

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Laura Jo Severson

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Byron Rot, Kendra Smith, Sam Whitridge

8:30 AM *informal pre-meeting discussion about the possibility of meeting in-person*

8:40 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.*

8:40 AM **Public Comment**

*none*

8:41 AM **Approve June MRC meeting minutes**

*Christina Koons*

A few edits incorporated. No quorum - table approval until another member can join

8:44 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

*Christina Koons*

The commission has adopted a new Tribal acknowledgement. Presentation by Jefferson county, ROV's to pick up derelict crab pots. Shoreline master program work group initiated in Island county to share knowledge - would be good to have SJC representative in work group. WDFW won't be able to process forage fish samples collected by MRC's after July 16. Dana will discuss this further. Maybe we can act on this by August, request Governor's emergency budget to WDFW? Christina will keep us posted. MRC retreat will be about climate

Q: is the Coast Salish acknowledgement by county or should we follow NW Straits'?

Christina: it was offered to other MRC's to use it, but SJC already has their own.

Kendra: SJC's started as part of Earth Day 2020, Deborah Lekanoff edited, added key parts  
 NWSC acknowledgement: "We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes."

ACTION ITEM: discuss this with LIO, may be an opportunity to switch acknowledgements

8:56 AM **Return to approval of the June Minutes with a quorum**

*Christina Koons*

Phil moves to approve the minutes with the incorporated edits, Lovel seconds. Approved

9:00 AM **San Juan County Salmon Recovery Chapter: Progress Update** *Sam Whitridge*

Aiming to put out first draft by end of summer, finishing off technical details now. Bringing in CAG for before completion so we can incorporate feedback. This is a high-level quick review.

Sam provides background on the process. We were able to piggyback on PS partnership funding with ESA Environmental Science Associates and contract with Susan O'Neil. Used existing chapter updates as guide, included policy, regulatory goals, habitat and implementation targets – taking into account restoration and habitat degradation looking at goals over a 50-year period and shorter implementation goals over a 10-year period. Sam reviews an outline of the plan elements. The goals, targets, and strategies are central. For Freshwater: Relative lack of data compared with nearshore. Most goals are qualitative rather than quantitative. Identified research needs and data gaps. Built targets around flow, riparian, fish accessibility, water quality, and invasive aquatic species. Sam shows one restoration strategy as an example. Implementation targets by 2030. List of 12 Strategies: designed to address goals and targets. These have been compiled into a set of “one-pagers”. Each strategy shows habitat goals it supports and associated implementation targets. Plan a map for each showing priority areas, still GIS work to do. Planning a July meeting, aim to finish draft by Fall then bring in stakeholders for feedback

QUESTIONS

Q: in terms of regulatory, incorporate Tina's armor change analysis? And San Juan Initiative that did research work as of 2012 with 2016 report?

Sam: we'll cite those specifically in places in strategies. Also in references and context. Plan to cite all that's been done. Tina has helped a lot, especially with PIAT analysis and nearshore

Kendra: I want a table with responsible parties, and costs so I can quickly pull up locations where actions need to occur. Need management tool to convert plan into Capitol improvement, translate into necessary investment to deliver those targets. This is a heavy lift

Sam: communicating our message to PS Partnership is a priority, e.g. culverts, development

Q: about marine infrastructure - yesterday some friends who have been sailing in SJ's said 2 out of 3 pump-out stations they visited weren't open. One has been closed since covid began

ACTION ITEM: Christina find which ones not working, but should be monitored regularly!

Kendra: responsibility of Ecology, has a campaign, Pump-out don't Dump Out. We've been in discussions with them about the need here. One struggle is that we don't have wastewater treatment plants except for FH that can handle the effluent, concentrations are too high.

1. Boaters taking our water, and 2. Leaving effluent. Ecology is aware of these issues

ACTION ITEM: Kendra call Ecology, tell them which ones aren't working, ask them to present

Christina: we need review and monthly reporting on all of the pump-out stations

-everyone likes the idea of a presentation from Ecology about this, lots of concern on this

Jeff: I'll try to find out more about the mobile unit that the port of Lopez put together

ACTION ITEM: Sam send Byron the restoration/protection map to correct, give comments

#### 9:43 AM **Project Updates**

•PFSS-SeaBin, Plastic Free July

*Sam Whitridge and Karin Roemers-Kleven*

**SeaBin** has been installed at Deer Harbor, Frankie wrote a blurb about how it arrived. It's between slips 4 & 5 on south side of the marina. There have been a lot of questions so next step is some educational signage. After summer it can be removed and installed elsewhere

**Plastic Free July** theme for month, attention to plastic-reduction goals. County adopted

**Adopt-a-beach** program on PFSS website. At Eagle Cove, 6 people, met on the beach to discuss that spot. It has become popular, frequently 75-100 cars parked. We check weekly. People didn't want to deal with taking away the garbage, Karin volunteered to take it **Catch-more-crab** program, Jeff etc. Received cards, Karin and Jeff distributed them to Kings and IMC respectively. Catch more crab is a positive campaign aiming to prevent derelict pots Kendra: now we have some help from Angela Broadlick, doing some strategic media work. Pushing out PFSS, whale flags, also writing press releases, etc. Christina is going to help with some guest articles. Our department just changed name to Environmental Stewardship dept., no longer a division of Public Works. Also added climate and sustainability work.

