



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
March 18-19, 2016

March 18-19, 2016 Regular Meeting

Attendance

Commission:

Brad Smith, Chair
Miranda Wecker
Connie Mahnken
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn
Bob Kehoe
Jay Kehne
Jay Holzmilller

Commission Staff:

Tami Liningger

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Cindy Le Fleur
Pat Frazier
Dave Whipple
Mick Cope
Rich Harris
Jerry Nelson
Nate Pamplin
Steve Crown

Mike Cenci
Anis Aoude
Rich Beausoleil
Donny Martorello
Jim Brown

Public:

Tom Petrie Sr.	John Andrews	Al Rinaldi	Richard Cary
Colin Hamilton	Thomas Grieb	Ryan Janke	Brett Breckenridge
Rachel Voss	Andrew Stahn	Al Martz	BJ Thorniley
Wes Wichaby	Charles Garcia	RL Campbell	George Shutt
James Toroni	Jennifer Gallaway	Tommy Petrie Jr.	Jerrold Gibbons
Dave Murphy	Bill Madison	Ernst Stahn	Jerry Woods
Paul Nichols	Ann Nichols	Dale Magart	Freddie Giannecchini
Gary Clune	Larry Pryor	Ray Bunney	Jesse Brazill
Jeff Hardesty	Gregg Bafundo	Matt Marsh	Dennis Beich
Brian Lewis	Jerry Hickman	Darryl Noyer	John Conner
Dave Gimlin	Jim Burnsworth	Shawn Cantrell	George Luttrell
Colby Galpin	Dave Dashiell	Daniel Lewis	Sylvia Thorpe
Dan Carpenter	Story Warren	Dave Warren	Bob McCoy
Cameron Bennett	James Gimlin	Brandon Pritchard	Scott Rowe
Diane Gallegos	Commissioner Wes McCart	Representative Shelly Short	

Friday, March 18, 2016

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

- Commissioner Wecker mentioned the Wolf Advisory Group and North of Falcon meetings she attended earlier in the week.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

March 4, 2016 – conference call

Commissioner Wecker moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2016 conference call as presented. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Al Martz – Blue tongue
Freddie Giannecchini – Mountain lions
Dale Magart – Data collection (deer)
Ernst Stahn – Reporting illegal activity (MOU)
Charles Garcia - Wolves

3. Director's Report

The Director provided an update on various issues including:

- Budget and Legislative items
- North of Falcon
- Region 2 – Jim Brown

4. Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan - Briefing

Cindy Le Fleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager and Pat Frazier, Region 5 Policy Coordinator briefed the Commission on actions taken in the lower Columbia River to implement the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy C-3619.

5. Hunter Education Deferrals – Briefing and Public Hearing

Dave Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager, briefed the Commission on the hunter education deferral process to amend WAC 232-12-228 in an effort to improve rule clarity and enhance customer service. No public input.

6. Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations and Closures – Briefing and Public Hearing

Don Kraege, Waterfowl Section Manager, briefed the Commission on proposed updates and amendments to migratory bird hunting seasons and regulations and on an amendment to the boundary description of a closure on the Snake River. No public input.

7. Small Game Seasons – Briefing and Public Hearing

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, briefed the Commission on proposed dates, bag limits, and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting. No public input.

8. Bighorn Sheep Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

Rich Harris, Special Section Manager, briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to bighorn sheep permit levels and opportunities. No public input.

9. Auction Tags and Landowner Hunting Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager and Mick Cope, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on new auction opportunities and calendar date adjustments to the landowner hunting permit season for 2016.

The following people provided testimony:

Rachel Voss

10. Deer Areas, Elk Areas, Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas, and Hunting by persons with a Disability – Briefing and Public Hearing

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to deer and elk area descriptions, firearm restrictions in Grays Harbor County and conditions under which hunters with disabilities may shoot from a vehicle. No public input.

11. Possession and Importation of Dead Wildlife and Transport of Elk Hooves – Briefing and Public Hearing

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to legally salvage road killed deer and elk, restrict importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife from Michigan due to chronic wasting disease, and allow the legal transport of elk hooves to facilitate Treponema associated hoof disease research. No public input.

12. Baiting and Deer and Elk – Briefing and Public Hearing

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on three alternative proposals regarding the baiting of deer and elk.

The following people provided input:

Jerry Woods	Rachel Voss	Ernst Stahn
Bobbie Thorniley	Tommy Petrie Jr.	Al Rinaldi
Richard Cary	Colin Hamilton	Dave Murphy
Thomas Grieb	Jerrold Gibbons	John Andrews
Bill Madison	Brett Breckenridge	Ray Bunny
Jesse Brazill	Jeff Hardesty	Gregg Bafundo
Matt Marsh	Dennis Beich	Brian Lewis
Jerry Hickman	Dave Gimlin	James Burnsworth
Brandon Pritchard		

13. Deer General and special Permit Seasons and Regulations – Briefing and Public Hearing

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager briefed the Commission on deer general seasons and definitions, and special permits.

The following people provided input:

Al Martz	Freddie Giannecchini	Dale Magart
Bobbie Thorniley	John Conner	

14. Elk General and Special Permit Seasons and Regulations – Briefing and Public Hearing

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager briefed the Commission on elk general seasons and definitions, and special permits.

The following people provided input:

Ernst Stahn	John Conner
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15. Initiative I-1401 – Protection of at Risk Species of Extinction - Briefing

Chief Crown and Deputy Chief Cenci briefed the Commission on Initiative I-1401 and the department's need to request supplemental appropriations to enforce this initiative.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 5:14.

Saturday, March 19, 2016

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

16. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

George Shutt – Deer and predators

Shawn Cantrell – Wolf plan

Peter Graddon – Oppose baiting

Dave Dashiell - Wolves

Commissioners Wes McCart – Wolves

Dan Carpenter - Baiting

17. Predator-Prey Management – Briefing

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager provided an overview of the complex issues related to predator/prey management in Washington.

18. Spring Black Bear Season - Briefing and Public Hearing

Anis Aoude, Carnivore Section Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to spring black bear hunting seasons to address damage and wildlife conflict issues. No public input.

19. Cougar Biology Overview - Briefing

Rich Beausoleil, Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on the research, biology, and ecology associated with the cougar harvest management objectives published in the 2015-2021 Game Management Plan.

20. Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations – Briefing and Public Hearing

Anis Aoude, Carnivore Section Manager briefed the Commission on cougar harvest and human-cougar conflict trends, and how those topics are incorporated into the Department's cougar management strategies. The Commission was also briefed on the proposed 2016–2017, and 2017–2018 cougar hunting seasons and regulations. No public input.

21. Annual Wolf Management Report – Briefing

Donny Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead, Scott Becker, Biologist, and Candace Bennett, Environmental Specialist provided the Commission with the 2015 annual briefing on wolf plan implementation.

Representative Short provided a few comments.

22. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The following items were discussed:

Possible conference call.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant