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| MRC Members Present Julie Schlenger, Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Franchesca Perez  Andrew Gobin  Richard Strickland  Allan Hicks  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate  **Absent**  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair | **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**  Bill Burger – Citizen  Tom Teigen - Snohomish County, DCNR  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the February 2025 meeting summary. | |
| **Upcoming Events**   * Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – March 20, April 10 * Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – April 12 * NWSF Graduate Research Showcase Mach 29, 2025 at Padilla Bay * Beach Cleanup Howarth Park – March 30 | |

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie 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 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Northwest Straits Foundation Presentation – Don Hunger

Don Hunger is a career conservationist currently serving as the NW Straits Foundation executive director. He has developed and led national, regional and international conservation programs addressing environmental challenges in forest health, wildland fire, invasive species, outdoor recreation, wilderness, national parks and protected areas.

Don presented to the MRC about the Northwest Straits Foundation, explaining its role as a not for profit and outlining their funding sources and the project funding request process. MRC members and staff asked further questions about the project request process and discussed the option of collaborating on derelict gear outreach and removal.

Annual Report Draft Review – MFA Consultants

The MRC has been working to update the 2024 Annual Report in Canva. Consultants from MFA and the MRC reviewed the draft. A final version of the Annual Report will be completed by end of March. The group discussed the font size and readability of the report and determined no major changes were necessary. The Marine Vegetation Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing and finalizing the kelp data. A shortened version of the annual report will be turned into a presentation for Snohomish County Council.

2025 – 2027 Grant Scope of Work (SOW) Review – Phil Salditt and Tim Ellis

At the February meeting, the MRC discussed the potential grant project ideas and decided that two should be further scoped for the grant. It was decided that the Derelict Vessel subcommittee would further scope the derelict vessel ideas, and the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee would further scope the shoreline armor analysis idea. Only one project idea will move forward for grant funding, and a full scope of work developed.

Phil Salditt presented the Derelict Vessel subcommittee’s project idea, saying there were two potential paths forward. One path forward would create a plan to address the difficult-to-remove vessels, or another would focus on education. Tim Ellis presented an idea about conducting a shoreline armoring survey similar to Island County’s. The MRC decided to continue development of the Derelict Vessel project for the 2025 – 2027 grant. The Derelict Vessel subcommittee is now tasked with meeting and developing a full scope of work to be presented at the April MRC meeting for MRC feedback. The full scope of work is due to the NWSC on May 29.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

* **NWSC – Tim Ellis** 
  + The Commission’s newly implemented Knowledge Base hosts a wealth of diversity, equity and inclusion resources for building engagement and community partnerships for MRCs. Start with the Knowledge Base Guide to see a quick description and link to each resource included in the Knowledge Base. Additionally, this Knowledge Base is meant to be built upon, and we intend to add resources to it as we continue this work. If you have/find resources you think would be beneficial to add, or have questions please contact Allie Simpson (simpson@nwstraits.org) or Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org).
  + The NW Straits Commission retreat is on April 3-4 at Padilla Bay. Commissioners, Commission staff, and MRC Staff are invited. More information about the agenda will be available in the coming weeks. Please contact Caitlyn (blair@nwstraits.org).
  + Clallam MRC will be hosting a planting event on March 6th for the Ediz Hook revegetation project, in partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Clallam Conservation District. Approximately 50 local elementary students are expected to attend and help plant native beach plants.
  + The Great Islands Cleanup is scheduled for April 12 on Lopez Island and April 26 on Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw islands. For more information, please see the Plastic Free Salish Sea website.
  + Skagit MRC is collaborating with Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Island MRC, Jefferson MRC and NWSF on a potential derelict crab pot removal project in Skagit Bay. They are exploring the possibility of using an ROV for surveying and removing derelict pots. They have scheduled a demo with Oceanbotics ROV (https://oceanbotics.com/) on March 11 at Cornet Bay.
  + Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for April 29-May 2, 2025. The NW Straits reauthorization will remain one of the key priorities. More information as the event is planned can be found at https://psdoth.org/.
* **LIO – Tim Ellis** 
  + North Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Brown Bag presentation April 2
  + Planners Briefing for Puget Sound Parcel-Scale Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment April 18
* **Kayak Point Signage – Heidi Stewart**
  + Natasha Coumou to update the group via email.
* **Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger** 
  + The subcommittee is currently reviewing the draft of updates to the marine vegetation memo. The subcommittee next meets on 3/20.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  + The subcommittee met on February 26, 2025. Items covered included: 2025 potential distribution of small spill kits in partnership with WA Sea Grant, potentially writing an oil spill prevention article to distribute to SnoCo marina newsletters and yacht clubs, potentially improving partnership with other active MRC oil spill subcommittees, decision to not provide official MRC letter of support about the SnoCo kelp bed protection in CPS-1 GRP
* **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger** 
  + Picnic Point and Meadowdale –March 20, April 10; Howarth –March 15, April 12
* **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  + The second meeting for a vessel turn in event in February 2026 occurred on March 19. Representatives from Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC, MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe attended.
  + Vessel recon scheduled for SWM staff on March 24/26
* **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  + Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
  + Encourage Marine Water Quality subcommittee to meet to discuss potential collaboration
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – April 10
    - Howarth – April 12
    - Beach Cleanup Howarth Park – March 30 1pm
  + MRC April Meeting will be at the Blue Heron Room at the Port of Everett
* **Other Updates?**
  + Kayak data from the MRCs has been requested to be used by Reef Check, UW, and WA DNR. Please refer to the email from Jeff Whitty sent earlier this month for more information.
  + Dawn participating in the planning committee for the November NWS conference. An email will be sent asking for Members ideas and topics for the conference.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.**