

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
May 20, 2016

Makah Cultural and Research Center  
Neah Bay, WA

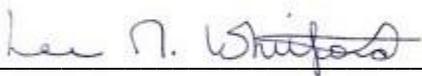
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Heather Reed (WDFW, Vice-Chair), John Veentjer (Marine Industry, Secretary), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Cedar Shannon (Tourism/Economic Development), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hills (USCG), George Hart (US Navy), Steve Fradkin (ONP), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large alternate), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Tom Burlingame (Fishing Alternate), Jessi Doeringhaus (WDFW alternate), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy alternate)

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Janine Ledford (Makah Cultural and Research Center), Aaron Parker (Makah Tribe), Courtney Winck (Makah Tribe), Joe Petersen (Makah Tribe), Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Brian Adams (US Navy), Jonathan Scordino (Makah Tribe)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Nancy Wright, Jacqueline Laverdure, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Janine Ledford, Executive Director of Makah Cultural and Research Center, welcomed all council members to Makah Reservation and noted that today's agenda would include several presentations on Makah activity including culture and natural resource management. She invited members to visit the museum and its nearly 500 artifacts from the nationally significant Ozette excavation on display during lunch break to understand the history of the region. Janine mentioned the Makah partnerships with OCNMS on their interpretive program at Cape Flattery and more.

Chair Lee Whitford called the meeting to order and reviewed the goals and purpose of the Advisory Council per its Charter.

**Adopt Agenda** – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***It was passed by full AC member consensus.***

#### **Internal Affairs:**

**Approval of March 2016 SAC Meeting Minutes** – There were no proposed edits or changes to the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting minutes. ***George Hart motioned to approve the meeting minutes without changes and Joel Kawahara seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**Update on Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Workshop**– Lee Whitford, Chair of Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) Working Group, shared that the group has held two meetings to date. Carol noted that OCNMS had initial discussions with the working group about the overall framework of the two-day workshop, which will take place September 12-13 at Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) in Forks, by invitation. Following the working group discussion, OCNMS staff has been internally discussing workshop development with ONMS Conservation Science members and crafting a draft agenda. OCNMS will then share the draft agenda with the working group. The overall goal of the OASeS Working Group is to improve monitoring to better characterize our understanding of ocean acidification relative to

the sanctuary. The response by invited participants has been positive so far. A progress report will be shared at the next council meeting after the working group has met and discussed the workshop more in depth.

**National Marine Sanctuary System Volunteer of the Year** – Carol noted that every sanctuary nominates an outstanding volunteer each year to be considered for the Office of National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year Award. Lee Whitford was nominated for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for her volunteer work as Chair of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and participant on many working groups, as well as her assistance with education and outreach programs. The overall winner was Captain Scott Hickman of Flower Garden Banks NMS in Texas, and he will be accepting the award at the Ocean Awards Gala on June 7 in Washington D.C. A recreational off-shore fishing charter owner, Captain Hickman has worked hard with their advisory council to incorporate recreational fisher perspective and connect with that community. Founder of the Charter Fisherman’s Association and participant of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Scott is an active voice to Texas state legislature and on Capitol Hill, educating lawmakers about the need to protect Gulf resources for a sustainable future.

**National SAC Chairs/Representatives Webinar Meeting** – Lee participated in a recent webinar meeting with all Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and ONMS Leadership as a follow up from the January SAC Chairs Summit in Maryland. Lee highlighted the common themes across the National Marine Sanctuary System: climate change, funding, shipping, and enforcement. News across the sites includes: Monterey Bay NMS’s revision of their Management Plan; Monitor NMS’s proposed sanctuary expansion; and Hawai’ian Islands Humpback Whales NMS Advisory Council’s recommendation to HIHWNMS to broaden from a single-species management plan to an ecosystem-based management approach. The Chairs will meet again via webinar in September, with planned discussions on how to improve Advisory Councils in general. She said that other sites received Olympic Coast’s plans to become a Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification well and were excited to track our progress. Lee referred to notes on issues that each of the sanctuaries highlighted during the meeting, for those requesting more information.

### **Information Items:**

**Makah Cultural Landscapes Project**– Janine Ledford shared about Makah Tribe’s participation in a Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project, along with Grande Ronde Tribe (OR) and Yurok Tribe (CA). The project was funded by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was one of the project partners. Makah manages its cultural properties through the Makah Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The Ozette prairies were historically Makah Elk grazing and hunting grounds, which is now Olympic National Park land. Janine discussed the example of the Ozette prairies as an example of cultural resource management. The prairies, now in Olympic National Park, were historically Makah Elk grazing and hunting grounds. They were traditionally maintained by burning and were important for a number of reasons, including the use of Elk antlers for whale hunting gear to harvest gray whales. The Makah hope to restore burning rights of these prairies.

They conducted regional meetings with the two other participating tribes of this study, and pulled information about resources to be considered for the study with diverse partners and scoured relevant archives. At the project's inception, Makah Tribe established that they would have control over any new information, including oral history interviews. They used a diverse range of information for their research on the importance of the ocean in their defined area, including Treaty negotiations, records from the Indian Claims Commission, publications, court proceedings, interviews, and more. The Makah Tribe emphasized the strength of their Treaty Rights to help guide them, not just Native American input.

Overall, the process allowed them to be much more proactive rather than waiting until being approached about energy permits, they have the baseline knowledge to develop an understanding of how a project would impact their natural and cultural resources. Their final case study will stay with Makah Tribe. Over time, they will see what may develop from this project, including partnerships with BOEM, OCNMS and others.

**Sanctuary Education and Outreach Updates** – Jacqueline Laverdure, OCNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator, presented the plan to overhaul the OCNMS website using the new national format and standards (see national website at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>). The idea is to make the page look more visually appealing, engaging, and easier to navigate through the content. The new topic headers for OCNMS website will include: Visit, Explore, Science, Protect, Learn, Get Involved, Library, Photos/Videos, About, and Contact. The website will be fully interactive, and some of the links will be available by multiple means. The format is compatible with the range of devices including smart phones, tablets, computers, etc. The home page will now also feature five stories or highlights to keep the website moving and changing regularly with the latest events or feature items. Jacqueline described the function of each of the header themes. The history and culture pages will be broader, with separate sections of maritime archeology and native cultures. A new page for socioeconomics will also be included. The science banner will have a new quick link to sanctuary permits, policy and planning will replace “management”, and a new tab for spill protection will appear. The new OCNMS website change will happen as early as this summer. OCNMS will follow up with tribes to identify more information to include about the four Coastal Treaty Tribes. A webinar will be offered to council members around September to walk through the new website once it is ready, to test it out and make any recommendations or changes.

The NOAA educational kiosks for Forks Visitor Center and Kalaloch Lodge are scheduled to be installed this summer. They will include a page for Olympic National Park and partners. All NOAA kiosks, including the one at Pacific Science Center in Seattle, will have the link to real-time NANOOS data on water and air temperature. EarthEcho International's video called “Shell Shocked” will also be featured. This video documented our changing ocean Philippe Cousteau's trip to Neah Bay last fall with Makah Tribe, talking about harmful algal blooms, ocean acidification, impacts to local fishers and more.

The national “Get Into Your Sanctuary” Day is a system-wide public outreach event to raise awareness about sanctuaries and how to responsibly enjoy them. It will also help engage

communities and individuals on social media using #ILoveMySanctuary, build relationships with local tourism partners and invite Members of Congress to take part in recreational activities. OCNMS will kick-off Get Into Your Sanctuary with the showing of the video *Discover the Olympic Coast* at Olympic National Park (ONP)'s Visitor Center in Port Angeles on June 17 at 7pm. Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Florian Graner will be there to present and answer questions. The video will continue to be shown Jun 17-25 twice daily at 11am and 1pm at the ONP Visitor Center. On June 25 the film will be shown at the Port Angeles library targeting elementary school kids and their families, followed by educational games. On June 25 a nature photography workshop at Ruby Beach will be open to the public at 9:30am with ONP Interpretive Ranger and OCNMS education staff. On the same date, a by-invitation-only youth nature photography workshop will take place on Makah Reservation by Meredith Parker. Students will visit Sooes Beach and Cape Flattery to practice their new photography skills. A system-wide photo contest will run from June 1 to July 15 with three categories (sanctuary views, sanctuary life and sanctuary portraits), submitted to [earthisblue@noaa.gov](mailto:earthisblue@noaa.gov). Olympic Culinary Loop participating restaurants will receive custom sanctuary placements with fun activities on the back.

