; nets aren't being reported. It's worth surveying hot spots every 5 years.

Q: is there opportunity for the San Juan MRC to partner/collaborate with the Foundation on these gear removals?

Jason: We can use help with outreach. We prefer to reach out to MRCs to help with publicity

Cindy: what about a deposit system on pots - need to prove pot comes back to retrieve deposit?

Jason: there are already tags on commercial pots - if a pot is lost, fisher needs to purchase new pot and tag

Jeff: So that \$1 per license goes to removal? Who tracks/manages those funds? Could the County access that money?

Jason: yes, by RCW those funds are to be used by DFW, they use some for gear sweeps but also some to contractors. So the shellfish managers manage those funds. We're always looking for other places to submit proposals

ACTION ITEM: Jason will provide a copy of the presentation and GIS sites, we'll post presentation on the website

Frankie: I'd also like to highlight it in our MSA plan that I am currently finalizing. The map of removed gear is powerful.

Jason: my email is morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org

9:44 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

• **MRC subcommittee updates**

Sam Whitridge

We introduced Brian, David is on his second meeting. We have a full committee with 15 members, we're at capacity.

9:45 AM • **San Juan MRC Resolution Revision Process**

Sam Whitridge

Our MRC resolution is out of date, operating resolutions are being updated for committees county-wide, want to set up a small MRC subcommittee to take the lead on reviewing. Christina, Kailey, and Sandy volunteer.

9:47 AM • **2023 Northwest Straits Initiative Conference Planning**

Sam Whitridge

Registration deadline has past, seven from SJI are attending, Sam & Katie and five MRC members. Planning logistics.

Christina: will SJ be presenting? And opportunity to put up posters

Sam: we can give a 15-minute presentation, poster, and submit photos to shared slide show. For the presentation, we discussed the recreational vessel impact work we're doing here.

Christina: We also wanted to talk about Roberts Bank and ERTV but no currently active projects. Lovel will be there

Sasha: Lots of opportunity for conversations between attendees. Please give feedback in the post event survey

9:52 AM • **NWSC No Anchor Zone Social Marketing Campaign Workgroup**

Sam Whitridge

Social marketing campaign about no anchoring in eelgrass. Dana reached out to invite MRC members or staff with interest in participating in that workgroup. They have three tentative meeting dates in the fall/winter.

Sandy and maybe Beth interested in participating and representing SJI. Frankie is already a part of that effort

9:54 AM • **Planning for potential 2023 MRC Retreat**

Sam Whitridge

Focus will be on finalizing the MSA. Need to start planning for December. Interest in holding a half or full day retreat? and availability on the first Thursday, December 7th? Everyone in favor, maybe hold it at FHL. Staff will work on agenda.

9:58 AM. • **MSA Finalization Process**

Frances Robertson

Hoping to send out early November for review, approve at retreat in December before submitting to council to approve

ACTION ITEM: Katie will work on a background with MRC logo for use by MRC members (per Kailey's request)

10:01 AM • Update on Jackson Beach Piling Project

Frances Robertson

This will move forward on October 11th. Frankie will be there most of that time as a marine mammal observer. If anyone can help that's great. This project is on track toward completion. Calendar for 2-hour chunks on observing.
ACTION ITEM: Frankie will put the dates and times on the calendar

10:03 AM • Orca Recovery Day (Oct 14)

Frances Robertson

This came together quickly with Debra Lekanoff, it is Orca Recovery Day and we're doing a 2-hour event with coffee and donuts. Hybrid virtual/in person, zoom link on MRC website. We'll be joined by various colleagues from WDFW, Soundwatch, Friends of the San Juans, and Center for Whale research. We'll discuss how science is influencing policy and Tribal efforts and connection. You can come to Jackson after the event and see the piling-removal action

10:06 AM • WDFW Mussel Monitoring

Sam Whitridge

Opportunity to work on this project this winter. Involves placing mussels in cages at intertidal locations, soak for 3-month period, mussels filter feed— it's a way to assess chemical pollution in nearshore environment. Put out cages in November and retrieve in February. Karin helped with this last year. - Beth volunteers to help on SJI

Christina: are the locations fixed?

Sam: yes, there are sites near Judd Cove/Eastsound, Obstruction Pass and the ferry landing. And Roche Harbor on SJI.

Frankie: need to pick up the gear in Anacortes with instructions. Beth may be able to coordinate that too

DFW have established connections with landowners to access sites. Retrieval between February 5-12th

David may be able to help depending on timing. Carl Davis may be able to help

10:12 AM • Potential MRC Projects

Matt Arata

I want to discuss barge landings: The Weeks Point project (depending final design) may interfere with the operation of the current Weeks Point barge landing site. County barged a lot of rock into Lopez and FH last year via Jackson beach and the Anacortes commercial barge ramp.

I'm familiar with operations and work with people who do it. There are three types of barging in the San Juans:

-daily barges, haul fuel/gas and hazardous materials and items too big to go on ferry. (propane, diesel, etc.)

-barging in houses, mobile homes etc. These only happen a couple times a year at different locations, tide and location dependent. Moving a house into islands needs to come in at Jackson if it's going to Friday Harbor and needs to come in at Roche if it's going to Roche, can't necessarily move. This is even more true on Orcas, hard to move through Rosario

- then bulk material barging, e.g., when County moved in rock, 200 trucks didn't need to get on ferry, took just 2 days.

There's public feeling against barge landings. But if we restrict them, we don't take away the need they fill. 90-95% of barges to Islands originate in Anacortes. Recently some homeowners complained about barge activity at ramp in Anacortes, want to shut it down. If that happens or if they restrict it in a way that prevents Islands from using it that means everything will need to come from further away, meaning more traffic, more diesel, etc.

My ask for today is to have someone from MRC go to the Anacortes Port commissioner meetings and provide our input. I'll volunteer, to discuss our needs/requirements, help to keep it open or just to stay in loop with what's going on

David: Is there any benefit to Anacortes to having this activity there? Is there an argument that can be pitched?

Matt: Port of Anacortes is in charge of that ramp, ramp fee is \$90 and there are 10-15 barges a day going through.

ACTION: consensus to have Matt go as San Juan County representative to these meetings in Anacortes, all approve.

-Matt will attend the meeting(s) as SJC rep; Matt will figure out the schedule and provide it to staff to send out Kailey: are other departments in the County aware of this so we could team effort?

Frankie: I think this is the first we've heard of this so thank you Matt. We'll raise this with Public Works and the Port

Brian: I'm new to the board. In light of Jason's NW Straits presentation on derelict net and pot clean up and Matt's comments about marine debris, I'd be interested in learning more about a long-term plan to clean up at the local level

10:28 AM • **MRC subcommittee updates**

o Outreach & Education

Katie Johnson

Thanks to those of you who have turned in volunteer hours, they're part of our required reporting and due soon. There are a lot of great volunteer opportunities coming up

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie Johnson

We're still trying to gather final numbers, 52 on San Juan Island who gathered about 500lbs. of trash and debris. A training was conducted on how to catalog debris

o Eelgrass Protection Subcommittee

Beth Tate

- Sandy joined, reinvigorated our motivation toward eelgrass protection. So, it's Jeff, Christina, Beth and Sandy
- Idea of putting eelgrass maps on the navigational charts that boaters use
- ancestral Tribal uses for eelgrass, having Tribes share their experiences and cultural needs and uses for eelgrass.
- discussed other species of eelgrass in the County, do they provide valuable habitats and are they in as much threat?
- Discussed ways to increase education, whether we'd ever be able to protect an area from anchoring due to eelgrass

Jeff: we also touched on educating boaters through the state licensing program and electronic charting notations

Frankie: suggest a member of this subcommittee join the NWSC led transboundary eelgrass protection group.

This is one of the actions that we have been pursuing through this group. Beth and Sandy are both interested in joining

Sasha: noted both Sandy and Beth to add to the list. Thank you!

Frankie: mapping of deep-water edge of eelgrass has gone ahead this summer, spearheaded by Friends of San Juans, analysis should be complete by 2025. Adding deep water layers to navigational software has been pursued by Friends as well. I submitted a proposal to Rose foundation last month toward aerial survey of vessel density in the county

10:39 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Sam Whitridge

One more reminder about Katie's request for members to submit volunteer hours, please

10:40 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting, Convene CAG meeting**

-

10:41 AM CAG Updates

• **Update on 2024 SRFB Grant Round including new riparian funding**

Sam Whitridge

This is shaping up to be a massive grant round with a few pots of money (Sam shares screen – table showing funding sources with amounts). We have some high/low estimates based on PACSRF funding, \$373-485K, more than highest past allocation. There will also be an influx of money for riparian funding in the grant round, guidance

for that is still being put together by RCO but should cover both freshwater and marine riparian projects. Funds could be used in 2024 or carry over to 2025, could be swapped with another lead entity if we can't use all.

