



Marine Advisory Committees MRC-CAG Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022

MRC Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Carl Davis, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith

LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Kendra Smith, Phil Green, Kimbal Sundberg, Sam Whitridge, Frances Robertson, Paul Andersson

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Matt Colston, Marta Green, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Dana Oster, Frances Robertson, Austin Rose, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge

9:02 AM **Convene Meeting, Coast Salish Acknowledgement** *Christina Koons*
Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.

9:03 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:10 AM **Approve meeting agenda and May MRC meeting minutes** *Christina Koons*
No changes proposed for the agenda or the minutes. All in favor of approving May minutes, minutes approved.

9:04 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC** *Christina Koons*
Meeting highlights with attached MRC reports were sent out. Christina provides a few updates from other MRC's, reminder about scientist 'speed dating'. Christina and Frankie briefly discuss how to best use COASST volunteers.
For NWSC conference November 18-19 in La Conner – discussion of meeting in person/hybrid/virtual, requirements for vaccination and masks, a survey was sent but more feedback is needed. Most MRC thinks in person is best.
Lucas: we have a hall reserved, OR should we shoot for an earlier time when we can meet outdoors?
Frankie: all county volunteers and advisory committee members need to be vaccinated

ACTION ITEM: can we check to see if that's required in other counties?

Christina: there is talk of an outdoor gathering in Padilla Bay in September

9:13 AM **Update on Marine Advisory Committees staffing and meetings**

Kendra Smith

- Discussion around meeting format – virtual vs. in-person

We've had a few changes in work delivery of the marine program. Marta is going down to .2 FTE next month, partial retirement and continued work with derelict vessels. We're positioned to move forward with a lot of marine projects, Frankie will be new marine project manager. Sam is still in charge of salmon recovery but picking up NW Straits and some of LIO stuff. New staff-member is the "project coordinator", will help manage volunteer programs and oversee small projects (while Sam oversees large regional grants), will oversee grant management.

We've changed agenda to, "marine advisory committees" –integrating MRC and LIO to avoid repeating updates

QUESTIONS

Christina: what about attrition in merging these two groups together?

Kendra: concern that LIO was being driven by staff, we want to open the door for more citizen engagement there.

Christina: what about Tribal participation in the LIO, how can we ensure that inclusion?

Kendra: Stan Walsh was the representative, and Patti in the past when available. Lisa Watson is named participant

Marta: going forward we'll be responding to RFP's, we'd like to be able to get input on incoming funding. All geographic funds will be competitively bid by state agencies, not allocated specifically for the LIO. it will be a competitive bidding process starting this fall, it'll be about priorities. Any local entity can choose to bid

Level: it would be good for this group to be familiar with how LIO was established and how funding is processed, honor the intent that the process is inclusive. If there are RFP's prioritized by Tribes, that should carry some weight.

This resolution established the Action Agenda Oversight Group (AAOG):

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/3167/Resolution-23-2010>

and this resolution clarified the roles/responsibilities of the Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC):

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/3199/Resolution-55-2010>

Kendra: as of yesterday, required to provide both virtual and in-person meeting space, there will be a notation with meeting announcements about that location, so lack of internet isn't a barrier for anyone to participate

Frankie: Do we want to meet in person quarterly? Or all virtual, all in person, a hybrid? That's open for discussion.

Carl: like the idea of an in-person quarterly meeting; quarterly because it's hard to come over to SJI every month

Karin: pandemic still isn't over. Currently dealing with a huge uptick. Great to meet outside, still need to mask

Christina: agree, quarterly in person and mostly online. What about meeting on different islands sometimes?

Kendra: Still required to provide zoom option even when we decided to meet in person.

Kailey: When would this new type of meeting start?

Kendra: phase in now when weather is good, next in-person meeting can be outside

Laura: what about using libraries on each island and making space available there?

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will check into that idea of using libraries for virtual meetings space

9:49 AM **2022-2023 MRC project proposals - Action required**

Frankie Robertson

It's time to put together projects for next year's grant amendment. Need approval from the MRC.

Task 1 is to host another Marine Managers workshop to finalize and review the MSA plan and prioritize identified strategies. Task 2 is to continue with PFSS efforts and Seabin. We've removed killer whale tales as a deliverable.

Task 3: continue derelict vessel prevention, we have funding for Marta's time to continue adding vessels to database and prioritize list for removal, and expand community awareness

Paul: how much funding is there for this relative to other years? What about drifting creosote pilings etc.?

Frankie: that can be reported through the MyCoast app, that gets through to DNR

Paul: can that data get to transfer station where they field a lot of questions? Especially about beach trash disposal

Marta: these are two different programs – Money for derelict vessels we need to use in the next year. For creosote we have some different funding. More info about how to report both is needed.

Task 4: Eelgrass habitat protection, continue with vessel monitoring, buoy maintenance at Odlin. More buoys due to go in at a few other locations. County-wide buoy assessment, probably with an intern and mostly desk-based GIS

Task 5: False Bay Monitoring and Outreach, intern overseeing *ulva* data collection, engagement with visitors.

Frankie: MRC members welcome to put project proposals, that's what retreat is for in November/December

Lovel: agree with Christina about the issue of vessel traffic, and the ERTV, we did the study but there's a lot more we can do to continue that advocacy. Could that fit into prospects for this year or does that need to wait?

Frankie: these are just projects with associated grant deliverables. The oil prevention work can continue.

More discussion between Marta and Lovel about how to move forward about coordinating work on this effort

MOTION: Phil moves to approve all projects (Finalize MSA, PFSS/Seabin, derelict vessel prevention, eelgrass protection, and False Bay monitoring) going forward as described, Lovel seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.

10:21 AM **Jackson Beach Creosote piling removal**

Frankie: government funding for 12 months from the time contract is signed with NOAA. 117 derelict creosote pilings. Estimated cost between \$175-200K. Jackson Beach is a spawning habitat for pacific sand lance. Eelgrass nearby. valued recreation area. Would the MRC like to use congressionally directed funding for this purpose?

Phil: yes, we approved it through LIO, it needs to get done, since it's time-sensitive we should move forward

Jeff: I'm all for it, but how specific do we need to be – can we coordinate with to bring in more creosote to pick up?

Kendra: interesting idea, we can talk to contractor about that, they'll be coming in with a barge.

Frankie: this is something we could achieve during water-work season, after September

MOTION: Kendra moves that MRC approve and forward to county council the proposal of using these congressional funds for the removal of pilings at Jackson Beach. Jeff seconds, all in favor. Motion passes

10:31AM **MRC Project Updates – Frances Robertson**

- Plastic Free Salish Sea (PFSS) – SeaBin and other project updates – Adam Parrot, Karin Roemers-Kleven

Adam: the Seabin is at the Port, installed next to floating restrooms. Plans to maintain it daily, display results.

Frankie: the new intern, Sierra, will lead the daily monitoring on the Seabin, also high school volunteers

Karin: UW labs had Open House on May 21 and we were there to represent MRC, talked to about 50 people,

- False Bay – continuing visitor surveys started in 2020. Would be great if more MRC members signed up!

ACTION ITEM: Frankie sends out google sign-up sheet to all MRC members

Sierra will start ulva surveys this month, ready to train anyone. If interested in participating coordinate with her

- Vessel Monitoring – We have an online form this year, until we deal with the hiccups people monitoring vessels (Jeff, Christina, Kailey, Carl), please email photos directly to Frankie.

Other updates: it's Orca Awareness month. social media assets – please share MRC posts when you see them.

And subcommittee members are wrapping up spreadsheet for strategic actions in MSA plan.

10:46 AM **CAG projects** – *Sam Whitridge*

- 2022 SRFB Grant Round Update

It's a complicated grant round this year. This is when CAG plugs into the process. Sam reviews the timeline.

The North Shore Conservation easement is up for PSAR large cap funds. Sam reviews the other projects, two are "Cleared" and three are "Projects of Concern" and four are "Needs more Information." June 24 is the deadline for proposals – CAG scores at the July meeting based on socioeconomic perspective.

ACTION: Sam will send out project proposals, criteria, and scores sheets. Scores needed at or before July meeting.

Reviewing costs, as of right now we could almost fund all projects with our current allocation. Sam discusses some details of how other possible funds and how they would be allocated. If so we'll have some decisions to make about spending – based on rankings we can bump up budgets on some projects, cost increase on active projects. SRFB may be flexible and allow us to kick some to next year if we can't spend it all.

Beth: FYI – budget for the Sorensen project has shifted slightly, will be updated with the final permit application.

10:59 AM Break

11:05 – 11:59 meeting focused on LIO. For Minutes related to this portion of the meeting please see

11:59 AM **Wrap up and Adjourn meeting**

Marta Green



San Juan County Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery



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9:00 – 10:59 meeting focused on MRC and CAG business and project updates

Local Integrating Organization

11:05 AM LIO Projects – *Marta Green*

Interested in everyone's feedback today. Finalizing the Action agenda. Updates on projects:

- County-wide Creosote Assessment, a \$100K Near Term Action. Contract with DNR. Assessing mitigation 'credits' for the removal, then a roadmap for permitting, engineering, and cost analysis. For Jackson Beach, Frankie will be project manager and JenJay contracted to do the work
 - More discussion of mitigation credits and how they work.
- LIO Collective Policy Project: Building Commitment to Priority Shoreline, Permitting Solutions in Puget Sound.

Working with Tina Whitman. Looking at unpermitted/under-permitted shorelines, analysis of solutions.

Marta reviews recommended actions: strengthen enforcement actions, increase monitoring (with aerial), expand Shore-friendly with better education on permitting process, increase in-person site visits throughout construction

11:26 AM **2023-2025 Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds work planning – Marta Green**

The next major ask of LIO is how to use the \$400K, target for contract is October 1. Different from geographic funds that can be used for projects. Other money from the partnership can only be used for planning/policy work.

It can't be used for science, research, monitoring, or capital projects. Marta will be passing this off to Sam.

Jamie: council approved the idea of managed retreat but need to develop a policy of what that means so it can guide what we do as a county with infrastructure (gives some examples). Everything can't be a one-off, need a county-wide policy. Should earmark a substantial amount of those funds to work on that policy

Paul: should we meet as the LIO subcommittee to look at these funds? All the context for this seems to be missing.

Kendra: we're opening this up not just to LIO but to MRC, what should be priorities in county to invest this money?

Marta: we're essentially going from \$75K a year to \$225K going forward. It's a big lift

Paul: need more details/context to make these decisions. E.g., how much would a managed retreat policy cost?

Kendra: having Marta's replacement on board and more information about how this would be managed will help

ACTION ITEM: We'll return with more detail and go from there

11:40 AM **Puget Sound Action Agenda update –** *Matt Colston*

Shows timeline for the Action Agenda, now we're following the March-April public review phase and soon during the meeting for Puget Sound Partnership leadership June 9th it will be up for approval

https://psp.wa.gov/board_meetings.php

After Leadership approves agenda, it will be presented to EPA. Then fully implemented. Strategic Initiative Leads will produce investment plans, meeting will be in July. That'll lead to a date in fall to start putting out RFP's

ACTION ITEM: once that invite is out Matt will send that invitation out via Marta or Sam

11:49 AM **Approve March 3 LIO meeting summary** *Marta Green*

In March meeting, discussed the oil spill prevention letter in which we provided Canadian government evidence that an ERTV here would prevent 80% of disabled vessels from grounding. Senator Cantwell's office wanted to help, we suggested they send out a common message – Marta still needs to follow up on that. Discussed the redirecting of \$100K funding to the creosote assessment. Introduced Matt as PSP Ecosystem recovery coordinator.

MOTION: Paul proposes to approve the March meeting summary, Kendra seconds. Summary approved

11:54 AM **Puget Sound Partnership Update** *Matt Colston*

Updated PSP Bio signs were updated and brought out, Matt shares what they look like. Executive meeting on June 9th hosted by Snohomish County. Then Island County hosts next leadership county

meeting in September. August meeting will approve the Action Agenda and July meeting for the SIL, <https://vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/>
When Matt has more information about SILS he'll forward to Marta and then proceed to work on contract with Sam

11:58 AM Lovel: Let's be sure to have agenda time for MRC-LIO Member news at the next meeting. Could we include that earlier in the agenda? Thank you all!

11:59 AM **Wrap up and Adjourn meeting**

Marta Green