- MSA Plan updates – kelp/seagrass, subtidal, and intertidal sections *Pema Kitaeff*  
Draft plan in final stages of being pulled together. Pema wrote a small amount of text for these three sections but mostly copied text directly from 2020 Marine Manager workshop.  
ACTION ITEM: Pema reach out to Kendra in next week or two with draft plan and invoice

- Whale Warning Flag outreach *Sam Whitridge*  
Already covered above, Christina: there's some great PR right now  
Kendra: sheriff dept. officers have been instructed by Frankie. There's a training video  
Sam: there was an article about the training video in the Islander with the video linked

#### 10:03 AM **Member news and any other business**

Level: at last meeting discussed recommending that SJ County council send a letter to State insurance commissioner, asking them to work with Tribes, etc. There's a good summary of opposition to the project by several Tribes in a press release Earth Justice put out in 2019, that was the basis for drafting this letter. We had planned to resolve this by email, but it's still timely for Council to send this letter now. Current insurance coverage ends by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Everyone should have received the draft letter via email, any questions for Level about that?  
MOTION: Level moves MRC recommend county council send this draft letter to State insurance commissioner, Megan seconds. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passes  
ACTION ITEM: Kendra work with Jamie to get this in front of council on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Sam: next item, current comment period open through August 5<sup>th</sup> on Ecology's draft guidance for marine net pen aquaculture. Does any individual or MRC want to comment?  
Context: this picks up on effort halted in 2017 after net pen failure off of Cypress island. In 2018 legislature adopted house bill 2957, prohibits new aquaculture raising non-native fish. Even native species in net pens still issues beyond collapse/escapement, e.g. Lice, disease  
ACTION ITEM: Sam will send this document out to group in case anyone wants to comment  
Level: Wild Fish Conservancy is providing comments, that may be a good template.  
Kendra: do you have that information? We can ask the Council to reaffirm their position on net pens not allowing them in County, focus on restoration of wild salmon and steelhead.  
MOTION: Level moves that county staff prepare comments for council to consider, Christina seconds, all in favor. Motion passes  
ACTION ITEM: Level can connect Kendra with Wild Fish Conservancy comments

Megan: Aaron Barnett called me from the Pump-out program/WA Sea Grant. He'd like to hear directly from someone who knows what's going on with the failed pump-out station  
ACTION ITEM: Christina will ask her friend to provide text regarding their experience with the pump-out station. BUT that's not a solution, there needs to be some monthly monitoring  
ACTION ITEM: Christina call Aaron Barnett, 360-316-9679. a sensor to pick up July 14th, needs somewhere on Orcas with internet to download. Christina and Sam will figure out together.  
Karin: write something in local paper? Pump-out don't Dump-out is a great slogan. Outreach to inform people about what infrastructure is available so they can plan?  
Christina: but it's not County's responsibility it's Ecology  
Megan: and SeaGrant, which is all about communication

-Christina: we're having elections as chair and vice-chair in August, Karin and Christina want to continue in their roles. Christina can't attend next month, and Karin will preside.

-Circle back to discussion of meet in person: Maybe quarterly meeting in person?  
- if anyone is un-vaccinated, they should mask up and unvaccinated people can un-mask.  
Everyone likes the idea of zoom meetings with quarterly in-person meeting  
Kendra: so maybe September could be in-person? and then December, March and June  
-some presentations often better in person but some may be more able to present via zoom  
Kendra: from efficiency and climate footprint perspective, less car and ferry travel for staff.  
-possibility for blended in-person/zoom meeting, with a central mic if wi-fi is sufficient

10:29 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting** *Christina Koons*

10:29 AM **CAG business** *Sam Whitridge*

- Update on SRFB grant round

coming to end of grant round, at August meeting need to approve ranked list and decide if we're submitting this 1 project for (partial) funding, the McArdle Bay easement proposal. The project sponsor met with SRFB review panel. Vickie made small updates they asked for and re-submitted. TAG meets July 13 for final evaluation then send recommendation to CAG. Sam will send score sheets via email, please come to August meeting ready to review and approve. If not available for August meeting, please send scores in advance  
Q: how does partial funding work?  
Sam: agree to commit remaining funding out of next year's allocation.  
ACTION ITEM: Sam will send link to PRISM site and describe new attachments in email  
-some discussion of public money used to protect land only accessible to private owners  
Level: if one of our priorities is protection as opposed to restoration, easements are one of the most effective tools other than outright purchase. But this is a good policy discussion. May be helpful for us as a group to have some sort of decision tree to identify priorities.  
Sam: nearshore protection is one of our strategies, that helps. I'll bring this to July 13 TAG

10:43 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**