

Waterfowl Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
Best Western Lakefront Hotel
3000 Marina Dr
Moses Lake, WA
August 2, 2008

Members present: John Arrabito, Larry Boose, Roy Christopherson, Michael Crowder, Chris Dorow, Ralph Engle, Doug Hargin, Dick Jacobs, Dick Price, Pat Shearer, Dave Sievers, Rodney Vandersypen, and Ben Welton

Others present: Don Kraege, Rich Finger, and Dennis Beich (WDFW); Corky Roberts (USFWS), John Tierney (WAG ex-officio member), and Roger Reynolds.

Michael Crowder (chair) called the meeting to order with introductions.

MOTION: Approve minutes from March 29, 2008 meeting. Motion passed with a note that the “update on *SW Oregon/NW Oregon* goose management” should read “*SW Washington*”.

WATERFOWL GUIDING AND COMMERCIAL USE PERMIT

Dennis Beich provided an overview of waterfowl guiding and commercial use permit, and provided a handout for the new land-use WAC 232-13. Roger Reynolds discussed permit requirement history in the Columbia Basin and provided a handout of proposed permit conditions for waterfowl guides, which was developed by a WAG subcommittee on May 19, 2008. The need for guide permitting as a state policy with regional flexibility for implementation was discussed.

MOTION: Accept draft as written and return to the subcommittee for a plan for implementation, after which time the plan will come back to the WAG for a vote. Motion passed with 3 opposed. Roy Christopherson suggested advertising any changes in pamphlet.

EASTERN WASHINGTON QUALITY HUNT PROJECTS

Rich Finger provided an overview of quality hunt, or regulated access area (RAA) projects, including the Frenchmen, Winchester, and Gloyd RAA's. The Frenchmen Ponds project will be unchanged for the 2008-09 season. The Winchester project parking area may change to the Road 4 access route if the roadway can be made passable to 2-wheel drive vehicles. The Gloyd project is a new approach that would restrict hunting hours from the beginning of shooting hours until noon. This approach will provide a diversity of hunting experiences.

MOTION: Include goose days in regulated access area hunt days. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Add Gloyd Spud Field to the list of regulated access areas. Passed unanimously.

Dennis Beich discussed current efforts to create fee collection for regulated access areas and provided a handout titled 'Pheasant and Waterfowl Quality Hunting funded by a reservation fee. Beich also discussed potential interest in altering pheasant seasons, including ending the season on December 31st and limiting pheasant hunting to afternoon hours only.

FEDERAL BAITING REGULATIONS

Corky Roberts presented federal baiting regulations (50 CFR 20) that provided some clarification to the definition of baiting. The presentation included a handout titled 'Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting'. For further questions Corky Roberts can be reached by cell at 509-727-8358, though 4am calls from the blind will not be appreciated!

2008 WASHINGTON BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS and PACIFIC FLYWAY MEETINGS AND WATERFOWL SEASON PROPOSALS.

Don Kraege presented the 2008 Washington breeding population survey results and planned survey improvements. Kraege also presented the highlights from the July 21-25 Pacific Flyway meetings and 2008-09 waterfowl season proposals. Highlights of the waterfowl season proposal include the 2 scaup limit and shortened season length and the canvasback closure.

MOTION: Accept the scaup season as written (October 25 – January 25). Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept all proposed waterfowl hunting season regulations as written. Passed unanimously.

Kraege briefed the group on the Johnson DeBay's Slough reserve boundary issue (incomplete boundary description), private landowners desire to create a hunt club on his land within the reserve, and the potential impacts to swan use of the area.

MOTION: Alter reserve boundary to remove the private landowner from reserve, allowing him to create his hunt club. Passed unanimously.

POTENTIAL MIGRATORY BIRD STAMP LEGISLATION

Chris Dorow discussed duck stamp legislation and hosted group discussion on need for additional funds for the program, balancing the need to keep hunting affordable. The point was made that we do not want to increase stamp fees too much if the federal duck stamp is also going to be increased significantly. It is unknown whether the federal duck

stamp fee will be increased for the 2008-09 hunting season. It was decided that there was no need to take new or additional actions.

Fred Slyfield was nominated for 2009 Vice-chair (to become chair in 2010). Passed unanimously.

Michael Crowder brought up interest in moving the crow season opener to September 1.

Dick Jacobs provided several handouts on the use of battery-operated decoys.

MOTION: Allow ALL motion decoys (battery operated and electric) from December 1 – until the end of the hunting season (7 in favor, 5 opposed). Motion passed.

MOTION: Ban all spinning wing decoys (including non-battery operated) from the start of hunting season to December 1. (4 in favor, 6 opposed). Motion failed.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.