



**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
**Marine Resources**  
**Committee**



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

**Thursday, June 5th, 2025**  
**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:*

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9:00 AM	<b>Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott</b>
9:05 AM	<b>Public Comment</b>
9:10 AM	<b>Approve meeting agenda – All</b> <b>Approve MRC May meeting minutes – MRC Members</b>
9:15 AM	<b>NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC- Christina Koons</b>
9:20 AM	<b>Discussion re: MRC Membership and MRC Volunteer Hours- Adam Parrott</b>
9:45 AM	<b>MRC Updates/Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on NWSC Grant Submission for 2025-2027- <i>Sam Whitridge</i></li><li>• Discussion re: MRC Comments on OPALCO Tidal Generation Project- <i>Dave Checkley</i></li><li>• MRC members up for renewal in June 2025 (Karin Roemers-Kleven/Craig Smith)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i></li><li>• MRC Youth Position Update- <i>Kailey Genther and Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria</i></li><li>• Introduction to summer interns- <i>Katie Johnson</i></li><li>• MRC subcommittee updates<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Outreach &amp; Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i></li><li>○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i></li><li>○ Seagrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i></li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i></li> <li>○ Oil Spill/ERTV-<i>Sam Whitridge</i></li> <li>● Other subcommittee updates</li> </ul>
10:40 AM	<b>Committee member updates and any other business</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Adjourn MRC Meeting</b> <b>Convene LIO Meeting</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Presentation: Funding available for 6PPD Stormwater Research-</b> <i>Madison Bristol and Shelby Giltner, Dept of Ecology</i>
11:00 AM	<b>LIO Business agenda – <i>Katie Johnson/Sam Whitridge</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i></li> <li>● Planning for San Juan Local Forum at August 20-21 Leadership Council Meeting</li> <li>● Healthy Shorelines Action Plan Workshop (June 10<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul>
11:30 AM	<b>Adjourn LIO Meeting</b> <b>Convene CAG Meeting</b>
11:30 AM	<b>CAG Updates/Business- <i>Sam Whitridge</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update on Salmon Recovery Funding in 2025-2027 State Budget</li> <li>● Update on San Juan 2025 Salmon Recovery Allocation</li> <li>● 2025 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Update and Next Steps</li> </ul>
12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Adjourn CAG Meeting</b></li> </ul>

**MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance:** Matt Arata, Charles Bookman, David Checkley, Rich Goodhart, Olivia Graham, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Craig Smith, Kim Sundberg, Beth Tate

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Madison Bristol, Paul Cline, Shelby Giltner, Michiko Graham, Marta Green, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Mike Kuperberg, Ava Martin, Frankie Robertson, Sonora Tate, Flora Vaught, Lola Walker, Annika Weber, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty

9:03 AM **Convene MRC Meeting**

*Adam Parrott*

9:04 AM **Public Comment**

*Frankie R.*

As a member of the Whale Museum BOD, I'm introducing the new Director of the whale museum, Mike Kuperberg.

Mike: we just arrived to the Island but I've been working with museum for several months, excited to be here

9:05 AM **Introductions** around the physical and virtual rooms

9:11 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC March meeting minutes**

*MRC Members*

No revisions. David moves to accept the minutes as presented, Olivia seconds. The May minutes are approved.

David moves to accept the meeting agenda, Olivia seconds, the agenda is approved.

9:12 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC**

*Christina Koons*

NW Straits met in Clallam County. Hosted by the Jamestown Clallam Tribe at their Nature Center. The Commission will meet in the SJI's on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, hope some MRC members can join. We also heard a talk about the Blue Schools initiative – ways to engage young people in marine issues. Now that we've created these two youth positions on the MRC, seems like a good fit. Nice to see an emphasis on eelgrass recovery and anchoring out. Also Betsy Peabody with PSRF will participate in the kelp exhibit at the art museum. Idea to host a kelp soiree on September 27<sup>th</sup>, some MRC members have already volunteered to help. MRC conference will be November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, in La Conner WA

Frankie: last time it was hard for additional staff to attend, we'd need to push to give Kari Koski the opportunity. We don't just have one support staff, we have a variety. It would be nice if there was an invitation extended to all of us