Jacqueline's presentation can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present\\_education\\_web\\_giys\\_kiosk\\_update.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_education_web_giys_kiosk_update.pdf)

**Makah Shellfish Biotoxin Monitoring Program Expansion** – Aaron Parker, Makah Tribe Water Quality Specialist, presented on the planned expansion of the Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms (MERMAB). He noted that they sample for the three main genera of biotoxins of concern: *Alexandrium*, *Binophysis* and *Pseudo-nitzschia*. Tissue toxin samples in collaboration with WA Department of Health. Up until last winter, Makah had limitations to what their program could do, in part because of the shipping time to send tissue samples to laboratories for analysis. Previously weekly sampling was conducted during times of moderate levels of the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); however, Tribal members were interested in planning when they could harvest shellfish for family consumption, particularly for special community events. They are now also working to make their monitoring more relevant to a larger area beyond just Neah Bay and Makah Reservation. Through the expansion of their monitoring efforts, they have a newly instituted partnership with the Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) Partnership. As a result, they now have greater awareness of what is happening along the coast with other coastal communities and are able to receive warnings on forecasting trends with one or two weeks' notice. ORHAB activities bring increased data as well, with sampling data including: general site observations, rapid turn-around live sample, whole water cell quantification, particulate filter sample, chlorophyll filter sample, and preserved net-tow sample.

Makah Tribe is also planning to join MERHAB, a NOAA-operated program, which provides an early warning system for *Pseudo-nitzschia* HABs on Pacific Northwest outer coast beaches. A one-year pilot study was funded to monitor for *Pseudo-nitzschia* and its harmful toxin, domoic acid, with off-shore hotspots monitored at Juan de Fuca Eddy and Heceta Bank (OR), along with several coastal beach sites. Their ultimate goal is to provide a new, improved forecast to State

and Tribal managers ([www.pnwhabs.org/pnwhabbulletin/](http://www.pnwhabs.org/pnwhabbulletin/)). Other projected goals are to strengthen long-standing co-management partnerships with WA Department of Health, and develop new program partnerships including NOAA and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. In the future, the Makah Tribe hopes to significantly expand its laboratory capabilities and to undergo HAB monitoring activities that have local, regional and national significance in human health protection and marine science progression.

Aaron's presentation can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present\\_makah\\_shellfish\\_biotoxin\\_monitoring.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_makah_shellfish_biotoxin_monitoring.pdf)

**Public Comment**– None at this time.

**Makah Cibud Study for Fisheries Management** – Steve Joner, Makah Tribe, provided historical context to rich past of Makah halibut fishery. He shared about the 1800s, along with the origin of the development of the modern Halibut fishery came about, and how the International Pacific Halibut Commission came about. Steve displayed a 100 year old cibud, or traditional Halibut fishing gear and described the functioning and design of it.

Joe Petersen, Makah Groundfish Biologist and member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's groundfish management team, presented on their study of bycatch reduction by hook selectively in the recreational halibut fishery. Washington is concerned with the bycatch of Yelloweye rockfish, Canary rockfish and Bocaccio. Fishing gears have been implemented, such as rockfish descending devices or barbless hooks for salmon, to reduce the impact on fishing bycatch. Avoiding hooking a non-target species altogether helps reduce bycatch mortality, and the main way fishermen do this is by using larger hooks to avoid small fish or by switching from J hook to circle hook. Joe and colleagues used historical fishing methods and common fishing practices to test hook selectively between two different hook types. Circle hooks were introduced in the 1980s and are shaped to hook the corner of the mouth or lip of the fish. The cibud has been around in tribal fisheries for thousands of years, in various styles.

Joe and colleague's study used a charter boat for up to 12 fishers for 17 days on the water, supplying half of the anglers with a circle hook and the other half with a cibud. Fishers would switch hook types and change boat position every half hour, using the same bait. Anglers were interviewed at the end of the day to assess their fishing experience and catch throughout the day. All encountered fish were measured on board. Of the total 516 total landed fish in the study, 85 were caught on cibud (16%) and 431 were caught on circle hooks (84%), with 300 halibut of the total fish landed. Of all halibut caught, 26% were landed on cibud and 74% on circle hooks. Of the bycatch, 95% were caught on circle hooks. Interestingly, on the cibud, 91% of all fish landed was halibut whereas halibut made up 52% of total fish landed on the circle hook. One of the take home messages of the cibud was the size distribution of targeted halibut, with an average of 85 cm and 16.4 pound fish, a statistically significant difference from fish hooked on a circle hook. Joe believes that with more refinement of the cibud hook design, they could achieve even greater size distribution to withstand stronger and larger halibut. He described some of the limitations and ideas for improvements. This summer, the Makah will conduct a study on bait testing with the cibud to investigate different types of bait. In the

future, they hope to test variations of cibud spring and summer 2017 to identify a design that improves the catch rate of halibut.

