

MINUTES
WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
MEETING
June 3-4, 2011

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St SE - First Floor, Room 172
Olympia, Washington

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION:

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Gary Douvia, Vice Chair
David Jennings
Rollie Schmitten
Connie Mahnken
Chuck Perry
Brad Smith

COMMISSION STAFF:

Susan Galloway

DEPARTMENT:

Phil Anderson, Director
Joe Stohr, Dep. Director
Joe Shorin, AGO
Bill Frymire, AGO
Ann Larson
Nate Pamplin
Dave Ware
Harriet Allen
Bruce Bjork
Jair Reitsma
Irene Goldenberger
Ron Warren
Erik Neatherlin

Heather Bartlett
Dan Budd
Michele Culver
Lorna Wargo
Don Kraege
Donny Martorello
Rich Beausoleil
Darren Friedel
Rocky Beach
Margaret Ainscough
Jim Scott
Jo Wadsworth
Craig Burley
Wendy Ware

PUBLIC:

Jack Field
Bruce Vandervort
Linda Saunders
William Baker
Paul Parker
Chet O'Brien

Greg Jones
Duane Makoving
Hillary Bland
Bob Danielson
Bob Aegenter
Walt Christensen

Marianne Mitchell
Dale Bristow
Shelly Bristow
Dane Yates
Donna Snow

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1a. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Douvia moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten, to approve the meeting minutes as presented, including corrections as discussed:

- **April 8-9, 2011**
- **April 15, 2011**
- **May 6, 2011**
- **May 20, 2011**

The motion carried.

1b. COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed recent activities and items of general interest, including:

- North Pacific Research Board
- Youth Outdoors Unlimited
- Snider Creek-Broodstock Program

1c. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Anderson reviewed significant Department issues and activities, including:

- Wolf pack status update
- Emergency Rules
- Puget Sound Harvest Management Plan
- Rich Lincoln appointed to the Washington's obligatory seat Pacific Fishery Management Council
- John Henderschedt appointed to Washington's obligatory seat on North Pacific Council
- Regional Visits
- Olympic National Park - razor clam fishery
- Regulation plan for area 4b
- Discover Pass
- New Zealand Mud Snail
- Bear encounters

1d. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Director Anderson reviewed the current status of legislation related to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources in Washington State.

- Ann Larson received 'Top of the Hill' award
- New legislative team - outstanding work

1e. OPERATIONS AND BUDGET UPDATE:

Director Anderson briefed the Commission on the current status of the Department's budget and reviewed the state budget forecast process.

2. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

The following individuals provided testimony on items of interest or concern during this portion of the meeting:

- Jack Field: land acquisition, wolves

3. ENDANGERED SPECIES OVERVIEW – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Harriet Allen briefed the Commission on the process by which species are listed and delisted, from the identification of candidate species through the process steps in WAC 232-12-097 for species in Washington State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), Chair Wecker convened an executive session for the Commission to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party. The public was not permitted to attend the executive session.

4. CONSERVATION AND REBUILDING OF DEPRESSED SALMON AND STEELHEAD STOCKS – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Erik Neatherlin briefed the Commission on the status of salmon, progress in salmon recovery and the Department's role.

5. OVERVIEW OF STATE HATCHERY SYSTEM, PART 3 – BRIEFING:

Heather Bartlett, Hatcheries Division Manager & James Dixon, Hatcheries Division continued briefing the Commission on the history of fish hatcheries in Washington State, including Federal ESA Listings and status of implementing hatchery reform. Part 2 was presented during the January 7-8, 2011, Commission meeting in Olympia.

6. LAND TRANSACTIONS – DECISION:

The Commission will consider approval of various land transactions presented by Dan Budd, Real Estate Manager, Wildlife Program, for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement of public recreation opportunities and responsible property management:

- Proposed conservation easement on 480 acres in Okanogan County
- Proposed acquisition of 39.10 acres in Grays Harbor County
- Proposed acquisition of 1.32 acres in King County
- Proposed easement exchange for lake access in Skagit County
- Proposed lease/purchase in Okanogan County
- Proposed underground utility permit on access site in Clallam County

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item.

Commissioner Douvia moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to approve the purchase as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

The Commission is a direct link between citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. NOTE: During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that are not on the agenda for decision action.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 4:05 P.M.

Saturday June 4, 2011

8. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

The Commission is a direct link between citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. NOTE: During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that are not on the agenda for decision action.

The following people signed up to provide public testimony:

William Baker: bobcat and trapping seasons

9. COASTAL FORAGE FISH OVERVIEW – BRIEFING:

Michele Culver, Region 6 Director & Lorna Wargo, Coastal Marine Fisheries Biologist briefed the Commission on the management approach for coastal forage fish under the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries Management Plan.

10. GAME FARM RESERVES AND WATERFOWL CLOSURES – RULE BRIEFING & PUBLIC HEARING:
Don Kraege, Waterfowl Section Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to game farm reserves and waterfowl closure rules to update the list of game reserves and clarify boundary descriptions. The Commission will consider final adoption at its August 5-6, 2011, meeting in Olympia.

AMENDMENTS

WAC 232-16-700 Swinomish Spit Game Reserve

REPEALERS

WAC 232-16-130 Ellensburg Game Farm Reserve

WAC 232-16-360 South Tacoma Game Farm Reserve

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item.

11. COUGAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Carnivore, Furbearer and Special Species Section Manager & Rich Beausoleil, Bear-Cougar Specialist briefed the Commission on cougar management issues associated with the Department's Game Management Plan, including the status of public outreach efforts.

12. PREDATOR POPULATION TRENDS AND PREDATOR-PREY MANAGEMENT – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program & Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Carnivore, Furbearer and Special Species Section Manager briefed the Commission on predator-prey issues associated with the Department's Game Management Plan, including population trends and public outreach efforts.

13. DRAFT WOLF MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN PROCESS UPDATE – BRIEFING:

Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission on the status of edits to the draft Wolf Conservation & Management Plan.

14. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

The Commission is a direct link between citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting.

The following people signed up to provide testimony during this portion of the meeting:

Hillary Bland: wolf recovery

Jasmine Minbashian: wolf conservation & management plan

Shelly Bristow: wolf conservation & management plan

Marianne Mitchell: wild Steelhead/Salmonid management areas

Dane Yates: wolf conservation & management plan

Donna Snow: wolf conservation & management plan

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

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Erin Gariépy