



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Conference Call
Friday, November 15, 2019
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

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

Department Staff:

Amy Windrope
Edward Eleazer
Craig Burley
Ron Warren

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Bob Aegerter
Andy Walgamott
Andrew McDonnell
Larry Lowe

Friday, November 15, 2019

Vice Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Petition – Skykomish River Rule Change – Decision

Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager briefed the Commission on a petition to delay opening day for recreational anglers on the Skykomish River from May 25 to June 15 and to enact selective gear rules from July 15 to January 31.

After discussion Commissioners agreed that co-managers needed to be a part of the discussion and the petition proposals should be considered at the 2020 North of Falcon season setting process with analysis of the conservation benefits and fishery/economic costs of the proposed rule change.

Chair Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to deny the petition to delay opening day for recreational anglers on the Skykomish River from May 25 to June 15 and to enact selective gear rules from July 15 to January 31.

There was discussion about ensuring the response to the petitioner about the reasons for the decision being done in a respectful manner that reflects the agency partnership with the petitioner on achieving mitigation for Skykomish River dam effects and fish stock recovery, and invites them to participate in the North of Falcon process.

Commissioner Thorburn amended the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Baker to add verbiage that states, "staff will consider these changes during the upcoming 2020 NOF public fishing season setting process."

After further discussion and clarification, the amendment was adopted with all in favor. The amended motion was then voted on. All in favor. Amended motion passed.

B. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission considered the approval of the November 1, conference call.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Linville to approve the November 1 conference call minutes. Commissioner Kehoe and Smith abstained. All in favor. Motion passed.

C. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners discussed upcoming meeting agendas.

Executive Session was moved to January, the AG's office will set the executive sessions to quarterly. The Commission discussed the purpose of them and the pro's and con's.

Big Tent committee was removed from the agenda and Habitat committee replaced it. Staff will notify those necessary for participation. Habitat committee also has a called November 19 at 9am.

Item #13 Willapa Bay was removed and replaced with a Baker Lake Sockeye briefing. Fish Committee will provide a Willapa Bay update, HB1579 options based on public feedback, and Puget Sound crab.

Commissioner Thorburn indicated that Wildlife and Wolf committee topics are tentative until she discussed them with the Wildlife Director, Eric Gardner.

Chair Carpenter will follow up with Commissioner McIsaac about agenda topics and any additional concerns.

D. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director discussed recent activities and items of interest.

Commissioner Thorburn asked about the Legislative budget request status and if there were any major changes. Deputy Director Windrope indicated no and that she would have the Legislative Director, Tom McBride follow up with her.

Commissioner Linville expressed interest in attending the strategic sessions being provided by staff. Deputy Director Windrope indicated she was welcome to attend.

Chair Carpenter noted that the January meeting there will be a Commissioner Workshop and a full schedule.

Vice Chair Baker will send a message to the Big Tent committee letting them know it will not be held at the December meeting but by conference call later.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio constitute the full minutes.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant