

## Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup

March 19, 2019; 10:00 – 12:00 Pacific Time

Call-in details: Dial 1-434-299-2373. Enter PIN: 454 290#. Press \*6 to ensure you are unmuted. Please announce your name/affiliation when you join.

### Meeting Agenda

1. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— welcome and introductions
2. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— announcement of new BMP document and mussel brochure
3. Patty Morrison, USFWS retired; Teal Waterstrat, USFWS; Kevin Aitkin, USFWS; Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— discussion of FMCS 2021 symposium [recurring agenda item]
4. Kevin Aitkin, USFWS— potential PNW Mussel meeting in 2020
5. David Stagliano, Montana Biological Survey— update on Montana surveys
6. Ted Parker, Snohomish County Roads Maintenance— RRMESA and mussels
7. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— new mussel die-off form reminder, discussion of Survey123

Attendees: David Stagliano, Montana Biological Survey; Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society; Emily Davis, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Kevin Aitkin, USFWS; Patty Morrison, USFWS retired; Teal Waterstrat, USFWS; Al Smith, ODFW retired; Alexa Maine, CTUIR; Celeste Searles Mazzacano, CASM Environmental; Christine O'Brien, Browns River Consulting; Courtney Newlon, USFWS; Laura McMullen, ICF International; Michele Weaver, ODFW; Ted Parker, Snohomish County; Ann Gray, USFWS; Donna Nez, CTUIR; Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper; Ann Gannam, USFWS; Cynthia Tait, USFS; Justin Peterson, Nez Perce Tribe; Miranda Plumb, USFWS; Ron Constable, ODFW.

### Call Notes

1. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— welcome and introductions
2. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— announcement of new BMP document (<https://xerces.org/mussel-friendly-restoration/>) and mussel brochure ([https://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19-012\\_01-Freshwater-Mussel-Conservation-Brochure-web-1.pdf](https://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19-012_01-Freshwater-Mussel-Conservation-Brochure-web-1.pdf))

3. Patty Morrison, USFWS retired; Teal Waterstrat, USFWS; Kevin Aitkin, USFWS; Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— discussion of FMCS 2021 symposium [recurring agenda item]

Powerpoint presentation was developed for the FMCS 2019 meeting in San Antonio to introduce the PNW Mussel Workgroup as hosts of a 2021 Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society symposium. Portland identified as the best candidate based on centrality, ease of travel from other locations, presence of workgroup members in the area to help coordinate, and lower costs compared with other cities. Venues being considered now.

4. Kevin Aitkin, USFWS— potential PNW Mussel meeting in 2020  
Discussed whether there was interest in a potential regional workgroup meeting in 2020. Kevin provided information on past meetings we have held as a group. 2003 was mussel distribution and status, local speakers (Feb, Vancouver). 2004 was outside speakers (Tom Watters, Art Bogan, Katherine Gattney, Karen Mock); Vancouver. 2005 at Evergreen State (Lee Hastie,

sampling design techniques, ageing, ID). 2007 Vancouver (updates, Karen Mock and Tom Watters).

Based on discussion, there was general interest in this. Decision was made to set up a survey to determine preferences on location, timing, theme, etc.

Al brought up the need for funding. He has been to each of the prior meetings and thinks Vancouver is a good site. He believes lunch should be provided.

Teal inquired about the potential for local AFS chapters sponsor, and Michele mentioned that she could approach OR AFS. Teal indicated he could contact BC/WA AFS. Patty mentioned that FMCS will also contribute \$100 for meeting if we provide minutes. Kevin mentioned that typically we raise about \$5-10k for meetings. Kevin mentioned that past meetings have averaged about 100 people. Attendance was only 10-20% workgroup members. Al brought up the potential to pay for or reimburse non-workgroup speakers.

5. David Stagliano, Montana Biological Survey— update on Montana surveys

There is a new graduate student at Montana State, Dave on her committee. She is starting a project on Margaritifera, following Michelle Anderson and Dave's research looking at reproductive timing and host fish. They will be looking at 5 watersheds and the viability of western pearlshell populations. Surveying in June and repeating methods used in Merrill Creek. Glochidia timing release. MS project. This ties into the SWG project with Michelle (Big Hole and Blackfoot River). Dave (will replicate in other 3 watersheds) and others will present some of this information. Questions include, what are limiting factors? What is the timing of reproduction?

Al commented that it is commendable to go back and review data. There has been similar work in the eastern U.S., and it is important to follow population trends. Kevin also mentioned that trend data is important if mussels are ever listed under the ESA.

6. Ted Parker, Snohomish County Roads Maintenance— RRMESA and mussels

Ted shared information on the Regional Road Maintenance Program- created when Puget Sound Chinook salmon were listed. Because that could be an issue for Roads Maintenance, they were granted a BO, enabling the program to be "plug-and-play." A city, state, county, tribal entity can get protection under the BO (36 members). 10 program elements. 4 elements are key to protect mollusks and fish. There is a BMP program, a training program to help people in the field. Crew members take a course. Compliance monitoring is used to make sure that members are doing all they are required to do. Submit quarterly reports and then reports to NMFS. Adaptive management program. Research and data used to improve the program. Some newsletters as examples of the work. Put together something like an HCP to get coverage under the USFS as well. Took 197 species listed as concern. Developed species profiles. Have a suite of BMPs that address aquatic resources and terrestrial. Several types of BMPs- one type is used at every job site (permits, restore disturbed areas, fish exclusion, etc.) another is structural (selected based on their outcomes). Examples of multiple benefits are vacuum sweepers for streets. See shared documents for more information. Instead of writing BMPs for a particular species, they grouped

aquatic species. 3 mollusk species. State has redone wildlife conservation plan- Ted will be updating the list. 22 fish. 9 amphibians. The strength of this program is that some BMPs can be removed and added very easily to keep the program up to date.

Kevin mentioned that he has some limited experience with contractors onsite. His experience is that they are willing to do what bios need them to do- they just need to know what to do. Ted similarly commented that he has also found that they do care about incorporating the BMPs.

7. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society— new mussel die-off form reminder (<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/07295ba7aa33447fb927f0b071591147>)