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| MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Franchesca Perez  Sara Maxwell  Allan Hicks  Richard Strickland  Dawn Presler  Phil Salditt  **Absent**  Andrew Gobin | **Staff**  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  **MRC Ex-Officio Members**  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member  **Others**  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers  Jeff Whitty - NWSC |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the February 2024 meeting summary. | |
| **Upcoming Events**   * Mission Beach Earth Day beach cleanup – April 22 * Forage fish monitoring Picnic Point and Meadowdale – April 24, May 22; Howarth Park – April 27 * ORCA Student Showcase – June 6 at 4pm | |

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Natasha introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu* (Sauk-*Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, meeting summary. Richard Strickland seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Strategic Plan Debrief

The MRC conducted a general debrief of the first in person strategic planning meeting that was held on March 20th. MRC members discussed the things they liked and would have altered about the process. A few members commented that the meeting could have had been a bit longer to discuss some areas in more detail. The group expressed excitement for the second in person planning meeting that will be held on July 10.

The Strategic Planning subcommittee provided an update saying the online survey was sent out on July 17 and answers are due back by the first week of May.

**MRC Meeting Guest Speakers/Topics**

The MRC frequently has guest speakers that share information on marine topics and projects. The MRC reviewed a list of the speakers of the past two years and discussed ideas for future speakers. Topics such as an in-depth explanation of tribal treaty rights and which fish are affected by 6ppd were brought up as ideas. Some folks expressed wanting to see project specific presentations that focus more on the implementation perspective instead of the science/research perspective.

**MRC Internal Communications**

Julie Schlenger brought to the group the idea of creating a shared MRC member calendar for events and subcommittee meetings. The group expressed that while there is benefit in the calendar, they are unsure how often it would be utilized. The Executive Committee said they would meet to determine if this were a communication device they would like to pursue. Their first step would be to further gauge interest by sending a poll to MRC members.

**Project Updates and Announcements**

* **LIO –Tim Ellis**
  + The LIO met on April 17th some of the topics discussed included Puget Sound Partnership’s Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (RAFT), conservation efforts across the county, and Army Corps reuse of dredge material
* **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  + Save the date! The Northwest Straits Initiative annual conference will be from November 15-16, 2024 at the Delta Hotel in Snohomish County. The planning committee will be meeting in late March.
  + The Northwest Straits Commission is kicking off our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion assessment. We will be working with Athena Group to address our DEI goals within the Northwest Straits Initiative.
  + The NW Straits Commission 2023 Impact Report will be available digitally as of February 27, 2024.
  + Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for May 13-17, 2024, in Washington D.C.
  + The Northwest Straits Commission approved creating a second tribal seat on the Commission in February.
  + Jefferson Marine Resources Committee staff member, Monica Montgomery, has stepped down from her position. Jefferson MRC is hiring someone to fill her position as the Marine Resources Committee coordinator. Monica has done great work with the MRC, and we wish her luck in her new position!
  + The Northwest Straits Foundation is hosting a community event on May 5, 2024, at the Port of Everett.
  + The Puget Sound Partnership is hiring several positions, such as an Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator and a Boards Program Coordinator.
  + Rick Beauregard gave a presentation on the Drayton Harbor Harmful Algal Bloom project. In 2023, volunteers spent over 2,000 hours surveying over 620 phytoplankton samples and harmful algal bloom species (HABS) to determine biotoxin presence in Drayton Harbor, and how these biotoxins contributed to paralytic shellfish toxins.
  + San Juan Marine Resources Committee is hosting a free derelict vessel turn-in event in April 2024.
  + The Puget Sound Partnership’s Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (RAFT) is now available, centralizing details on funding opportunities for the Puget Sound ecosystem and salmon recovery.
  + The Salish Sea Institute at WWU is hosting Dr. Elin Kelsey on March 5, who will be speaking about hope during the climate crisis.
  + Jefferson Marine Resources Committee finished their storm surge reports with the help of Suzanne Shull. These reports are now available on SoundIQ under “Shoreline Data”.
  + Senator Murray thank you video being made with representatives from each MRC.
* **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
  + A kickoff meeting was held on April 1. Currently the consultant is creating a summary of the available marine vegetation information including science and policy and a list of Edmonds community groups.
  + The subcommittee is currently working on a stakeholder list.
  + Julie asked the group for photos related to marine vegetation in Edmonds.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  + The most recent LEPC meeting was on April 18.
  + 100 oil spill kits from WA Sea Grant have arrived.
  + On May 8 there is a workshop on the rule making for tug escorts.
* **Crabber Outreach – Brie Townsend and Julie Schlenger**
  + A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 30 to prep for opening crabbing weekends.
  + Inventory of crabber materials to be handed out will be completed.
* **Kayak Point Signage – Natasha Coumou**
  + Tulalip Tribes is working with Snohomish County to provide language for new environmental signs at Kayak Point. Within the MRC annual plan, the Port Susan subcommittee wrote that they would track and provide input with the perspective of the 10-year assessment of the Port Susan project targets and indicators. The initial review of language will be in May and final comment in June.
  + Natasha will set up a meeting with the outreach subcommittee meeting in the next two weeks
* **Forage Fish Monitoring –Joycelyn Blue**
  + February monitoring was completed on February 29 at Meadowdale and Picnic Point. March monitoring was completed on March 25.
  + A second forage fish kit has been built. Julie will be coordinating monthly volunteers for Howarth Park monitoring.
* **ORCA – Elisa Dawson**
  + The contract for 2024-2025 is final and MRC members are invited to the student showcase in June.
* **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
  + MRC staff identified two vessels for removal.
* **Other Announcements/Upcoming Events** 
  + NWSF Spring Celebration on May 5 at the Port of Everett
  + Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 18
    - Julie Schlenger asked if the MRC was interested in tabling at the event to educate about marine vegetation. Julie will email the MRC further details.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.**