



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

April 8-9, 2016

April 8-9, 2016 Regular Meeting

Commission:

Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter
Miranda Wecker
Connie Mahnken
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn
Jay Kehne
Jay Holzmilller

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Attendance

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Dave Whipple
Mick Cope
Rich Harris
Jerry Nelson
Nate Pamplin
Anis Aoude
Rich Beausoleil
Rich Childers
Mike Cenci

Julie Sandberg
Don Kraege
David Price
Dan Ayers

Guests:

Heather Bartlett
Kim Patten
Ron Garner
Gordon Rue
Brian Allison
Ken Crews

Public:

Rob Kavanaugh
Martha Jordan
Alissa Shay
Rick Hartley
John Andrews
Brian Allison
Gordon Ruh
Steve Fransen

Nathan Lubliner
Shane Barber
Charlotte Norris
Wanda Clifford
Kary Kalish
Ken Crews
Wayne Cline

Derek Rockett
Colin Hamilton
Hayden Norris
Bobbie Thorniley
Bob Danielson
Sylvia Thorpe
Curt Kraemer

Sam Merrill
Rex Peterson
Matthew Norris
Ilene LeVee
Bob McCoy
Ron Garner
Kerry

Friday, April 8, 2016

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

There was no discussion.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

March 18-19, 2016 – meeting

March 24, 2016 – conference call

Commissioner Wecker moved, seconded by Commissioner Graybill to approve the minutes from the March 18-19, 2016 meeting and Commissioner Wecker moved, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2016 conference call as proposed. Both motions passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Rex Peterson – Baiting and Youth Outdoors

Shane Barber – Baiting
Colin Hamilton – Baiting

3. Director's Report

The Director provided an update on various issues including:

- Wild Future
- Fisher/CCA
- North of Falcon
- Bighorn Sheep
- Summer WAFWA meeting
- White nose syndrome – Bats
- Steelhead license plates
- Budget and Legislation – Deputy Director Stohr

4. Hunter Education Deferrals – Decision

Dave Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager, requested approval from 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.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to amend WAC 232-12-228 as presented. Motion passed.

5. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager, requested approval for two land transactions.

Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the acceptance of 33 acres from WSDOT in Cowlitz County and to convey a road easement to the Port of Grays Harbor in Grays Harbor County, seconded by Commissioner Wecker. Motion passed.

6. Periodic Status Review (Brown Pelican) – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager and Derek Stinson, Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on the status of the Brown Pelican and requested the amendment of WAC 232-12-014.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahnken to amend WAC 232-12-014 Wildlife classified as endangered species as presented. Motion passed.

7. Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations and Closures – Decision

Don Kraege, Waterfowl Section Manager, requested approval from 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.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-436 and WAC 232-16-740 as presented. Motion passed.

The Commission and Director thanked Don for his service and wished him well in retirement.

8. Small Game Seasons – Decision

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, requested approval from the Commission on proposed dates, bag limits, and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-342 as presented. Motion passed.

9. Bighorn Sheep Special Permits – Decision

Rich Harris, Special Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on proposed amendments to bighorn sheep permit levels and opportunities.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-622 as presented. Motion passed.

10. Auction Tags and Landowner Hunting Permits – Decision

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

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-283 and 232-28-296 as presented. Motion passed.

11. Deer Areas, Elk Areas, Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas, and Hunting by persons with a Disability – Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from 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.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-624, WAC 232-28-337, WAC 232-28-248 and WAC 232-12-828 as presented. Motion passed.

12. Possession and Importation of Dead Wildlife and Transport of Elk Hooves – Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from 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. .

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-287, WAC 232-12-021 and WAC 232-12-286 as presented. Motion passed.

13. Baiting and Deer and Elk – Decision

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager presented options and requested approval from the Commission on alternative proposals regarding the baiting of deer and elk.

Commissioner Kehne moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to adopt WAC 232-12-245 regarding baiting of deer and elk as presented and that WACs 232-12-239 and 232-12-246 not be adopted. Restricting the amount of bait that can be used and a restriction on how close the bait can be placed in relation to another bait pile. Motion passed.

14. Deer General and special Permit Seasons and Regulations – Decision

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

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to amend WAC 232-28-357 and 232-28-359 as presented. Motion passed.

15. Elk General and Special Permit Seasons and Regulations – Decision

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

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to amend WAC 232-28-358 and WAC 232-28-360 as presented. Motion passed.

16. Spring Black Bear Season - Decision

Anis Aoude, Carnivore Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on proposed amendments to spring black bear hunting seasons to address damage and wildlife conflict issues.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-286 as presented. Motion passed.

17. Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations – Decision

Anis Aoude, Carnivore Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on the proposed 2016–2017, and 2017–2018 cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

Commissioner Wecker moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne to amend WAC 232-28-297 using the Department recommended option (option 1). Motion passed. The Commission also directed the Department to work on putting together a conflict resolution team to work to improve the public’s perception and to help improve reporting of cougar sightings.

The Director and Commission thanked Assistant Director Pamplin for his leadership in the Wildlife Program and wished him well in his new position in Licensing.

Added – Miscellaneous Item

- Commissioner Wecker made a motion requesting a briefing on Halibut Management, Commissioner Carpenter seconded it and the motion passed.
- Commissioner Wecker made a motion requesting a briefing on the top DFW Research Projects currently underway, Commissioner Thorburn seconded it and the motion passed.

Added - Open Public Input

Bobbie Thorniley – Youth Outdoor Program

18. Herbicide and Pesticide use in the Control of Japanese Eelgrass and Ghost Shrimp in Willapa Bay – Briefing

Department staff and external experts updated the Fish and Wildlife Commission on the historical and current use of imazamox to control invasive Japanese eelgrass and imidacloprid to control native ghost shrimp in Willapa Bay.

Added - Open Public Input

Martha Jordan – Enforcement Committee appreciation and dogs off leashes on WDFW lands

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m.

19. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Sylvia Thorpe – Bobcats

Wayne Cline – Occupy Skagit

Curt Kraemer – Occupy Skagit
Ron Garner – NOF and PSA

Steve Fransen – Occupy Skagit

20. Results of the 2015 Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Fishery - Briefing

Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager and Deputy Chief Mike Cenci provided the Commission an annual briefing summarizing the Puget Sound crab fishery as stipulated per policy (Policy C3609). Summarizing the performance and harvest of both commercial and recreational fisheries during the 2015 season and regulation compliance data collected by enforcement and fishery management staff. Commercial (Brian Allison and Ken Crews) and recreational (Gordon Rue and Ron Garner) fishery panels provided comments following the presentation.

21. Results of the 2015 Puget Sound Shrimp Fishery – Briefing

Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager provided the Commission an annual briefing summarizing the Puget Sound shrimp fishery as stipulated per policy (Policy C3610). This briefing summarized for each management region the performance and harvest of both commercial and recreational fisheries during the 2015 season.

22. Postponed - Management Objectives for Salmon and Steelhead – Briefing

Jim Scott, Special Assistant to the Director, briefed the Commission on the types of management objectives and strategies used in Washington to target spawner levels for salmon and steelhead, the implications of alternative choices, estimation challenges, and re-evaluation priorities.

23. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Nothing was discussed.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant