

DRAFT MINUTES

**WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
MEETING**

August 6-7-8, 2009

August 6, 2009: NE Washington Fairgrounds
Agriculture and Trade Center
317 West Astor
Colville, Washington

August 7-8, 2009: Sheriff's Ambulance and Training Center
425 North Highway
Colville, Washington

ATTENDANCE

Commission

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Gary Douvia, Vice Chair
Ken Chew
David Jennings
Conrad Mahnken
George Orr
Chuck Perry
Rollie Schmitten

Commission Staff:

Susan Yeager
Nancy Burkhart

Department

Phil Anderson, Interim Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
Bruce Bjork
John Whalen
Kevin Robinette
Jeff Korth
Mark Wachtel
Tom Davis
Bill Frymire, AGO
Steve Pozzanghera
Dave Ware
Tom Davis
Dennis Beich
John Andrews
Jennifer Quan
Don Kraege
Other Department staff

Public

John Dawson, Dawson Ranch
Jeff Daumer
Duane Cocking, Wolf Working Group
Ray Clark, Clark's All-Sports
Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan County
Bob Morton, WA State Senator
Patrick Hunt
Joe Ewa
Russ Larson, Stevens Co. F&W Adv. Council
Brian Denney
Tony DELgado
Rep. Shelly Short
Jim McGowan, U.S. Forest Service
Bob Heath, Ferry County
Dude Simmons
John Hankey, Pend Oreille County
Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County
Larry Guenther, Stevens County
Wes McCart, Stevens County Farm Bureau
Walt Groul
Scott Fisher
Dale Denney
Mary Jokela, Spokane Audubon Society
Bobbie Thorniley
Mike Thorniley
Rich Kuh, Stevens Co. Wildlife Advisory Council
Chris Doron
Randy Haut
John Magart, Stevens Co. F&W Adv. Council
Stephen Smith, Colville Confederated Tribes
Freddie Giannecchini, Stevens Co. F&W Adv. Council

Public (continued)

Steve Anthes
Bill McIrvin, Diamond M Ranch
Roger McMillan
Dale Magart, NE WA Wildl Group

Len McIrvin, Diamond M Ranch
Eric P. Krausz, Colville Confederated Tribes
Wanda Clifford, Inland NW Wildlife Council

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR SEARCH – UPDATE, DISCUSSION, AND PUBLIC INPUT:

The Commission, along with Audrey Ely and Anthony Cesario from the Washington Department of Personnel's Executive Careers, discussed the current status of the Director Search process and reviewed results from a public survey that concluded on July 17, 2009.

No one signed up to provide oral testimony on the Director Search process during this portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g), the Commission went into Executive Session to review employment applications for the Department Director position and to discuss the qualifications of specific applicants. The public was not permitted to attend the Executive Session. No final hiring decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

BUFFET DINNER:

Fish and Wildlife Commissioners and staff were invited to attend a no-host dinner with county commissioners at the NE Washington Fairgrounds. The dinner was open to the public, although no public input was accepted during the event.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Chair Wecker called the meeting back to order at 8:35 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed recent activities and items of general interest.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Interim Director Anderson reviewed significant Department issues and activities, followed by Commission questions and discussion on various topics, including:

U.S. v Oregon and spring Chinook salmon
Draft Whitetail Deer Plan
Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan

OPERATIONS AND BUDGET UPDATE:

Deputy Director Stohr provided an update to the Commission on the Department's budget and operational issues, followed by Commission questions and discussion on topics including:

- Reduction in force (RIF) update
- Budget status

2010 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PROPOSAL – BRIEFING:

Deputy Director Stohr briefed the Commission on the Department's proposed 2010 supplemental budget request. The Commission will consider approval of the proposal at its September 11-12, 2009, meeting in Olympia.

OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

Thirteen people testified on issues of concern during this portion of the meeting:

- Tony Delgado (Loon Lake) – Endangered species
- Dude Simmons (Kettle Falls) – Hunting regulations
- Wes McCart (Springdale) – Water management
- Dale Denney (Colville) – Wolves, draft wolf plan
- Mary Jokela (Deer Park) – Lead shot
- Len McIrvin (Laurier) – Predatory wildlife impacts on cattle
- Roger McMillan (Colville) – Water rights
- Wanda Clifford (Spokane) – Location of Commission meetings
- Dale Magart (Deer Park) – Hunting regulations
- John Dawson (Colville) – Wolves, draft wolf plan
- Steve Anthes (Malo) – Wolves, draft wolf plan
- Scott Fisher (Colville) – Wolves, draft wolf plan
- Ray Clark (Colville) – Hunting regulations

WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS – BRIEFING:

Steve Pozzanghera provided an update on the current status of wolf management in the state, including the ongoing progress of collecting public comments on the draft wolf management plan. Public comments will be accepted through January 8, 2010, regarding the Department's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) entitled: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington. Notice and additional information will be placed on the Department's website.

Department staff will present additional information at the November 6-7, 2009, Commission meeting in Olympia.

INVITED INFORMAL DISCUSSION – LOCAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

County Commissioners, Mary Lou Peterson (Okanogan County), John Hankey (Pend Oreille County), Scott Hutsell (Lincoln County), Larry Guenther (Stevens County), and Bob Heath (Ferry County) shared their views on local fish and wildlife issues.

INVITED INFORMATION DISCUSSION – LOCAL LEGISLATORS:

Commissioners, Senator Bob Morton and Representative Shelly Short shared their views on fish and wildlife issues.

2010 DEPARTMENT PROPOSED LEGISLATION – BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION:

Tom Davis and Bruce Bjork briefed the Commission on proposed Department request legislation for the 2010 legislative session, followed by Commissioner questions and discussion. The Commission will consider final approval during its August 21, 2009, Meeting via Conference Call.

MASTER HUNTER PERMIT PROGRAM – RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Bruce Bjork presented proposed permanent rule amendments to WAC 232-12-073, Master hunter permit program, that would implement two new statutes contained in SHB 1778 which was passed by the 2009 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The Commission will consider adoption of the rule amendments at the September 11-12, 2009, Commission meeting in Olympia.

No one signed up to provide oral testimony on the above proposed rule amendments during this portion of the meeting.

LANDS DIVISION OVERVIEW – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Jennifer Quan briefed the Commission on strategies to enhance operations and maintenance funding for Department lands.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC CONDUCT RULES – UPDATE:

At the request of the Commission, Jennifer Quan briefed the Commission on the implementation of Chapter 232-13 WAC rules for public conduct on Department lands.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS – RULE BRIEFING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND RULE ACTION:

Don Kraege briefed the Commission on a proposed WAC rule: WAC 232-28-433, 2009-10 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations; permanent rule amendments to WAC 232-16-050, Byron Game Reserve; and repeal of WAC 232-28-432, 2008-09 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations, followed by Commission questions and discussion.

One person testified orally on the proposed rule and rule amendments during this portion of the meeting:
Chris Dorow (Othello)

Commissioner Douvia moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahnken, to adopt WAC 232-28-433, 2009-10 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations; permanent rule amendments to WAC 232-16-050, Byron Game Reserve; and to repeal WAC 232-28-432, 2008-09 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations as filed with the Code Reviser's Office and including floor amendments by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

Five people testified on issues of concern during this portion of the meeting:

- Wes McCart (Springdale) – Beaver; wolves
- Eric Krauz (Inchelium) – Wolves
- Tony DELgado (Loon Lake) – Department-owned lands
- Dude Simmons (Kettle Falls) – Hunting regulations
- Rick Kuh (Colville) – Hunting regulations

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Chair Wecker called the meeting back to order at 8:45 a.m.

OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

Six people testified on issues of concern during this portion of the meeting:

- Dude Simmons (Kettle Falls) – Hunting regulations
- Larry Guenther (Nine Mile Falls) – Volunteers
- Rick Kuh (Colville) – Master Hunter Program
- Tony DELgado (Loon Lake) – Thanks
- Eric Krausz (Inchelium) – Hunting regulations
- John Magart (Valley) – Hunting regulations

INVITED TESTIMONY (TURKEY HUNTING) –

At the request of Vice Chair Douvia, Freddie Gianecchini, member of the Stevens County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, discussed his views on wildlife management related to turkey hunting.

COLVILLE TRIBES UPDATE ON RECENT FISHERY MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENTS:

Joe Peone (Natural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) and Stephen Smith (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) briefed the Commission on several recent advances in fisheries management, including an overview on the Tribes' role in fishery management and recent agreements. The update included information on funding approved for construction of the Chief Joseph Hatchery, Tribal work on developing selective fishery gears and an assessment of future challenges.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioners provided status reports on Commission committees, including the newly-formed biodiversity committee, chaired by Commissioner Jennings with Commissioners Orr and Smith as members.

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION REQUESTS:

The Director and Commissioners discussed the current status of Commission requests to the Department and approved new requests.

Commissioner Schmitten moved, seconded by Commissioner Douvia, to request a Department briefing to the Commission at its November 6-7, 2009, meeting in Olympia on the status of a draft plan regarding tribal hunting on ceded lands. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Orr moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten, to request that the Department work along with USFWS representatives to brief the Commission at its September or November 2009 meeting in Olympia on the legality of baiting waterfowl by flooding corn ponds. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to request a Department briefing to the Commission at its November 6-7, 2009, meeting in Olympia on information about funds from Personalized License Plates, to include amounts received over the past 2 biennia and projections for the future, the process for distribution, allocation, and decision-making criteria. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

Three people testified on issues of concern during this portion of the meeting:

Daniel Poleschook (Loon Lake) – lead fishing gear and toxicities

Dale Denney (Colville) – wolves and hunting

Eric Krausz (Inchelium) – white-tailed deer surveys conducted by Colville Tribes

MISCELLANEOUS AND MEETING DEBRIEF:

Commissioners discussed various items including the status of the search for a new Department director, possible interview questions, plans for in-person interviews in August, and a letter received from the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to the Washington and Oregon commissions regarding Columbia River fisheries allocation.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

nb/sdy

These minutes, plus the audio recording, constitute the full minutes.

Nancy Burkhart and Susan Yeager

**MEMOS AND AUTHORITIES FROM THE AUGUST 6-7-8, 2009
FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING, COLVILLE**

- Approval of 2009-10 Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations - Motion by Douvia, second by Mahnken, to adopt WAC 232-28-433, 2009-10 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations; permanent rule amendments to WAC 232-16-050, Byron Game Reserve; and to repeal WAC 232-28-432, 2008-09 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations as filed with the Code Reviser's Office and including floor amendments by staff. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- Commission Requests to the Department - Motion by Schmitten, second by Douvia, to request a Department briefing to the Commission at its November 6-7, 2009, meeting in Olympia on the status of a draft plan regarding tribal hunting on ceded lands. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- Motion by Orr, second by Schmitten, to request that the Department work along with USFWS representatives to brief the Commission at its September or November 2009 meeting in Olympia on the legality of baiting waterfowl by flooding corn ponds. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- Motion by Jennings, second by Perry, to request a Department briefing to the Commission at its November 6-7, 2009, meeting in Olympia on information about funds from Personalized License Plates, to include amounts received over the past 2 biennia and projections for the future, the process for distribution, allocation, and decision-making criteria. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Gary Douvia, Vice Chair
Ken Chew
David Jennings
Conrad Mahnken
George Orr
Chuck Perry
Rolland Schmitten