

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Marta Green, Wendel Raymond, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, , Sam Whitridge, Margaret

8:35 AM **Convene Meeting** *Christina Koons, Chair*

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *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.*

8:36 AM **Citizen input** *none*

8:37 AM **Action: Acceptance of March meeting minutes**  
Lovel’s edits are incorporated. Lovel moves to accept the minutes, Laura Jo seconds. All in favor.

8:38 AM **NW Straits Commission update** *Christina Koons*

Island County Commissioner attended. The commission is working on a tribal acknowledgement with Cecilia Gobin. Joined Long Live the Kings in their Survive the Sound campaign, anyone can join the Commission team on <https://survivethesound.org/home>. Planning a virtual conference for the fall. Puget Sound days on the hill starting at end of this month, register now at: <https://psp.wa.gov/psdoth2021.php>. 2020 NWSC Annual Report: <https://bit.ly/NWSI2020>

8:40 AM **MRC Housekeeping**

- ACTION: Approve MRC draft MRC grant application

Frankie needs feedback on a couple projects, shares screen, presentation “MRC 2021-2023 Grant”

Ongoing projects: PFSS, SRKW & marine education, MSA plan finalization

- a few questions about finishing the MSA plan, and oil spill prevention funding going forward

Marta clarifies funding details for the oil spill prevention effectiveness reporting and webinar

New projects: (agreed on in January) Derelict Vessel Prevention and Eelgrass Habitat Protection

(anchor out zone maintenance, MRC-funded area at Odlin Park), vessel compliance monitoring

Karin: Jeff and I volunteered to address the Catch More Crab initiative, once crab season opens

Frances: this grant applies starting September 2021. You should form subcommittee and start doing that as a project, doesn’t need additional funding. That can be housed as a task under PFSS.

Potential Projects: Coast Salish Film Festival, and False Bay Monitoring (support for student intern)

8:58 AM **Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program for False Bay** *Wendel Raymond*

Original motivation was hyperabundance of ulvoid green algae in late spring/early summer. Recent hypothesis that nutrients flowing out of watershed are stimulating algae growth.

We put together a list of parameters of interest, silicate is of important for diatom growth.

Regular drone flights for aerial images to assess size of ulva growth, correlate with biomass. Stations

range from completely marine at # 1 to high up the watershed at # 9. Discuss details of monthly

sampling, stations 1 and 2 sampled for nutrients, stations 2, 3, and 7 measure flow rate. Sampling

effort increases in fall in conjunction with FHL Research Apprenticeship course (10-12 students), focused on research methods Instructors will be Megan, Wendel, and Brooke Sullivan. Ecology of False Bay and watershed, teaching students a diversity of methods for performing estuarine and stream sampling. Build monitoring into the class, increase to bi-weekly or weekly Kendra: it takes a while for system to get wetted, so you'll probably have low flow into December. Question: do you anticipate doing some kind of symposium or session towards end of class? we want to do a workshop in the fall, would be great to share your findings from the watershed Wendel: great idea. Final presentations are always part of these apprenticeships. We may be able to open these student presentations to the public or have another kind of public symposium Wendel discusses some previous data from False Bay and how this project may be able to use it.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Kendra: I am interested in temperature data, I'd love for you to look at the rate of warming.

Level: Coordinate with VSP? Would be good for MRC to hear more about that, learn history

<https://www.scc.wa.gov/vsp> , <https://www.sanjuanislandsdcd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program>

9:25 AM Frankie: so, how can MRC support these research efforts from FHL?

-continue outreach and education effort to public that we initiated last year

-in addition, provide an internship for a student to conduct some intertidal transects of ulvoid growth. MRC can help support and learn about these data collection techniques

- Karin is in, Kailey and Beth interested, depending on timing

Question: Does Frances have guidance to work this into the grant for the 2021-2023 round?

Consensus: yes all around

Anyone else want to help with awareness/outreach and surveys at False Bay? Beth can help

Wendel is ready to help with anything related to eelgrass

ACTION ITEM: for coast Salish film fest, Frances will flesh that out more and email for feedback.

ACTION ITEM: Frances will confirm budget once worked everything out with projects.

- ACTION: Approve MRC Grant draft amendments

MOTION: Level moves to accept the MRC Grant draft amendments as proposed

Kailey seconds. All approve

9:48 AM • ACTION: Select artist for Orcas Landing mural

*Kendra Smith*

We put out 6 proposals (shares screen), Kendra reviews the feedback on each proposal.

MOTION: Level moves to authorize Kendra to finalize the process given the input provided. Phil seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

ACTION ITEM: contact Kendra if you have information for the interpretive bulletin board

ACTION ITEM: We have some landscaping area to fill some gaps, if MRC members wanted to bring some rocks that reflect different geology of the Islands.

10:31 AM • Navy Jet Noise symposium report out

*L. Pratt & C.Koons*

ACTION ITEM: Frances will send around summary

Christina: we cohosted this symposium. Principal scientists that collaborated in noise study 100' deep off of Whidbey Island presented. Participants came from 14 states, US, Canada and Mexico

Level: followed up with Jamie Stephens, thinking about next steps after symposium and new data

E.g. create a webpage to be a clearinghouse for relevant scientific data on this topic, as a resource for the public to learn more. We'd post recording of the symposium there  
Todd Haas facilitated vessel working group during Governor's task force process. Navy jet noise wasn't addressed there in the same way with respect to SRKW protection and recovery  
Christina: long version of recording is on MRC website now, subcommittee will continue to meet

**ACTION ITEM:** Please send your volunteer hours to Frankie!

10:40 AM Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting

*Sam Whitridge*

- Salmon Recovery Council – March Update

-the legislature is working through 2021-23 budget, Sam reviews budget details

All day zoom retreat last Friday, looking at the way funds for salmon recovery are allocated.

Response to recent white paper that stated maybe we're not doing the right projects in right places.

Paper in response to fact that we're not seeing salmon return to extent we would like, we're at a critical juncture. strategy likely to remain same which is a relief to most NTE's

But bottom line is not enough invested to make a big enough impact, e.g Hood Canal bridge

*Laura shares the pdf for the white paper Sam mentioned*

Sam reviews allocation formula in terms of PSAR, capital fund to every lead entity every biennium is just above \$1million. This year is a smaller regular SRFB year without PSAR

Sam: going back to beginning of salmon recovery program, there's been a value put on 'no watershed left behind'. Not abandon any watershed for the purposes of focusing elsewhere, each is important with its own unique species and tribal concerns

Each Lead entity was given opportunity to give quick presentation about why we feel we are doing the right projects in the right places, I presented about our priorities in the San Juans

Two big things going on for this year:

- San Juan Chapter Update Progress

We met this week, Susan O'Neill from ESA (Environmental Science Associates) is back helping facilitate and coach after a 3month hiatus, now assisting via contract from PS Partnership

Sam shows timeline and workplan, aim for final product by end of 2021. We'll spend a CAG meeting reviewing nearshore and freshwater goals

- SRFB Grant Round Planning

Reminders of some upcoming dates: Grant applications due on 4/21for SRFB round, 3 proposals

Virtual site visits will take up our May MRC meeting time

Salmon recovery conference April 28-30<sup>th</sup>, if you want to register it's open now \$30 for virtual conf.

Sam urges attendance. The virtual conference format has improved over the past year

10:58 AM **Adjourn MRC and CAG meeting**