



**WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUMMARY**

Scheduled for: **June 2, 2022**
 Time: **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 Join Zoom Meeting: **Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85730030249>**
Meeting ID: 857 3003 0249
Passcode: 98225
One tap mobile: +1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

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 Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.

1.		Introductions and Determine Quorum
2.	5:00	June 2 Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		Approval of May meeting summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:10	Boulevard Park Restoration – Jim Johannesen, Coastal Geologic Services Objective: Provide committee with information on proposed Boulevard Park Shoreline and Public Access Improvements project.
6.	5:30	North Chuckanut – No-Anchor Zone – Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Objective: Allow NWSC staff to discuss proposed layout for the voluntary no-anchor site, buoy placement, and roles of the NW Straits and Whatcom MRC.
7.	5:50	Staff Update: summer meeting schedule, presentation to County Council – Surface Water Work Session (June 14). Objective: Provide staff with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
8.	5:40	Project Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia oyster • SW Lummi Island beach cleanup • Beach seine with kids • Education and Outreach – What’s the Point
9.	6:00	MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWIN/Speaker Series (Austin) – Water Week 2022, JEDI Trainings • County Council • Port of Bellingham – Kurt B. • NWSC – Bob C.
10.	6:15	Adjourn

If you're not on our Northwest Straits Commission newsletter list, you can join here: <https://www.nwstraits.org/get-involved/join-the-mailing-list/>

Whatcom County boards, commissions, and advisory committees are currently following State Open Public Meetings Act amended requirements by holding all meetings remotely. Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

In Attendance: Heather Spore (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Lorence, Alex, Paul Troutman, Mike MacKay, Kurt Baumgarten, Andrew Gamble, Jim Boyle, Colin Wahl, Elma Burnham, Todd Donovan

Others: Christopher Grannis, Ava, Ross Cragie, Kate Grinde, Gina Austin, Larry Horowitz, Elizabeth, myipad, Janet Migaki, Allie Simpson, Jim Johannessen, Michael Ingalls, Paul Brock, Mia Somenek, Jana Turner, Lori Rubens, Dana Oster, dbour, Matthew Larson, jilcampione, Christopher Brown,

(names are recorded as presented on zoom)

1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Heather Spore chaired the meeting as the MRC Chair was not able to be present. There were no introductions.
2. **June 2 Agenda:** A revised agenda was shared as additional items were added including: a presentation from Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) staff regarding the proposed voluntary no-anchor zone in Chuckanut Bay, and an update on the What's the Point event. The revised agenda was approved when quorum was established.
3. **Approval of May meeting summary:** The May meeting summary was approved, with an edit to the Port of Bellingham report. The edit was provided by Kurt Baumgarten in the chat.
4. **Public comment period:** Isaac Nicholl, Whatcom County Health Department, informed the group that the [Whatcom County Food System Committee](#) is developing a 10-year food system plan. In developing the food system plan, the committee is gathering input from other county committees, including the MRC. Committee members were encouraged to complete a [survey](#) reflecting on the food system plan goals. Janet Migaki shared her concerns about the proposed stormwater management plan for the Jones subdivision and its impacts to North Chuckanut Bay.
5. **Boulevard Park Restoration:** Gina Austin, City of Bellingham Parks Department and Jim Johannessen, Coastal Geologic Services presented on a project in which they were seeking letters of support for an application to the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account through the Recreation Conservation Office. Gina and Jim provided the project details as well as the constraints and opportunities for fixing shoreline erosion at Boulevard Park. The project, titled "Boulevard Park Phase 2 beach nourishment/enhancement project", extends south from Woods Coffee to the overwater walkway along the beach inside the trestle. Goals of the project include: beach creation/nourishment, rip rap armor removal, mitigating erosion, and relocating the trail. A conceptual design of proposed conditions was shared.
6. **North Chuckanut No-Anchor Zone:** Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission, reminded the group that the Commission is leading a regional expansion of the voluntary no-anchor zones. Chuckanut Bay was previously identified as a suitable site for a no-anchor zone. A draft map of a tentative layout of the zone based on the most recent DNR eelgrass data (2008) was shared. An updated eelgrass survey will be needed. A meeting can be set up for members interested in the project to discuss the plan in further detail. Dana asked for feedback and would like approval from the MRC to move forward with permitting by August, and Commission staff will reach out to other organizations/communities with interest in the project. Data sheets are available for members to conduct vessel counts to assess the anchor activity.
7. **Staff Update:** The committee decided to cancel the July meeting and continue meeting in August. Staff reminded the group of the opportunity to present to County Council members at the Surface Water Work Session on June 14. Alex will work with staff on the presentation.
8. **Project Updates**
 - **Olympia oyster:** The Olympia oyster survey in N. Chuckanut Bay was completed by Bellingham Technical College students. Data and photos have yet to be shared. Twelve bags of Pacific oyster shell were placed within six of the plots to assess for larvae recruitment next year.
 - **SW Lummi Island beach cleanup:** The cleanup is scheduled for July 14. The MRC will work with Specialized Marine Transport who will provide a landing craft to transport volunteers from Squalicum Harbor to the southwest side of Lummi Island. The MRC intern is currently working on a flyer to recruit additional volunteers from Lummi Island. The detailed flyer will be shared with the MRC. The boat can transport 15 volunteers.
 - **Beach seine with kids:** On May 10, the MRC worked with a fourth-grade class from Silver Beach Elementary to conduct a seine at Boulevard Park. An MRC member provided an in-class preparation with students the day before to review field

Whatcom County boards, commissions, and advisory committees are currently following State Open Public Meetings Act amended requirements by holding all meetings remotely. Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

sheet protocols. The group was joined by Paul Cline, Lummi Tribal member who taught students about the 5 C's (cool water, clean water, connectivity, clear water, and complexity) to keep salmon healthy. A seine was performed at the open beach near Woods Coffee and caught 52 chum and 2 chinook. Students worked in pairs for record species, size, clips, etc. The class also raised chum salmon in their school from eyed eggs to fry and then released them in their neighborhood stream. It is likely that some of the chum caught in the seine were those fish.

- **Education and Outreach – What's the Point:** Alex reminded the committee that the MRC will have a table at What's the Point, Saturday, June 18, 1:00pm – 5:00pm. "What's the Point" is a community event to raise the awareness of the special resources protected in the "Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve" managed by Washington Department of Natural Resources. The event is being held Semiahmoo due to the stairs needing repair at Point Whitehorn. Alex asked for more volunteer help to staff booth and will send an e-mail with details.

9. MRC Partner Committee Updates:

- **WWIN/Speaker Series:** Whatcom Water Week will be held September 10 -18. The MRC was asked to partner with the Ocean Conservancy, Surfrider Foundation, and Re Sources for the International Coastal Cleanup schedule for September 17 10:00am – noon, tentatively occurring at Locust Beach.

- **County Council:** The Whatcom Shoreline Master Plan is back at Ecology. Information and links will be forwarded to Austin.

- **Port of Bellingham:** An open house was well attended at Bellingham Technical College where Port staff were able to share information about the Little Squalicum Habitat Beach project was well attended. The beach closure and park closure will likely close on June 13. Sea Grant is looking for feedback on a 2024-2027 Strategic Plan via this survey:

<https://wsg.washington.edu/help-shape-washington-sea-grants-strategic-plan/>

- **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):** The Northwest Straits is tentatively planning for an in-person conference this year, to be held on November 18-19 at Maple Hall in La Conner, Skagit County. Members were asked for insight on whether they felt comfortable meeting in person.

10. Adjourn: Adjourn at 6:24pm. The next MRC meeting will be held on August 4.