- questions about the RFP process

Sam: I bring a draft to MRC in December for approval, that's opportunity to suggest edits. Then RFP or request for LOI's goes out beginning of January. Initial timeline and review process takes first half of year with final review in June.

Dave: it may be worth discussing at the retreat to get a general idea of what the money would be best spent on
Beth: questions about massive projects, local improvements to infrastructure or only restoration?

Sam: infrastructure is eligible if it has a clear link to salmon recovery. We have done a couple projects like that

Beth: how is salmon defined? Does it need to be chinook or any salmonid?

Sam: chinook is key, locally cutthroat is a consideration for which we have been able to fund projects in the past

Paul: what about connection with forage fish that salmonids feed on? There's other funding for riparian projects

Sam: I'll continue to keep in touch about how we can spend this money

10:55 AM • **Al Giorgio San Juan TAG appointment**

Sam Whitridge

Last month we discussed UW fish biologist Al Giorgio for the TAG, a lot of technical background, lives on Lopez.

Jeff moves we appoint Al to the TAG, Dave seconds. All in favor, the motion passes with approval of this appointment.

10:56 AM • **Broken Point Restoration Project cost increase proposal**

Sam Whitridge

I put in a cost increase request for the Broken Point Restoration project implemented by Friends of San Juans.

During initial construction, discovered that volume estimates for native sands and gravels were far below what was originally provided. Need more to restore beach to natural grade. This project is in process so it's an important request for just under \$35K to cover additional costs of purchase and transport of material. Sam sent out the proposal earlier this week, PSP has funds available in return funds pot, need approval from CAG to process
Sandy moves to approve the cost increase request, Dave seconds, all in favor, none opposed. The request is approved.

10:59 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



SAN JUAN LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION

Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG-LIO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 360-726-3293,,74688859#](#) United States, Seattle

Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC October meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Jackson Beach Creosote Removal/Creosote Inventory- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Update on MSA Plan and next steps- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • MRC Retreat Planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • NWSI Conference planning and final updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • 2023-2025 MRC Grant Updates- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> <p>Other subcommittee updates</p>
10:15 AM	Committee member updates and any other business

10:20 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:20 AM	CAG Updates – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning for 2024 SRFB Grant Round- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Update on SRFB Riparian Funding for 2024- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• WA Salmon Coalition Annual Meeting report- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
11:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on ongoing ERTV efforts - <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Overview of Habitat SIL chapter of SIL Investment Plan - <i>Sam Whitridge</i>• Puget Sound Strategic Initiative Advisory Team Recruitment- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i>• Update on LIO program visioning process- <i>Sam Whitridge/Katie Johnson</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

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 \(waggonerguide.com\)](http://waggonerguide.com)

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

-Level 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**

-

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



MRC Annual Retreat
December 7, 2023
UW Friday Harbor Labs Commons
620 University Rd, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Agenda

8:45 AM	Meet and Greet
9:00 AM	Convene Meeting: <i>Christina Koons, MRC Chair</i>
9:05 AM	Member Updates and Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve November Meeting Minutes
9:15 AM	MRC Business Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on sinking of El Capitan- <i>Kari Koski</i>• Spring Derelict Vessel Turn in Event- <i>Kari Koski and Adam Parrott</i>• Discussion regarding proposed updates to San Juan MRC Operating Resolution- <i>Sam, Christina, Kailey</i>• Review/approve timeline for Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) work in 2024- <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
10:00 AM	MSA Report Working Session- <i>Frances Robertson</i>
12:30 PM	Adjourn MSA Working Session
12:30 PM	Working Lunch (Opportunity for MRC Networking and debrief from morning session)
1:15 PM	Recap of 2023 MRC Accomplishments – <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
1:30 PM	MRC Work Plan for 2024- <i>MRC Staff/Subcommittee Leads</i> <i>Projects and work areas, Deadlines and key dates</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plastic Free Salish Sea2. Derelict Vessel Prevention Program3. Eelgrass Protection4. Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness5. Marine Stewardship6. Other projects of interest for 2024
2:30 PM	MRC Subcommittees- <i>MRC Staff and Subcommittee Leads</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Subcommittees identified for 2024 and status update• Planning for subcommittee work going forward
3:00 pm	Adjourn Retreat

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, David Checkley, Brian Goodremont, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Patti Gobin, Christina Koons, Kari Koski, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Lucas Hart, Katie Johnson, Frances Robertson, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge, Cindy Wolf

9:09 AM **Convene Meeting**

Christina Koons

Nice to see everyone in person at the Friday Harbor Labs. *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.*

9:10 AM Introductions around the room & logistics

9:14 AM **Member Updates and Public Comment**

none

9:15 AM **Approve November Meeting Minutes**

MRC members

All in favor of approving the November meeting minutes, no edits, none opposed, the November minutes are approved.

9:16 AM **MRC Business Items**

Christina Koons

• Update on sinking of El Capitan

Kari Koski

El Capitan in West Sound Marina since at least 2014, sold but previous owner never completed lease agreement with marina nor left proof of insurance. It's a private marina. Boat began taking on water and required response. Marta and IOSA got involved, hired Global Salvage to pump out fuel and stabilized, then back to process of County taking custody and seeking funding to tow and demolish. Notice of activity is out but pending funding. Started State contract bidding.

Kari reviews costs, State may not be able to reimburse total actual cost. This started November 17, 2020, then three years later boat begins taking on water again, listing, and capsizes. Global already removed fuel and hazardous materials. So, this isn't a spill event triggering action by Coast Guard, more of a sinking. Now the vessel is on the ground since November 17-18, 2023, not in a navigable channel. Owner unresponsive.

QUESTION: how much cost to bring boat up the to the surface?

Kari: initial Global diving work estimate was over a million, just to bring it up– not for transport to demolition point. The Islander at the FH breakwater is different – it hasn't been emptied of fuel and it's at a public entity, DNR took custody and it will be transported away. County can't be the lead entity on El Capitan. Coast Guard hired Global to maintain and boom it, they'll continue to work with the Marina. Meanwhile DNR and other agencies are evaluating lease agreement. Coast Guard waiting for legal determination of liability. Kari shared a history of past actions with MRC via email. Brendan has been great at synthesizing and communicating information to Council, looking at ways to do this.

Frankie: It's good to hear about coordination between agencies. Once boat is up, what will be costs of transport?

Kari: like previous bids, estimated before was \$420, but that entity in PT wanted to salvage and resale, still possible?

Lovel: there were volunteers available in the marina that responded with boom, that was a critical piece.

Opportunity here for Oil spill liability trust fund to pay for costs associated with the sinking of the boat

Cindy: why is public liable for something at a private marina? Isn't it their responsibility to ensure insurance?

Kari: there have been lawsuits. there are some programs aimed at prevention, don't want to set a precedent. Need to ensure boat owners know about the responsibilities of maintenance, promote a culture of responsible boat ownership.

Craig: Doesn't matter whether abandoned boat is at private or public marina, same problem with funding. No analysis being done of costs for when boat sinks. Should be some mechanism/legislation for anticipated sinking.

Kari: This is a good topic for the Derelict Vessel workgroup to take up

Frankie: volunteers that helped with boom at sinking were untrained? IOSA was there too within an hour

Level: yes, these weren't from IOSA, boat owners on the scene. Not criticizing IOSA, we were lucky there was more help. And even if hazardous materials are removed, there's always some junk – it's still a problem

Kari: and this is winter with less traffic, in 30' depth, partially blocking entrance, area must be boomed

9:49 AM • Spring Derelict Vessel Turn in Event

Kari Koski

April 2024 – partnership with the Port at Jensen's. County-wide opportunity for a State-sponsored turn in program. Outreach starting in January/February. Get applications notarized and turned in. Then 10-day window in April when boats will be moved into the area. Removing fuels, crushing, and moving. Discussed with Katie Fleming maybe some boating-specific collection of marine debris and take advantage of crushing in containers.

9:53 AM • Discussion regarding proposed updates to San Juan MRC Operating Resolution *Sam, Christina, Kailey*

Christina: previous resolution passed in 2001. Started reviewing, but need more clarification from County legal team and a few other entities. Linking this to the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA plan)

Sam: The Resolution lists a requirement for a planning director etc. and other items that need updating

ACTION ITEM: let's put this on the agenda for our meeting in January

9:56 AM • Review/approve timeline for Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) work in 2024

Sam Whitridge

The CAG timeline sent out by Sam over email must be approved as part of our role in the grant round. Site visits will occur May 1-2, 2024 (1-2 days depending on number of proposals). The Salmon Recovery lead entity has a technical group (the TAG) and MRC functions as the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) for our lead entity. The CAG plays a role in evaluating proposals, members encouraged to attend site visits, and members review and score proposals. TAG does the bulk of scoring; CAG looks at proposals through a socioeconomic lens.

Sam will provide score sheets, etc. Large allocation this year close to \$2million, including PSAR grant funding.

David: how is the input from the TAG used, is it sent to the CAG?

Sam: I'll share evaluation criteria. TAG is responsible for 85% of scoring, CAG 15%. Scores are combined. The TAG is a 10-member entity with folks involved for many years, former fish biologists, etc. e.g., Beth Tate is on the TAG

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send around a roster of TAG members to the MRC/CAG

Sam: our focus is largely salmon, nearshore habitat protection and restoration, some freshwater projects. Two PIAT (Pulling it all Together) studies identifying priorities, our Salmon recover chapter update, it's a strategy driven process

- discussion of forage fish, eelgrass, etc. Salmon biology is very complex, five spp. etc. Would be good to have a talk on general salmon biology, especially if we're making decisions based on it, especially with recent turnover

ACTION ITEM: maybe we can have a talk like that in winter, at an MRC meeting or outside of a meeting

Frankie: focus on adult/returning salmon but also important to restore native habitat to out-migrating juveniles

Brian: Brad Hanson has data on native Blackmouth published in 2016. Paper on salmon whales are encountering

ACTION ITEM: Frankie has that paper and can share it with the MRC

MOTION: Level moves to approve the timeline and process for the CAG, Brian seconds, the timeline is approved

10:13 AM • ERTV (Emergency Response Tow Vessel) update

Sam Whitridge

Islands Trust Council meeting yesterday, discussed work around an ERTV. Shared Ecology data (graphs presented, not original report) –risk reduction with a locally posted ERTV. Significant reduction for Strait of Georgia and Gulf Islands.

Cindy: Islands Trust discussed the new Gulf Islands oil response stations, also Point Roberts Terminal and the tug on west coast of Vancouver Island – serious talk about whether response time from there was adequate. Islands Trust Council is a form of Canadian government, not a province but a land use government entity, like the Land

Bank. We've had a historical relationship working on transboundary issues like the Roberts Bank Terminal and how its development will affect Fraser River salmon. They expressed frustration about it but don't have jurisdiction

Sam: in early 2022 County Council and Island Trust sent joint letter regarding the reposition of ERTV's

Christina: our resolution obligates us as MRC to have a relationship with Islands Trust

-Discussion of Ecology's report; the data are in it but it requires interpretation, as in their slide presentation

Kelsey: if data are there, let's form a subcommittee, write abstract pointing out relevance of data to this region

-More discussion; should we ask Legislature to compel Ecology to re-write and/or write our own abstract?

Lovel: we should pursue both paths. Marta found substantial errors in the Ecology report

Patti: must involve Tribes who have Treaty rights. I can commit from Tulalip. What about Lummi? Need to get Tribes together on this, maybe NW Fish commission, anything happening here will affect our lifeways

Craig: how many Tribes are fishing in zone area 7?

