



**WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**April 4th, 2024 5:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**Garden Level Conference Room, Civic Annex Building**  
**Or ZOOM [LINK](#)**  
**Meeting ID: 848 5509 7034 | Passcode 280586**  
**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.		<b>Introductions and Determine Quorum</b>
2.	5:00	<b>April 4 Agenda</b> <b>Action:</b> Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		<b>Approval of February and March Meeting Summaries</b> <b>Action:</b> Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		<b>Community Updates</b> <b>Objective:</b> Community members attending the meeting who wish to address or update the Committee on Committee related matters will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak.
5.	5:15	<b>MRC Vice-Chair Election</b> <b>Action:</b> Elect MRC Vice-Chair nominee, Rick Beauregard.
6.	5:20	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olympia oyster – Drayton and Chuckanut</li> <li>• Wildcat Cove</li> <li>• Kelp</li> <li>• Remote Beach Cleanup</li> <li>• <a href="#">Beach Seine with Kids</a></li> </ul> <b>Objective:</b> Provide project leads with opportunity to update the full MRC on status of projects.
7.	5:45	<b>The Woods at Viewcrest Notice of Application</b> <b>Discussion:</b> Committee will discuss <a href="#">application materials</a> and options to provide public comment.
8.	6:15	<b>Staff Updates</b> – DEI Project Planning, new appointments, member expectations, <a href="#">Surface Water Work Session</a> , <a href="#">Northwest Straits 101</a> <b>Objective:</b> Provide staff with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
9.	6:45	<b>MRC Partner Committee Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWIN – Climate Adaptation Series, Outreach Training</li> <li>• County Council</li> <li>• Port of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Blaine</li> <li>• Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)</li> </ul>
10.	7:00	<b>Adjourn</b>

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/>

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 2, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, [ZOOM](#). Please check out the [MRC calendar](#) for meeting dates and formats.

**In Attendance:** Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Heather Spore (Chair), Joe Hoats, Dan Sulak, Avery Maverick, Rick Beauregard, Jace Cotton Jackie Dexter, Mary Lou Steward, Jim Boyle, Kaylee Galloway, Beth Lorence, Kathy Ketteridge

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**Others:** Julie Hirsch (Garden of the Salish Sea), Paul Troutman, Anna Theobald, Mayah DeMartino, Alan Chapman, Elma Burnham

**1. Introductions and Quorum:** Heather began the meeting with roundtable introductions. A quorum was present.

**2. April 4 Agenda:** Agenda was approved with additions (shown in track changes).

**3. Approval of February and March Meeting Summaries:** Meeting summaries were approved.

**4. Community Updates:** Paul Troutman updated the committee about the Jones Subdivision proposed development. The City has issued a Notice of Application, which starts a 30-day comment period. Paul encouraged the MRC to express their concerns about the development and its impact to Chuckanut Bay. Julie Hirsch, Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum (GSSC), mentioned that their program is ramping up for the Spring season. GSSC would like to coordinate with anyone doing field education. The GSSC is focused on marine debris and is planning a pick-up at Maritime Heritage on April 27. The GSSC is actively promoting student internships and will send details to Austin.

**5. MRC Vice-Chair Election:** The committee approved the election of Rick Beauregard as MRC Vice-Chair.

#### **6. Project Updates:**

- **Olympia oyster** – Jackie has secured 24 cubic feet of seasoned shell from the Drayton Harbor Oyster Company to place in the N. Chuckanut Bay plots. Jackie suggested placing more shell towards the outflow to hopefully catch larvae settlement. BTC students will be helping with the population survey, shell disbursement, and tile placement in N. Chuckanut Bay on May 8. Jackie is working with Ryan Crim, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, to complete a population survey in Drayton Harbor. Population survey methods by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community will be incorporated into the projects this year.
- **Wildcat Cove** – MRC staff will be meeting with WA State Parks staff to discuss the roll out of the social marketing materials developed by Shew Designs. Posters and rack cards will be given to the park in early June, just before the crabbing season. Staff are also working to secure interns that can engage with boaters at the dock and talk about best practices to preserve eelgrass – such as launching at a higher tide. Members discussed also distributing materials at fishing and shell fishing licensing locations.
- **Kelp** – The 2024 Kelp Kick-off meeting is May 1, 10am-2pm, at the Padilla Bay Reserve. Participants will go over safety protocols, data collection procedures, and general preparation for the season. The NW Straits is also offering a free kayak safety training at Bowman Bay on June 5, June 29, and/or June 30.
- **Remote Beach Cleanup** – The Lummi Island Heritage Trust has given the green light for the MRC to lead a beach cleanup along the SW shore of Lummi Island. A date needs to be identified. MRC staff will create a poll to find a date that works.
- **Beach Seine with Kids** – All the field events and pre and post event classroom visits have been scheduled. Extra help would be much appreciated. The Northwest Straits Foundation will be offering interns, and WCC crew members will also help when available.

