|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MRC Members PresentJulie Schlenger, ChairBrie Townsend, Co-Vice ChairNatasha Coumou, Past-ChairTim Ellis, NWSC and LIO RepPhil SaldittFranchesca PerezAndrew GobinRichard StricklandAllan HicksDawn PreslerHeidi Stewart, Alternate **Absent**Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice ChairCory Champagne, Alternate | **Staff**Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC StaffJoycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff**MRC Ex-Officio Members**David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member**Others**Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers |
| **Summary of Decisions*** The MRC approved the March 2025 meeting summary.
 |
| **Upcoming Events*** Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15
* Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – May 10
* May 21 MRC Meeting will be online via Zoom
 |

**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**

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the March 2025 meeting summary. Franchesca Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Annual Report and Presentation – Natasha Coumou and Julie Schlenger

Natasha Coumou presented to Council on the MRC 2024 Annual Report with staff Elisa and Joycelyn on 4/15. MRC Members Julie Schlenger and Richard Strickland attended. Natasha reported that the presentation went well and there was a positive discussion with Council Members.

The MRC has been working to prepare a letter of recommendations to Council as a follow up to the Council Meeting. Consultants MFA have prepared a draft letter, and consensus was voted on via email. However, the MRC was not able to meet consensus over email and Julie led a conversation at the meeting to discuss the letter. There are currently 3 recommendations. The MRC was able to reach consensus on one recommendation, but it was determined that the Marine Water Quality Subcommittee would need to meet to discuss another one of the ideas. The MRC discussed the third recommendation at length and decided that that would want to rewrite it. Natasha and Andrew volunteered to rewrite the third recommendation. The MRC will review updated language at a later meeting.

Marine Vegetation Grant Update – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee

The Marine Vegetation Subcommittee met on 4/15 to discuss the anticipated grant funds for 2026 ($75,000) and 2027 ($71,000). Based on this conversation it was decided that the 2026 funds would be used for continuing outreach about marine vegetation. The two potential approaches discussed were either an online version of the kelp outreach event inviting community members who were unable to attend our previous in person events, or a focus on reaching out to local community groups and sharing the information available with them (this could include presentations at the organizations meetings if they are interested).

For the 2027 funds the subcommittee decided their focus would be to begin the process to update the marine vegetation mapping of the Snohomish County shoreline. When the MRC mapped the marine vegetation of Snohomish County in 2019-2022, the recommendation was to recomplete this monitoring every 7-10 years. Mapping of the whole shoreline would require 3 years, but the subcommittee plans to choose an area of the shoreline to focus on that would have the greatest benefit at this time.

Dawn volunteered to support as Co-Lead and Julie will also Co-Lead this project with the rest of the marine Vegetation Subcommittee which includes Tim Ellis, Brie Townsend, and Natasha Coumou. The subcommittee will put together a final draft of their grant scope of work for the final MRC review at the May 21 MRC meeting. Grant applications are due to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29 by end of day.

Derelict Vessel Draft Grant Scope of Work Presentation – Derelict Vessel Subcommittee

Natasha presented slides and a draft scope of work for the derelict vessel subcommittee. Natasha described the idea of the project, which is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the scope and impact of derelict vessels in Snohomish County’s marine environments by identifying the number, type, and location of vessels. This will create a foundational framework that will help prioritize interventions, streamline resource allocation, and foster collaboration among local authorities, stakeholders, and environmental organizations. The goal is to mitigate environmental harm, ensure navigational safety, and support sustainable marine ecosystems. The development of the first County-Specific derelict vessel database would offer a clear, up-to-date snapshot of the issue, including the locations and conditions of these vessels. This database will serve as a valuable tool for stakeholders, providing the evidence necessary for informed decision-making and policy development.

Natasha said that in order to move this work forward she would need at least 2 people to volunteer to help co-lead the project with her. Allan Hicks volunteered. However, a second volunteer could not be found. The MRC discussed if they should continue to move this project forward if there is not full buy-in from the MRC to complete the work. It was decided that the subcommittee would meet after the meeting to discuss. If they decide to move forward, the subcommittee will put together a final draft of their grant scope of work for the final MRC review at the May 21 MRC meeting. Grant applications are due to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29 by end of day.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

* **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
	+ The Commission’s annual retreat was on April 3 & 4. While Tim and Joycelyn both has planned to attend, both were unable to day-of. No Snohomish MRC members were in attendance at the retreat. Tim will work to get an update from the NWSC about what happened at the retreat.
* **LIO – Tim Ellis**
	+ There was a North Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Brown Bag presentation April 2 that MRC staff and members attended.
	+ Planners Briefing for Puget Sound Parcel-Scale Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment April 18
* **Kayak Point Signage – Heidi Stewart**
	+ Natasha Coumou is reviewing the sign drafts. 4 of the 9 signs have drafts, and Natasha hopes to have drafts of all 9 signs for the MRC to review at the May meeting.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
	+ The subcommittee is in the early draft stages of writing an article for boaters on oil spill preparedness and prevention. They hope to have the document ready to be reviewed by MRC and discussed at May MRC meeting.
* **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
	+ Picnic Point and Meadowdale –May 15, June 25; Howarth –May 10, June 21.
* **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
	+ Vessel recon was completed by SWM staff on March 24. One vessel on Port of Everett Land was identified. Another possible vessel on the tide flats near the mouth of Steamboat Slough/Ebey Slough was also marked. Tulalip Tribal staff offered to go look for it while they are out in the field later this month and will follow up with Elisa.
* **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
	+ Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
	+ Elisa encouraged the Marine Water Quality subcommittee to meet to discuss potential collaboration
* **Upcoming Events**
	+ Forage fish monitoring
		- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15
		- Howarth – May 10
	+ MRC May 21 meeting will be online via Zoom.
* **Other Updates?**
	+ Edmonds Watershed festival is May 3. Brie and Julie are interested in hosting a table.
	+ Marine Ecology intern position has been offered. More information will be provided at the May meeting. Our hope is to have the intern work with the Marine Water Quality and Nearshore Restoration Subcommittee. We are looking for 1-2 MRC member(s) to provide mentorship. Last year, Sara filled this role.
	+ Dawn is participating in the planning committee for the November NWS conference.
	+ Port of Everett Clean Up at Jetty Island on April 19.

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