



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
May 14-15, 2020 – Webinar

Attendance

WA Commission:

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

WA Department Staff:

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Julie Sandberg
Jim Scott

Guest Speakers:

Pedro Franqui
Jonathan Stumpf
Derek Day
Al Senyohl
Andy Marks

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepper

Public:

Ryder Thomas	Robert Anderson	Rich Simms	Tino Villaluz	J. Glasgow
Brian Missildine	Allie Hayton	Chris Bachman	Perry Menchaca	Dawn Vyvyan
Greg King	Andy Walgamott	Randy Geoghegan	Bethany Craig	Patrick Pattillo
David Moskowitz	Rick Bates	Martha Jordan	Brian Love	George Harris
Debra Chase	Arthur King	Christopher Dunagan	Rick Lee	Al Martz
Shannon Franks	James Dixon	Barry Allyn	Jeromy Jording	Diane Gallegos
John Magart	Harry Richardson	Bob Lake	Fred Perkins	Michelle Blake
Bob Loomis	David McCraney	Sophia Ressler	Bob Cooper	Gregory Fitz
Steven Kenney	Gary Butrim	Marie Neumiller	J. Michelle Swope	James Losee
Heath Heikkila	Roger Goodan	Barry Allyn		

Friday, May 15, 2020

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

1. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bob Lake – Willapa Bay	Allie Hayton – Shrimping
Debra Chase – Mt. Lion Foundation	Shannon Franks – Gillnetting
Brian Love – Gillnetting	David McCraney – North of Falcon
Randi Giggen – Marine Area 7	Perry Menchaca – North of Falcon
Heath Heikkila – North Puget Sound Rec Fishing	
George Harris – Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan	

2. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

No Commissioner discussion at this time.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the April 9-10, 2020 and April 24, 2020 webinar meetings.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes of the April 9-10, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2020 webinar presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported the committee discussed the cougar safety timeline and next steps, there are four different categories of work proposed: outreach, response to the public, science and partnerships. There is a separate line of work addressing the impacts of predator on big game species. At the next Wildlife committee meeting they will discuss plans to address at risk ungulate populations.

There was also an update on the proposed hunting contest rules changes and where they are in the process. The CR-102 will be open soon and staff are working on the language.

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville

The last Wolf committee meeting was held May 8, 2020. The committee thoroughly discussed post-recovery plan scoping. Out of that meeting the committee produced [draft summary guidance on alternatives for post recovery wolf planning](#) for staff in consideration for the wolf recovery plan. The committee requests a consensus from the Commission to use the document moving forward.

The Commission gave their approval to use the document for the process moving forward.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Graybill, McIsaac, Carpenter, Thorburn

Commissioner McIsaac reported that Commissioner Kehoe chaired the Fish Committee meeting for Chair Carpenter, who was unable to attend. In the interest in engaging Chair Carpenter in the discussions, the North of Falcon and Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan/RMP agenda items were rescheduled to the June meeting. The June meeting will have public comment.

The non-native game fish policy agenda item stemming from a blue sheet in Bellingham from Commissioner Thorburn was discussed. Craig Burley went through the blue sheet and a thorough draft project process and timeline to develop a non-native game fish policy. The Committee endorsed the project process and schedule in general, with direction to staff to add the purpose as described on the blue sheet to the project description and to note the intent to receive feedback from the full Commission at key points via Fish Committee reports to the full Commission. The staff are intending on an advisory body for this.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Thorburn, Smith

Vice Chair Baker reported that the committee discussed and reviewed a draft of the strategic plan and were provided a briefing on the recent activities from public relations and external communications.

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Many meetings with Stakeholders and commercial advisors working to reopen the outdoors.
- Created message with co-agencies to "Responsibly Recreate."
- Virtual send off for Director Jim Brown. The agency is actively recruiting for his replacement.
- Licensing buyback work
- Wolf status annual report
- Progress with the strategic plan
- Covid 19 update - internal and reopening approaches and responses
- Discussed hunting and fishing openers and dates
- Staff are discussing cougar game management and public safety
- Office of Financial Management called for budget cuts, hiring freezes, new contracts and large equipment. The agency is adjusting accordingly.
- Corona virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Update

4. Lands Transactions – Briefing, Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of land transactions recommended by the Department.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the transaction as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

5. Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) – Briefing

Jim Scott, Special Assistant to the Director and Members of PSSAG briefed the commission on the the results of a more than 3-year process that resulted in a broadly supported portfolio of proactive management strategies to restore Puget Sound steelhead and fisheries.

The Commission discussed next steps. It was suggested that Jim Scott review possible policy implementation process possibilities that include Co-Manager involvement, engage with PSSAG towards a preferred approach, and bring the results to a future Fish Committee meeting that would include a public comment opportunity. The Fish Committee would then consider a recommendation to the full Commission on how to proceed.

6. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commission discussed future meeting agenda planning.

Commissioner McIsaac provided the following suggestions for the June meeting:

- Adding a CR workgroup meeting June 10.
- Showing notice of the Fish Committee meeting agenda items of the postponed North of Falcon review and Puget Sound Chinook RMP matters from this meeting; the Hatchery Policy language development progress report; and a briefing on the Willapa Bay Policy comprehensive review
- Update/amend commercial whale watching item on the year-at-a-glance (YAAG)
- Quicksilver portfolio – moved to a staff assignment and Fish Committee review until the placement can be determined on the YAAG

Vice Baker indicated that at a future workshop agenda item the Commissioners will talk about agenda planning and how guidance will be noticed to the public on the agenda.

Deputy Director Windrope reported out a tort settlement from 2015 with the Twist River fire. The tort was settlement was \$250,000.

7. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during executive session and the public was not permitted to attend.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

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