

**Shellfish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2018 Ellsworth Public Library**

**Council Members Present:** Dr. Bridie McGreavy, Kevin Brodie, Fiona DeKoning, Mike Danforth, Anthony Delano, Dan Devereaux, Dan Curtis, Glen Melvin, Jeff McKeen.

**Council Members Absent:** Scott Moody, Tom Connolly, and Jim Norris.

**DMR Staff in Attendance:** Kohl Kanwit, Bryant Lewis, Ari Leach, Dennis Nault and John Fendl

**Others in Attendance:** Joe Price, Mike Pinkham, Jessica Joyce, Andrea Perry, Michael Clay, Leah Stetson

**Called to Order at 13:01 by Fiona DeKoning.** Roll call, the council members introduced themselves.

**13:05 Agenda Item 3 - Fiona DeKoning:** Review of the minutes from last meeting. ([See Attachment](#)) Minutes were received at this meeting and the council requested that future minutes be made available to council members (via email) ahead of the next meeting for review. Motion to accept the minutes made by Dan Devereaux motion seconded by Dr. Bridie McGreavy

**13:10 Agenda Item 4:** Council discussed the need for a dealer from west of the Penobscot River; several names mentioned -> Dick Dowdy, Ray Trombly, and (Chris at Cantrell's. Kohl Kanwit stated that DMR will reach out to potential nominees.

**13:20 Agenda Item 5: Broad Reach Fund Presentation - Dr. Bridie McGreavy & Andrea Perry**

Dr. Bridie McGreavy introduced scientist Andrea Perry, representative from The Broad Reach Fund Andrea Perry and Dr. Bridie McGreavy presented a slideshow about a state shellfish initiative that is targeting near-shore fisheries, specifically shellfish to include soft-shell clams and mussels.

This project will have a 5-year focus, but the length of grant availability is uncertain. Priorities for funded projects include flat restoration, pollution, increasing volunteerism, and strengthening civic partnerships. Dr. Bridie McGreavy suggested creating a science advisory committee to evaluate proposals based upon a rubric with measurable criteria: measurable benefit, timeless and urgency, fostering relationships, innovation, and interdisciplinary approach. Dan Curtis asked about out-of-state scientists being on the committee to avoid conflicts of interest, Andrea Perry stated that the 5-6-person committee is just a suggestion and Fiona de Koning suggested that it include someone from industry, to which Dr. Bridie McGreavy stated that this was already considered and agreed upon.

Awards will be announced at the Fisherman's Forum Shellfish Focus Day.

Fiona de Koning asked How do you see SHAC being involved? Andrea replied hoping SHAC can reach a bigger audience.

#### **13:40 Agenda Item 4 continued: SHAC Membership**

Kohl Kanwit asked Should there be a 13th member on the committee? Dr. Beal brought up after last meeting the question of a scientist seat on SHAC. DMR doesn't feel strongly enough to do anything about it. It would take a legislative action to make that happen. I wouldn't be surprised to see a bill about it anyway.

Fiona de Koning stated we can always invite a scientist to SHAC meetings.

#### **13:45 Agenda Item 6: Intertidal Enforcement Update - Kohl Kanwit**

Kohl Kanwit: brought up the channels running through the mud flats, thinking about vertical channels. Are channels full of water part of a specific jurisdiction or not?

Kohl Kanwit: passed around a handout including the definition of intertidal zones regarding channels ([see attachment](#))

Channel is impacted by tides. DMR doesn't feel the need for further clarification

#### **13:50 Agenda Item 7: Quahog Management in the New Meadows River - Tony Delano**

Tony Delano: Is there a way for harvesters to relocate legal clams in the Upper New Meadows? Such as closing off an area of the seabed?

Fiona de Koning: What is the problem?

Tony Delano: The quahog season seems to be getting shorter, there are only small clams now. In the upper area there are legal size clams that are overcrowding and/or dying off. Is there any way that these clams can be relocated within the New Meadows to extend the season overall? DMR holds the power to extend the season, so is there a way to make it legal to take "x" clams from one area to replenish?

Kohl Kanwit: Enforcement has been a big issue in the ponds. A solution may be that while on the water harvesters can possess sub-legal product but once on land they cannot. DMR surveys get difficult with so much movement of resource. Maybe one Sunday/month DMR could put someone at New Meadows to allow movement of resource. Marine Patrol would say no way.

Tony Delano: Motion to accept/take this proposal to the commissioner. SHAC requests DMR to provide a routine opportunity (e.g. 1 Sunday/each month of open season) to move sub-legal quahogs to other areas to increase productivity. Dan Curtis. seconded the motion; motion approved.

### **14:13 Results of Skype Meeting Test and Discussion of Further Use - Kohl Kanwit**

Kohl Kanwit: tested Skype last meeting, use of Skype may be useful tool for those not able to attend, but should not record or have an audio option. Could use “snowballs” with a microphone to hear the committee speaking. DMR staff in BBH said it was great, would like to offer it at future meetings, potentially only have viewing ability with a chat box but make it so the SHAC would not respond to chat.

Kohl Kanwit: We would ask for a motion from SHAC committee before moving forward.

Dr. Bridie McGreavy

Does Skype record? Would people behave differently if there were a record of the meetings?

Kohl Kanwit: It may modify the behavior of individuals and we don't want to make people uncomfortable with their comments being recorded.

Audience member: an example of the same issue can be found at school board meetings, most have decided not to have video.

Kohl Kanwit: Unlike one particular town involved at school board meetings this would involve discussion that impact the entire state

Matt Danforth: Being hung for commentary through social media as a result of video or recordings is a concern, it is a poor idea to offer recording

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: It could also increase participation over time

Dan Devereaux: Brunswick did this 12 years ago and it changed the dynamic of the meetings. It took 10 years for things to settle and for people to become comfortable with speaking openly. It has also increased meeting participation.

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: I make a motion to propose trying out Skype on a trial basis and returning to the discussion in 2019 (1 year) to assess.

Kevin Brodie: Seconded the motion; motion approved.

### **10 Minute Break, resumed meeting at 14:33**

### **14:33 Shellfish Focus Day Planning February 28th, 2019 - Dr. Bridie McGreavy**

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: The most important question we should be trying to answer is what is the target audience for shellfish focus day? This day historically is best when harvesters can gather and discuss current issues.

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: presented a slideshow illustrating a rubric for assessing the most popular topics from 2018 and a survey of topics of interest for 2019.

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: led a discussion of priorities for the 2019 focus day (3-5 topics)

Dr. Bridie McGreavy: suggested a topic proposal review process to include a scoring rubric: new topic, harvesters/growers/municipal, how often the topic has been presented, innovation, and diversification. Jim Morris: there should be a panel connected with SHAC to research potential ideas for 2020 shellfish focus day.

### **15:15 2019 Work Plan Discussion**

Shellfish Focus Day for 2019

Kohl Kanwit: The state should develop a list of metrics for municipalities against which programs may be measured (e.g. higher minimum standard will ensure equity)

The Broad Reach Fund grants should be discussed

State management of subtidal resources

Dan Curtis: Rain gauges in Hancock County

### **15:56 Schedule Next Meeting (Doodle Poll) January 2019**

A list of dates and times will be sent out via Doodle Poll

### **15:58 Meeting Adjourned - Fiona DeKoning**