

**Members in attendance:** Mark Fairhart, Glen “Alex” Alexander, Alexi Guddal, Mike MacKay, Paul Meyer, Dana Daniels (staff), Rick Beauregard, Austin Rose (staff), Laura Hanna, Beth Lorence, Kathy Ketteridge, Jackie Dexter, Kaylee Galloway (Whatcom County Council), Kurt Baumgarten (Port of Bellingham)

**Others:** Tyler Owens, Lauren Clemens (Whatcom County Climate Action Manager) Michael Cecil, David Wilson (Jacobs Engineers)

- 1. Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Mark began the meeting with the land acknowledgement and roundtable introductions. A quorum was present.
- 2. December 4th Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- 3. Approval of November Meeting Summary:** The November meeting summary was approved with the addition of Jackie Dexter under “Members in attendance”. *Mark reminded members to take the [Open Government Training](#). It only takes 15 to 20 minutes and you end up with a certificate as a PDF, which should be emailed to MRC staff.*
- 4. Community Updates:** Tyler introduced himself further as an active volunteer with a particular interest in marine conservation.
- 5. MRC Partner Committee Updates:**
  - City of Blaine – The City of Blaine received funding from the Department of Health to look at bacterial issues in Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. David Wilson, Jacobs engineering presented a conceptual design for the outfall at Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility.
  - County Council - County budget was passed. The last Council meeting of 2025 is December 9. The new Council members swear in on the second Monday of January. The oath is open to the public.
  - Port of Bellingham - no update.
  - Northwest Straits Commission - no update.
- 6. Whatcom Comprehensive Plan update - [Climate chapter](#):** Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager at Whatcom County, provided an update about the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Climate Chapter and timeline. The Climate Impact Advisory Committee have been commenting on the chapter, and then the document went through a process of more staff revisions, and then it went to Planning Commission, and they made an initial recommendation recently, but it will be going to Council next year. A draft of the chapter was included in the MRC meeting packet. The tribal consultation is ongoing, and it will go to Council, for any amendments. Then we will go into implementation where there is most opportunity between the MRC and the Climate Advisory Committee to work together on what these policies look like an action. There has been some language added around protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems. Providing more coordination and ecosystem planning efforts as we do capital infrastructure projects, ecosystem restoration, restoration of wetland and riparian management zones. There is also a big focus around shorelines and sea level rise - regulatory requirements the County will need to meet around amending the Shoreline Management Act and looking at restricting or regulating development in areas that are at risk for sea level rise. Lauren’s PowerPoint presentation is included in these meeting minutes.

7. **The Woods at Viewcrest – MRC comment letter:** Mark suggested the MRC update and resend a letter to the City of Bellingham expressing their concerns about the development.

***A motion was made to prepare a succinct letter to the city of Bellingham similar to the MRC's letter in 2023.***  
All approved. Mark will work with MRC staff to develop that letter.

8. **MRC Conference Key Take-aways and Discussion:** Committee members discussed the key takeaways from the 2025 NWS Conference and ideas folks want to bring back to our MRC. One of the items the MRC identified was utilizing subcommittees for certain topics including policy/government relations, education and outreach, and member recruitment. Alex's takeaways are included in these meeting minutes.
9. **Staff updates:** *continued discussion from agenda item #8.*
10. **Adjourn**