



**WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee  
Video Conference, February 6, 2010  
1000-1500  
Directors Conference Room, Olympia, WA**

<b>Members in Attendance</b>	
Bob Holtfreter	Ray Boone
Jay Webster	Robin Hickock
Ed Owens	Ron Oules

<b>WDFW Staff:</b>	
Bruce Bjork, Chief	Chris Anderson, Captain, Region 2
Rich Mann, Captain, Region 3	Sean Carrell, Problem Wildlife Coord.

<b>Members Absent:</b>	
Josh Pearson	Jim Kujala
Gary Terrell	Dave Croonquist

**Chief Bruce Bjork convened meeting at 1000**

**[July 2009 Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)**

Intro, and/or announcements – Will wait to hold them after the legislative update.

**New Business**

Legislative – Chief Bruce Bjork advised that HB 1885 “Feeding of wildlife” was pulled out of rules onto the floor. HB 1885 passed the house. Bill would make it an infraction for intentional feeding of wildlife, which includes: bear, cougar, wolf, deer, elk, and raccoon. Opossum and raccoon were taken out. Additionally, general law enforcement may cite for those intentionally feeding wildlife. A first time offense would be a warning, not a citation. If an officer is called back to respond to additional feeding of wildlife complaints then the officer can issue a citation. Any subsequent times after that and additional citations may be issued. Deer and elk may be problematic. Animal Control Officer will not have the ability to cite. Vice Chair Ron Oules asked if they don’t pay, or ignores, is there a consequence? Chief Bjork advised citations will just stack up. Ron asked if there a way to tie something to their license? Chief Bjork advised that there is not

because title 77 is separated from Traffic Code. This option may come up again. Ray Boone asked about baiting as well. Ed Owens advised that there will be a lot of officer discretion. This would be primarily urban issues. Rural environments still have issues as well. SHB 2866 came out of the Governor's reform bill to allow fish & wildlife officers to issue infractions for Parks and DNR. DNR and Parks are allowed to issued fish & wildlife infractions too. The only piece that has been a problem is title 76 forest practice act. There are no natural resources infractions. The bill is sitting in the rules of the house and will move to the senate. SB 6813 abolishes WDFW, state parks, but keeps the WDFW Commission, Parks Commission, and DNR board. Chief Bjork advised that bill will move all financial, personnel, and equipment to DNR. Bill is being presented as a fiscal savings. Combining all the administrative sides will save dollars. Initially, the cost could be \$55 to \$70 million. A question was asked in the group if this bill is probable? Chief Bjork said he had no idea. There was supposed to be a hearing, but it did not happen and nothing else has been advertised. Chief Bjork advised that it does not have to have a hearing. It can be acted upon on the last day of session. Owens advised that will not happen. Should know by Monday whether or not there will be a hearing and it must be 24hours before the hearing. There are eighteen lobbyists that do not like this proposed legislation. Commission took a vote yesterday to oppose the bill, but nothing from the Governor's Office. Boone asked if the enforcement division would be combined, or separate? Chief Bjork advised that so far everything would be combined. Chief Bjork advised that one problem area is the amendment of police power act 10.93. If the bill goes into effect, WSP and WDFW are the two only general law enforcement agencies, so there must be a fix for that section. Title 41 and title 43 must be fixed. WDFW officers must attend the Basic Law Enforcement academy and are certified police officers through the Criminal Justice Training Commission. Chief Bjork advised that this is not the case of State Parks and DNR. Owens advised that his clients will not approve. Oules asked if the Chief was opposed? Chief Bjork advised that if the Commission is opposed therefore I'm opposed. WASPC has not opposed yet, but will. Comment from the group does not agree that DNR and Parks should be general law enforcement. All three bills are still alive. Owens advised that overall bills are pretty low. Oules advised that there was a bill from Rep. Joel Kretz regarding the new appointment of the Region 1 Director. Chief Bjork advised that bill was more of a message and had nothing to do with enforcement, just regional directors. Bill would have made an appointment service. Robin Hickock advised that in HB 1885 that raccoons should be included. Chief Bjork advised that should have been done. Owens advised that shouldn't be pushed and should be an incremental approach. Chief Bjork advised that the counties have not weighed in yet. Owens advised that the counties don't really care either way. Owens advised that it's hard to shop interest from counties/cities if the public does not care. Animal Control Officer could notify an officer that violation is occurring. The bill does have a good chance. Chief Bjork advised that Washington State would not be the only state to pass such legislation. Chair Bob Holtfreter asked if in reference

to HB 1885 if he feeds domestic animals outside he could be cited. Chief Bjork advised that is not intentional feeding of wildlife.

Budget – Chief Bjork advised that there are five vacant officer positions. WDFW hired a lateral from California Fish & Game and he will be here in March. There are two that will come on at the same time. Chief Bjork advised that there was a new test cycle and Enforcement tested 37 applicants during the last round. Public safety testing is still being used and the process has been good. Chief Bjork advised that typically out of the 36 applicants, there may be two good candidates. Question was asked if there is still the four year requirement? Chief Bjork advised that there was, but there is also two-year requirement with two-years of commissioned law enforcement background, or paid natural resource experience. Oules asked if the degree requirements are too stringent? Chief Bjork advised that it has not been problematic for us. Chief Bjork advised that he has looked at others, but has not seen anything in the stats and does not think there is a hindrance. The Commission is very favorable with a natural resource, or hunting/fishing backgrounds. Oules asked about lobbying police officers, or troopers, or even sheriffs? Chief Bjork advised that the department will advertise on the Criminal Justice Training Commission website to get interested law enforcement officials. Chief Bjork also advised that the program will advertise in the International Game Warden magazine. Chief Bjork advised that the department has already received several from across the US. Oules advised that the pay should be comparable. Chief Bjork advised that the pay is very competitive, but when we explain that folks will need to move, this has scared quite a few applicants. Chief Bjork advised that the department just does not have the level of laterals with a statewide program, like a city/county. Jay Webster asked if they are specific to a location, or statewide? Chief Bjork advised that applicants must accept positions throughout the state, but there are positions listed, if available. Oules asked if the guy is turned down, and is #1 on the list and wants to stay on the list, does he remain? Chief Bjork advised that they are kept on the list. This happened with a candidate from New York. Hickcock asked if the department will pay for a four year degree? Chief Bjork advised that the department does not. Owens advised that there is a move in the public to move for additional revenue sources for more law enforcement. Let's not draw attention. Oules asked what the plan is for the future when funds do become available again? Owens advised that this should be tied to item number four.

Governmental reform – Chief Bjork advised that this was discussed already earlier. Governor established executive areas: permits, land transactions, maintenance of public lands. There are a number of legislative bills still in play that limits the number of boards and commissions. There is a bill reducing Department of Social Health & Services from one agency into four agencies. Owens advised that in the lobbying core that there is too much being said with not much movement. The Governor's Office is staying away from natural resource reform, except SB 6813. Owens advised that there still some things

here. Chief Bjork advised that in general fund over the last year, there have been other reductions the Governor has frozen, none of which poses a threat to Enforcement. If there were any adjustments, they would not take effect until the next fiscal year. Additionally, if there are any adjustments, then it would have to be through the Governor's direction and could come back and say to hold vacancies, reduce spending, etc. Chief Bjork advised that there is a possibility there. Owens advised that he is comfortable as well.