**7. The Woods at Viewcrest Notice of Application:** The City of Bellingham issued a Notice of Application for a 38-plot plat on the north side of N. Chuckanut Bay. This opened a public comment period, which closes on April 24. MRC staff referenced the comment letter the MRC drafted in late 2022. MRC staff will add the letter into Google docs for members to suggest edits or additions via track changes. A deadline will be set for members to approve via e-mail and staff will submit before the 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Staff Updates:**

- **DEI Project Planning:** The Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) is working with The Athena Group to to develop and implement a comprehensive DEI assessment framework for NWSI, designed to capture and analyze the current state of DEI sentiments. This framework will emphasize a repeatable, outcome-focused process that provides actionable insights, fostering a culture of inclusive communication and establishing a benchmark for what a truly inclusive space can look and feel like within NWSI and its MRCs. By engaging partners and volunteers with diverse lived experiences, this initiative will not only guide NWSI through its next phase of DEI efforts but also empower MRCs to evaluate and enhance their own practices, aligning with NWSI's core values and mission. The goal is to identify and address the top issues impacting DEI, setting a precedent for actionable change and continuous learning within the organization while expanding its reach within communities. MRC Staff will keep the committee updated as this project evolves.

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- **New Appointments:** The MRC Executive Committee recommended the appointment of Andrew Shelton to fill the Economic vacancy. The recommendation is set to be on the April 9 Council agenda.
- **Member Expectations:** MRC staff reminded the committee about their by-laws. As new members are appointed it is worth re-visiting that document to ensure everyone understands and is comfortable with the member expectations.
- **Surface Water Work Session:** The MRC Annual Report presentation is scheduled for 10:15am at the April 16 Surface Water Work Session. Austin has prepared the presentation and encouraged members to join if available. It is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting.
- **Northwest Straits 101:** The Northwest Straits Commission is available to join an upcoming MRC meeting to provide a Northwest Straits 101. This is a great overview of the history of the Northwest Straits Initiative – which can be beneficial for both current and new members to the MRC.

#### 9. MRC Partner Committee Updates:

- **WWIN** – The Climate Adaptation Speaker Series will begin on April 17, 6-7pm, via zoom, featuring climate and water supply. This series of events will focus on how the changing climate impacts our natural resources and what measures are being taken at a local level to adapt our plans and actions. The second presentation is scheduled for Monday, April 29, 5:30-6:30 via zoom, featuring flood risk and shoreline impacts. WWIN is hosting an outreach training on May 3. This is an opportunity to share outreach practices and displays. This training will be held on Friday, May 3, 9:30am – 12:00, at the WECU Ferndale Education Center.
- **County Council:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 9. Council will be reviewing the docket – a planning document – which, the Council reviews every year. Council is in the process of identifying a consultant for the Forest Resilience Task Force. Executive Sidhu recently announced the appointment of Kayla Schott-Bresler as Deputy Executive. The Council is already thinking about the next biennium budget, any input from the MRC is welcome.
- **Port of Bellingham:** no update
- **City of Bellingham:** The Council of the Whole will meet on Monday, April 8, and will feature a presentation on Post Point.
- **City of Blaine:** Audio not working. Pertinent information will be shared via e-mail.
- **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):** Commission meeting highlights were shared via e-mail prior to the meeting.

#### 10. Adjourn

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