



MRC Members

Glen Alexander (“Alex”)
Citizen-at-Large
Term 2: 01/21/2027

Rick Beauregard (Vice-Chair)
Scientific
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Jace Cotton
City of Bellingham, Council

Jackie Dexter
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Mark Fairhart
Citizen-at-large
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kaylee Galloway
Designated, County Council

Alexi Guddal
Conservation/Environmental
Partial: 01/31/2026

Joe Hoats
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kathy Ketteridge
Citizen-at-Large
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Elizabeth Lorence
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Mike MacKay
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2028

Avery Maverick
Recreational
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Andrew Shelton
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Heather Spore (Chair)
Scientific
Term 1: 01/31/2025

Mary Lou Steward
City of Blaine, Mayor

Dan Sulak
Recreational
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Colin Wahl
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2025

WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY | December 5, 2024 5:00pm – 7:00pm
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.		Introductions and Determine Quorum
2.		December 5 Agenda
		Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.	5:15	Approval of November Meeting Summary
		Action: Review and approve summary as final.
4.		Community Updates
		Objective: 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.	5:30	Nominations for MRC Officer Positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, NWSC rep., NWSC alt. rep)
		Action: Confirm nominations and discussion.
6.	5:40	MRC Partner Committee Updates:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • Port of Bellingham • City of Bellingham • City of Blaine • Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)
7.		Staff and Executive Committee Updates: Introduce Alexi to the Committee, Member Expectations
		Objective: Provide opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
8.	6:00	MRC Project Discussion
		Objective: Discuss existing and new project ideas for the MRC to submit in the 2025-2027 grant proposal.
9.	~7:00	Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, ~~January 2nd~~ **January 9th**, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, **ZOOM Hybrid**. Please check out the [MRC calendar](#) for meeting dates and formats.

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are to contact MRC Staff at least 4 business days in advance.

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In Attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Glen Alexander “Alex”, Rick Beauregard, Kaylee Galloway, Avery Maverick, Beth Lorence, Mike MacKay, Heather Spore, Jackie Dexter, Andrew Shelton, Dan Sulak, Kathy Ketteridge, Mary Lou Steward, and Joe Hoats.

Others: Alan Chapman

- 1) **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Austin began the meeting with the land acknowledgment. A quorum was established.
- 2) **December 5th Agenda:** The December agenda was approved.
- 3) **November Meeting Summary:** The November meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Community Updates:** No community updates were provided.
- 5) **Nominations for MRC Officer Positions:** The MRC had an open discussion about members that would be interested in filling officer positions for 2025.
 - MRC Chair: Andrew Shelton volunteered to fill the MRC chair position
 - MRC Vice Chair: Kathy Ketteridge volunteered to fill the MRC vice chair position and Beth Lorence volunteered as a back-up.
 - NWSC Representative: Rick Beauregard volunteered to fill this position.
 - NWSC Rep Alternate: Mike MacKay volunteered to fill this position.
- 6) **MRC Partner Committee Updates**
 - **County Council:** Councilwoman Galloway shared that County Council passed the 2025 county budget, despite many tough decisions. Kaylee discussed that there will still likely be budget cuts over the next couple of years, and that the county is doing much more than it has in the past including wading into new territory on child care (healthy children’s fund), social service spaces (cold weather shelters), etc. County Council is also continuing to discuss the comprehensive plan, and Kaylee recommended that the MRC remain engaged in helping to balance the environmental and natural resources components with growth and development in our county. The MRC discussed the need for researching, advising, and implementing more innovative mitigation methods within county planning/development spaces. Councilwoman Galloway also shared that council also passed amendments regarding high impact industry uses in the Bellingham UGA, enhancing the prohibited uses in heavy impact industry zones. More conversations will need to happen around zoning in balancing the need for increased housing with limited growth areas and the impacts of climate change.
 - **Port of Bellingham:** No update
 - **City of Bellingham:** No update
 - **City of Blaine:** Mayor Mary Lou Steward shared that she is tracking down information about the outflow study happening in Drayton Harbor, but many folks were out at the most recent staff meeting, so she will share more information with the MRC as she finds out more.
 - **NWSC:** There was no Commission meeting in November, but the 2024 NWSI Conference took place on the 15th and 16th.
- 7) **Staff and Committee Updates:**
 - Austin announced that Alexi Guddal was appointed to the MRC in an environmental/conservation seat.

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- Austin also discussed the need for the committee to determine and vote on member expectations moving in to 2025. Austin and Dana have been in communication with other MRC staff to get a better idea of MRC committee expectations from other counties so that the Whatcom MRC has ideas to build upon.
- 8) **MRC Project Discussion:** The MRC spent an hour discussing existing and new project ideas for the MRC to submit in their 2025-2027 grant proposal. These ideas are summarized in the “2025-2027 MRC Grant Project Ideas/ Next Steps for Current Projects” document.
- 9) **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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