Frankie: all but one of the 12 Treaty Tribes have rights here, but not all use them

ACTION ITEM: Patti will find out that information

Christina: we have an Oil Spill Response and Prevention subcommittee – Lovel, Christina, Jeff, Matt, Phil, Craig

Frankie: this could be more powerful NW Straits-wide, maybe a focus on northern counties, Snohomish and Skagit

David: a heat map of the response time data showing the reduction would help

ACTION ITEM: Sam will help schedule a meeting soon for subcommittee for reinterpretation of ERTV data: Kailey

Marta, Craig, David, Sandy, Patti

Cindy: I'll be going back to DC next month, we want it to be easily interpretable but provide more information

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out corrected Ecology report

10:54 AM Break

11:07 AM **MSA Report Working Session**

Frances Robertson

Frankie provides some background for the plan, original passed in 2004 resolution by SJ County, plan in 2007. It included Biodiversity targets, threats, stressors (Frankie reviews these). All stressors remain of concern today. Came up with six strategies for protecting our MSA. Monitoring plans were written in 2009 and updated in 2011. Recently, 2019, MSA subcommittee initiated review, March 2020 Marine Managers Workshop (MMW), brought together experts to review biodiversity targets, then updating at retreats and MRC meetings 2021-2022. April 2023 MMW to review and prioritize recommendations, distilled to 9 themes. The Management Strategy Review from 2007 showed significant progress on 3 of the strategies, no progress on 10 strategies

Graph shows the number of species of concern in the Salish Sea is growing (from State of Salish Sea report)

Frankie reviews Conservation Biodiversity Targets, there's comprehensive background and status for each. The MSA document includes list of map resources (could be an interactive map). Agencies will keep updating links

Identified threat themes. Lists relevant management efforts, plans, references for other Tribal and agency efforts

2023 Recommendations: includes all the objectives from the Salon Recovery Chapter Update

Frankie reviews: 60 recommendations in 7 Objective areas (outreach, protection, etc.), 9 key objectives

Frankie thanks those involved: MRC members, MSA subcommittee, local scientists, agencies, Tribal reps, etc.

NEXT: MRC Approval – address edits, send out for peer review to those who participated. Address comments. Then going into the Comprehensive Plan update, opportunity to ensure that marine protection is incorporated.

Kendra: In the Comp (Comprehensive) plan, there are elements specifically associated with Marine issues. We're starting a new element on climate, required by growth management act, we'll draw from MSA plan a great deal

Lovel: question about the process going forward, how will MSA update be adopted by Council?

Kendra: After peer review is done on this, it may get rolled into the Comp Plan

Craig: do we mention intersections with the visitor management plan in terms of some recommendations?

Kendra: still sorting through over 900 comments, we'll discuss that feedback with Council end of January. We want to make sure to incorporate pieces that the public supported in the Comp plan. There was a lot of thoughtful feedback and a lot of concern around mobility and housing – associated with tourism but not entirely. Interplay with the marine program is relevant and ties into the climate element. It'll be a big lift for 2025.

Kendra reviews staff in the marine program, the Clean Water Utility and Solid Waste Coordinator, etc.

Megan: Will the MSA plan now be referred to and used differently? We avoided completely revamping the plan

Frankie: Now calling it the State of the MSA rather than a 'plan', encompasses status and recommendations

Kendra: it's a foundational body of work we can use on various fronts (capital planning/programming, etc.), it's a guiding document for our work. We're on a tight timeline for Comp plan which needs to be updated by 2024

Frankie: 75% of recommendations in the MSA are nearly complete, started or ongoing

Lovel: unlike the Comp plan which has requirements to be updated, there was no requirement with this plan.

Kendra: that's something to consider with all our implementing plans (salmon recovery etc.), they can be updated as needed over time. Comp plan won't have same level of detail needed for implementation of planning.

I encourage everyone to read the Comp plan and become familiar with it

Beth: What is the timeline for peer review of the State of the MSA?

-Frankie wants edits back from MRC by end of first week of January,

Other reviewers are agency managers and scientists and community members who were at the MMW's

Opportunity to provide peer review and appendices with comments gives the document more credibility

Christina: has County committed to continuing MMW's every two years?

Frankie: they don't always need to be dedicated to this particular effort, they can be subject-specific/ theme

Opportunity for them to look at specific areas of concern, bring in experts i.e., sea level rise, mooring buoys, etc.

But will be useful to revisit recommendations and progress –may be good to include in annual retreat(s)

12:08 PM Break for group photo

12:10 PM Resume discussion

Cindy: Bears thought how to present to Council, plans are getting more integrated into how business is done

Jeff: so what's your recommendation for the review of this process? This is a grassroots, non-mandated document, we're trying to foster stewardship of the Salish sea. But responsibility needs to be taken for policy

Cindy: this plan comes up for review at a time when we've hit a fracture, a transition where we've lost the ability to have civil discourse, angst and concern. Need to ensure people are heard but protecting health of the Salish Sea is not up for debate. In face of the pushback we got on the destination management plan, need a policy that we

check within a certain number of years, and facing a larger question about public engagement and dialogue

David: sounds like you're saying the review process is important here and we need community buy-in

Craig: the MRC is an influential body, would be counterproductive to politicize what we do here

Cindy: yes, we're at a point in time at which we don't agree on reality. So for Council, how do we develop a process where we can come to an agreement on a shared reality? Or if not, then at least a majority consensus

Kendra: we're involving sociologists and facilitators. We lost the destination management plan in community angst.

Large goal to heal the community and make sure it gets what it wants to see for coming decades. Need to be realistic about what these islands can support. Need to refer to these documents regularly in forming work plan

and budget for the year. We're not engaged in rogue activity, we stay grounded in feedback from community

Q: when will county release sea-level maps for the county?

Kendra: we have draft maps that cover majority of the areas where we have inundation issues. Need to focus more on how to communicate it to people, so maybe that map will be available soon in new year

Cindy: but sooner to Eastsound water? Kendra: yes, in progress

MOTION: Lovel moves to authorize staff to send the State of the MSA out for peer review, Craig seconds, all in favor, the motion passes. Thanks Frankie, great work!

12:25 PM Adjourn MSA Working Session, break for working lunch (Networking and debrief)

1:20 PM Recap of 2023 MRC Accomplishments

Sam Whitridge

It was a busy productive year, -MMW April 4-5, 2023, great energy being together, instrumental to MSA report

-GICU (Great Island Clean Up) Spring event in April is usually the busier one, 301 volunteers, in the fall in September 164 volunteers, Sam breaks down stats for pounds of debris removed

-Derelict Vessel Prevention Program had some high-profile vessels e.g., the Morningstar in Blind Bay was our top priority. Marta worked with DNR to get it lifted and funded. Sam reviews a few other examples. Made a derelict vessel awareness video, some other outreach accomplished. Working with NWSC derelict vessel workgroup

-Eelgrass Protection, we hired an intern, vessel compliance monitoring at Odlin and other monitoring sites

-Jackson Beach Creosote removal, we had contingency in the budget because more pilings pulled than we realized

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will email link to 'engage' page on MRC site, describes piling removal and restoration plans

Other 2023 highlights: NWSC meeting on Lopez in June, NWSC conference in PT last month, Lovel presented on ERTV work, added 5 new MRC members (a third of committee is new as of last year), ongoing ERTV advocacy/oil spill prevention advocacy, another successful salmon recovery grant round including three shoreline armoring removal projects, outreach events (Seattle boat show, FHL open house, SJ county fair, etc.), finalized new logo

1:35 PM **MRC Work Plan for 2024**

MRC Staff/Subcommittee Leads

Let's review each of our core tasks identified for this year, match up with our subcommittee list to ensure people are linked, see if there are new ideas/projects we want to work on in 2024 (Sam shares spreadsheet of projects)

Task #1: MRC Admin and Promotion

Monthly meetings (May site visits and December retreat). July 4th is a Thursday this year so likely to reschedule

Other admin includes ongoing reporting, pursuing grant opportunities, etc.

Task #2: Derelict Vessel Prevention Program

By end of January, needs to finalize criteria for removal and list of vessels which are priorities for removal.

For Derelict Vessel subcommittee Adam, Kari, Jeff, Christina, Matt, and Craig.

ACTION ITEM: Can Phil Green stay on the subcommittee? Sam will ask Phil if he's happy to stay

We always need help with vessel surveys, there will also be a lot of work associated with vessel turn in

Task #3: Eelgrass Protection

Maintenance of Odlin buoys, vessel monitoring there and at Bell Point, Eastsound (Some overlap with task #6)

Subcommittee: Frankie & Katie, Beth, Sandy, Christina, and Jeff

Beth: still trying to connect with people about getting eelgrass survey data into charts, goal to sort that out

Frankie: I can help with that, it's getting it onto charts but also on to boater apps. Idea of geofencing

- Some discussion of types of charts, paper vs. online, Navionics, Canadian, NobelTec

Eelgrass zones would be voluntary, not required

Sandy: we also plan to talk more about the other seagrasses. Particularly in southern parts of SJ and Lopez

Frankie: app called seagrass spotter, it's a citizen science tool to report different types of seagrasses

And, Sandy and Megan sit on the working group to restore native eelgrasses

ACTION ITEM: Sandy will send that information to Frankie

-Discussion of seagrass information on ferries, can NWSC (North West Straits Commission) help with that?

