



WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee
March 22nd, 2014
0900-1500
Hal Holmes Community Center, Ellensburg, WA

Members in Attendance:	
Dave Ruffin, Vice-chair	Lyle Cabe
Dave Croonquist	Don Gulliford
Robin Hickock	Bob Holtfreter
Martha Jordan	Hal Mahnke
Ron McDonald	Ton Messineo
Ed Scullywest	Tom Weathers
Kyle Winton	
WDFW Staff:	
Steve Crown, Chief	Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief
Mike Hobbs, Deputy Chief	Chris Anderson, Captain, Region 2
Rich Mann, Captain, Region 3	Alan Myers, Captain, Region 4
Murray Schlenker, Captain, Region 5 & 6	Sean Carrell, Information Technology
Members Absent:	
Bill Green	Andrew Hamilton
Dan Hornfelt	Pat Lowe
Dan Rahn, Captain, Region 1	Dan Brinson, Captain, Headquarters
Anna Maria Marchionne	

Chief Steve Crown convened meeting at 0900

[June 1st, 2013 Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)

Introductions

Vice Chair Dave Ruffin begun opening introductions at 0914. Introductions by members again. Minutes reviewed from June 1st, 2013. Motion moved to approve the meeting minutes. Vice Chair Ruffin asked if there any additional topics that needed to be added to the agenda. Vice Chair Ruffin identified that the afternoon's focus will be on projects. What type of projects do we need to talk about? What are some projects that we want to talk about?

New Business

1. Selection of Chair/Vice Chair Positions:

Chief Crown talked about agenda and selection of chair. Martha Jordan asked what the duties of the chair were. Vice Chair Ruffin advised that this is a coordinator position. Chief Crown advised that the position coordinates with the regional positions. DC Mike Cenci added that there is a diverse group of folks here. Position would guide those discussions and take the lead. There is no charter. This should be done. We are evolving and hope that there is more direction with this group. Are we headed in the right direction? Vice Chair Ruffin asked if there were any nominations. Dave Croonquist nominated himself. Don Gulliford nominated himself as well. Nomination for Dave Ruffin by Bob Holtfreter. Vice Chair Ruffin advised that he would do the chair. Jordan asked who has more time. Croonquist advised that he is on another advisory group. Croonquist advised that maybe having an eastside and westside chair. Motion made to make Croonquist Chair and Dave Ruffin as Vice Chair. Chief Crown suggested that would be a good idea. Motion made for dual roles. Motion made for Martha Jordan to be the westside Vice Chair.

2. Headquarters & Law Enforcement Program Update:

Chief Crown began discussion with presentation and key roles of the program. Chief Crown asked if the mission statement captures what we are doing. Pathway to objectives from hire to retire. In house academy. New techniques in the field training using software and daily observation reports. Continuing education with officers. Revamping in house training and make sure we are doing more for the officer. Technology is the next biggest part. Laptops replaced by smart phones. How do we use those tools? Avl monitoring of our officers. New equipment tracking system. Boat usage is a good example. Where is equipment being under-utilized? Strategic objectives. Where are we and where do we want to go. Program values. Regulations, evaluations, and expectations stem from these core values. Staff distribution marine detachment breakdown. Dan Weeks is the new Budget & Performance Manager. Lori Preuss moved to Administrator Office of the Courts. Joanna Edie is her replacement. Looking for a replacement for training Lieutenant. Shared vision discussion and legislative session, new funding sources. Communicate on outcomes, training, and recruitment functionality. Robin Hickock advised the he knows were nationally accredited. How many hours are required? Chief Crown advised that 24 hours are required annually. Vice Chair Ruffin asked if core values were new. Chief Crown advised that they are. Vice Chair Ruffin advised that this needs emphasis with staff. Allow revisiting. Vice Chair Ruffin advised the values influence decisions and actions. Core values should be on business cards, up front, and in everyone's face. Values will get you there. Staff will get you there. Captain Chris Anderson explained that is a sergeant's responsibility. Chief Crown advised that the publications aspect is a good example. A good place to deposit those. Hal Mahnke asked how the relationship is. Chief Crown advised that there are some issues, but necessary to discuss those relationships. Mahnke explained that budget issues can affect that. Legislature can take away those funding sources. Often labor unions are

difficult because there are represented by a large group of folks. Ed Scullywest asked if safety comes up. Are safety regulations a responsibility? Chief Crown advised that every piece of equipment must go through a training position. Kyle Winton asked if there is a plan to move Region 6 back. Chief Crown advised that there is not.

3. Budget update:

Chief Crown advised the group on budget issues with radios. Radio communication works on the WSP trunking system. WSP is going to a digital system. Need to be able to communicate with WSP system. Funding did not go through. Need to do a work around. Budget package that went for airplane for engines after 1,800 hours. There was a large purchase with DNR and the Teanaway and some 50,000 acres from private timber company for water storage and DNR purposes. Land had been harvested but there are trees still there. Hope to get a FTE with the land agreement. No additional bodies for managing that new piece of property however. Chief Crown advised that there are ESA listed fish, new areas for hunting and recreate, so FTE would have helped manage that. DNR had a ½ fte as well requested, but it was not provided. Hopefully next session. Budget wise we came out OK. Governor's office talking about cutting \$40M from general fund and pushing out to state agencies. Could be an annual cut from Enforcement's budget. There are some other agency costs that are being cost shared. Start adding up. ROIP towers that are going up will require fiber optic internet service and we must pay for that.

4. Legislation update:

DC Cenci advised the group on legislative bill for minimal criminal assessments. Gross misdemeanor max at \$5,000. Salmon and steelhead, green sturgeon, white sturgeon spawn in selected rivers; in Sacramento River, Fraser River and Columbia River. \$2,000 criminal assessment for oversized length. Can't possess anything above 60 inches or larger. Bill would address cross border protection of wildlife. Japanese hunter with 100 bear galls. \$10,900 citation. Feds did not tell us. Alien w/firearms and trafficking in bear galls. If poached in other state or country, we have gross misdemeanor to pursue people. Legislature banned shark fins. Still found in markets. Fall back grandfather clause. Markets rely on that. Hard to determine. Grandfather clause removed. Winton asked if relations with US Fish and Wildlife have improved. DC Cenci said it's improving. Priorities differ. Presidential order on trafficking. More exotic than domestic. Lieutenant Paul Golden often works with federal agents. They are all about elephant ivory. WAFWA conference identified again emphasis on exotics. States need to pick up on domestic wildlife trafficking. Chief Crown advised that in 2013, several reductions on spending. It became more evident that fish and wildlife will be more of a responsibility for WDFW. The passage of Lacey Act here in WA will help native emphasis. DC Cenci advised that the feds are experiencing the same issues as states. Need to find platforms to exchange information. Excited to take leadership roles in regards to wildlife protection. RIZNET was originally designed for drugs from states and counties. Foundation is there. Network should blend those components together. Chief Crown advised that SB 5098 changes state trespass. Croonquist advised that Colorado is not that way. Montana and Idaho are. Redefines conspicuous notice for trespass to include. Mixed bag of feelings for enforcement. Could impact tribal and change how we

do business. Not sure the thrust behind this. DC Cenci advised that this is an additional tool to mark property. DC Cenci spoke that maybe Winton that we can get this message out to staff. Scullywest asked that roads if folks are driving on that enter these areas must be identified. DC Cenci advised the onus is on law enforcement. Croonquist asked if folks post private property on public land. Chief Crown advised that it happens. Chief Crown advised that there were a number of bills introduced. Open view doctrine and amplified devices would require a governing body. SB 2789 impacts WDFW for unmanned aerial vehicles. No regulatory activity. Impacts operational issues in the future. ACLU proposed and pushed. DC Cenci advised that we must be advanced in the future. Trail cameras, wildlife cams, or IP cameras would be prohibited by bill. Will be vetoed, but will not be known on what. Gulliford asked on alternative funding places if pull tabs are an option. Chief Crown advised that no there are not. Jordan advised that if you want to get a plate to get that going, you could. Chief Crown advised that it would be hard to get a plate for ENF. Winton asked if there was a study. Crown advised yes.

Crab Presentation & CRC:

DC Cenci gave a presentation on a two year investigation. Sixteen tribal fishermen. Covert sales. Nail salons and restaurants. Price was \$1.00 to \$1.50 in Whatcom County. Crabs were 1 to 2 lbs. Wholesale dealer that was contacted had been since 1997. There were 150 cases into tribal businesses. Over 40 instances of payment of crab. Undersized crab coming from same company. Fish receiving ticket captures important information. Marine officers conducted airport inspections. Undercover work and surveillance. Warrant executed. January 6th, four to five employees being observed. Involved tribe in the takedown. Retail outlets were hit. Excessive amount of crab. Gulliford asked if confiscated product can be sold. DC Cenci advised yes. Tort potential though. Undersized crab or oversize sturgeon is released if alive. Dead stuff goes to food bank. Croonquist asked if the 65,000 lbs. was legal crab sized crab. DC Cenci advised that it was mixed. One surveillance day, six officers. \$350K from CRC goes to Enforcement. Fish Program has funds for Enforcement. Holtfreter asked how recreational crabbers were violating. DC Cenci advised that compliance is up. Scullwest asked if seeing violation can report this activity. DC Cenci advised that there multiple points for reporting.

Old Business

Eyes in the Woods Program & CORT Training:

Kyle Winton gave a Power Point presentation of the Eyes in the Woods and CORT Training. Winton covered topics regarding the process for CORT Training and briefly discussed projects that involved wildlife and habitat that EITW is involved with. Winton also discussed the Lands & Property Watch Program. Chief Crown advised that this is why WDFW has a regional approach. Grass roots effort.

Regional Charters & Project Papers; subgroups:

Vice Chair Ruffin began discussion re: leading groups out in the field. Draft papers, supporting enforcement, and developing sub groups. Vice Chair Ruffin's one discussion point is duplicate tags. This is an issue in the field. This is an opportunity for folks to

harvest additional animals. Lost tags. Vice Chair Ruffin discussed this should be a priority to the agency. Chief Crown opens up the discussion. Where do you want to see this group to go? Winton suggests that the biggest challenge is education of our lawmakers. Bills are a good example. Jordan advised that being in front of the legislature, when testifying, if there was a mechanism that there is an issue with the bill, use the group to get a perspective so that the group can decide and testify or write letter of support. You must show up in Olympia. Advisory Group should be at these discussions. Chief Crown advised that this is difficult and a very careful line. The right message to the right people is critical. Jordan advised that one of the things you could do is develop a subcommittee and the group could review the bills. DC Cenci advised that summarization can be done and information could be provided. Jordan advised that if we can track specific bills, then we can provide comment to the agency. DC Cenci mentioned that there are some funding initiatives. There are some alternate fund sources that are available. We could use some help. Marijuana eradication team that gets pass through dollars from WSP. Captain Anderson advised that the program may be dead. DC Cenci advised that it is not. Jordan advised that the conservation community is often confused that all they hear is hunting and fishing. However, we must educate them on our mission. DC Michael Hobbs advised that we're not just here for the consumptive users. Hunting season is over, what you are doing now. You can't stop the conservation piece, so there is a message there too. There are certainly people here, and outside, where folks can potentially help with marketing our program and what we do. DC Cenci advised that during discussions how we find funding sources. Jordan asked if we give presentations to folks. DC Cenci advised that we do, and recently they cut a \$6000 check for a tracking dog. Jordan advised that we need to discuss with the Audubon what we do. Start with them first. DC Cenci advised that if we can get ideas back to the group with concepts, we can vet this out with you. Mahnke wants to identify outreach. How do we get WDFW inserted? Captain Rich Mann advised that we get requests locally, regardless of what their focus is. Captain Mann has to ask what you need. What are you looking for? Captain Mann advised that sometimes we often are asked to fill time. Croonquist advised that we should get together with regional staff and discuss these issues. Chief Crown would like the group to identify agendas now and pick items before we meet. Any ideas, please give those to the Chair and we can vet those out within the group.

Chief Crown ended meeting as a large land slide occurred in northwestern Washington State and command staff may need to deploy.

Conclusion

Requested Action Items:

- *None*

Topics for Future Discussion:

- RMS and ROIP
- KBD Program

- WTH/AVL Mapping
- Update on Wildlife Crime Stoppers
- Presentation on scope of problems on WDFW land use
- Update on Social Media

Next meeting: WDFW staff advised that a future meeting will be held after the fall season, but Headquarters would communicate via Doodle Poll.