ACTION ITEM: Christina will look into getting everyone there

9:17 AM **Discussion re: MRC Membership and MRC Volunteer Hours**

*Adam Parrott*

We're here because of our passion for these islands, and their future is uncertain. Please all examine your own personal goals for being part of the MRC – now is the time to step forward and be a progressive force for our community. The staff's time is valuable, but there are many things they're shouldering that the membership should be taking care of, and it uses grant time that would be better placed elsewhere. We have many upcoming events that need volunteer support., Instead of sending around emails and hoping people sign up, let's make it an action item and keep members aware of what others are doing. Work to translate our passion into boots on the ground action. Katie has created a sign-up sheet. Please find something there you can commit to and put your name on it. Then each meeting let's have an agenda item to discuss what members are doing with volunteer hours. This will empower us to speak at Council and not just be spectators for what

our staff is doing. We need to be more specific, show the community how we support each other. We'll report for the first time next month on July 10<sup>th</sup>

Karin: It was so much fun it was to host the MRC booth at the FHL open house. We showcased projects like the DV program, creosote removal, etc. People left with lots of ideas and I felt like I had helped make a difference.

Adam: thank you! I want to share more experiences like that monthly. Interacting with community can make a positive impact. Hopefully this structure will help us do it more consistently so staff can work on important stuff

Frankie: County Council is new, there isn't the same focus or awareness of marine environmental issues. If they don't hear from community what priorities are then they won't know. There's real value in being able to share that with elected officials. We often don't think local governments have an impact on bigger issues at play but in fact they can have a lot of influence and can help drive things forward at a State and Federal level. That's been the case in the past, like with vessel regulations for whales. There's value in communicating who we are to the Council

Olivia: thank you for the inspirational and motivational words, that resonates with me and with other members here. But several members aren't here – I wonder if there'll be some message beyond what's in the minutes?

ACTION: Adam will send out message in an email along with the signup sheet electronically

#### 9:28 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

- Update on NWSC Grant Submission for 2025-2027

*Sam Whitridge*

Grant submissions were made to NWSC last week. There was the shorelands grant (combination of state and federal funds), and the NOAA program one-time funding which is all federal. We submitted proposals for the regular MRC operational grant including running programs like Derelict Vessels etc. and general marine stewardship category. For the one-time grant (about \$75K a year for two years), we put in a proposal for an MSA plan community engagement effort. That MSA report was finalized recently and presented to Council a few weeks ago. This will take recommendations in that report and the fact that we're part of a MSA and make the community more aware of our strategies. Our main focuses are kelp and eelgrass, activities planned around that key objective.

About funding and federal funds, the federal funds are still pending and they make up about 2/3 of our funding. There's a meeting for MRC staff with NWSC coming up. waiting to see what happens with federal funding

#### 9:34 AM • Discussion re: MRC Comments on OPALCO Tidal Generation Project

*Dave Checkley*

We decided it would be useful to comment to Council about this and I agreed to draft a comment letter. In doing so, I did some research. OPALCO has filed a notice of intent to the Federal Energy Regulatory commission to deploy a tidal generation device off Blakely Island in east part of Rosario Strait. Now the comment period has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The device is 85m in length, 3/5 of the device is underwater, each rotor has 15m blades, proscribes a circle of about 90'. It spins relatively slow, 9-11 revolutions per minute. This could produce a max of 2.4 megawatts, average demand of SJC in about 10 times that and peak demand is between 50-75 megawatts. The cable that runs to the mainland is rated for 80 megawatts. We're limited to that amount. There's an increased demand of power. OPALCO is investigating both solar and tidal energy. The device would be moored in about 90m of water, anchors drilled into the rock and it'll swing with the tide. Dave read extracts from the Swinomish and Friends of San Juans' requests for extending the comment period, describing impacts on species. The MRC's mission is to protect and restore species and habitats of the San Juans.

QUESTIONS

Beth: The environmental impacts are concerning, but I wonder if people have an alternative in mind. What would make us feel better about a project like this? And what are consequences of not moving forward?

Charles: I'd like to get some clarification about MRC role in this matter, it would be our recommendation to Council. Therefore, incumbent on us to add some credence to environmental concern but the County has an energy concern that the Council needs to address. We can add weight to existing concerns, but the County needs to work with OPALCO to take care of energy needs.

Frankie: I suggest we invite Heather Nicholson to present to the MRC, she has amassed a knowledge base about the kinds of data OPALCO is presenting to the community. Not against renewable energy, but need clear facts

Adam: If we want a presentation about this, it needs to happen in July so we can prepare something by August

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will try to secure presentation for July. Karin may have a contact for Heather Nicholson.

Lovel: looking holistically at the issue of energy in the County, there are restrictions in the code about where solar can be used. Friends is working to amend that. In this tidal energy proposal, it's important to look at how much energy it generates and how that compares with other ways. And how shipping and other issues like potential oil spill will be affected. In six days, there will be a new comment period regarding shipping and tug escort requirements in Rosario strait. Large tanker traffic will be transiting up Rosario strait

Adam: we're positive on our stance on the County needing to meet energy needs and looking for renewable/sustainable methods, but we have concerns regarding environmental impacts from this

Karin: we need to understand the difference between tidal generation vs. solar and wind

David: we can discuss the County's needs, but our role is to evaluate the effect on the marine environment.

That larger question, wind vs. solar etc. isn't the purview of this community. Rather, we're evaluating this particular proposal. I don't want to purport to advise council on something that isn't under our purview

Adam: but one of our comments could be that the County needs to look at other options

Craig: I agree with Dave but need to look at the portion that tidal power will provide, will it actually be significant and how will it compare with other means. Need holistic view to avoid NIMBY response

Karin: it's a cost benefit analysis. Need to understand the costs and impacts of this. Not confined only to this option

Olivia: isn't this within the realm of what environmental consultants could do? Could we bring in outsiders to do an assessment? This is a big issue, the idea of growing energy needs within our county.

Frankie: OPALCO has environmental consultants guiding their work now.

Lovel: it's my understanding that the experts supporting OPALCO are affiliated with the same people selling the equipment, not an independent environmental assessment

David: but a lot of federal agencies are involved like WDFW, I respectfully disagree

Mike: is Swinomish the only Tribe that commented?

Lovel: those were just requests to extend the comment period

David: they listed on the order of twenty tribes they sent this information, and likely 5-10 will provide responses.

Paul: for Lummi, something this size will impede our treaty rights. I'll leave it there until word from our leadership

Frankie: as we think about this, would behoove us to look at the project that was proposed for Admiralty inlet. That was also a pilot project, it didn't happen in part because of huge cost overruns. This is young tech, very expensive.

ACTION: we'll plan a presentation and discussion in July before recommendation to council

10:07 AM • MRC members up for renewal in June 2025 (Karin Roemers-Kleven/Craig Smith) Sam Whitridge

Two members whose terms are expiring this month. Craig has let us know he won't be renewing. We are extremely grateful to Craig and all his various contributions; hope you'll stay plugged in as your schedule allows

Craig: it's been a pleasure, I'd like to remain engaged as a member of public, attend meetings. I may rejoin when my health improves. I'm particularly interested in ERTV and OPALCO regeneration project

Sam: Karin is eligible for another term because her first term was a partial term. Are you willing to renew?

Karin: yes, definitely

MOTION: Lovel moves MRC recommend Karin be reappointed, Adam seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

Sam: thank you Karin, we appreciate your willingness to serve. that leaves one vacancy. We interviewed Joey last cycle and offered him a non-voting position; Joey is not here today but he has been attending meetings regularly.

Adam: he has such a breadth of knowledge about permitting, spends time in the water, I think he'd be valuable

MOTION: Mike moves to add Joey, Karin seconds, all in favor. No opposition. Next step is Council approval

Sam: one other item, the role Lovel has been filling as rep for the Climate and sustainability committee.

Lovel: it's really great work, recent focus has been on the comp plan and draft climate element

Time commitment? There's some outside reading because of updates and participation in drafting the climate element. Meetings in evenings every other month, maybe a 5:30-7:30pm, mostly virtual and occasionally in person.

- if anyone is interested, please email Sam

#### 10:17 AM • MRC Youth Position Update

*Katie Johnson*

Earlier in May, discussed youth position on MRC committee with Council and the fact that we're due for revamp of rules drafted over 20 years ago. So, we have the go ahead to draft new resolution including youth membership. Shout out to Flora and Lola for joining us, we have a good jump start on recruitment. Hope to formalize by fall.

#### 10:18 AM • Introduction to summer interns

*Katie Johnson*

Sonora: born and raised on Island, excited to help with dock talks and some social media, community engagement

Ava: just finished first year of college, thinking of studying environmental science and/or international affairs.

#### 10:19 AM • MRC subcommittee updates

##### o Outreach & Education

*Katie Johnson*

We have an activity sign-up sheet, please commit and show up to engage with the public. We'll have the same booth for County Fair that we had at FHL Open House – information about our projects, whale flags, etc.

Frankie: we're talking about a scavenger hunt around the fair, various interactive ideas. We welcome ideas!

Olivia: we had a record turn out at FHL Open House with over 800 visitors. Please think about it for next year

##### o Plastic Free Salish Sea

*Karin Roemers-Kleven and Katie Johnson*

We've focused on getting plastic out of the environment but not on where plastic is coming from. One problem is open trucks with loads not contained properly. Idea to decorate old truck and run in July 4<sup>th</sup> parade with 'cover your load' message. Also want to acknowledge FH yacht club's major cleaning on outlying islands.

Katie: they went to Stuart on Saturday and Sucia & Jones on Sunday, people were very enthusiastic. They want to do it again/annually, maybe connect with GICU in fall/spring. They're looking for more volunteers

Karin: they also talked about inviting other yacht clubs which would be great way to spread the message

#### o Seagrass Protection

*Beth Tate*

Another possible eelgrass harvest opportunity out of Anacortes, from a dredging project in a marina. The CD and Jeff Gaeckle are also moving forward with some other restoration projects around here

Frankie: Olivia and I are kicking off eelgrass stressor project, HSIL -funded, led by WDFW and FHL, also the County, CD, and the Samish. County and MRC will be looking at impacts from vessel counts and aerial surveys

Olivia: project aimed at understanding a/biotic stressors because eelgrass is dramatically declining county and state-wide. We want to better inform conservation practices. We're kicking off July 1, lots of field work that month at six of our meadows around the archipelago and continued quarterly monitoring

Matt: what's the big picture on the boat counts? Are we counting boats forever?

Frankie: just keep counting! At Odlin we have anchor out buoys, original motivation was to monitor effectiveness there. Second aspect is comprehensive vessel impact assessment, now that's being mapped – detailed density analysis. Hope to present this at end of summer. This HSIL eelgrass stressor project builds on our vessel count data.

-brief discussion of a recreational pass, funding mechanism from recreational boaters to support the MSA as federal funding goes away. The recreational pass concept was brought up in our destination management plan previously, some kind of pay-to-play mechanism. Need to look at other sources of funding for important projects.

How do we capture revenue from folks anchoring out who aren't staying in hotels and paying LTAC in other ways?

Frankie: even boats coming into marinas don't pay into LTAC. These are visitors using island resources and leaving their waste behind, not understanding that we have finite resources

Rich: there is a tax portion paid by anyone staying at our marina that goes back to the State.

#### o Derelict Vessel Prevention

*Adam Parrott and*

*Kari Koski*

We've been doing outreach, now transient moorage is coming in so we're suspending regular patrols for the season but if you see a problem, report it. Looking for sustainable funding mechanisms, most grants are federal.

Adam: any talk with DNR about a mass vessel turn-in?

Kari: we can do our own and keep it more contained. We just did a mini-turn-in event with the port for six vessels.

Olivia: in terms of sustainable funding sources, if you found private donors in the community can you accept funds?

Kari: yes, we have a donate button on the MRC website.

#### 10:49 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

Beth: Recent IOSA spill drill. I was impressed with the professionalism and organization. 50+ people involved.

Frankie: it was the first drill of this nature IOSA has held. Many partners involved, tribal and agency. Big success

Christina: a few years ago Frankie and I did the Hazmat training. They offer free training. Highly recommend it.

ACTION ITEM: Kari and Frankie can forward information about that training

Kari: can do it online, but great to train with other locals. Any further questions about that please contact Frankie

Lovel: Ecology is required to update their oil spill contingency plans requirements. This 5-year process is preceded by best achievable protection process. There are work groups looking at crude oils, at killer whale response, etc. It'll be a good opportunity to recommend some engagement to Council when the ruling comes out in 2026

10:57 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting**