



MRC Members

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

Rick Beauregard (NWSC rep)
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 (Vice-Chair)
Citizen-at-Large
Term 1: 01/31/2026

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

Mike MacKay (NWSC alt rep)
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2028

Avery Maverick
Recreational
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Paul Meyer
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2029

Andrew Shelton (Chair)
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Mary Lou Steward
City of Blaine, Mayor

Colin Wahl
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2029

Vacancies

Recreational Interest

Nooksack Tribe Representative

Lummi Nation Representative

WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY | May 1, 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.	Introductions and Determine Quorum	Andrew	
2.	May 1 Agenda <i>Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.</i>	Andrew	Y
3.	Approval of April Meeting Summary <i>Review and approve summary as final.</i>		
4.	Community Updates <i>Community members attending the meeting who wish to address or update the Committee on MRC related matters will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak.</i>		
5.	Staff Updates: Presentation to County Council, upcoming outreach events (What's the Point, May 17 th NWSF Event), vacancies	Austin	
6.	MRC Project Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPAR Intertidal Monitoring Beach Seine with Schools Vessel turn-in event 	Mark Mike Austin	
7.	MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council Port of Bellingham City of Blaine Northwest Straits Commission 	Kaylee Kurt Mary Lou Rick	
8.	MRC Project Proposals <i>Review and refine projects for 2025-2027 grant round</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Need more discussion around next steps for Chuckanut PIC, Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Preservation, and Olympia oyster</i> 		
9.	Adjourn		

In attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Kathy Ketteridge, Alexi Guddall, Rick Beauregard, Jackie Dexter, Mary Lou Steward, Paul Meyer, Glen Alexander "Alex", Mike MacKay

Others: Julie Hirsch, Sasha Horst (NWSC)

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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1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** The MRC Chair, Andrew Shelton, was not present and stepped down as MRC Chair. Austin began the meeting with the land acknowledgement and roundtable introductions. No quorum was present. The Committee will need to elect a new Chair at a meeting with a quorum present.
2. **May 1 Agenda:** No quorum was present to approve the agenda. There were no suggested additions or revisions.
3. **Approval of April Meeting Summary:** Item tabled due to lack of quorum. There were no suggested revisions.
4. **Community Updates:** The Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) and Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) District are hosting the annual [“Day at the Beach”](#) celebration at Birch Bay State Park on June 7, 9:00am – 12:00pm. The MRC was invited to host a booth at the event. The event will include beach led walks at low tide, showing off intertidal critters. Volunteers and naturalists are welcome.

The Chuckanut Beaches Association is interested in beach restoration. A WCD habitat specialist plans to do a site visit and what other organizations could partner. The MRC will be considered.

5. **Staff Updates:**

- **Presentation to County Council:** The MRC should now be considering their presentation to Council on May 27. Staff are finalizing the presentation and will be reaching out to members to present.
- **Upcoming outreach events:**
 - *Northwest Straits Foundation Spring Celebration:* May 17, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Larrabee State Park. MRC will have booth.
 - *What’s the Point:* June 14, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Point Whitehorn Park. MRC will have booth.
 - *Bellingham Sea Feast:* September 27 – 28, Squalicum Harbor. MRC will have booth.

Please check out the [MRC calendar](#) for events, and meeting dates and formats.

- **Vacancies:** Current MRC vacancies include a Recreation Interest, Nooksack Tribe Representative, and Lummi Nation Representative. Please share widely.

6. **MRC Project Updates:**

- **CPAR Intertidal Monitoring:** No report.
- **Beach Seine with Schools:** The first event occurred in late April. The seine catch included 980 chum, 1 coho, and 1 chinook.
- **Vessel turn-in event:** Event will likely occur in late July or August. Advertising will begin in May.

Rick mentioned he uploaded [a report to the MRC google drive](#) including data from 2021-24.

Jackie shared that the last Olympia oyster survey in N. Chuckanut Bay with Bellingham Technical College is scheduled for May 29. More details will be shared via e-mail.

7. **MRC Partner Committee Updates:**

- **County Council:** No report
- **Port of Bellingham:**

DNR Vessel Turn-in Event

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- Authorization of the Interagency Agreement between the Port and DNR, for the event, is on the [Port Commission agenda for May 6](#).
- The request for proposals for a boatyard to do the work is currently live on the [Port's website](#).

Whatcom Creek Estuary Habitat Improvements

- The Port is working through preliminary design with our consultant.
- Stakeholder engagement is ongoing.

Little Squalicum Beach Stormwater Treatment Project

- The project was awarded to the low bid from RAW Land Construction. RAW also built the habitat beach project.
- **City of Blaine:** Mayor Steward reported that the Executive Steering Committee for the [MERIS](#) (Marine, Economy, and Research Institute for Sustainability) met to begin a strategic plan and look for funding to support the next phase of development.
- **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):** Rick shared links via e-mail prior to the meeting, including:
 - NWSC Impact Report
 - 2024 Impact Report released. On web site <https://nwstraits.org/about-us/2024-impact-report/>
 - Salish Sea Institute Successes and challenges webinar
 - <https://foundation.wvu.edu/event/successes-challenges-and-maintaining-hope-salish-sea-restoration-and-protection>
 - WSG Director update on funding status
 - <https://wsg.washington.edu/wsg-director-update-our-federal-funding-status/>

8. MRC Project Proposals: The committee had a focused discussion on three projects for inclusion in the 2025-27 grant proposal that needed more details fleshed out.

- North Chuckanut Bay PIC: The MRC Executive Committee recommended the MRC develop a technical report summarizing the MRC's work over the past 11 years. This report would outline next steps that could be considered to open the recreational shellfish area (i.e shoreline survey, trestle modification). The MRC could engage with university students for GIS analysis.
- Olympia oyster restoration – Drayton Harbor: The MRC contracted with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) to conduct a site assessment of potential areas to set up bioassays of Olympia oyster cultch. This was completed on March 31. A habitat characterization survey was also considered, though PSRF recommended the MRC move forward with permitting, as enough information was obtained through the first survey. The MRC will make payments to the cultch order using funds in their current grant and will include more funding with the 2025-27 grant. MRC staff are also looking into additional funding opportunities.
- Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Preservation: The MRC previously discussed that they wanted to continue to engage with boat ramp users, though did not identify specific steps that could be taken to continue the efforts. Amber Forest, WA State Parks, will continue to set out cones through this summer to limit the boat traffic to a single lane, but they are also interested in partnering with the MRC in the future to continue education and outreach efforts. Members volunteered to meet with Amber to discuss the potential of having interns engage with park visitors this summer. Interns could be funded through outside sources.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

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