



**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

Mary Lou Steward  
City of Blaine, Mayor

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

**Vacancies**

Scientific Interest  
Recreation Interest  
Nooksack Tribe Representative  
Lummi Nation Representative

**WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING SUMMARY | February 6, 2025 5:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**ZOOM [LINK](#), Meeting ID: 829 8756 4534 | Passcode 868735**  
**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.*

Time	Agenda Item	Lead	Action Y/N
1.	<b>Introductions and Determine Quorum</b>	Andrew	
2.	<b>February 6 Agenda</b> <i>Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.</i>	Andrew	Y
3.	<b>Approval of January Meeting Summary</b> <i>Review and approve summary as final.</i>		
4.	<b>Community Updates</b> <i>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.</i>		
5.	5:15 <b>Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) Partnerships:</b> Don Hunger, Director, NWSF	Don	
6.	5:30 <b>Whatcom 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update – Climate Element:</b> Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager, Whatcom County Public Works  <i>March 20<sup>th</sup> comment deadline</i>	Lauren	Y Memo
7.	6:00 <b>Stormwater System Redesign:</b> Alice Cords, Environmental Specialist, Port of Bellingham	Alice	
8.	6:30 <b>MRC Partner Committee Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council</li> <li>• Port of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Blaine</li> <li>• Northwest Straits Commission</li> <li>• Bellingham Bay Action Team</li> </ul>	Kaylee Kurt Jace Mary Lou Rick	
9.	6:45 <b>Staff Updates:</b> Member expectations and guidelines, comp plan, SeaFeast  <i>Approval of Policies and Procedures addendum.</i>	Austin and Dana	Y
10	~7:00 <b>Adjourn</b>		

**Next Meeting:** Thursday March 6, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, ZOOM. 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), Rick Beauregard, Mark Fairhart, Joe Hoats, Glen Alexander, Alexi Guddal, Jackie Dexter, Avery Maverick, Mike MacKay, Kaylee Galloway, Andrew Shelton

**Others:** Ellen O'Toole, Garden of the Salish Curriculum (GSSC), Alice Cords, Lauren Clemens, Julie Hirsh (GSSC), Jeff Whitty, Don Hunger (NWSF), Jennifer Allen, Kat Garrah, Paul Meyers

- 1) **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Andrew began the meeting with the land acknowledgment and introductions. A quorum was established.
- 2) **February 6th Agenda:** The February agenda was approved.
- 3) **January Meeting Summary:** The January meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Community Updates:**
  - Ellen O'Toole shared information about an organized beach cleanup scheduled for Sunday, February 16 from 1-3 at Marine Park, Blaine. The GSSC is looking for volunteers to help with intertidal species ID on Sunday, March 2, 12-1:30pm at Birch Bay State Park.
  - Don Hunger extended an invitation to the Northwest Straits Foundation Scholars Reception, March 29, at the Padilla Bay Reserve. The Caroline Gibson Scholars will be presenting their research application to Salish Sea conservation and stewardship.
  - The NWSF will be hosting a spring celebration at Larrabee State Park, to celebrate collaboration with the MRCs – particularly Whatcom and the eelgrass work at Wildcat Cove.
- 5) **NWSF Partnerships Update:** Don Hunger described the NWSF, and ways they can support the MRCs and their projects. 2025 grant prospects were shared. The NWSF accepts project support funding requests from MRCs year-round. The ability to support requests depends on corporate, foundation, and donor support. A project funding request form is available.
- 6) **Whatcom 2025 Comp Plan Update:** Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager, Whatcom County Public Works, explained that the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County to review and revise its comprehensive plan and development regulations by December 31, 2025. One change in the GMA that affects the 2025 update is the addition of a climate change/planning element. A draft of the climate chapter was included in the MRC meeting packet. Lauren encouraged the committee to review the draft chapter and provide feedback, particularly on policies related to marine resources. It is preferred that comments be submitted by March 20. The chapter will be in the MRC's google drive for members to make comments/edits. The MRC can make a formal motion to accept/ recommend revisions at the March 6 meeting. Documentation of reasoning and focusing comments on specific policies, is encouraged.
- 7) **Stormwater System Redesign:** Alice Cords, Port of Bellingham (POB), described the POB stormwater program. The Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit and the Port Industrial Stormwater General Permit were detailed along with the Port's implementation of those permits. Alice described stormwater redevelopment and improvement sites within Bellingham. The Port is active in Green Marine, in which continuous improvements are required to keep that certification. Port re-development areas that are connected to the ASB will require stormwater treatment prior to the ASB going offline, which is planned several years in the future. Re-development work is based around how the stormwater will be managed.
- 8) **MRC Partner Committee Updates**
  - **County Council:** Kaylee mentioned that the County is working to reconcile budget challenges. A lot of work is being put into the Comprehensive Plan updated. In terms of federal funding, having a clear

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understanding of the risks/impacts of losing federal dollars, and establishing back up plans is an important proactive step.

- **Port of Bellingham:** No report
- **City of Bellingham:** No update
- **City of Blaine:** No update
- **NWSC:** Mike MacKay shared recognition of Nan MacKay, gubernatorial appointee to the Commission. The federal authorization for continuous funding was not accepted this year. The Science Advisory Committee is scheduling a forum for October 2025.
- **BB Action Team:** A table with updates on the waterfront redevelopment was shared in the meeting packet.

**9) Staff and Committee Updates:** Draft documents describing MRC member and staff expectations were shared in the meeting packet with the intent to get committee approval to include in the MRCs Policies and Procedures Manual. A quorum was no longer present, so action item was tabled. The marked-up version of Chapter 10: Environment, and the draft Climate Chapter of the comp plan will be placed in the MRC google drive for members to review and comment. The MRC will host a booth at SeaFeast this year.

**10) Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

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