



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

September 13-14, 2019 –Sun Mountain Lodge Winthrop

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Dave Graybill
Don McIsaac
Bob Kehoe
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Jim Brown
Bill Tweit
Eric Winther
Eric Anderson

Kyle Spragens
Anise Aoude
Eric Gardner
Michelle Dunlop
Sam Montgomery
Chad Jackson
Cynthia Wilkerson
Nick Fosse
Dan Christensen

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer
Tami Lininger

Public:

Michael Crowder	Joe Maroney	Chris Bachman
Carol Long	Melanie Rowland	Steve Shanewise
Vic Stokes	Susan Fleischman	Jay Kehne
Jasmine Minbashian	Hugh Jensen	

Friday, September 13, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

The Commissioners discussed the following items:

Chair Carpenter announced the following agenda item modifications:

- #4 Land Transactions were struck from agenda. There are no transactions at this time
- #6 is not a decision; the decision will be made at the September 27 conference call.
- #8, #9, #10 are not decisions at this meetings; decisions will be made at the September 27 conference call.

Commissioner Smith attended the Southern Resident Orca Task Force meeting with Deputy Director Amy Windrope, recommendations will be released in October.

Commissioner Thorburn reported on her two day participation with the augmentation of sharp-tailed grouse efforts. She attended the Return of the Salmon at Lake Roosevelt. It was moving to see salmon handed down from elder to youth.

Commissioner Graybill participated in the brood stock gathering for the hatchery in the Rufus Woods area. He is happy with low mortality rates and believes it holds promise for alternative gear research for future fish hatcheries and projects.

Commissioner Kehoe expressed concern about litigation between some NGOs and National Marine Fisheries Service in regards to fisheries reductions needed to benefit Southern Killer Whales. He would like to see a briefing on current litigation. The October meeting will have Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Chair Carpenter asked that Director Susewind and Deputy Director Windrope keep the Commission abreast of ongoing litigation.

Commissioner McIsaac reported on the exceptionally high count of shad at Bonneville Dam of 7.5 million in 2019, exceeding the previous record high count of 6.1 million.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the August 23, 2019 conference call.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Vice Chair Baker to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2019 conference call as presented. Commissioner Smith abstained. Motion passed.

c. Committee Reports

Chair Carpenter briefly updated the Commission on the Fish Committee discussion around Pike and Willapa Bay/Hatchery efforts. They will be discussed in further detail in later meeting presentations.

Commissioner McIsaac provided an update from the August 29, Columbia River PRC meeting in Salem. Notes from the meeting can be found [here](#). The PRC has been scheduled to convene again on October 1 in Salem, Oregon and November 18 in Ridgefield, Washington, with the goal of reaching a recommendation to both State Commissions at the November meeting. Commissioner Graybill hopes to see more Eastside meetings so constituent's voices can be heard, in the event more meetings are scheduled.

Commissioner Thorburn provided an update on the Wildlife and Wolf committees. Wildlife committee discussed grazing WAC 220.500.200 consolidation, predator/prey update, blood tracking dogs, an update on landowner hunting permits, and touched on the cougar rule making timeline and draft plan.

Commissioner Thorburn indicated there wasn't enough time to address all the issues at the meeting so another Wildlife committee conference call will be held to address the remaining issues.

The Wolf committee provided an overview of the population model to be used in the periodic status review, an update on scoping and timeline for the post recovery plan, public and media communication about lethal action, and wolf-livestock conflict on WDFW lands.

Vice Chair Baker provided an update on the Big Tent committee. She summarized the following recommendations around agenda setting:

- There are nine in person meetings. The committee recommended 5 regional meetings and 4 in Olympia.

- Locations chosen for 2020 are: Clarkston, Yakima, Aberdeen, Mt. Vernon, and Colville. Runners up are Tri-cities and Moses Lake.
- Staff efficiencies will be made to sync with agenda and reduce travel costs. The staff will attempt to sync agenda items with set locations.
- Conference calls have been modified from 17 to 11 for efficiency purposes and;
- Keep meeting durations Thursday at noon to Saturday at noon. Leaving Thursday for committee meetings.