License fee study – Chief Bjork advised that the results from 2009-2011 license fee study will be submitted to the legislature by September of this year. Chief Bjork advised that the department gathered material by surveying other states in regards to license fees, and spoke to stakeholders that the department works with. The department tried to hire an outside contractor to conduct the study, but Office of Financial Management rejected this option because of budget. Chief Bjork advised that internal folks have been working on this issue and may involve agency staff. Owens advised that Office of Financial Management explained that WDFW cannot spend money for such an action. Owens advised that the Director and Dep. Director need to hit the ground and begin working this. If not, there could be serious ramifications. This groups primary objective needs some elevated degree of attention to raise this issue amongst the agency. Chief Bjork advised that in order for enforcement to handle our existing workload, the program needs to double the size of its personnel and have to identify a fund. WDFW is not there. Chief Bjork is going to develop an implementation plan based on the International Association of Chiefs of Police study and the license fee study. Chief Bjork advised that the program must identify funding source that will get us up to that level. Owen asked if the certification study gives a threshold? Chief Bjork advised that there is not. Conversation at this point has been sufficient. Chief Bjork advised that there should a minimum staffing level with the legislature. Owens advised that this will come up with some of his constituents in 2011. This is where enforcement should be. Owens asked for help on dictating what that number should be. Oules asked what the cost will be to hire an officer? Need a designated pot. Chief Bjork advised that it is \$125K per year for all costs. Could have a plan of hiring 20 officers a biennium and minimum level, or target number in the budget. Owens advised that there was a target in the 07-09 budget, but it was never achieved. Chief Bjork advised that there was not. Oules asked what the association has identified? Bjork identified that they have not done very much. They will get behind it, but have not made any steps towards the Chief in the last 10 years. Any push has been from WDFW's side. Holtfreter asked if they look at all fees, or just license? Chief Bjork advised that all proposals in fees will be identified, not just in licensing. Owens advised that there are elements for discussion. For example, license fees go directly in the general fund pot. Others have advised that money's should go back directly into WDFW. Oules advised that the salmon fisherman on the Columbia River will get hit with 20%. Owens asked that the additional 10% on the Columbia is because of a marking issue. Boone asked if there are any stats in WA or other states identifying what the marginal value on license fees

that show what the relation to fees vs. folks that purchase? Owens advised that there are, but it is dated. Still being used however. Hickcock advised that there was tax many years ago of 1/10 of 1% to funnel money to WDFW. Owens advised that it is being discussed currently, but not with WDFW. It was tried before, but voters turned it down. Can be done legislatively and not through the voting public. Oules asked if there is any advisement with the field? What's currently being done? Chief Bjork advised that he does notify staff and identify such areas, except for this fund piece because nothing has been developed. Owens advised that the quarterly piece that is sent out has been a huge hit and others have identified its success. Chief Bjork advised that it will be enhanced. Hunter Education instructor newsletter and Enforcement quarterly report will be combined. Owens advised that huge steps have been made with this information. Oules asked that there are new rules being set in place that effect enforcement. Does enforcement get to provide input? Captain Chris Anderson advised that in the region, staff will draft a proposal on an emergency rule, or 2 year package. The Captain will sit down with other staff and discuss what's good or what's bad, and a written or verbal correspondence is sent back. Sometimes they don't get heard because the timelines are short, or there is too much information. There is a lot of collaboration. Chief Bjork advised from the HQ perspective, either from the region or program, this must go through the rules coordinator. This coordinator reviews to make sure it has gone through the correct public process and then the Attorney General's Office. It is provided to Commission, which may have edits, and final draft goes via a CR103 to the code reviser. Oules asked if enforcement feels positive about being able to provide feedback? Chief Bjork advised that there we are, but it depends on whether or not they are well received. Webster advised that there is a breakdown in the process. When feedback is provided, the pamphlet clouds the issue. Clear in law, but not very much in the pamphlet. Eventually you can find the information in the WAC, but it's unclear sometimes. Captain Anderson advised that the programs place the pamphlets together and there are is a lot of information missing. Oules advised that other states are the same. Chief Bjork advised that there are certainly no arguments there, but the pamphlet is a general guide to hunting/fishing and the public is unfamiliar with the WAC. Chief Bjork advised that the group should focus on pamphlet review and recommendations. Enforcement will continue to provide that avenue. Holtfreter advised that there was a subgroup that did the review. Chief Bjork advised that there was.

## **Old Business**

Direction of EAG – Pamphlet review is still a big piece. Chief Bjork advised that there is still some work that needs to be done. Legislation is another key piece of this group too. As WDFW comes up with statutory changes, the group continues to review. If there is proposed legislation, there is some summary document that's attached. That's all on proposed legislation. If there is legislative action, then Owens sends out is the best review. Chief Bjork advised that the role of the group can assist the most in is outreach & education, legislation, rules &

pamphlet. This should be the focus. Owens thought the more of an electronic format is better. Maybe this groups communication should be made more through e-mail. Funds are tight and the group should not be sitting together deciding this information, but through the email would be better served considering the current economic status. Chief Bjork asked if the rest of the group thought this is good idea. Holtfreter thinks that's this is a good idea. Need to develop something differently than current format. Oules thinks we should discuss the issues on blogs or other webpages. Owens advised that DSHS tried this, but a problem came up with a state employee sharing information on a blog operated by a third party. Chief Bjork advised that if we can get the newsletter out more, then coverage may be able to reach even more folks. Webster asked why isn't there any information in the newspapers reference WDFW's activities? Chief Bjork advised that WDFW has done twelve news releases over the last couple months involving the news media. Chief Bjork advised that we could go to the local outdoor writers through the Public Affairs Office regarding this information. The quarterly is critical to reaching all those that aren't consumptive users, but may have interest in wildlife. **Action item: Quarterly newsletter to outdoor writers and enhancement.** Chief Bjork advised that the video conference call has worked. Maybe the group is called when items are brought up. Owens thinks that maybe a one or two meetings a year get together is a good idea. Video conferencing has worked. Other exchanges can be done through e-mail. Boone thinks the video works, but if there are new members, that we should meet. Holtfreter thinks as well that we should meet if there are new members. Reapplying for current positions would be allowed. New people will need to be selected and possibly through WACOPS or WASIC and also a member from our master hunter advisory group and maybe somebody from WEA. Oules is attempting to become an instructor. Chief Bjork advised that having one meeting face to face when new members come on and then ad hoc for other remaining items. Chief Bjork advised that the group should meet in July for a face to face meeting.

Subcommittee updates – Should look to re-appoint some new folks. Holtfreter advised that we should set up the sub-groups. Owens is still working on the legislative sub-group, as well as Chief Bjork. Pamphlet committee is non-existent. Oules and Webster have volunteered for the pamphlet committee. Outreach & Education there will be Mike Cenci, Sean Carrell, & Bill Hebner. Jim Kujala and Dave Akehurst are no longer with us, but e-mails are still consistent. Should have a status report in July on subcommittee reports and will have some information that can be shared. Chief Bjork advised that the group needs to select a Chair and Vice Chair. Holtfreter nominated himself for the position of chair. The motion was carried. Holtfreter was nominated as chair. Oules volunteered as vice-chair. Webster nominates Oules to be the Vice Chair. Hickcock seconds the nomination for Oules. Motion carried and the Vice Chair is now Ron Oules.

## **Conclusion**

*Scheduling of the next meeting* – Next meeting will be sometime in June or July. Date, time, and location will be sent to members. Holtfreter advised that we should have the next meeting on the pass. Meeting adjourned.

### ***Requested Action Items:***

- Quarterly newsletter to outdoor writers and enhancement.

### ***Topics for Future Discussion:***

- Pre and post legislative issues
- Records Management system demo
- KBD Program
- Update on Wildlife Crime Stoppers by Lieutenant Steve Crown
- Presentation on scope of problems on WDFW land use

***Next meeting:*** Saturday, July 10, 2010 from 1030-1530. The agenda will be sent out before the meeting with information on topics for discussion.