

MINUTES

WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING

August 5-6, 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

COMMISSION STAFF:

Susan Galloway
Erin Gariépy

DEPARTMENT:

Phil Anderson, Director
Joe Stohr, Dep. Dir.
David Giglio
Owen Rowe
Bill Phillips
Ann Larson
Jennifer Quan
Nate Pamplin
Bruce Bjork
Dan Budd

Don Kraege
Donny Martorello
Darren Friedel
Margaret Ainscough
Jim Scott
Jo Wadsworth
Theresa Tsou
Craig Burley
Bill Frymire, AGO

PUBLIC:

Bruce Beatty
Georg Ziegltrim
Kirk Kirkland
Al Schmauder
Don Dashiell
Linda Saunders
Diane Gallegos
Chet O'Brien

Harley Edwards
Marty DeGiegolio
Ted Hurliman
Chuck Girtz
Jamie Glasgow
Donna Snow

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2011

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

1a. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

There were no minutes ready for review.

1b. COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION:

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

- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) annual conference
- Information technology
- Social networking tools

1c. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Anderson reviewed significant Department issues and activities, including:

- Salmon fisheries
- Puget Sound crab fishery
- Court Decision effecting Federal Biological Opinion on the Columbia River Hydro System
- Senator Phil Rockefeller appointed by Governor Gregoire to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Tri-State Meeting
- Freshwater fishing

1d. OPERATIONS AND BUDGET UPDATE:

Deputy Director Stohr briefed the Commission on the current status of the Department's budget.

2. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

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

- Kirk Kirkland (Tacoma), Chambers Creek Dam removal
- Al Schmauder (Lacey), Chamber Creek Dam removal
- Diane Gallegos (Shelton), *Wolf Haven International Director* - Wolf Plan
- Don Dashiell (Hunters) Wolf Plan

3. PROPOSED 2012 DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST – BRIEFING AND DECISION:

David Giglio presented the proposed supplemental operating budget for 2012. The Commission will consider final approval during its August 19, 2011, meeting via conference call.

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

4. PROPOSED 2012 DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST – BRIEFING:

Bill Phillips presented the proposed supplemental capital budget for 2012.

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Jennings moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to approve the Capitol Budget Request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PROPOSED 2012 DEPARTMENT REQUEST LEGISLATION – BRIEFING:

Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison, briefed the Commission on the status of the Department's proposed 2012 request legislation package. The Commission will consider approval at its August 19, 2011, conference call meeting.

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

- Bruce Beatty (University Place)
- Don Dashiell (Stevens County)

6. DISCOVER PASS IMPLEMENTATION – BRIEFING:

Jennifer Quan briefed the Commission on the Discover Pass, created through the passage of legislation this year.

Director Anderson offered his thanks to Department Staff who worked on the implementation including, Bill Joplin, Margaret Ainscough, Ann Larson, Jäir Reitsma, Joe Stohr and Bruce Bjork.

7. PROPOSED LAND TRANSACTIONS – DECISION:

Dan Budd presented the Department's proposed land transactions for protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhanced recreational opportunities and address public safety issues to the Commission for consideration:

- Easement along 720 feet of highway north of Wenatchee in Chelan County
- Purchase of 105.08 acres at Methow Wildlife Area in Okanogan County

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

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

8. PUGET SOUND KEY GROUND FISH SPECIES TREND ANALYSIS – BRIEFING:

At the request of the Commission, Theresa Tsou and Craig Burley presented a follow-up briefing on the status of specific groundfish species in Puget Sound.

9. COUGAR SEASONS AND REGULATIONS – RULE BRIEFING, PUBLIC HEARING & RULE ACTION:

Donny Martorello briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC rules to manage harvest guidelines as outlined in the Game Management Plan, increase recreational opportunities and address public safety issues related to human-cougar interactions.

- WAC 232-28-272 Black bear and cougar hunting seasons and regulations
- WAC 232-28-287 Cougar permit hunting seasons and regulations; and
- WAC 232-12-243 Public safety cougar removals

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

- Don Dashiell (Hunters), *Stevens County Board of County Commissioners*
- Chester C. O'Brien (Longview) *Washington State Hound Council*
- Tiffany Hurliman (Raymond) *Washington State Hound Council*
- Chuck Girtz (Lake Tapps) *Washington State Hound Council*
- Roger Chapanis (Sammamish)
- Bob Aegerter (Bellingham)
- Donna Snow (Olympia)
- Bob McCoy (Sammamish)
- Rob Kavanaugh (Olympia)

Commissioner Douvia moved, seconded by Commissioner Jennings to continue rule making action on the amendment to WAC 232-28-272, 232-28-287 and 232-12-243 until August 19, 2011 Fish and Wildlife Commission Conference Call. The motion carried unanimously.

10. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

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

- Dan Dashielle (Hunters) Stevens County Volunteers
- Rob Kavanaugh (Olympia) Pilot Grazing Program

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2011

Chair Wecker resumed the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

11. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

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

- Dick Jacobs (Montesano) *Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Committee* – Petition for rule change to WAC 232-12-257 regarding battery-powered or electronic devices as decoys
- Ben Welton (Mount Vernon) battery-powered or electronic devices as decoys
- Wendy Danielson (Olympia) Wolves
- Mike Meseberg (Othello) *Waterfowl Advisory Group, Washington Waterfowl Association* – Waterfowl hunting

12. GAME RESERVES AND WATERFOWL CLOSURES – RULE ACTION:

Don Kraege presented permanent amendments to WAC 232-16-700 Swinomish Spit Game Reserve, and repeal of WAC 232-16-130 Ellensburg Game Farm Reserve and WAC 232-16-360 South Tacoma Game Farm Reserve to update the list of game reserves and clarify boundary descriptions.

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Jennings moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry to amend WAC 232-16-700 and repeal WAC 232-16-130 and 232-16-360. The motion carried unanimously.

13. MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS – RULE BRIEFING, PUBLIC HEARING & RULE ACTION:

Don Kraege and Captain Bill Hebner briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-435, 2011-2012 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations; and proposed repeal of WAC 232-28-434, 2010-11 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations, and WAC 232-28-433, 2009-10 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Douvia moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry to adopt WAC 232-28-435, 2011-12 Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations and repeal WAC 232-28-434, 2010-11 and 232-28-433, 2009-10 as proposed Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations. The motion carried unanimously.

14. POTENTIAL 2012 COMMISSION MEETING DATES – DISCUSSION:

The Commission discussed potential dates for setting its 2012 meeting calendar. Considerations included locations, budget constraints and transparency with current webcasting capabilities. The Commission will consider approval of a 2012 meeting calendar at the October 7-8, 2011, Commission meeting in Olympia.

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

15. SUMMARY OF COMMISSION REQUESTS:

Deferred discussion of current Commission Requests to August 19, 2011 conference call when Director Anderson will be present.

Commissioner Jennings moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry to brief to the Commission on Information Technology (IT) within the department an overview of IT supported infrastructure. The motion carried unanimously.

16. OPEN PUBLIC INPUT:

No one signed up to testify on this topic during this portion of the meeting.

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND MEETING DEBRIEF:

Commissioners discussed items that arose after the agenda was published, including thanking staff who worked on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

EKG

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Erin Gariépy, Administrative Assistant