Their presentation can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present\\_makah\\_halibut\\_cibud.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_makah_halibut_cibud.pdf).

### **Overview of West Coast Groundfish Management with Focus on Fisheries in OCNMS –**

Heather Reed, WDFW, began providing an overview of the West Coast fisheries and management, with a focus on groundfish. Washington state ranks third nationally in recreational and commercial fishing sales after Florida and California. Heather described the roles of the different management agencies and jurisdictions, including International Pacific Halibut Commission, Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the four Coastal Treaty Tribes. For groundfish management, the PFMC manages 3 to 200 nautical miles with 14 voting members (including Idaho with salmon species in common). There are groundfish fishery management plans for over 90 species, with harvest policies for multiple harvest sectors and input to the council via advisory bodies. Groundfish are managed on a bi-annual process, with stock assessments completed in odd-numbered years. It includes a scientific review process to set the harvest specifications. The Over Fishing Level (OFL) is recommended, and adopted by the council along with the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Annual Catch Limits (ACL). Public meetings are held throughout the process.

Jessi Doerpinghaus, WDFW, followed with groundfish management and commercial fisheries. ACLs account for tribal catch, research, incidental fisheries and exempted fishing permits, and are further divide by sector to allow for either targeted fishing or bycatch. Rebuilt species that had previously been overfished were Canary rockfish and petrale sole, with 5 species remaining on the overfished list and undergoing population rebuilding plans. Darkblotched and bocaccio rockfish are expected to be rebuilt in 2017. Commercial fishing sectors include at-sea cooperatives (e.g. Pacific whiting), Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ), and fixed gear (e.g. sablefish). IFQ was established in 2011 and allows for trading of quota pounds, involves 100% observation to minimize bycatch. IFQ also gives flexibility in the fishery timing, gear innovation and regulatory streamlining. Jesse described the status of various ground fish, including commercial Pacific whiting, and non-tribal commercial groundfish.

Heather returned to recreational groundfish and briefed on how state regulations are adopted to conform to federal regulations, or be more restrictive. Most bottomfish have a year-round season, with weather constraining access. Rockfish and lingcod are the primary recreational fish targeted, with regulations aimed to minimize encounters with Yelloweye and Canary rockfish. Recreational halibut is linked through the PFMC's Catch Sharing Plan with Tribes, State, Oregon and California with annual stakeholder input. Due to extreme interest in this fishery, it has the highest recreational quota (~100,000 pounds) and only lasts a few days due to the high success.

Heather shared the demographics of recreational fishing trips by region, boat type and targeted fish. For example, salmon are targeted most in Ilwaco/Chinook, bottomfish in Westport, and halibut in Neah Bay/La Push. She mentioned other fisheries in our area, including Albacore

tuna (off-shore), commercial Albacore, commercial and recreational salmon fishing, Dungeness crab, pink shrimp, and coastal commercial fisheries.

Their presentation can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present\\_westcoast\\_groundfish\\_mgmt\\_wdfw.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_westcoast_groundfish_mgmt_wdfw.pdf).

**Public Comment**– None at this time.

**Superintendent's Report** – Carol referred council members to the May 2016 Office Report for updates on sanctuary activity in the past two months, which can also be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport\\_may\\_2016.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_may_2016.pdf). She asked council members for feedback on ways the sanctuary can make the report more useful, particular for members to share with constituents.

1. Nancy shared the sanctuary's success in getting ship time for mapping on the *NOAA Ship Rainier*, with an emphasis on backscatter for habitat delineation and water column mapping. Over the course of 5 days, the ship mapped Quinault Canyon to a depth of 1,200 m. A rim of gas plumes was found from 120-170 m with methane that emits a bacteria biofilm that feeds the krill population. The Ocean Exploration Trust's *Exploration Vessel Nautilus*, working with NOAA, will be going out next week to conduct further research on those gas plumes and to ground-truth a large area in the backscatter with signatures of rocky habitat or unrecognizable geological areas. Carol shared that *EV Nautilus* is making its way down from Canada and will be in Nitinat Canyon on June 3. It will also send a ROV down to World War II shipwreck of *SS Trader*, and conduct "ship to shore" broadcasts with Taholah School and OCNMS education staff on June 6 with a scientist on board. They will follow the Cascadian margin to explore the methane seeps. OCNMS is also discussing possibilities for sanctuary surveys on upcoming ocean acidification work on a cruise taking place over the next two months.
2. *RV Tatoosh* is back from its yard period for maintenance and will be deploying mooring buoys next week to kick off the 2016 field season. OCNMS continues to work on vessel replacement and funding through Congressional appropriation process. Carol will be at Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) in Washington, D.C. early June and will meet with Congressional members to discuss both *RV Tatoosh* and ocean acidification work.
3. George just completed the Area To Be Avoided Report for 2015 and found 97.7% compliance rate, so OCNMS thanked everyone for their ongoing support.
4. The Washington Coast Cleanup was successful, with ~1,400 volunteers collecting about 20 tons of debris along the coast, followed by the River and Ocean Festival in Forks, WA.
5. OCNMS is making progress on the Habitat Framework. Nancy has been working with the Intergovernmental Policy Council to acquire funding for two major components.
6. The sanctuary's education and outreach program and team is in its peak season.

#### **Member Reports and Future Agenda Topics**

- Heather Reed announced that Dan Ayres will become the new WDFW representative on the Advisory Council. He has worked with the tribes, works on HABs monitoring, works with Dungeness crabs and other shellfish fisheries.

- George Hart shared that George Galasso spoke at the U.S. Naval Museum in Keyport on Earth Day and his presentation was well-received.
- Steve Joner will also be attending Capitol Hill Ocean Week serving salmon and black cod at the fish fry.
- Roy Morris is promoting voluntourism opportunity on September 17 to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup, which will include a “Salmon Feed, Poetry Read” event following in Forks. Roy will provide flyers for members to post and distribute.
- Jessi Doerpinghaus thanked the council for her experience participating on the Advisory Council. The Marine Resources Committee is in the process of starting up their Request for Proposals for the next year, so please share with anyone knows of an educational or science project that needs funding.
- Katrina Lassiter shared that on May 26 WDNR is hosting a Spatial Analysis workshop at Grays Harbor Community College from 1-4pm with WDFW. WDFW is conducting a MARXAN analysis to run different spatial scenarios. WCMAC and the public can test various scenarios at this workshop.
- Bob Boekelheide stated that the mid-April Olympic Bird Fest included a post-festival event in Neah Bay. Makah Tribe was an excellent host, and the event included a boat trip into the sanctuary waters. It was so successful that three more pelagic trips have been planned for the summer.
- Jennifer Hagen will be joining the *Thompson* research cruise based out of Newport, OR. They plan to have the environmental sample processor attached to the NEMO mooring buoy off La Push and operational. The NANOOS website (<http://www.nanoos.org/>) will have updates and the mooring will be out for six weeks. The buoy will relay data on HAB species and domoic acid toxin concentration.
- Jennifer Hennessey mentioned that the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) has a meeting on June 15 in Aberdeen at the Port of Grays Harbor. They have been working toward policy recommendations for the state on the Marine Spatial Plan and will soon have a final package of recommendations on policies. The Governance Coordinating Committee advising the National Ocean Council policy met in May. Jen is the West Coast regional representative (Washington, Oregon and California) along with T.J. Greene of Makah Tribe and Senator Kevin Ranker. The group highlighted key issues to current administration, as well as incoming administration. They will produce high level topic papers around the theme of Sea Change (e.g. sea level rise and changing ocean conditions).
- Commander Aaron Meadows-Hills announced the upcoming change in personnel, with Rear Admiral Gromlick retiring. Incoming replacement, Rear Admiral Mark Butt, will meet with OCNMS after arriving and settling in.
- Jodie Toft first shared on behalf of Casey Dennehy that the applications for Surfrider Foundation’s Leadership Program are due June 19. The program is designed to elevate emerging or team leaders along the Washington outer coast. Karlyn will send another email distributing the information to council members.
- Joel Kawahara commercial non-treaty salmon trolling opens on May 1 and will end the last week of August, with a quota of 35,000 Chinook (no Coho landing or retention allowed this

year). The treaty tribal quota for Chinook is 40,000. For the northern part of the sanctuary he is seeing pretty sizable schools of forage fish, primarily herring, but also sardine.

- Tom Burlingame provided updates on the recreational salmon fishery. The Chinook fishery will open on July 1. There will be a small Coho fishery in Areas 1. In Areas 2, 3 and 4 from Westport to north, there will be a Chinook-only recreational fishery through August 21 (no Coho). Each Area has its own allowable catch.
- John Veentjer stated that anyone interested in vessel traffic safety can attend the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting on June 1, followed immediately by a Vessel Traffic Assessment. They were recently notified that there will not be a coal facility at Survey Point. Kinder Morgan was recognized for recommendation for approval by the National Energy Board of Canada.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** in Forks, WA. The meeting was adjourned.