

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**January 15, 2020 6:30-8:30PM**

**\*Meeting conducted via conference call\***

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>          Mike Ehlebracht          Susan Tarpley          Bob Hillmann          Sarah Brown          Tom Doerge          Paul Clampitt          Laura Gurley</p> <p><b>Absent</b></p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>          Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff          Natasha Coumou, proposed MRC Member          Kip Killebrew, proposed MRC Member          Julie Schlenger, proposed MRC Member          Tim Ellis, proposed MRC Member          Mike Sadler, proposed MRC Member          Sara Maxwell, proposed MRC Member          Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District          David Bain, Orca Conservancy</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <p>The October and November Meeting Minutes were approved.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Snohomish County Council General Session during which MRC Members will be appointed January 29<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● Forage Fish Sample January 30<sup>th</sup> at Howarth Park</li> <li>● Sound Waters University (SnoCo MRC will be hosting a table) February 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>● MRC Meeting February 19<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● Forage Fish Sample February 25<sup>th</sup> (26<sup>th</sup> held as back up) at Howarth Park</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Because of the weather, the meeting was held via conference call.

Mike introduced himself. Because the meeting was done via conference call, Elisa did a roll-call of participants.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Susan Tarpley made a motion to approve the October and November 2019 MRC Meeting Summary. Bob Hillmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **MRC Membership and Leadership**

Mike announced that the MRC completed interviews for new members in December, and six new MRC Members have been recommended to Snohomish County Council for appointment. The new members are Tim Ellis, Sara Maxwell, Julie Schlenger, Mike Sadler, Natasha Coumou, and Kip Killebrew. Elisa said the paperwork for these six new members is awaiting signature from the Snohomish County Executive, and next will go to the Snohomish County Council. She expects the paperwork to be finalized in late January. Elisa said when new members are appointed to the MRC, the MRC typically appoints senior members to serve as mentors. Elisa announced the MRC mentorship for 2020 and encouraged the pairs to reach out to each other.

Mike reminded the MRC of the leadership for 2020, which was decided at the November 2019 meeting:

- MRC Chair: Mike Ehlebracht
- MRC Co-Vice Chairs: Bob Hillmann and Susan Tarpley
- LIO Representative: Paul Clampitt
- LIO Alternate: Laura Gurley
- NWSC Representative: Sarah Brown
- NWSC Alternate: Tom Doerge

### **MRC Grant 2019-2020: Snohomish Estuary Pilings**

Laura Gurley reported that the MRC interviewed consultants in December, and ESA scored the highest. The interview team was Laura, Elisa, Mike and Paul Clampitt. Elisa reported that the MRC subcommittee and ESA have agreed on a Scope of Work, and copies are in the Meeting Packet. The budget has been finalized, and we are waiting for the contract to be finalized. She said it should be finalized by the end of the month, we're just awaiting signatures. The plan is to have a draft prioritization framework to present to the MRC at the March Meeting.

Laura and Elisa shared the schedule for the grant contract:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Task 1. Compile Piling Information and Assemble GIS Database	January 31, 2020
Task 2. Develop Draft Prioritization Framework	February 28, 2020
Task 3. Field Verification of Pilings	May 31, 2020
Task 4. Conduct Prioritization and Prepare Project Report	
• Draft report	July 7, 2020
• Presentation of draft findings to Snohomish MRC	July 15, 2020
• Final report	August 31, 2020

### **Howarth Park Opportunity Fund Update**

The Pigeon Creek Beach Restoration project received the Boeing Opportunity Grant for storm water stream restoration and culvert replacement. Funding is \$25,000, including \$5,000 from NWSC for education (2 signs). Bob Hillmann reported that he and Elisa have a conference call with Kathy from Anchor QEA (AQ) to discuss the project on Thursday 1/16. The primary goal for this project is to evaluate the feasibility of replacing the culvert for Pigeon Creek #2, under

the BNSF railroad at Howarth Park in Everett, with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and restoration of the lower creek and adjacent floodplain.

The feasibility for culvert replacement and stream restoration at Pigeon Creek #2 goals are:

- Restore natural confluence of Pigeon Creek #2 with Puget Sound and restore tidal processes at the mouth of the creek
- Restore natural transition of salt marsh habitat to freshwater marsh and riparian habitat along the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2
- Provide a pathway for natural sediment transport from the creek to the nearshore
- Improve water quality within the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2, and subsequently the nearshore area at Howarth Park, through creek restoration, on-site storage, vegetated buffers, and other LID stormwater improvements.

Bob shared the proposed schedule for the feasibility report from Kathy:

- January 31<sup>th</sup> - AQ to provide Draft Memo, including concept figures
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Review completed by Elisa, Bob and others(?) and submit to MRC members
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Review by the MRC
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Comments back to AQ
- March 6<sup>th</sup> - AQ to provide revised (final) memo and figures
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Possible AQ presentation of the report to the MRC

### **Mussel Watch Retrieval Plan**

Mike Ehlebracht led a discussion to confirm how many and which sites MRC Volunteers are able to conduct cage retrieval. The Snohomish MRC was involved in deploying nine cages in October 2019.

1. Meadowdale Beach – Mike Ehlebracht and Paul
2. PSMF Mukilteo - Elisa
3. PSEH Everett Harbor – Sarah Brown, Laura, and Bob
4. PSEM Edmonds Marina on Olympic Beach - Susan, Mike Sadler, and Tom
5. CPS\_EMB Edmonds Marina Beach Park - Susan, Mike Sadler, and Tom
6. PSEF Edmonds Ferry, Brackett's Landing North - Susan, Mike Sadler, and Tom

There are three other sites in Snohomish County

7. Naketa Beach, Lincoln Loehr, Tim Ellis, and Beach Watchers
8. Kayak Point, Franchesca Perez (will do on the 23<sup>rd</sup>)
9. Hermosa Point/Tulalip Bay, Cathy Stanley and Natasha Coumou

Mike said the goal is to retrieve the cages on January 22. The zero tide will be around 7:55 that night. We are holding January 23 as a backup date. If mussels are retrieved on the 22, they will need to be delivered to Elisa at the Snohomish County Campus by 11AM on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, because WDFW will be picking them up then. Franchesca is planning on picking her mussels up separately and will deliver them to WDFW on her own.

### **MRC 2020 Work Plan**

Elisa reported that she is seeking feedback on the draft 2020 MRC Work Plan. This work plan is a deliverable for the MRC grant, and is due at the end of January. Elisa had sent the drafts to MRC members prior to the meeting to review. Elisa asked for comments individually from each

member over the conference call. All 7 current members, and 6 proposed new members gave feedback. Elisa also asked for feedback from the other meeting participants. After collecting the feedback, Elisa reported that she would make revisions and send out an updated draft by the 20<sup>th</sup>. All feedback needs to be given to Elisa before the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, so that she can turn in the final deliverable by the end of the month.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Elisa reported that LIO chose their priority project for \$100,000 worth of local funding at their December meeting. Snohomish County's Savvy Septic program was chosen for funding. Elisa reported that the regional funding from the LIO has not yet been announced. We should know by March. The MRC's NTAs were not ranked as a high priority for funding.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** From Franchesca - The NWSF has hired a new staff member. The NWSC is looking for a new staff person to fill Nicole Jordan's role. Planning is starting for 2020 NWSC retreat. There was a presentation by Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez on prey selectivity by marine mammals.
- **MRC Staff Update:** As of now, the MRC coordinator job has not been posted. Elisa continues to serve as MRC Lead Staff on an interim basis.
- **Starlight Beach Walk:** Susan reported that the event is coming up on January 21, and encouraged everyone to come if they are available. The MRC will be providing hot chocolate and cider as they have in previous years.
- **Forage Fish:** Elisa reported that the forage fish work is proceeding as planned. She announced that the next sampling event is February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Crabber Outreach:** Bob reported that Elisa was able to get 1,500 bait clips from John's Sporting Goods to be used next season for outreach. Additionally, Elisa has secured a display at the Snohomish County Campus on how to properly rig a crab pot for Jun 29-July 11, 2020. MRC will need to have a crabber subcommittee meeting soon to brainstorm what will be put in the display.
- **Port Susan and Shoreline Landowners:** Elisa reported that the shoreline landowner booklets and a letter were sent to all Snohomish County shoreline landowners the last week of December. Elisa, Lisa (NWSF), and Terry (Snohomish County PDS), are planning a conference call in February to discuss contacts that were made as a result of this effort. Lisa Kaufman is coming to present to the MRC in February on the new grant the NWSF is running that addresses shoreline landowners.
- Mike Ehlebracht announced that UW Bothell has asked the Snohomish MRC to come back and table at Earth Day, which this year will be at their campus on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Elisa said that Snohomish County is starting to plan an Earth Day event for Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> at McCollum Park. Details are yet to be finalized on that event. The MRC will seek volunteers for both events.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**February 19, 2020 6:30-8:30PM**  
**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201**  
**Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Mike Ehlebracht, MRC Chair  Susan Tarpley, MRC Co-Vice Chair  Bob Hillmann, MRC Co-Vice Chair  Paul Clampitt, LIO Representative  Laura Gurley, LIO Alternate  Sarah Brown, NWSC Representative  Tom Doerge, NWSC Alternate  Kip Killebrew  Julie Schlenger  Tim Ellis  Sara Maxwell</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Mike Sadler (excused)  Natasha Coumou (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>  Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff  Michele Anton, Snohomish County Surface Water Mgmt  Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation  Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District  David Bain, Orca Conservancy  Sherry Johnson, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b>  The January meeting summary was approved.  The new MRC Members were appointed by the Snohomish County Council.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MRC Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● UW Bothell Earth Day Event April 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm -7pm</li> <li>● Snohomish County Earth Day Event April 25<sup>th</sup> 11pm - 4pm</li> <li>● MRC 2020 Kelp Planning Workshop May 6th</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of meeting participants.

New MRC Members gave a brief summary of their education, work experience, and interests.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Bob Hillmann made a motion to approve the January 2020 MRC meeting summary. Laura Gurley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Shore Friendly**

Elisa introduced Lisa Kaufman, Nearshore Program Manager for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Lisa manages shoreline restoration projects on behalf of the Foundation and MRCs, and she was formerly the Restoration Manager for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Lisa has worked on restoration projects around the region on many nearshore projects. Lisa has helped the Snohomish MRC with their shoreline landowner outreach in Port Susan, helping landowners get site assessments from professionals.

Lisa presented a PowerPoint about the Northwest Strait Foundation's work with the regional social marketing program shore Friendly, which is a shoreline armor reduction outreach and incentive program. The program aims at removing or reducing barriers to behavior change for shoreline landowners to maintain natural shorelines. Through education, resources, and incentives, landowners are encouraged to forego hard armor or consider alternatives to hard armor. Previous recipients of site visits are the first to receive options for incentives and mini-grants. Lisa explained that a companion grant through the Habitat Strategic Initiative helps to continue monitoring of armored and restored shorelines. Grants have allowed work on both public and private land, but now the effort is entirely on private property. Other funding sources are needed to move public projects forward.

Mailings are sent twice a year to new property owners to start introducing them to shoreline armor options. Lisa said the primary focus has been in Island County, Jefferson County, the Swinomish reservation, and rural counties. Other Shore Friendly groups do not duplicate this effort, but instead everyone works as a regional team. Current Shore Friendly groups meet quarterly to share ideas and methods. Lisa asked the MRC for comments or questions. Kip commented that sea level rise should be incorporated in the design of armor removal projects. Elisa encouraged MRC Members who are interested in this work to join the Port Susan Subcommittee.

## **Howarth Park Opportunity Fund Grant Update**

Bob reported that the draft report was sent to the MRC on 2/12/20 for review. He asked for feedback from MRC members by February 24<sup>th</sup>. The primary goal for this project is to evaluate the feasibility of replacing the culvert for Pigeon Creek #2 under the BNSF railroad at Howarth Park in Everett with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and restoration of the lower creek and adjacent floodplain.

The feasibility for culvert replacement and stream restoration at Pigeon Creek #2 goals are:

- Restore natural confluence of Pigeon Creek #2 with Puget Sound and restore tidal processes at the mouth of the creek
- Restore natural transition of salt marsh habitat to freshwater marsh and riparian habitat along the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2
- Provide a pathway for natural sediment transport from the creek to the nearshore
- Improve water quality within the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2, and subsequently the nearshore area at Howarth Park, through creek restoration, on-site storage, vegetated buffers, and other LID stormwater improvements.

The study proposes two options for restoration. Kathy Ketteridge will present the final report at the MRC Meeting in March.



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

February 19, 2020 6:30-8:30PM  
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** Elisa reported that LIO Coordinator Kathleen is out on maternity leave. Alexa Ramos-Cummings is the interim lead. The next LIO meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-4PM at the Snohomish County Campus.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah reported that at the NWSC meeting in January, new staff member Katie Harris, Outreach Specialist, was introduced. The NWSC retreat is planned for March and current MRC Members are working on answering a questionnaire. The NWSF Opportunity Fund applications will be available soon, and likely due in the next few months. Additionally, the NWSC will be participating in the Puget Sound on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., April 28-29. The MRC symposium has been rescheduled for April 3rd. This is an opportunity for MRCs to share feedback and project ideas. One or two MRC Members and all MRC Staff are requested to participate. Elisa is planning to attend, and will reach out to MRC Members to see who can attend.
- **MRC Staff Update:** The MRC Senior Planner staff position interviews are planned for early March. Elisa continues to serve as interim MRC Lead Staff.
- **MRC Grant Pilings Project:** Laura reported that the consultant, ESA, is working on a draft prioritization framework. The draft framework will be presented at the MRC meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mussel Watch Retrieval:** Mike reported that the MRC is complete with their work for the season, and they are waiting on WDFW findings.
- **Starlight Beach Walk:** Susan reported that about 50 people showed up and it was a rainy event. Cocoa and hot cider were served, which was sponsored by the Snohomish MRC.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan reported that there were no updates at this time.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan reported that the last two local emergency management meetings were canceled.
- **Crabber Outreach:** Bob reported that there were no updates at this time.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the MRC 2020 Kelp Planning workshop is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Elisa will attend to represent the MRC. Tom reported that the Edmonds Dive Park is currently in the process of renewing their license. They have requested information on Kelp in the dive park. Tom gave them the MRC's information.



- **Forage Fish:** Elisa reported the next sampling date as February 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the last monitoring for now and will start again in September. There will be a short presentation at Salish Sea 2020 about the project.
- The Snohomish County Earth Day Event is Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4pm at the Northwest Stream Center, McCollum Park. Tom, Laura and Tim are volunteering at the event. The UW Bothell Earth Day Event is April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3pm to 7pm at UWB campus in Bothell. Mike and Sara will help at that event. Susan is volunteering for the Imagine Children's Museum Earth Day event. Elisa will be seeking more volunteers to help with Earth Day Outreach.
- Snohomish County Beach Watchers have a new coordinator, and are seeking volunteer speakers for March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Elisa will send an email with more details.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

March 18, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting was held via conference call\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Susan Tarpley, MRC Co-Vice Chair Bob Hillmann, MRC Co-Vice Chair Paul Clampitt, LIO Representative Laura Gurley, LIO Alternate Tom Doerge, NWSC Alternate Kip Killebrew Julie Schlenger Tim Ellis Sara Maxwell Mike Sadler Natasha Coumou</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Mike Ehlebracht (excused) Sarah Brown (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District David Bain, Orca Conservancy Sherry Johnson, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b> The February meeting summary was approved.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MRC Meeting April 15th</li><li>● MRC 2020 Kelp Planning Workshop May 6th</li></ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

Co-Vice Chair Bob Hillmann opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Bob introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of meeting participants.

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Susan Tarpley made a motion to approve the February 2020 MRC meeting summary. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## 2019-2020 Forage Fish Sample Report

Elisa presented the results from the season. MRC Members asked if these numbers are similar to past seasons. Elisa responded that they are similar to post-nourishment numbers. She reported that the subcommittee will meet in the coming months to discuss future monitoring work. Additionally, the consultant hired by the MRC is putting together a summary of the season.

Key:

PSL = Pacific Sand Land

Smelt = Surf Smelt



= No Sample. Sample wasn't taken due to circumstances



= forage fish presence. 2 or more eggs are needed to indicate presence

\*\*See spreadsheet of forage fish results on next page\*\*

		9/19/19	10/8/19	11/12/19	12/18/19	1/30/20	2/25/20
Site	Species	# of eggs	# of eggs	# of eggs	# of eggs	# of eggs	# of eggs
2S7	PSL	NS	0	0	NS	NS	NS
	Smelt	NS	0	0	NS	NS	NS
2N7	PSL	NS	0	0	0	0	0
	Smelt	NS	0	0	0	0	0
5S5.9	PSL	NS	0	0	135	1	1
	Smelt	NS	0	0	0	0	0
5N7	PSL	NS	0	4	179	2	0
	Smelt	NS	0	0	0	0	0
6S7	PSL	NS	0	0	22	23	0
	Smelt	NS	0	0	0	0	0
9S7	PSL	NS	0	0	1	0	0
	Smelt	NS	0	0	0	0	0
9N7	PSL	0	0	0	118	4	0
	Smelt	0	0	0	0	0	0
12S7	PSL	0	0	0	3	103	5
	Smelt	0	0	0	2	0	0
12N7	PSL	0	0	0	156	189	1
	Smelt	0	0	0	0	0	0
13S10	PSL	0	0	0	137	0	0
	Smelt	4	1	2	0	0	0
13S7	PSL	0	0	0	2	0	1
	Smelt	0	24	3	3	0	0
13N10	PSL	0	0	0	2	1	0
	Smelt	187	11	3	24	0	0
13N7	PSL	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Smelt	25	2	1	0	0	0
HP Restored 7'	PSL	0	0	0	28	44	1
	Smelt	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **Draft MRC Annual Report**

Elisa presented the draft MRC 2019 Annual Report. Elisa has been working on this draft with the Snohomish County Public Works Communications Department. The Annual Report is a grant deliverable for the Northwest Straits Commission Grant, and is due on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The annual report uses the same template that has been used the previous three years. Elisa noted that she added an additional page to celebrate the Snohomish MRC's 20-year anniversary, and to thank Kathleen Pozarycki for her work as she moves onto her new position.

Elisa took notes from MRC members as they gave her feedback on each page. Elisa will add more hyperlinks throughout the document to refer back to MRC webpages which have more information about the topic. The MRC discussed trying to keep the annual report simple and easy to read. Several photographs were discussed for changes. MRC Members will edit the text on the new page which highlights the 20-year anniversary and Kathleen. Elisa asked for any further edits to be sent to her no later than March 30. After that, Elisa will send edits to Public Works Communications for final editing. Snohomish County Management will review the final version before it can be sent as a grant deliverable.

### **Draft Snohomish Estuary Pilings Prioritization Framework**

Laura Gurley reported that the Pilings Subcommittee has been working with consultants ESA to complete a piling inventory and draft prioritization framework. Snohomish County GIS provided Environmental Science Associates (ESA) with an initial inventory of pilings in the Snohomish River estuary downstream of the Highway 2 crossing. The original pilings inventory was prepared by the Tulalip Tribes using remote sensing datasets (e.g., aerial photography) and Snohomish County added land ownership information. The inventory focused on non-utilized independent pilings, not those clearly associated with providing structural support for adjacent infrastructure (e.g., no wood bulkheads or marina pilings included). The database includes 9,760 pilings.

ESA completed additional analysis, slightly relocated the points associated with 5 pilings and added 752 pilings with high confidence. This brings the total for analysis to 10,512. The analysis identified another 1,721 pilings that appear to have a structural purpose and are currently excluded from the analysis. If time allows during the field investigation, these additional pilings will be observed to confirm they are not derelict pilings. Laura reported that this is the inventory we will use to prioritize pilings.

After completing the inventory, ESA's next task was to complete a draft prioritization framework. To do this, ESA reviewed five examples of previous estuary and marine nearshore prioritization projects. The five examples are:

- Port of Vancouver Derelict Pile and In-Water Structure Removal Strategy Memorandum (ICF, 2019)
- Coastal Streams and Embayments Prioritization along Puget Sound Shores with a Railroad Prioritization Framework Technical Report (Confluence Environmental Company, 2019)
- Salmon Overlay to the Snohomish Estuary Wetland Integration Plan (City of Everett and Pentec Environmental, 2001)

- West Sound Nearshore Integration and Synthesis of Chinook Salmon Recovery Priorities (Confluence Environmental Company, Coastal Geologic Service, Wild Fish Conservancy, and Kitsap County, 2017)
- WRIA 1 Nearshore & Estuarine Assessment and Restoration Prioritization (Coastal Geologic Services, 2013)

Laura explained the prioritization framework proposed for this project is similar to those described in the other prioritization ESA investigated. Laura noted that prioritization frameworks commonly develop a point scoring system for a selected suite of relevant parameters for which data are available throughout the analysis area. Typically, parameters are given a weighted score based on their importance. Scores are added together to arrive a total score for each piling. The draft prioritization approach has three steps: 1) Scoring each piling to characterize the ecological benefits of removing it, 2) Scoring each piling to characterize the feasibility of removal, and 3) Assigning Prioritization Tiers based on scoring outputs of steps 1 and 2.

Laura went through each of the parameters with the MRC and project partners who were on the call. Project partners City of Everett, City of Marysville, Port of Everett, Tulalip Tribes, and Snohomish County all agreed that the prioritization framework was good as-is. Elisa noted that the Washington Department of Natural Resources was not on the call, and that she will follow up with them to see if they had any feedback.

### **MRC Grant 2020-2021**

Elisa discussed the timeline for the MRC Grant 2020-2021. The MRC will discuss ideas in-depth at the April MRC meeting.

- March: Begin Brainstorming
- April: Narrow down to 1-3 projects to further investigate
- May: Choose final idea, and write the scope of work
- June: Final project idea, scope of work, and presentation to the Northwest Straits Commission
- July + August: Elisa finalizes contract with NWSC
- September: Final contract with Snohomish County
- Grant starts October 1, 2020.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Paul reported that next LIO meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-3PM and will be held via conference call.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Elisa reported that Tom will attend the NWSC conference call on March 27 as the alternate for Sarah Brown, who cannot attend. Dana announced that Puget Sound Day on the Hill and the MRC Symposium have been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **MRC Staff Update:** Elisa announced that she has accepted the position as Snohomish County Surface Water Management Senior Planner for Marine Resources. She will serve as the Lead Staff for the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee.

- **Mussel Watch Retrieval:** Mike reported that the MRC is complete with their work for the season, and they are waiting on WDFW findings.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan reported that there were no updates at this time.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan reported that the last two local emergency management meetings were canceled and they are currently on hold due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Crabber Outreach:** Bob reported that there were no updates at this time.
- **Howarth Park Signage** Bob reported that the signs are ready to be installed, but installation is on hold as Parks deals with other priorities with COVID-19 concerns.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the MRC 2020 Kelp Planning workshop is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Elisa will attend to represent the MRC. Tom reported that there was a call on March 6<sup>th</sup> to review the 2019 data results. Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and former MRC Member Traci Sanderson attended the March 6<sup>th</sup> call.
- **Forage Fish:** Elisa reported the forage fish sampling for the season has been complete. Snohomish County Surface Water Management Staff are compiling the data. Dan Penttila is completing his review of the season. Salish Sea 2020 has been cancelled, so Elisa will no longer present. The presentation team is looking for alternative avenues to present their work.
- The Snohomish County Earth Day, UW Bothell Earth Day, and the Imagine Children's Museum Earth Day events have been cancelled.
- Snohomish County Beach Watchers have a new coordinator, and Elisa has been attending the Beach Watcher 2020 training remotely.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

April 15, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht                  Susan Tarpley                  Bob Hillmann                  Laura Gurley                  Tom Doerge                  Paul Clampitt                  Sarah Brown                  Kip Killebrew                  Natasha Coumou                  Julie Schlenger                  Mike Sadler                  Tim Ellis</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Sara Maxwell (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>                  Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff                  Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission                  Sasha Horst, Northwest Straits Commission                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District                  David Bain, Orca Conservancy                  Sherry Johnson, Citizen                  Monica Montgomery, Jefferson MRC Staff                  Traci Sanderson, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <p>The March meeting minutes were approved.</p> <p>The Piling Subcommittee will draft a plan for a Phase 2 project to apply for grant funding.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Virtual MRC Symposium Presentations are being held every other Thursday from 3:30-5PM. Dates are April 23, May 7, May 21, and June 4. More may be scheduled in the future.</li> <li>● MRC Annual Presentation to Council will hopefully occur in May (5<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>). Details are yet to be confirmed due to COVID-19.</li> <li>● MRC Kelp Monitoring conference call</li> <li>● MRC Meeting May 20th</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Susan Tarpley made a motion to approve the March 2020 MRC Meeting Summary. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



## **Presentation from Kathy Ketteridge on Pigeon Creek #2 Feasibility Study Opportunity Fund Grant**

Mike introduced Kathy Ketteridge. Dr. Kathy Ketteridge has more than 17 years of experience in analysis and design of a wide variety of coastal engineering, restoration, and enhancement projects on the West, Gulf, and East coasts. She has provided technical expertise to design efforts through modeling and oceanographic analysis, as well as managed estuarine- and marine-based engineering projects from initial planning and permitting through design and construction. Kathy worked on our Howarth Park Beach Nourishment project as well, and has gotten even more familiar with the Pigeon Creek #2 watershed through this most recent project with the MRC.

Kathy shared her screen so that meeting participants could see her PowerPoint presentation. Kathy explained that she was hired through the Northwest Straits Foundation in partnership with the Snohomish MRC to conduct a feasibility study for restoration of Pigeon Creek #1, primarily focusing on the lower creek and nearshore area. The project focused on evaluating the feasibility of addressing the existing culvert with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and includes restoring the lower creek and adjacent floodplain. In addition to the option to replace the culvert under the BNSF railroad, restoration options for the lower creek and adjacent floodplain that could be completed without replacing the culvert under the BNSF railroad were also evaluated.

The primary goals for potential culvert replacement and stream restoration at Pigeon Creek #2 include the following:

- Restore the natural confluence of Pigeon Creek #2 with Puget Sound and restore tidal processes at the mouth of the creek.
- Restore the natural transition of salt marsh habitat to freshwater marsh and riparian habitat along the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2.
- Provide a pathway for natural sediment transport from the creek to the nearshore.
- Remove fill and restore the natural creek channel within the lower reach where the creek currently is incised adjacent to the creek side trail.
- Improve stormwater controls during high-flow events.
- Improve water quality within the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #2, and, subsequently, the nearshore area at Howarth Park through creek restoration, on-site flood storage, vegetated buffers, and other low-impact development stormwater improvements.

Information compiled or developed as part of the site characterization and feasibility evaluation was used to develop two concepts that would meet, to the extent practical, the primary goals of the project. Concept 1 includes replacing the existing culvert with a small span bridge or larger culvert and restoring the lower reach of the creek. Because replacement of culverts under the BNSF railroad can be expensive and challenging (due to the approval process for design and coordination with BNSF schedules for construction), Concept 2 has been developed to meet the goals of the project to the extent possible without replacing the existing culvert. Modifications to the culvert have been proposed as part of the second concept.

After presenting her concepts, Kathy ended her presentation with suggestions on next steps for the Snohomish MRC. Suggestions included engaging with BNSF to discuss this project and nuances it may have, conducting a hydraulic and sediment transport analysis to assess creek avulsion, further outreach with the public and Everett Parks on lower trail realignment, and addressing runoff from the roadway to the parking area.

## **MRC Grant 2020-2021: Snohomish Estuary Pilings**

Elisa explained that the MRC Grant for 2020-2021 is an extension of the first grant. The MRC has agreed to continue working on the Pilings Project, and needs to narrow the scope of work so that the Pilings Subcommittee can draft the application.

Ideas discussed so far for Phase 2 of the project have included:

1. Expand to look at private pilings and do private landowner outreach. We could consider getting "access agreements" from private owners for DNR to help facilitate removal on private lands?
2. Develop a prioritization overlay for acquisition of private tidelands – i.e. what tidelands would we want (SnoCo/state/other public entity) to purchase and put in public ownership to allow for future piling removal?
3. Complete a funding strategy and implementation plan with public partners.
4. Gather further ecological data. The consultant has noted that information on wildlife use, including any pinniped haul-out sites, was limited and would be helpful for refining the framework
5. Expanding geographic scope

The MRC discussed the need for gathering additional data before determining what they will work on. Due to COVID-19 concerns, field work has been delayed until late May or June 2020. Additionally, several MRC Members shared that they would prefer not to expand the geographic scope, and instead focus on gathering holistic data for the pilings located within the current geographic scope from Highway 2 to the Puget Sound. Elisa suggested starting Phase 2 by conducting a gap analysis, that way the MRC will have the information from Phase 1 before determining data needs for Phase 2. The MRC agreed to have the Pilings Subcommittee draft a scope of work to include a gap analysis. The Pilings Subcommittee will bring their draft to the May 20<sup>th</sup> MRC Meeting.

## **MRC Annual Report and Council Presentation**

The 2019 MRC Annual Report has been completed. A virtual copy has been shared with the MRC. The Annual Report was also submitted to the NWSC as a deliverable which was due 4/13/2020. Elisa reported that she is having 40 bound hard copies printed which will be ready by May 1. A copy will be provided to MRC Members, SWM Management, Snohomish County Council, and the Snohomish County Executive.

Tentatively, Mike and Elisa will be giving the presentation to the Snohomish County Council on May 5th at 9AM. However, this still needs to be confirmed and is waiting on a decision by the Snohomish County Council. May 19<sup>th</sup> is a possible back up date. Mike and Elisa will let the MRC know as soon as possible once a date is confirmed. MRC Members are encouraged to attend the presentation.

## **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Paul Clampitt reported that there was a LIO meeting via conference call on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1PM-3PM. Alexa Ramos-Cummings led the meeting, and Kathleen is still out on maternity leave. The group discussed including metrics for human-wellbeing in ecosystem recovery, LIO funding, and continuing to work the Puget Sound Partnership

on communicating their vision for the group. The Snohomish LIO is currently in the process of updating their contract with the Puget Sound Partnership for 2021.

- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tom attended the March NWSC as the alternate for Sarah. Tom reported that the NWSC hired a new full-time Ecosystem Coordinator named Allie Simpson, one day before Ecology hiring freeze was announced. Dana Oster formally presented the recently-completed Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan, and DNR will be devoting staff time to continue the work. The 2020 MRC Conference has been postponed, and they hope to reschedule in early 2021. Sarah plans to attend the April NWSC meeting.
- **Pilings Grant:** All partners are in agreement to move forward with the prioritization framework. Elisa is working with the project partners considering options for fieldwork which was originally supposed to be done in April or May. Fieldwork has been pushed back to late May or potentially early June due to COVID-19 concerns. The team is also exploring options for land-based reconnaissance as boat-based fieldwork is being limited due to challenges with social distancing.
- **Forage Fish:** Forage fish sampling of our index site is currently on hold and was not completed in March or April. Elisa hopes to sample in May, but will await guidance on fieldwork by SnoCo management.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan suggested that the MRC reaches out to Florian to see if the DVD used for this work can be made available to students online. This could be paired with the curriculum for a lesson to be done from home. Sarah offered to follow up with Florian.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan is coordinating with WSU-Beach Watchers Model Oil Spill program. They will likely have a meeting this summer, and Susan will represent the MRC at it to give advice and guidance on the project.
- **Meadowdale:** Mike reported that Logan Daniels, the project manager for Meadowdale Beach Restoration Project, will be presenting to the MRC at the May meeting.
- **Crabber Outreach:** Bob reported that the subcommittee will plan to meet in the coming month or so to discuss options for outreach this summer. It will likely look different than previous years due to COVID-19.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Elisa and Tom will attend the MRC 2020 virtual kelp workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Tom will start pulling dates for 2020 monitoring.
- Elisa reported that she continues to attend WSU beach Watcher trainings as she is available. The trainings are being held online, and there are about 14 participants. Susan Tarpley will be presenting to the group on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mike Ehlebracht invited MRC Members to take part in a SnoCo MRC team for Long Live the Kings Survival Event. The MRC has named their team Mr.C. Mike will email out additional details.

- Elisa reported she is working with DNR on a possible marine vegetation monitoring project. If approved by SWM management, the project would update the marine vegetation data for the Snohomish Estuary and be completed in summer 2020.
- Mike reported that WDFW said that the report for Mussel Watch 2017-2018 data will be available in the coming months. Data from 2019-2020 will likely not be ready until fall 2021. The labs which are processing the samples are currently closed due to COVID-19.
- Lisa Kaufman and the NWSF is seeking feedback on Shore Friendly outreach materials. Elisa sent the materials to the Port Susan Subcommittee for review.
- The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference is hosting a free shortened agenda of their original conference on April 21-22. Elisa encouraged MRC members to attend.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**May 20, 2020 6:30-8:30PM**

**\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\***

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht                  Susan Tarpley                  Bob Hillmann                  Laura Gurley                  Tom Doerge                  Paul Clampitt                  Sarah Brown                  Kip Killebrew                  Natasha Coumou                  Julie Schlenger                  Mike Sadler                  Tim Ellis                  Sara Maxwell</p> <p><b>Absent</b></p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>                  Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff                  Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation                  Sasha Horst, Northwest Straits Commission                  Scott Moore, Snohomish County SWM                  Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County SWM                  David Bain, Orca Conservancy                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District                  Logan Daniels, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation                  Alan Mearns, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <p>The April meeting minutes were approved.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Virtual MRC Symposium Presentations are being held every other Thursday from 3:30-5PM. Upcoming dates are May 21, and June 4. The Snohomish MRC will present on June 18.</li> <li>● MRC Annual Presentation to Council has been postponed</li> <li>● MRC Presentation to the NWSC on May 29<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● MRC Meeting June 18<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the April 15, 2020 MRC Meeting Summary. Sara Maxwell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Presentation from Logan Daniels on Meadowdale Beach Restoration**

Mike introduced Logan Daniels, a Snohomish County Parks (Parks) Engineer and the Project Manager for the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project. Logan has been working on the planning and design of a precedent-setting project in Puget Sound that collaborates with BNSF to restore critical shoreline habitat and a salmon-bearing stream, Lund's Gulch Creek. She has acquired numerous funding grants in collaboration with MRC staff support. The MRC has partnered with Logan on the feasibility of the project and on a cost-benefit analysis. The MRC has also helped with tours for elected officials and grantors for this project. Additionally, forage fish samples and monitoring at Meadowdale have benefitted this project. Logan has been instrumental in making this project both more accessible for people, and for fish.

Logan gave a presentation which included the background of the project and the current funding situation. She explained that in 2014, Parks (with Snohomish County Surface Water Management and the Snohomish MRC as contributing partners) initiated a feasibility study on the Meadowdale Culvert. This study concluded in 2016 with a Preferred Alternative that was supported through a public process to include the largest estuary that the site could support. This plan required a railroad bridge with the largest opening to replace the culvert. In order to perform due diligence, Parks hired Earth Economics, which MRC shared in the cost, to look at the cost/benefit of the project and to perform an ecosystem evaluation. Their efforts concluded that for every \$1 invested, the public would receive \$4 worth of benefits.

The preferred alternative project proposal was approved in 2016 and included removal of shoreline armoring and the undersized culvert. By replacing the culvert with a 5-span double-track rail bridge with a 100-foot opening, the firehose effect of water flow will be eliminated and sediment delivery and the natural creek meander will be restored. The naturally occurring beach delta which forms from the drift cell to the north will be a more permanent feature as the lower creek velocity will allow the creek to turn north, preserving the pocket estuary conditions on the beach. The project is proposed to start construction in 2021. Snohomish County is currently estimating to pay for 56% of the project. More information on the Meadowdale Beach Restoration project can be found here: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2710/Meadowdale>

## **MRC Snohomish Estuary Pilings Grant Update and Planning for 2020-2021**

Elisa updated the MRC on the timeline for the current pilings work. Field work had been postponed due to COVID-19, but is now planned for the first and third week of June. The postponement of fieldwork has delayed when the MRC will turn in their proposal for Phase 2. The Snohomish MRC now has until July 1 to create a draft proposal for the NWSC to review. The MRC Lead, Laura Gurley, will give an update about the progress of Phase 1 and some of our ideas for Phase 2 to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Laura presented the PowerPoint which will be shared to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29<sup>th</sup> as the update to the MRC. After the presentation, it was suggested by attendees to reach out to the Coast Guard and add a navigation hazard aspect to the prioritization framework in Phase 2. This collaboration may result in the removal of pilings that pose a navigational hazard. Additionally, it was noted that there could be a positive benefit from pilings as habitat structure for mussels or herring (spawn site). Laura noted that these factors could be added in Phase 2, and the MRC will continue to have discussions about this at future meetings.

## **Marine Vegetation Mapping update of Snohomish Estuary**

Elisa reported that the contract with DNR is underway for marine vegetation monitoring near the Snohomish Estuary in the summer of 2020. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct a comprehensive survey of vegetated nearshore habitats (eelgrass, understory kelp, and other macroalgae) at 10 sites along the Snohomish Estuary, from Hermosa Point (N of Tulalip Bay) down to Port Gardner.

The survey methods are based on the DNR's long-term eelgrass monitoring program (SVMP - <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/aquatic-science/nearshore-habitat-eelgrass-monitoring>). Underwater video surveys are conducted from an 11 m research vessel that collects imagery with 1 m<sup>2</sup> resolution of the seafloor. Transects are spaced approximately every 100 m (200m for large tidal flats) and span the intertidal to approximately -45 ft. (MLLW), which includes most of the photic zone in Puget Sound. Kelp and macroalgae survey methods will be based on the towed videography portion of recent studies that evaluated the effects of dam removal along the Elwha nearshore.

Results will describe two key vegetation attributes - areal extent and depth distribution - in high quantitative detail. These data will form a baseline for understanding current distribution and assessing change in salmon habitat over time in response to stressors, restoration, and other management actions.

All data will be archived at DNR's headquarters in Olympia, and made available through an interactive data viewer and data download portal. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has unlimited rights to use and distribute the data as part of the sound-wide monitoring dataset. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has conducted similar comprehensive surveys for the Suquamish Tribe (see link below), King County, and the cities of Bainbridge Island and Bellingham.

*DNR's interactive data viewer:* <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/aquatic-science/puget-sound-eelgrass-monitoring-data-viewer>

*Eelgrass monitoring report for the Suquamish Tribe:*

[https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/aqr\\_nrsh\\_east\\_kitsap\\_report\\_2018.pdf?1ek76b1](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/aqr_nrsh_east_kitsap_report_2018.pdf?1ek76b1)

## **BEACH Program overview**

Tim Ellis has been helping lead the coordination of the Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication & Health (BEACH) WDOE Program as a WSU Beach Watcher for the last several years. The BEACH Program ensures that marine water is safe to swim and play in and informs the public if water doesn't meet [swimming standards](#).

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, citizen scientists and county and local BEACH partners sampled public beaches on marine waters for bacterial contamination in Snohomish County. They collect water samples from high-use beaches weekly or biweekly to test for *Enterococcus*, a type of fecal bacteria. High *Enterococcus* levels are linked to swimmer illness. This information helps health officials issue swimming advisories.

Tim noted that the entire time he has been doing this, only once had bacteria levels been high enough to close a beach (Brackett's Landing Park in Edmonds). The park opened back up after a few weeks. Tim noted that you can look up your local beach and see data collected in 2019 with

county-by-county results. Also, you can compare 2019 data to previous years and overall averages with the summary chart. The data for 2020 will be posted as it is collected. Due to COVID-19, at this time only employees are collecting water samples. Tim hopes that volunteers will be able to assist later this summer.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Paul Clampitt reported that there was a LIO executive committee meeting via conference call in April which he did not attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah Brown attended the April 24<sup>th</sup> Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Sarah reported that Senator Liz Lovelett updated the Commission on two ocean health bills that she sponsored. One was to phase out copper-based paint on water vessels and the other was for removal of derelict vessels. The NWSC Chair and Vice Chair appointments will remain the same, as the NWSC works to move forward with projects while dealing with Covid-19 restrictions. NWSF has released several videos: one about the Shore Friendly project and the other about Salish Sea Fresh, featuring Taylor Shellfish. NWSF also announced that the opportunity fund will not be available for MRCs. Sarah also attended the NWSC retreat via WebEx on April 30. Raising awareness of MRCs in the community and filling economically-representative seats were the two main topics addressed and discussed. Sarah shared information provided from Elisa and Laura about Snohomish County's success with the Port of Everett partnership.
- **Forage Fish:** Forage fish sampling of our index site is currently on hold and was not completed in March, April, or May. Elisa hopes to sample in June, but will await guidance on fieldwork by Snohomish County management. A report led by The University of Washington of forage fish work at the nearshore beach nourishment sites will be available later this summer.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan, Sarah, and Elisa have reached out to Florian to see if the DVD used for this work can be made available to students online. The subcommittee is waiting to hear back from Florian.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan Tarpley reported that Snohomish County WSU Extension has been working on a model volunteer oil spill response project. Susan attended a stakeholder meeting for this project on May 5th via conference call/Zoom. Representatives from the WA Dept. of Ecology, WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife, Island County Shore Stewards, WSU Beach Watchers, and City of Edmonds also attended this meeting. The group discussed plans for the proposed 2-day September training course (dates, topics, objectives, etc), brainstormed ideas for presenters, and asked for general advice and guidance from stakeholders. It was decided that the focus of the project should be directed towards training a few individuals within already established volunteer organizations rather than offering the training to the general public and having a single entity be responsible for managing all volunteers. The key people within the various volunteer groups would then act as leads to train and maintain engagement within their respective organizations. This would allow local, state and federal response agencies to effectively contact these organizations to readily access the trained volunteers for specific, clearly pre-defined responsibilities, in the event a large spill response.



- **Meadowdale:** Mike reported no additional details from Logan’s presentation.
- **Crabber Outreach:** Bob reported that the subcommittee will plan to meet in the next week or so to discuss options for outreach this summer. It will likely look different than previous years due to COVID-19.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Elisa and Tom attended the MRC 2020 virtual kelp workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Tom and Elisa are putting together monitoring dates and will follow up with the subcommittee on possible field days.
- Elisa reported that she continues to attend WSU Beach Watcher trainings as she is available. Susan Tarpley and Tim Ellis presented to the Beach Watchers Beach Naturalist Training on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mike Ehlebracht reported the results of the MRC Team “MR.C” for Long Live the Kings Survival Event. Mike thanked everyone who participated.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

June 17, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

**\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\***

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Mike Ehlebracht Susan Tarpley Bob Hillmann Laura Gurley Tom Doerge Sarah Brown Kip Killebrew Julie Schlenger Mike Sadler Tim Ellis  <b>Absent</b> Paul Clampitt (excused) Natasha Coumou Sara Maxwell	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff  David Bain, Orca Conservancy Sherry Johnson, Citizen Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>  The May MRC Meeting minutes were approved.	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Virtual MRC Symposium Presentations are being held every other Thursday from 3:30-5PM. The Snohomish MRC will present on June 18</li><li>● Virtual Tour of Edmonds Beach with Susan Tarpley, July 7<sup>th</sup></li><li>● Kelp Monitoring is scheduled for July 6, 7, and 20<sup>th</sup></li><li>● Next MRC Meeting July 15<sup>th</sup></li></ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 20, 2020 MRC Meeting Summary. Kip Killebrew seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Presentation from Laura Gurley on Port of Everett Habitat Projects**

Mike introduced Laura Gurley, a MRC Member who works as a Planner for the Port of Everett (Port). Laura thanked the MRC for the invitation to present an overview of Port Projects and the Port's role in the community.

### **Port of Everett Overview**

The Port of Everett was formed in 1918 to serve as a steward for Port Gardner Bay and the Snohomish River, managing its valuable social, economic and environmental assets. In cooperation with the Department of Ecology, the Port has put forth substantial environmental and economic efforts at its properties along the Everett waterfront and is continuing to make meaningful progress as outlined in the Puget Sound Initiative. The Port of Everett owns several sites: Riverside Business Park, Bay Wood Property, Blue Heron Slough Mitigation Bank, and upcoming work planned for the Kimberly Clark site recently purchased by the Port of Everett.

Additionally, Laura discussed issues with increased sedimentation at the Everett 10<sup>th</sup> street boat launch which is currently restricting use of the boat launch at low tides. The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to have a hydraulic study and model addressing increased sedimentation in the Snohomish River available for review by the end of 2020. More information regarding the Port of Everett's environmental projects can be found on their webpage:

<http://www.portofeverett.com/your-port/environment>

Laura then opened up the conversation for questions. Several MRC Members asked for more information on the Bay Wood Property. The Bay Wood Products Site is a former sawmill (from the 1930s to the 1970s) and log handling and storage facility (1979 to 1994). Ecology and the Port entered into an original Agreed Order for Site cleanup in October 2008. Currently, the Department of Ecology, with the Port, has developed a second amendment to the Agreed Order to expedite cleanup, and habitat restoration at the Site's shoreline and surrounding areas. Work is starting on that clean up within the next year. More information specific to that project can be found here: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2581>

### **MRC Grant Field Work Update and Planning for 2020-2021**

Elisa updated the MRC on the results of field work data collection on the pilings in the Snohomish Estuary. Field work for the Pilings Project was done on June 1, 2, 15 and 16. During the four days of fieldwork, Elisa and ESA consultant staff Christina were able to gather information on all the pilings in the Snohomish Estuary. Overall, they found that many pilings mapped by the GIS exercise were present, but there were additional pilings the GIS data did not capture. They added those pilings and also made notes. Overall, many of the pilings observed were not creosote treated, and instead were likely untreated fir-logs. Elisa is following up with DNR staff to confirm this observation. Christina and Elisa also took notes on wildlife use, if pilings were deteriorating and likely to break, and on habitat. A draft analysis and draft written plan will be presented by ESA at the July 15<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting.

Kari Quass offered to follow up with a person she knows who has a long history with the pilings in the Snohomish Estuary. He may be able to confirm the observation that many of the pilings are fir logs. Elisa will follow up with Kari on this.

Additionally, the MRC discussed Phase 2. Elisa said there are several areas that were able to be confirmed with creosote and will likely come out on the top of the priority list. Elisa suggested taking the top priority pilings, and breaking them into groupings. Then, having stakeholder meetings with relevant parties to these high priority areas to further discuss the high-priority pilings. The goal of the stakeholder meetings would be information sharing as well as creating a path forward to help facilitate removal. The MRC was supportive of this idea. The Pilings Subcommittee will meet in late June to discuss this idea further.

### **Crabber Education Overview and Plan for 2020**

Susan Tarpley and Bob Hillmann gave an overview of the MRC Crabber Education work. In the past, Snohomish MRC Members have given out education kits at the Everett 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch, Kayak Point Park, and the Edmonds Pier in partnership with Snohomish County Beach Watchers and the City of Edmonds. However, due to COVID-19, these in-person outreach efforts have been cancelled in 2020.

Recreational crab season is expected to start July 2, 2020. The Snohomish MRC is partnering with Snohomish County Beach Watchers to put up posters on crab pot best management practices at local boat launches and piers. Additionally, the MRC has rack cards to put at appropriate locations. Bob will cover locations in Everett and Edmonds for the MRC, while Beach Watchers are helping with locations at Marysville, Mukilteo, Kayak Point Park, and Picnic Point Park.

Additionally, Elisa has been working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Snohomish County Public Works Communication for a press release to the Everett Herald. They hope to get a notice in the paper. Snohomish County Public Works will also be sharing social media posts of the videos “Tricks and Trips to Catch more Crab!” The videos can be seen here:

<https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project/recreational-crabbing-resources/>

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Elisa reported that there have been no LIO meetings and there are currently none scheduled for this time. The MRC is seeking a new LIO representative, as Paul Clampitt has stepped down from the duty at this time. Please contact Elisa if you are interested.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah Brown attended the May 29, 2020 Northwest Straits Commission meeting. The Commission meeting included updates from the Executive Committee, Tribal Liaisons, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Northwest Straits Foundation. The second half of the meeting was dedicated to presentations for the annual MRC grants from Snohomish, Whatcom, Clallam, and Skagit County.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC plans to start forage fish monitoring work again in September. There will be opportunities for volunteering. Elisa will share more as dates are determined.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa documented 13 derelict vessels while doing reconnaissance of the estuary for the pilings project (see above). She is currently assessing which boats may be removed in 2020. On June 18, 2020, there will be a call with DNR, the Snohomish

County Sherriff's Office, Tulalip Tribal Police, and Everett Police Department to discuss derelict vessels. Elisa will attend to represent Snohomish MRC and SWM.

- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan Tarpley had no updates at this time.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan Tarpley reported that most recent local emergency planners group was cancelled due to COVID-19. Several MRC members reported attending an “Introductory Webinar for Model Development” hosted by the Department of Ecology.
- **Meadowdale:** Mike reported that Meadowdale was recently awarded another \$300,000 grant. Snohomish County continues to look for additional funding for this project which is slated to go to construction in 2021.
- **Howarth Park Signage:** Bob is working to schedule a work party to install the signs at Howarth Park. When he has a date, he will report it to the MRC.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Elisa met with staff from the Northwest Straits to discuss kelp mapping using Sound IQ on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Dates for July kelp monitoring have been determined and the project is on schedule.
- **WSU Beach Watchers 2020 Program:** Beach Watcher students for 2020 completed their classroom learning completely online this year for the first time. There are still several field trips the group hopes to have in the future.
- **Port Susan Action Plan 10 year update:** Elisa reported that the Port Susan Subcommittee will meet with Island County MRC Port Susan Subcommittee on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the idea of a 10 year update to the Port Susan Conservation Action Plan. This work could be on the MRC's radar for the 2021-2022 grant.
- The Snohomish MRC will present at the next MRC Symposium on June 18 3:30-5PM. Elisa asked MRC Members to please attend if you can.
- Elisa recommended that the MRC write a letter to the Snohomish County Council and send them a copy of their annual report in place of an in-person presentation this year. The MRC supported this idea, and Mike Ehlebracht offered to draft the letter.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

July 15, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Mike Ehlebracht Susan Tarpley Laura Gurley Tom Doerge Sarah Brown Julie Schlenger Mike Sadler Tim Ellis Natasha Coumou Sara Maxwell</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Paul Clampitt (excused) Kip Killebrew (excused) Bob Hillmann (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Elisa Dawson, MRC Staff</p> <p>Paul Schlenger, ESA Colin Struthers, ESA Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District Dana Oster, NWSC David Johanson, Citizen Jessie Balbiani, City of Maysville Chris Robertson, WA DNR Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation</p>
---	--

### Summary of Decisions

- The June MRC Meeting minutes were approved.
- The MRC approved the 2019 Annual Report Letter to Snohomish County Council. The letter will be sent to the Council with a copy of the 2019 Annual MRC Report for Snohomish County.
- The MRC supports an updated and online environmental report card for Port Susan; funding and resources to be determined.
- The MRC August 19 meeting was cancelled

### Upcoming Events

### **Presentation from ESA on Pilings Project**

Mike Ehlebracht introduced Paul Schlenger and Colin Struthers, staff with ESA who have been the consultants helping work of the MRC Snohomish Estuary Pilings Prioritization Project. Paul, Colin, and other ESA staff have been compiling the results from field work and analysis of the pilings, and presented the draft findings to the MRC.

Colin presented on the GIS desk top analysis of the project. Snohomish County GIS staff provided ESA with an initial inventory (geospatial database) of pilings in the Snohomish River estuary downstream of the Highway 2 crossing. The initial inventory was prepared by the Tulalip Tribes and included 9,760 pilings. To supplement the database and prepare a comprehensive dataset of derelict pilings, ESA conducted a piling location confirmation effort through a visual review, slope analysis, and field verification. Altogether, a total of 15,526 independent pilings were identified in the project area. This count does not include pilings associated with docks, marinas, or bulkheads.

Paul Schlenger explained the field verification of creosote pilings. Of the 15,526 pilings in the project area, 2,455 or nearly 16% were identified in the field as being creosote-treated. Creosote was an important factor for the prioritization framework. Paul went over the prioritization framework that was developed for this project and shared the results thus far. Paul and Elisa will send the MRC the draft report document on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will continue to seek input and comments on the report until August 14<sup>th</sup>. The report will be shared with project partners for comments as well. ESA will update the final report based on feedback received, and will have a final report to the MRC on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **MRC Letter to Snohomish County Council**

Mike Ehlebracht presented the letter he drafted for Snohomish County Council. The letter was written in-place of being able to meet with the Snohomish County Council for the annual MRC presentation to Council. The MRC will send the letter and Annual Report to Council in place of their in-person annual report. Elisa mentioned that there may be an opportunity to briefly present the letter and report to council virtually, but that is still under consideration and pending availability and COVID-19 priorities of the County Council. Mike asked the MRC for feedback and edits.

There were no edits to the letter from MRC Members. Sarah Brown made a motion to approve the letter. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Mike Ehlebracht will sign the letter, and Elisa will work with Council staff to get the letter the Council.

### **Port Susan Subcommittee Update**

Elisa Dawson reported that the Snohomish MRC Port Susan Subcommittee met jointly with the Island County Port Susan Subcommittee on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss updates to the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Plan and outreach materials that are associated with the plan. Information about the Port Susan MSA can be found here:

<https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/port-susan-marine-stewardship-area/>

The team discussed the history of the plan, as well as the new science they thought would be helpful to include in potential updates. Of specific interest for updating was the Port Susan Report Card: [https://www.snocomrc.org/media/1339/portsusan11x17\\_final.pdf](https://www.snocomrc.org/media/1339/portsusan11x17_final.pdf)

The team decided that they would like to create an online version of the report card. By doing this, the team could include new project information and new science and share it with the public. The team suggested that this project would be well suited for the 2021-2022 MRC Grant Process, and agreed to bring the idea back to each respective MRC for consideration. A decision will not have to be made on this project for funding until spring 2021. In the meantime, the Snohomish and Island Port Susan Subcommittee has decided to meet quarterly to continue to discuss this idea in preparation for a potential grant application in 2021-2022. Additionally, MRC staff from Snohomish and Island County will set up a meeting with the Northwest Straits Commission to discuss the logistics of a joint MRC project. The MRC was supportive of this idea.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Elisa reported that there have been no LIO meetings and there are currently none scheduled for this time. Tim Ellis volunteered to be the new Representative when the next meeting is scheduled.

**Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah Brown attended the May 29, 2020 Northwest Straits Commission meeting. The Commission meeting included updates from the Executive Committee, Tribal Liaisons, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Northwest Straits Foundation. Virtual MRC Symposium Presentations are being held every other Thursday from 3:30-5PM. The San Juan MRC will present on July 23, and Island County MRC on August 6.

- **Forage Fish:** The MRC plans to start forage fish monitoring work again in September. There will be opportunities for volunteering depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Elisa will share more as dates are determined.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa has received approval to move forward on the removal of 4 derelict boats in the Snohomish Estuary. Three boats are located on the north side of the Steamboat Slough mouth, and the fourth vessel is located on Jetty Island. Elisa will email out the MyCoast reports of the four boats. The contract is being written and Elisa hopes to post the boats for removal in late August or early September.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan Tarpley had no updates at this time.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan Tarpley had no updates at this time.
- **Meadowdale:** Mike reported that Meadowdale work continues to move forward. Elisa assisted parks with reports for several permits needed before construction can start.
- **Crabber Education:** Elisa reported that Snohomish County Public Works Communications Staff assisted with social media ads using the Northwest Straits Foundation crabber videos. The videos were posted on Facebook and Instagram using the



paid ad feature, and reports show that 18,584 people watched the videos. The MRC agreed that this type of outreach should continue in the future.

- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the team monitored Edmonds and Meadowdale on July 6 and 7. No kelp was found at Meadowdale, and the kelp at Edmonds was there but looked like it hadn't reached full growth yet. Mukilteo will be monitored in late July, and the team will monitor again at Edmonds in early August.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa reported that the contract has been completed and Washington State Department of Natural Resources plans to gather data at the end of July. Initial findings will be reporting by September, with the larger report expected in December.
- **Puget Sound BirdFest:** BirdFest, which is generally held in Edmonds each year, is going virtual on Sept 12 and 13. Elisa will send out the invite from Alan Mearns.
- The Snohomish MRC decided to cancel their August Meeting. The MRC will schedule a private social hour in place of their usual picnic.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Meeting Summary

September 16, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht                  Susan Tarpley                  Bob Hillmann                  Laura Gurley                  Tom Doerge                  Sarah Brown                  Julie Schlenger                  Mike Sadler                  Tim Ellis                  Natasha Coumou                  Sara Maxwell</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Paul Clampitt (excused)                  Kip Killebrew (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>Councilmember Megan Dunn, Snohomish County Council                  Angie Feser, City of Edmonds                  Alan Means, Citizen                  Angela Harris, Port of Edmonds                  Benie Busch, Citizen                  David Bain, ORCA Conservancy                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District                  Betsy Newmum, Citizen                  Ray White, Citizen                  Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County Surface Water Management                  Susie Schaefer, Citizen                  Joe Scordino, Citizen                  Hayley Betker, NOAA                  Lincoln Loehr, Citizen                  Traci Sanderson, Citizen</p>
--	--

### Summary of Decisions

- The July MRC Meeting minutes were approved.

### Upcoming Events

## **Presentation on Edmonds Beach and Willow Creek Restoration Project**

Mike Ehlebracht introduced Angie Feser. Angie is the Parks Director for the City of Edmonds. Angie became the Parks Director in early 2020 and has been leading the effort of the [Willow Creek Daylighting and Marsh Restoration project](#).

Angie introduced herself and thanked the MRC for having her present. Angie explained that the City of Edmonds is in the preliminary phases of a long-term restoration and recovery project involving the Marsh and Willow Creek. The City has completed the ‘pre-design’ phase which identified several alternatives and selected the best approach which balanced land ownership constraints, flood control needs, and fish habitat creation. The pre-design phase was funded by a \$157,000 grant from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office’s Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The city used this grant along with city funds to prepare a preliminary design and permit applications for a daylighted channel from Edmonds Marsh, under BNSF railroad tracks, and across Marina Beach to Puget Sound. Willow Creek currently flows through a system of buried pipes and structures built in the 1960s when the Edmonds Marina was developed. The overall goal is restoration of Edmonds Marsh, which will benefit juvenile Chinook salmon.

Angie presented the final plans to the MRC. She highlighted the addition of restrooms, new parking with the same number of parking spots available, as well as the addition of interpretive signs on the restoration project. Next, the City of Edmonds is applying for more grant funding to implement this plan. Angie thanked the MRC for their letter of support for their grant application. MRC Members and meeting attendees asked Angie about the WSDOT stormwater pipe. She mentioned that this project will not address that WSDOT stormwater pipe and will only daylight the pipe that comes from the Edmonds Marsh (Willow Creek). When asked about the timeline, Angie said they hope to get this grant which would allow for implementation in the next 3-5 years. Otherwise, they will have to wait 2 years to apply for funds again, which will delay the timeline. The MRC supports this project, and thanked Angie for her presentation.

## **Pilings Project Phase 1 Closeout and Phase 2 Start**

Elisa Dawson and Laura Gurley reported that the final pilings project plan document has been completed and can now be found online at the recently updated MRC project page website: <https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/creosote-pilings/>

Additionally, Elisa Dawson shared the press release which Snohomish County Public Works Communications staff recently completed. The press release will be shared with local press the week of September 21, and Snohomish County hopes to work with the \_\_\_\_\_ on a story. The plan, updated website, and press release are the final deliverables for the MRC grant. These deliverables are due September 28, and the grant will officially close out on September 30. The MRC will start their Pilings Project Phase 2 grant on October 1, 2020. Phase 2 will focus on the high priority pilings and working with stakeholders on the implementation on the plan.

## **Kelp Monitoring Results**

Tom Doerge reported that the MRC completed their annual kelp monitoring. In response to concerns about declining bull kelp populations in some parts of the Puget Sound, and mounting interest in kelp restoration, the MRC annually gathers data for the Northwest Straits Commission’s Regional Kelp monitoring project. Kayak surveys are done at Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds, and a boat survey is done around Hat Island. Tom reported that after several years of decline at Meadowdale and Mukilteo, no kelp was found at either location this

year. The three kelp beds in Edmonds appear to be near the same size as they were last year. Elisa reported that the Hat Island bed appeared to be smaller than the previous year. Elisa and Tom shared maps of the two locations showing the GPS tracks that were taken at both beds.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Elisa Dawson and Tim Ellis attending the LIO Implementation Committee meeting for the Snohomish Basin on August 27. The group discussed upcoming changes to the Action Agenda. A webinar to discuss these changes will be held on October 1, which both Elisa and Tim will attend.

**Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah Brown attended the July 31 and August 28 Northwest Straits Commission meetings. The Commission meetings included updates from the Executive Committee, Tribal Liaisons, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Northwest Straits Foundation. The Commission continues to work on their communications plan. Sarah shared the “elevator speech” that was recently completed and will share the completed plan this fall. The next NWSC meeting is September 24.

- **Forage Fish:** Forage fish monitoring will start again in September. The MRC will be monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park. Elisa will complete forage fish monitoring for September. She asked for volunteers for the upcoming October 14 monitoring date.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa has posted the four derelict vessels for removal and the county will take possession of the boat in mid-October. Legal notices will be posted for the boats in the paper on September 20. Removal will happen in late October or November.
- **Ocean Literacy:** Susan Tarpley had no updates at this time.
- **Oil Spill:** Susan Tarpley reported that herself, Elisa Dawson, Mike Sadler, and Julie Schlenger are attending the oil spill awareness and response support training held by WSU Snohomish County on September 19 and 26.
- **Meadowdale:** Mike reported that Meadowdale work continues to move forward. Construction is still planned to start in early 2021.
- **Howarth Park Signage:** Bob reported that City of Everett Parks staff should be able to install the signs this fall. He has a work order in for install.
- **Crabber Education:** Bob reported that crabber season has closed for the summer. The MRC will wait to hear from WDFW on a winter opening schedule.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa reported that field work has been completed by DNR and a final report is expected in November.
- **MRC Volunteer Hours:** Elisa reminded the members that volunteer hours will be due September 23, and asked members to please turn in hours early if possible.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

October 21, 2020 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Mike Ehlebracht Susan Tarpley Bob Hillmann Laura Gurley Tom Doerge Sarah Brown Julie Schlenger Mike Sadler Tim Ellis Natasha Coumou Sara Maxwell Kip Killebrew</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Paul Clampitt (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Neil Shea, Tulalip Tribes Jessica Cote, Blue Coast Engineering Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District Betsy Newnum, Citizen Alan Mearns, Citizen Traci Sanderson, Citizen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The September MRC Meeting minutes were approved.</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upcoming Events</b></p>	

coastal engineer for Blue Coast Engineering. Blue Coast Engineering was the consultant firm which worked with the Tulalip Tribes on this project.

Martha Creek is a perennial stream that flows from Martha Lake north of Stanwood into Port Susan Bay. In the past Martha Creek flowed through heavy sediment, invasive species, and an undersized culvert that caused winter flooding and made it difficult for juvenile fish to travel up stream to avoid the dangers of the ocean. Martha Creek is documented by the Tulalip Tribes as a non-natal coastal stream that salmon use for shelter and rearing. Coastal non-natal streams with proximity to major river systems are documented by the Tulalip Tribes as the highest priority for restoration. The proximity of Martha Creek to the Stillaguamish River makes this project important for fish. This project was planned similar to the nearby Greenwood Creek restoration which Tulalip Tribes did in partnership with Snohomish County.

For restoration, the tribes removed invasive species, sediment, and the culvert to create a natural meander. The design focused around being able to convey winter high water flows without overtopping the bank and risking flooding to neighbors. The project, completed in September 2020, was located done on private property and paid for by grants. Neil and Jessica went over the project challenges, which included working with the landowner to determine a site plan which would work well for the multiple neighbors along the stream. Neil reported that the next steps include working with Snohomish County Surface Water Management to address the culverts upstream from this project to extend the habitat accessible to juvenile fish.

### **Presentation on Pilchuck Dam Removal**

Next, Brett Shattuck gave a presentation on the Pilchuck Dam removal project. Brett Shattuck is a Restoration Ecologist for the Tulalip Tribes, and was the project manager for the Pilchuck Dam removal. Brett explained that in June of 2018, the Tulalip Tribes and the City of Snohomish finalized an agreement to work together to restore the Pilchuck River. The City of Snohomish owned a diversion dam located southeast of the City of Granite Falls on the Pilchuck River. The diversion structure was previously operated for city drinking water withdrawals but was no longer in use as the city had changed its water source. The Pilchuck Dam was a known barrier to culturally important fish species that live in the river including Chinook salmon, Coho salmon and Steelhead.

Brett explained that historically about 12,000 chinook salmon came back to the Pilchuck. However, the dam reduced those number significantly. The Tulalip Tribes have been monitoring the Pilchuck River and the years prior to dam removal, on average, just 100 fish were counted above the dam. Brett reported that last year, the worst on record, only 50 did. Based on this information and the lack of infrastructure need from the City, dam removal was sought. It took several years of planning before construction could begin.

Construction on the removal of the dam and restoration began in summer 2020 and was completed in early fall 2020. Removal of the dam opened 37 miles of habitat to salmon for the first time in more than a century. The project cost nearly \$2 million. This final cost came in under budget, and now the Tulalip Tribes is working on reallocating the additional funds to other nearby restoration efforts. Funding for the project was provided by a variety of sources, including the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Tulalip Tribes, the City of Snohomish, and state and federal salmon-recovery funds. The Tulalip Tribes have an online video camera where you can see the real-time images of the newly restored river:

<https://nr.tulaliptribes.com/Topics/Restoration/PilchuckRiverDam>

## **Oil Spill Subcommittee WSU Snohomish County OSARS Training**

MRC Oil Spill Subcommittee Members Susan Tarpley, Julie Schlenger, and Mike Sadler along with staff Elisa Dawson attended Oil Spill Awareness and Response Support (OSARS) Training through WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers on September 19 and 26. The 10-hour course was held online and included table-top drills focusing on oil spills and ended with a discussion of volunteer roles during an oil spill.

The OSARS course is designed for current marine resource volunteers with WSU and other organizations who are interested in learning about oil spills and opportunities for volunteering during an oil spill incident. The course presents information on oil spill impacts, science, response, assessment, and recovery, how the Incident Command System (ICS) framework is used during an oil spill and how volunteers can be involved. The attendees enjoyed the training and feel that it should be a priority for the MRC to continue to coordinate with WSU Beach Watchers on training opportunities for volunteers. A main takeaway was that it is important to get volunteers trained before an oil spill occurs. The subcommittee reported that proper HAZMAT and ICS training opportunities should continue to be leveraged by the MRC Oil Spill Subcommittee. The subcommittee will look into more opportunities in 2021.

## **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Elisa Dawson and Tim Ellis attended a LIO webinar which discussed changes to the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda on October 1. The Partnership is changing the "near term action" process in 2021. This initial webinar was to gather feedback, and Tim and Elisa will continue to participate in coming webinars on the new process.

**Northwest Straits Commission:** Sarah Brown attended the September 24<sup>th</sup> Northwest Straits Commission meeting. The Commission meetings included updates from the Executive Committee, Tribal Liaisons, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Northwest Straits Foundation. The Commission continues to work on their communications plan. Sarah reminded members of the upcoming MRC Symposium the NWSC is putting on, this time focusing on follow up to oil spill work of the MRCs. The next NWSC meeting is October 29.

- **Congressman Rick Larsen Visit:** Congressman Rick Larsen met with Snohomish MRC Member Laura Gurley, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Staff for the MRC Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Director Gregg Farris, and Northwest Straits Staff Dana Oster to discuss the recently completed Snohomish Estuary Pilings Prioritization for Removal Project.
- **Pilings Phase 2:** The MRC will be interviewing on-call consultants using SWM procedures in late October. A consultant will be chosen by early November, and the Pilings Subcommittee hopes to have the contract in place by early December.
- **Forage Fish:** Forage fish monitoring began monthly sampling in September after a hiatus due to COVID-19. The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. The next sample events are November 12 and 13.



- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that the vessels are in county possession now and will be removed in the coming weeks. The goal is to have all boats out before the end of November. The project cost is about \$40,000. After removal is complete, the county will work on getting 90% reimbursements from DNR.
- **Howarth Park Signage:** Bob reported that City of Everett Parks staff should be able to install the signs this fall. He has a work order in for install.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa reported that field work has been completed by DNR and initial results have been shared. A final report is expected in December.
- **Department of Natural Resources and Conservation:** Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Director and Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director reported that recently Executive Somers' announced the formation of the new Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR). Gregg and Tom explained that this new Department will incorporate the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, the Division of Surface Water Management, the Office of Agriculture and the Office of Energy and Sustainability into one department. There is currently a Transition Team which is coordinating the transition process. This work has included a schedule for transition; addressing short term needs and code changes and listening to concerns from staff related to the change. There are no changes to the MRC currently proposed under the new department. Tom and Gregg will keep the MRC Members apprised as the transition takes place.
- **MRC Vacancies:** Elisa reported that The MRC will have several vacancies at the end of the year, including Susan, Bob, and Paul's seats. The MRC discussed reaching out directly to people/stakeholder groups/ perspectives the MRC would like to recruit. The MRC will discuss this more in-depth at the November retreat.
- **MRC Annual Retreat:** The MRC will hold a retreat on November 18<sup>th</sup> in place of their normal public meeting. Only MRC Members will attend the retreat. Mike explained that Elisa and the Executive Team will be sending out an email with several homework items in preparation for the November retreat.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**