



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 6-8, 2020 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Bob Kehoe
Dave Graybill
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Anis Aoude
Kirt Hughes

Bill Tweit
Craig Burley
Samantha Montgomery
Joe Anderson
Ken Warheit
Cynthia Wilkerson
Richard Tveten
Chad Herring
Mike Scharpf

Taylor Cotten
Brendan Brooks
Lisa Coffman
Donny Martorello
Julia Smith
Nate Pamplin
Joel Sisolak
Jeff Davis
Todd Seamons
Bethany Craig

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepper

Public:

Diane Gallegos
Fred Koontz
Jennifer Hillman
Jean Manst
Bruce Ogren
Ron Figlar-Barnes
Butch Smith
Anna Robinson
Irene Martin
Phil Wolff
Dave Croonquist
Michael Schmitz
Jacques White
Frank Gorecki
Erin Sullivan
James Goche
Michael Runyon

Jill Fritz
Kerston Swartz
Sophia Ressler
Bob Lake
Ross Barkhurst
Kim Figlar-Barnes
Greg King
Lucas Marin
Kent Martin
Dale Beasley
Lisa Wilson
AJ Dotzauver
Rob Geddis
Story Warren
Paula Sweden
Jamie Glasgow
Ruth Musgrave

Dan Paul
Debra Munguia
Ronald Reed
Joe Durham
Scott Crawford
Mark Ashley
Bryce Divine
Joanne Tejada
Ken VanBuskirk
John Barr
Bethany Craig
Jeff Dickison
Sherri Felix
Andy Cove
Dawn Wade
David Moskowitz

Winslow Murdoch
Katie Remine
Tim Hamilton
Darrell Johnson
Michael Runyon
Lisa Olsen
Robert Sudar
Irene LeVee
Mendy Harlow
Frank Urabeck
Lee Blankenship
Peggy Frank
David Linville
Chrissy Cove
Shaughn Jarvis
Conrad Gowell

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the workshop to order at 8:00 a.m.

Hatchery Policy Review Emerging Science Report Workshop – Briefing, Public Comment

Joe Anderson, Research Scientist and Ken Warheit, Supervisor of Genetic and Fish Health Laboratories briefed the Commission on the key findings of the recently completed science report titled, "A review of hatchery reform science in Washington State."

The following people provided comments:

Lisa Wilson
Greg King
Jamie Glasgow

Butch Smith
Robert Sudar
Conrad Gowell

Dave Croonquist
Lee Blankenship

Frank Urabeck
David Moskowitz

Friday, February 7, 2020

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Carpenter amended item #4 Lands 20/20. The item is a briefing only.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The December meeting minutes were tabled until later in the meeting.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Thorburn, Linville, Baker, Smith, Carpenter, Kehoe

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee had an initial discussion about post-recovery sideboards. A comprehensive discussion will be held when scoping results are provided to the committee next month. The post-doctoral position contracted to model the state wolf population and recovery is open until Feb 15th. The committee was briefed on current legislation and events.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville, Smith, Carpenter, McIsaac, Graybill

Commissioner Thorburn reported the committee had a hunting contest options discussion. The committee recommends evaluating the CR-101. The committee also had a high-level discussion on weapon modernization. For the next meeting, the committee will discuss the wildlife and cougar presentations being given to the Commission.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker

Commissioner McIsaac reported that Frank Urabeck spoke to Baker Lake Sockeye. The meeting planned to discuss allocation issues was canceled due to absence of one tribe. Another meeting is being scheduled. During public testimony the public asked that no run size is agreed to until addressed.

The Willapa Bay comprehensive review is 50% complete, staff will present to the Commission at the September meeting for approval. Staff will engage with the Willapa Bay advisory group in late July early August to get feedback.

Fall chinook hatchery egg take and 2020 fishery specifics were discussed for Commissioner approval under the Willapa Bay 2020 Guidance preview. Chad Herring briefed on what he planned on presenting.

Commissioner McIsaac reported that at the January meeting there was discussion in favor of continuing to move down the road in a process with the Columbia River Policy Review. A draft policy review timeline was distributed and discussed. The committee recommended forming a Columbia River Workgroup with the same members that sat on the Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC).

The committee discussed the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Returns packet covering aggregate of chinook runs in decadal averages.

The Committee discussed a Columbia River Policy process review timeline proposing a two Commission meeting process in April and June to complete the process one Committee meeting on the eastside and one on the westside, with public comment on both. It includes three meetings of a new Committee, the Columbia River Policy Workgroup.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Irene Martin – PRC Process, Strategic Planning	Kent Martin – PRC process
Greg King – Fisheries	Robert Sudar – Columbia River Policy
Bryce Divine – Columbia River Alt Gear	

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

Accolades to Tom McBride, Legislative Director
Strategic Planning
Fish co-manager efforts
North of Falcon
Legislative session
Current and ongoing collaborations and partnerships

Brendan Brokes, Region 4 Director, provided an update on Skagit Elk efforts.

4. Lands 20/20– Briefing, Public Comment

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager provided a briefing on the Lands 20/20 process.

The following people provided comments:

Ken Van Buskirk	Mendy Harlow
Joanne Tejada	

5. 2020 Forest Restoration Project Approval Requests – Briefing, Decision

Richard Tveten, Forest Management Team Lead sought approval from the Commission on forest management projects that involve harvesting volumes exceeding one million board feet.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the proposed commercial thinning project as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Columbia River Policy Review Next Steps - Briefing

Director Susewind reported on 2020 Columbia River fisheries policy and negotiations with Oregon Director Curt Melcher and the Commission discussed potential next steps for Policy C-3620.

Commissioner Graybill made a motion to amend certain provisions of Policy C-3620 for the 2020 fishery season only with the intent of providing staff the policy guidance necessary to develop 2020 fishery plans that mirror, as closely as possible the actual 2019 fisheries. The full motion is available on the website [here](#).

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac, to table Commissioner Graybill's motion for one week in order to give Director Susewind time to conclude negotiations with Oregon related to 2020 fisheries on the Columbia River. The Commission delegated the task to him in the interests of certainty and orderly fisheries, for this year only.

As part of this motion related to timing – Commissioner Thorburn added that if Director Susewind is not able to conclude negotiations with Oregon by 8:30 am on Friday, February 14th, our commission meets by conference call to take up Commissioner Graybill's motion at that time. If an agreement is reached between Oregon and Washington by our respective directors before then, Commissioner Graybill's motion will be moot. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner McIsaac requested a continuation of the Columbia River Fishery Policy Review with the formation of a workgroup with the three appointed members from the PRC group. The Commissioners supported the workgroup formation.

The Commissioners also requested that the March meeting in Kennewick address spring salmon chinook allocations and the proposed workgroup schedule moving forward.

The Commission discussed Commissioner Kehoe's draft letter to the Oregon chair. The Commission agreed that he bring a draft to be discussed at Saturday debrief.

7. Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

Mike Scharpf, District Biologist provided the Commission an annual review briefing on Grays Harbor salmon management as stipulated within Policy C-3621, providing guidance for Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Tim Hamilton	Bob Lake
Joe Durham	Darrell Johnson

8. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622- Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

Ron Warren, Fish Policy Director and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager provided a briefing on the performance of policy implementation and seek guidance from the Commission on implementing the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) for 2019 brood year fall chinook hatchery releases and 2020 fishery management objectives and measures.

The following people provided comments:

Dale Beasley	Tim Hamilton
Ross Barkhurst	Marlisa Dugan
Bob Lake	Joe Durham
Mark Ashley	Lisa Olsen

Bruce Ogren

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Graybill to accept the 2019 BY egg take staff recommendations. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn as it relates to the fishery management aspects of the policy, carry forward the 2019 guidance except to reduce the unmarked Chinook impact rate to 14%. All in favor. Motion passes.

9. Lower Columbia Sturgeon Stock Status – Briefing. Public Comment

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided the Commission an annual review on lower Columbia River sturgeon population status, as stipulated within Policy C-3001. The Commission will discuss 2020 fisheries and provide guidance on the delegation to set 2020 fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Butch Smith Greg King
Bob Lake

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

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

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Ruth Musgrave – Pollinators

11. Hunting Contests – Briefing. Public Comment

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on the Washington laws and regulations that apply to hunting and fishing contests and provided an update on recent changes to hunting contests in other States.

The following people provided comments:

Dan Paul Chrissy Cole
Story Warren Camilla Fox
Ruth Musgrave Frank Gorecki
Jill Fritz Fred Koontz
Paula Swedeen

The Commission agreed with the Wildlife Committees recommendation to open the CR-101 and evaluate Washington's hunting contests.

12. Pollinator Projects and Backyard Sanctuaries – Briefing

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager briefed the Commission on best practices related to small scale habitat projects specifically related to pollinators and backyard sanctuaries.

13. Hatchery Policy C-3619 Review– Briefing. Public Comment

Laurie Peterson, Fish Program Science Division Manager will provide the Commission with the remaining schedule and process in the hatchery policy review. The Commission discussed next

steps subsequent to the workshop on February 6.

There was no public comment for this item.

14. Future Meeting Planning

There will be no Big Tent or Fish committee meeting in March. Lands transactions was moved from March to the April agenda.

The hunting contests CR-101 draft language will be presented to the Commission in Yakima and a final decision at the Everett meeting.

The Commission requested that the Hatchery Reform Workshop be moved to the afternoon instead of the morning for staff and Commissioner travel.

15. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Chair Carpenter brought the December 2019 minutes up for discussion.

There are two areas of the December minutes prior to considering them for adoption at the upcoming February FWC meeting:

1. The Commission guidance under agenda item 10 regarding the Hatchery Policy review. The link apparently failed just prior to the January FWC meeting and it is unclear if all Commissioners had a chance to look at it, as per the workshop discussion last Friday. The link is working now.
2. Revised language on the delegation task to the Director under agenda item 12.

The revised verbiage is as follows:

"Vice Chair Baker noted a letter from Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher suggesting that he and Director Susewind work together to provide concurrency and allocation direction for the upcoming spring chinook season and North of Falcon planning since the PRC process is not completed. The commission agreed to delegate exploring these preparations to the Director for the 2020 spring chinook season and North of Falcon negotiations. The Director is expected to report back to the Commission on this matter at the January Commission meeting."

Commission Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the minutes of the December 13-14, 2019 meeting as amended. All in favor. Motion passed.

The following Commissioners would like to attend the Governor's meeting, May 27 at 1pm in Olympia. Commissioners Carpenter, Linville, Kehoe, Smith, Thorburn, Anderson, and Baker.

Commissioner Kehoe opened for discussion his draft letter to Chair Wahl with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commissioners offered a few modifications. Nikki will update draft and send to Chair Carpenter for final approval before sending it to the Oregon Commission.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Anderson, Smith, Linville, Carpenter, Graybill

Vice Chair Baker reported that staff provided an update on strategic planning efforts. Carrie McCausland, Public Affairs Director provided an update of projects and outreach being done by the agency and communities impacted. Cynthia Wilkerson, DFW Lands Manager and Joel Sisolak,

Lands, Planning, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager provided an overview of recreation on DFW lands. Commissioners Smith and Baker requested that DFW Public Relations reach out to the Boy Scouts in Vancouver and see if there are volunteering efforts that can be coordinated. The Commissioners will forward the contact information to staff.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Nikki Kloepper, Executive Assistant