



WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
 January 18, 2024 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Second Floor Conference Room, Civic Annex Building
Or ZOOM [LINK](#)
Meeting ID: 854 0439 8726 | Passcode 98225
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.		January 18 Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.	5:00	Approval of December 7 meeting summary Action: Review and approve summaries 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.	5:15	2023 Comprehensive Plan Review Kick-off – Cliff Strong with PDS will provide an overview of the task and process for the Committee’s review of Chap 10/ Environment.
6.	5:35	Confirmation of MRC Officer Positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, NWSC rep. NWSC alt. rep) Action: Confirm nominations submitted on google form and discussion.
7.	5:40	Facilitated Discussion about Bolstering the MRC’s Communication with County Council - Hilary Wilkinson with Triangle Associates
8.	6:45	MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • Port of Bellingham • Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)
9.	7:00	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/>

In attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Jim Boyle, Elizabeth Lorence, Glen “Alex” Alexander, Rick Beauregard, Colin Wahl, Mike MacKay, Heather Spore, Dan Sulak, Kaylee Galloway (County Council), Kathy Ketteridge,

Others: Hilary Wilkinson (Triangle Associates), Pricilla Drewry (Whatcom County Planning & Development Services), Allie Simpson, Piper Olsen, Bob Cecile, Jace Cotton (Bellingham City Council), Avery Maverick, Julie Hirsch, Kim Clarkin, Eleanor Hines, Alan Chapman

Due to inclement weather this meeting was held virtually.

1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Heather began the meeting with round table introduction. A quorum was present.
2. **January 18 Agenda:** The January agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of December 7 meeting summary:** The December MRC meeting summary was approved.
4. **Community Updates:** Councilwoman Galloway shared the city council update during community updates. The summary is listed below under “MRC Partner Updates”. There were no other community updates.
5. **2023 Comprehensive Plan Review Kick-off:** Pricilla Drewry with PDS shared an update about the Comprehensive Plan review process. The Comp Plan is the master document that describes what the county wishes to achieve over the next 20 years. PDS

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is visiting councils and advisory committees to determine what needs to be updated in the document including goals/policies, explanatory texts, exhibits/maps, and any new issues that need to be addressed. This update needs to be completed by June 2025. Each committee is being asked to focus on the parts of the plan that pertain to their particular advisory role. For the MRC, this includes the Marine Resources section of Chapter 8: Resource Lands and Chapter 10: Environment. The MRC is being asked to think about major issues that need to be addressed or amended. This includes big picture items regarding changes in state laws and addressing councils' priorities. PDS staff will return to the MRC's February 1st meeting to discuss these topics. Each member is encouraged to compile their own list prior to the meeting, then a master list will be compiled and approved by the MRC during the meeting. This list will be utilized by a consultant who will draft amendments based on the MRC's recommendations (This will occur March-mid summer). During the late summer/ early fall, PDS staff will return to an MRC meeting to review and edit the amendments made by the consultant. The committee is being asked for comments in the sections outlined above, but public comments can be made in other chapters independently of the MRC.

6. **Confirmation of MRC Officer Positions:** All officer nominations were accepted: MRC Chair: Heather, MRC Vice Chair: Elma (was confirmed via email), NWSC Rep: Mike, NWSC Rep Alternate: Beth Lorence.
7. **Facilitated Discussion** by Hilary Wilkinson with Triangle Associates. The summary document from this discussion is attached separately.
8. **MRC Partner Committee Updates:**
 - **County Council:** Councilwoman Galloway shared that she has been reappointed as the MRC council representative. The next council meeting will take place on January 23rd. The MRC budget is on the finance committee's agenda for next week. There is a public hearing for the Comprehensive Parks Recreation and open space (CPROS) plan on county council's agenda for next week. Councilwoman Galloway encouraged the MRC to read through the [document](#) as it includes many marine resource components and also provides a great overview of Whatcom's park resources.
 - **Port of Bellingham:** No updates
 - **City Council:** Jace Cotton introduced himself as city council representative. Jace expressed interest in increasing the city's awareness of the work the MRC is doing.
 - **NWSC:** Allie Simpson shared NWSC meeting highlights, which included thanking Bob Cecile for his dedication and service to the NWSC, a presentation from US Fish and Wildlife about their coastal program, the acceptance of the NWSC's proposal to the UW Evan's School to create a community needs assessment framework for MRCs to use, and updates to the kelp plan website. The next commission meeting is being held in Whatcom county and Whatcom MRC members are invited to give a presentation.
9. **Adjourn**

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