Lucas: depends on budget and capacity. For a regional scale project, try to pull together multiple counties.

Frankie: it could be the 'catch more crab' campaign, PFSS, not projects specific to just one MRC.

-discussion of other information that could be provided on the ferry

Task #6: Understanding Vessel Impacts – opportunistic boat counts, aerial surveys

Sam refers to some other possible funding. Frankie and Lucas discuss specific criteria for funding projects.

Frankie: we're trying to assess boat density and areas of biggest impact, how those overlap with eelgrass, kelp, cultural areas, etc. to help decide where public mooring system would be, in conjunction with Tribal treaty rights.

This is just baseline boat use data to figure out other issues, like where to prioritize for certain things.

Task #7: Benthic Habitat Characterization, benthic habitat surveys

Craig Smith

Starting in Lopez Sound, shallower than 70' where boats anchor. Work with Gary Greene. They have side-scan sonar and vessel. Hope to begin surveys in June, will provide data on seagrass habitat and derelict fishing gear. Craig lists some other potential sites and describes more detail about how to use side scan sonar technology -Jeff and Craig discuss some specific sites around Lopez, shallow areas where boats anchor

Task #4: Marine Stewardship

Sam Whitridge

This was the MSA plan update; now this is where we have work for next Marine Managers' Workshops in 2025. Also small spills outreach which to local marinas. Initially, create a database around assessment of local marinas.

We've also discussed a workshop of marina managers to connect them with resources, start a dialogue

Sam: when there's a deliverable, staff needs to be involved. Katie taking the lead on marina outreach

But for subcommittee work seems like this could be lumped in with Oil Spill Prevention, Level involved

Level: but then where's the ERTV advocacy and following through on that? It was my interest in the oil spill prevention subcommittee to keep that on the forefront while that's fresh

ACTION: Sam will add that in as a subtask, thanks Level

Sam: that's not exactly a deliverable, it's mentioned as a likely outcome

Frankie: want to bring marina managers together not just to talk about small spills but also challenges, barriers, form better communication so they have open lines to talk to each other. Other issues: pump-outs, gas, etc.

Christina: did you do surveys around marinas for what type of pump outs they're using?

Sam: there's the partnership with WA SeaGrant, they have a lot of resources

Frankie suggests a couple of contacts from Bellingham recommends inviting contacts met at SOBA conference

Level: and rope in the County parks that are on the water e.g., Odlin

Frankie: I suggest a meeting first with just marinas, provide a space to communicate, then bring in other partners

This connects back to the topic of transient moorage and understanding how much space is actually available.

Task #5: Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Still need beach and road stewards, need some updating on website. This is a Salish-sea wide issue. Want to meet with other MRC's maybe quarterly on this issue, so that we can come up with new and big projects together

Big places where plastic is generated are building (construction sites), businesses (packaging) –areas in our communities where we could target big plastic producers. Hope to collaborate on that with other MRC's

Subcommittee: Karin, Craig Sandy – Katie from staff

2:42 PM Other projects/areas of interest?

Frankie: for Be whale Wise, struggling with losing staff with partners at Whale Museum and Soundwatch. That leaves us covering the Boat Show on our own as MRC. It's end of January/early February, runs from 10am-8pm.

Also, I have a small grant for a Killer Whale Deterrence workshop next week. And I'm on Orca advisory committee updating some materials. It's time for an independent Be Whale Wise coordinator separate from Soundwatch.

-some discussion of whale approach regulations, enforcement possibilities

-some discussion of data involving whale prey success rate in the presence of vessel noise and sufficient vessel distance, and how to communicate that to recreational boaters?

Frankie discusses issues of boaters' behavior around whales, issues of growing population/new boaters

3:02 pm

Adjourn Retreat