



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

August 4-6, 2022 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Barbara Baker, Chair
Donald McIsaac
Lorna Smith
Tim Ragen
Melanie Rowland
John Lehmkuhl
Jim Anderson

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
(Friday only)
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Karen Edwards
Anis Aoude
Joel Sisolak
Cynthia Wilkerson

Staff

Morgan Stinson
Tim Burns

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepper

Friday, August 5, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Baker shared that the Executive Session will be moved from Saturday to Friday at 11:30 a.m.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the May 18-19, 2022, workshop notes, June 23-25, 2022, hybrid meeting minutes, July 8, 2022, special web conference meeting minutes and July 15, 2022, web conference meeting minutes.

Commissioner Linville made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl, to approve the notes of the May 18-19, 2022, workshop as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Linville made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the June 23-25, 2022, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Linville made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2022, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Linville made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2022, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Linville, Lehmkuhl, Smith, Ragen, and Commissioner Rowland, McIsaac, Anderson

Vice Chair Linville reported that there was a robust committee discussion about the [SSB 5273 Shoreline Armoring rule](#) and [Grazing permit Commission review](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members McIsaac, Linville, Ragen, Anderson, and Commissioner Smith

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee discussed the [Coastal Steelhead 2022 Performance and Indicators for 2023](#) and the upcoming [Schedule](#) as well as [the C-3622 Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy](#) and provided [FWC Policy staff comments](#).

The committee brought a recommendation to the Commission to have a briefing with public comment on Willapa Bay at the September Commission meeting. The Commission supported the recommendation.

In addition to the Willapa Bay briefing, the Fish committee also removed the Eulachon and Chelan petition items from the committee agenda, as the items will come to the full Commission for a briefing.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

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| Commissioner Michael Heath – Ferry County wildlife management | |
| Commissioner Brian Smiley – Pend Orielle human/cougar conflict | |
| Commissioner Danny Stone – Grant County wildlife management | |
| Commissioner Jim Nelson – Garfield County predator management | |
| Commissioner Wes McCart – Stevens County Whitetail deer/predator control | |
| Frank Urabeck – Sock eye budget concerns | |
| Claire Davis – Wild Fish Conservancy letter (WFC) | Jonathon Basford – WFC letter |
| Sophia Ressler – WFC letter | Jamie Glasgow – WFC letter |
| Jack Stanford – WFC letter | David Moskowitz – WFC letter |
| Emma Helverson – WFC letter | Conrad Gowell – FWC letter |
| Terry Wright – FWC letter | Nick Gayeski – FWC letter |
| Kurt Beardslee – FWC letter | Sam Bruegger – FWC letter |
| Alyne Fortgang – Cougar/predator management | David Linn – Wolf management |
| Hannah Thompson – Garner – Cougar/predator management | |

3. Director's Report

Director Susewind provided an overview of current events, activities, and meetings of impact within and in relation to the agency.

The following items were highlighted:

- In-person on regional award ceremonies will be held two weeks in August.
- Centennial Accord is scheduled at Tulalip on October 24 & 25.
- 2024 WAFWA meeting will be in Washington and likely in region 5.

Fire Update

After a cooler and moister spring and early summer the department implemented emergency rules on July 15 in eastern Washington, two weeks later than normal, to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Emergency rules included restrictions on campfires, target shooting, and more. Wildfire risk is now more typical for this time of year being very high in most of eastern Washington. Three significant

wildfires have impacted WDFW lands with two currently burning on both the LT Murray Wildlife Area and the Wenas Wildlife Area.

Bear-Human Encounter

On Wednesday, Aug. 3 at approximately 8:30 a.m., Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officers received a report of a human-black bear incident in Whatcom County. The person involved sustained multiple injuries to his hands and feet and received medical care at a local hospital. The bear was lethally removed from the area. In Washington state, the only recorded fatal black bear attack on a human was reported in 1974. Since 1970, state authorities have recorded 18 other human-black bear encounters that resulted in a documented injury. The most recent was in 2015.

4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for approval of a land transaction recommended by the Department for the enhancement of conservation and public recreation opportunities.

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the land transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

5. 2023 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

Tom McBride, Legislative Director asked the Commission for a decision on the agency's request for legislation for the 2023 legislative session.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the proposed agency request legislation as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in an executive session. No action was taken, and the public was not permitted to attend.

LUNCH

7. 2023-25 Operating and Capital Budgets - Decision

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer, and Tim Burns, CAMP Program Director asked Commission for a decision on the proposed FY23-25 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commission Anderson to approve the proposed 2023-25 operating budget request as presented by staff, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepares final documents for submittal to the Office of Financial Management, which included Commissioner McIsaac's further explanation about how "minor adjustments" should be interpreted to include a restriction on certain use of funds.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to amend the initial motion to remove Commissioner McIsaac's further explanation and intended restriction.

The Commission discussed the motion to amend.

After further discussion, Commissioner Smith and Rowland withdrew their motion to amend, and Commissioner McIsaac and Anderson then withdrew their motion.

Commissioner McIsaac made a new motion, seconded by Commission Anderson to approve the proposed 2023-25 operating budget request as presented by staff, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepares final documents for submittal to the Office of Financial Management. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the proposed 2023-25 capital budget request as presented, allowing for minor adjustments to the project scope and budget to the Office of Financial Management. All in favor. Motion passes.

8. Roadkill and Salvage Petition – Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on a petition to amend WAC 220-413-030 to, “be more in line with the current Idaho Roadkill and Salvage rules.”

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the petition with the understanding that there will be a future conversation about animal dispatch practices. The majority were in favor except for Vice Chair Linville who voted against it. Motion passes.

9. 10-year Recreation Strategy - Briefing

Joel Sisolak, Lands Planning and Recreation Section Manager and Cynthia Wilkerson, Wildlife Program Lands Division Manager presented the final version of the [10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands](#).

RECESS

Saturday, August 6, 2022

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

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:
Commissioner Marty Hall – Columbia County predator/elk concerns
Rachel Haymon – Klickitat County cougar management
Rachel Bjork – Precautionary principle

11. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed, and staff captured the following items that arose throughout the meeting and discussed September meeting planning.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl asked for policy discussions added to the Year-at-a-Glance.

Commissioner McIsaac requested a placeholder on the Year-at-a-Glance for predator management and adding the Game Management Plan and Spring Bear policy process discussion to the Wildlife committee and a cougar briefing from staff in December.

Commissioner McIsaac requested the following:

- An addition of a Willapa Bay briefing, and public comment to the full Commission in September per the recommendation from the Fish committee.
- Remove Eulachon and Chelan petition items from the Fish committee, as the items will come to the full Commission for a briefing.
- An addition of a Coastal Steelhead special Fish committee meeting on November 10.
- Adding a public comment opportunity to the Coastal Steelhead agenda item in September.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer 9/23/22

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant