



WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee
June 1st, 2013
1000-1500
Hal Holmes Community Center, Ellensburg, WA

Members in Attendance:	
John Suessman, Chair	Dave Ruffin, Vice-chair
Lyle Cabe	Dave Croonquist
Bill Green	Don Gulliford
Andrew Hamilton	Robin Hickock
Bob Holtfreter	Dan Hornfelt
Martha Jordan	Pat Lowe
Hal Mahnke	Anna Maria Marchionne
Ron McDonald	Ton Messineo
Ed Scullywest	Tom Weathers
Kyle Winton	
WDFW Staff:	
Bruce Bjork, Chief	Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief
Steve Crown, Lieutenant	Chris Anderson, Captain, Region 2
Rich Mann, Captain, Region 3	Dan Brinson, Captain, Region 6
Mike Hobbs, Captain, Region 4	Joanna Eide, Admin. Regulations Analyst
Sean Carrell, Problem Wildlife Coord.	Anthony Novack, Deer/elk Conflict Specialist
Members Absent:	
Dean Byus	Ed Owens
David Robinson	

Chief Bruce Bjork convened meeting at 1000

[November 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)

Introductions

Pat Lowe had past law enforcement experience. Likes to hunt and fish. Bill Green Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue. Has worked locally with Sergeant Ted Jackson and WDFW. Dan Hornfelt is from Pullman. Went to University of Idaho. Loves the outdoors. Was a Snohomish County Park Ranger. John Suessman has been on the committee for three years. Recently retired and has been doing a lot of fishing. He lives in Thurston County. Ed Scullywest is from Bothell. Bow hunter. Has been on

committee for three years. Dave Croonquist lives in Sequim. Has been on for seven years. Retired Asst. Chief of the Division of Colorado. Particularly interested in statutes and WAC's. Don Gulliford has been active in the fly fishing club and Ducks Unlimited. Police Commissioner for Mercer Island. Martha Jordan is a biologist and works with WDFW regarding Mute Swans and other law enforcement activities regarding lead shot. Has gotten to know the Enforcement officers in the Region. Assisted with the implementation of the KBD program. Bob Holtfreter has been with the program since inception. Professor at CWU. Worked on the Master Hunter Advisory group. Hunts and fishes. Robin Hickock is retired police chief. Ducks Unlimited and various other groups. Captain Rich Mann is the regional captain for Region 3. Six years in Region 3. Lyle Cabe is from Vancouver and SWCA. Works with Murray Schlenker in Region 5. Enjoys working with the group. Hal Mahnke is from Longview. Retired captain from Longview Police Dept. FBI academy. Number of various groups. Volunteers one day a week with WDFW. Volunteer of the Year for 2012. Captain Mike Hobbs is the newly promoted Captain in Region 4. Went to WSU and was stationed eight years in Ellensburg. Deputy Chief Cenci mentioned he was impressed with the amount of talent in the room. Assists the Chief. One benefit of this work is marketing our accomplishments through this group. Really appreciate the support. Lieutenant Steve Crown works out of Olympia and started with the City of Wenatchee. Street Level Gang and drug enforcement. In charge of the recruiting process and hiring, as well as training. Worked very closely with John Suessman while John was at the CJTC. Just had one officer that came out of the academy. Hopefully will answer questions on how to go about the process. Captain Chris Anderson is out of Region 2 in Ephrata. Started in 1988 in Lewis County. Promoted to Sergeant in the Basin. Looks forward working with volunteers. Dave Ruffin has been with Moses Lake for 31 years. Just finished 2nd year with this group. Works often with WDFW Law Enforcement. Helps Captain Anderson's group. Joanne Eide is an attorney with Enforcement. Graduated from University of Idaho. Was hired to assist the WAC overhaul process among other things. Ron McDonald was in the Air Force for 22 years. Corps of Engineers as a Park Ranger. Son is a California Game Warden. Wants to insure fish and wildlife resources are here for future generations. Hopes to add to this group. Tom Weathers is from Spanaway. Worked at NW Trek. Spent quite a few years as hunter education instructor. Tony Messineo is a former marine. Pierce County Sheriff's Office. Hunts and fishes. Has been on the group for a year. Anna Maria Marchionne is originally from South Carolina. Annethisologist. Currently trains bird dogs and bird hunts. Big game hunter and wants to look at access issues. Kyle Winton is the president of Eyes in the Woods and has worked with WDFW Enforcement for years. Observation Witness League and getting qualified folks out in the woods. Captain Dan Brinson has been on for 26 years and started in Mason County. Likes to hunt and fish.

Review of minutes. Meeting minutes have been moved to approve. Motion seconded. Suessman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Chief Bjork advised Lieutenant Crown will do the hiring and recruitment process presentation.

New Business

WAC Recodification Project:

Joanne Eide gave a presentation on the WAC overhaul. Eide has been helping to work on advising officers with legal issues and case law updates. Eide is focusing her efforts on WAC 220 and WAC 232 currently. Currently no structure and location of rules and are in different areas throughout the WAC. Overhauled state RCW's, but WAC was never done. Very slow process. The project layout gives you an idea of how it was developed and what types of rule changes are necessary. Ease of use for both agency and public. Eide has done some technical amendments and repeal on round two. Amended four rules to clarify the titles and made other technical changes. Round three and eighteen rules were eliminated. Reorganized and split up existing rules creating fourteen new rule sections. Repealed twelve outdated and unnecessary rules within these chapters. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there are four programs involved with rule making. Only one has a law enforcement perspective. Wildlife and fish promulgate a regulation, but it may not be the correct language. Additionally, different writing styles have also caused issues. The other thing to keep in mind is biological staff didn't recognize that there was no statute to enable the rules. That has been fixed which provide the penalty. Hal Mahnke asked if a number of cases were lost because of these issues. Deputy Chief Cenci said yes. Things were fixed as problems arose. Some of these regulations have been on the books since 1968. Part of the issue is clarifying the language and keeping the intent of the rule. RCW's must be approved by the legislature. Mahnke asked if the AG's office is involved. Eide advised that we do work with them a little bit and discussions do occur. Chief Bjork advised that the agency does have an attorney general assigned. Those rules that the Commission votes on are reviewed by the AG's office. Briefing will be done in August at the Commission Meeting. Major revamp of WAC 232-28-619 for recreational fishing. Current breakdown is alphabetical and by county. Instead, it will be directed by region and identifiable by specific water ways. The new WAC will have new numbering signaling topic areas. Topic areas will be separated by separated headings and sub headings. Final review by WDFW Executive Management will occur this summer. The final WAC reorg will occur in September 2013. There will be some outreach including working with the courts and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, other state agencies and also the media. After completion and overhaul, maintain new format so that the agency does not fall back into bad habits. Any questions please contact Joanna Eide. Chief Bjork would like to reiterate that there is a lot of agency staff participating to complete this project.

EAG Objectives & other paperwork:

Sean Carrell identified the necessary paperwork for volunteering with the group. Advised that there is an application sheet. Volunteer Timesheet needs to reflect the hours volunteered for the date on the paperwork. Sign the information at the bottom and return to WDFW. Carrell advised the group on a number of objectives for the group from strategic planning, staffing, Hunter Education, Outreach/Education, as well as technology. Carrell advised that technology will be a huge piece of his new duties and

that hopefully in the future the group can hear some of the new innovations. Chief Bjork advised that the group had developed sub groups in the past which tackled specific topics, especially those in regards to Outreach/Education which produced some very valuable information.

Overview of WDFW & Law Enforcement Program:

Chief Bjork reviewed basic distribution of the agency structure and the law enforcement program. Accredited through CALEA at full accreditation level. The program will not obtain international accreditation. Chief Bjork advised EAG on general authority and authorizing statutes & WAC's. The program has a 99.5% retention rate. Enhancing public perception through fairs and/or sporting events. Operate a tip line via text. Poaching trailer strengthening stakeholder relationships, use of volunteers. Survey of recreational users and general public. Enhancing public safety. Marijuana erad team, KBD program, as well as toxic shellfish monitoring. KBD has six dogs, one is owned by a biologist. KBD's are used primarily for bear aversion, or other dangerous wildlife encounters. State's geography much like Florida. Marine & Land based. Florida has 800 officers and Washington has 135 officers. IACP staffing suggested increase staffing since 2008. Staffing comparison nationwide is low. Last biennium 11-13 added ALEA funding. One more detective and two more officers. Puget Sound crab endorsement raised money for one detective and two and a half officers. CRSS enforcement added one sergeant and two officers. Discover pass funds added one officer. There are 143.5 commissioned staff, 10 administrative personnel, four dispatchers, seven and a half hunter education staff, three fleet, and two evidence technicians. Total budget for 11-13 is \$40 million. The last three biennium's WDFW was 50% GF; much less now. Personnel costs are bulk; twenty five percent are operational costs. Poaching and spree killing. ESA listed species and over fished species. Large scale trafficking of fish and wildlife, which is the third highest crime in the nation. Ensuring safe public consumption of shellfish. Introduction of invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels. Protecting lands of WDFW. Illegal dumping and destruction of property. Mahnke asked if he could have someone come and speak. Chief Bjork said no, but a request can be made to a Captain, or Sergeant, or other supervisor.

Budget update:

Chief Bjork advised that currently no budget has been proposed as we are set to finish the second of two special sessions. Have not received 13-15 allotments as of yet. Very little information is coming back identifying anything. There is less than 30 days left in current biennium.