Vice Chair Baker presented an update on the beginning stages of the 25 year strategic plan. The plan will identify the Department's values, processes, priorities, and will be used to help evaluate the director's performance.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Jay Kehne – Positive partnerships

Susan Fleischman – Big game management

Michael Crowder – Waterfowl Advisory Group,
Corn pond

Carol Long – Big game management

Jasmine Minbashian – Coexisting

3. Director's Report

The Director provided highlights on the following:

- New Fish Program Director announced – Kelly Cunningham
- Congressional & Legislative Tours
- Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area Management Plan
- Wolf update
- Simcoe Phase 5 land acquisition
- I-90 Wildlife Pass Project

Jim Brown, Region 2 Director, reported:

- Commissioner Graybill and DFW attended the Chinook salmon cultural releases by Colville Tribes in Rufus Woods Reservoir.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, 5 year agreement, renewed.
- Region 2 worked with DOT, the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), and Conservation Northwest to establish a "pilot" wildlife fence on Highway 97 in Okanogan County. The agreement is no cost maintenance. The goal is to fence more of the highway in this area and build a wildlife purposed underpass and all but eliminate car vs. deer accidents in this area. Former Commissioner Kehne is leading the effort from the NGO side.
- Region 2 staff and Real Estate Services Division are working with the City of Bridgeport on a small 2 acre land trade for a water tower site.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

This item was struck from the agenda with no transactions to report.

5. Hatchery Reform Policy C-3619 – Briefing

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy provided the Commission with a schedule update for the remainder of the evaluation. The Fish committee recommended several revisions to the timeline, including in particular that the process end in 2020 with a decision by the Commission on any language changes to the Policy. Ron Warren will provide an updated timeline to the Commission.

6. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Regulation Amendment – Briefing, Public Hearing

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, Eric Winther, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, and Eric Anderson, Enforcement Captain briefed the Commission on proposed regulations concerning AIS watercraft inspection stations, possession of certain forms of prohibited level 3 species, and the reclassification of Northern Pike.

The following people provided comments:
Joe Maroney

The Commissioners asked about rule impact and levels of predation.

7. Blue Sheet: Corn Pond Hunting- Briefing

Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager, Game Division provided a briefing on policy for corn pond duck hunting.

No one provided testimony.

No further action is requested from Commissioners in regards to the blue sheet.

8. Distributing License Discounts Proportionally to Accounts - Briefing, Public Hearing

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs, proposed a new rule that will apply license discounts to each of the component accounts at the same percentage as the total discount, so that a single account is not disproportionately impacted.

No one provided testimony.

Decision will be addressed at the September 27, conference call.

9. Establishing the Get Outdoors Hunting and Fishing License Package – Briefing, Public Hearing

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs, proposed a new rule establishing a Get Outdoors license package for a discounted price that includes fishing, shellfishing, and big and small game hunting privileges.

No one provided testimony.

Decision will be addressed at the September 27, conference call.

10. Amending Rules Pertaining to the Expired Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement - Briefing, Public Hearing

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs, proposed amendments to licensing rules to strike references to the expired Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement and establish a price point for the Fish Washington license.

No one provided testimony.

Decision will be addressed at the September 27, conference call.

11. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners and staff discussed upcoming meetings, conference calls and reviewed the proposed 2020 meeting dates.

Vice Chair Baker reiterated the guidance from the Big Tent committee around agenda structuring.

Commissioner Kehoe asked if his request to not meeting on Saturday on occasion was under consideration. Commissioners noted the importance of keeping Saturdays for meetings so the public can attend who work during the week.

Year at a Glance (YAAG) development will be discussed further at the October Big Tent committee.

October Agenda modifications:

- Change committee meeting to 1.5 hours and change orders
- Commission approved executive session
- Move item #15 Willapa Bay to December
- Remove Hatchery update from Fish committee
- Commissioner Kehoe asked if #10 Coastal Dungeness Crab Whale Entanglement could be moved to the December agenda.
- Commissioner McIsaac asked if #13 Cougar Management should have guidance added.

Staff will inquire and respond to the commissioner's modifications requests.

Commission Requests

Commissioner Graybill made a blue- sheet motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith for a joint presentation by regional directors and tribal co-managers on projects that benefit fish. The motion passed.

12. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commissioners and staff discussed follow up items from the meeting.

Saturday, August 3, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

13. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Carol Long – Big game management

Susan Fleischman – Big game management

14. Commission Brunch & Workshop

This event is for welcoming new commissioners and informal discussion. This meeting is open to the public for those who wish to observe. No public input will be taken.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.