Legislation update:

The bills that have been passed by the legislature have been signed by the Governor. Boating safety bill which increase boating under the influence (BUI) from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor. Applies implied consent. Now in statue. If an officer requests a breath test and the person fails, they receive a \$1,000 class I civil infraction. No suspension of privileges. The other piece of the bill allows vessel collisions the same authority for LE officers as on vehicle collisions. Based upon probable cause of the scene, they can issue a citation. The third thing that the bill does is a consumer protection

piece. Those entities that rent vessels are required to provide the safety equipment regardless if they are motorized, or not. The owner of the vessel and owner of rental can be cited. Deputy Chief Cenci spearheaded a seafood labeling bill. Mislabeling and consumer fraud. Title 16 code is where that is identified and the penalties. Increased civil penalties up to a class c felony. Changed the classification of fish guides. Hunting guides currently are not regulated. Legislation passed put our licensing requirements much like Oregon. Bonded, CPR, first aid, equipment, in order to be licensed. Consumer protection pieces. January proposed legislation will be provided to the group in January, especially the Enforcement Code. Run a bill on commercial licenses. Hunter Education bill was introduced but was not passed. Don Gulliford asked if there was some sort of organized resistance. There was a lot of good support. The bill asked the legislature for a minimum age requirement at the age of 8. Hunter Educator instructors advised that they had proficiency issues under the age of 8. Added anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult and the adult had to have been licensed and Hunter Education approved. Provided additional fees and an online course that would have cost the applicant \$20 through a third party vendor. It added the same fee to the traditional hunter education course. Anyone signing up for a hunter education course would not have to sign up for a hunter education fee. Marchionne identified that there are 2,500 folks every year that cannot get a course. Even though there is an online course, they still must show a proficiency test. Tony Messineo advised that November 2012 meeting minutes identified a \$100 fee. Chief Bjork advised that was incorrect. It is a \$20 fee. Kyle Winton asked to encourage more range days and instructors could be compensated mileage to assist with those. Chief Bjork advised that is something to consider.

Testing & recruitment:

Lieutenant Steve Crown showed a brief Video "Force of Nature." Lieutenant Crown identified the entry level process and qualifications and disqualifiers. Entry level officers must go through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) and the Field Training Officer process (FTO). Lieutenant Crown advised that the officers are prepared using various agency literature. Oral panel ordered 40-50 folks. Work list even lower; preference points for military. Oral panel very specific to fish and wildlife. From oral panel, there are twelve to thirteen folks. Laterals are scored and what attributes they may have. Specialty assignments or FPT process. Laterals that pass go immediately to a Chief's interview. Conditional offer gives a decent candidate

Old Business

Update of illegal hunting study:

Anthony Novack gave a brief intro. Profiling Poachers study. Did surveys in both eastern and western Washington targeting locations with lots of deer and elk hunters. Created a randomized response technique. Randomized responses using coin toss and sensitive questions. Results in April in 2011-2012, 2,698 responses and 2,522 active hunters that hunted in Washington during the past two years. Successful harvest or zero harvest. High rates of trespass. Summary of violations were low. Provides objective rates of violations. Comment was given that this is good information. Can correlate to

violations and the need of enforcement officers. Robin Hickock advised that there is no profiling. Gulliford asked what was seen in Reel News that when a violator is stopped a huge percentage are felons. Croonquist advised that this is good work, but maybe the numbers are low. These are sportsmen and not the violators. Comment was made that this should be a disclaimer that those folks aren't fully represented. Marchionne teaches hunter education in Issaquah. One of her lectures is given by WDFW Enforcement staff that hits on the violation aspect. Get 'em young and circumvent possible violations in the future. Ethical standards taught using examples. Holtfreter asked how you measure that impact. Marchionne advised that they haven't done that yet, but there might be a way to do this within their small group. Captain Mann advised that over half the classes statewide have law enforcement attendance to give presentations. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that it is our intent to attend these events as much as we can. Early introductions are necessary. Winton asked what could change in the future is the fee access to private timberlands. Holtfreter advised if folks have a violation, WDFW should not issue a license at all. Need to change behavior. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there is a justification for some individuals because of the temptation. Some may not agree with the regulation or allotment of animals and will simply violate to violate. Tom Weathers advised that wildlife violations are a hard risk crime. Captain Brinson advised that if you are looking for ways to get this into future action, this study gives us numbers. Is there a way to look at other law enforcement reports to correlate these studies together. We can officer deterrence. Chief Bjork advised that there is a staffing study available which identifies officer levels. Messineo advised that education is the key. However, there are a lot of folks that were born before 1972 that don't have hunter ethics as they did not go through a class. Simply not enough law enforcement agents available to do that work. We have to increase fees to get more money to hire more officers. Holtfreter advised that there is a necessity for a code of conduct.

Requests for Fall topics:

- None at this time.

Conclusion

Requested Action Items:

- *None*

Topics for Future Discussion:

- RMS and ROIP
- KBD Program
- WTH/AVL Mapping
- Update on Wildlife Crime Stoppers
- Presentation on scope of problems on WDFW land use
- Update on Social Media

Next meeting: WDFW staff advised that a future meeting will be held after the Fall season, but Headquarters would communicate via Doodle Poll.