Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
June 10-13, 2020 - Webinar

Attendance

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

Commission Staff:
Nichole Kloepfer

Department Staff:
Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Julie Sandberg
Nate Pamplin
Morgan Stinson
Tom McBride
Jeff Davis
Bill Tweit
Ryan Lothrop

Guest Speaker:
Robert Geddis
Hannah Anderson
Derek Stinson
Joel Sisolak
David Whipple
Michael Livingston
Captain Bob
Weaver
Michael Garrity
Mike Ritter

Public:

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING

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

1. Call to Order
   a. Commissioners' Discussion

The Commission discussed the ADA Advisory Committee motion. It was supported by the Commission pending staff approval of allocated funding.

Commissioner Thorburn commented on the current climate of race relations and its correlation to recreating outdoors.

b. Meeting Minute Approval
   The Commission considered approval of the May 14-15, 2020 minutes.

   Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the May 14-15, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:
Wolf Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville
Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed the Eastern Washington conflict and the status of the translocation SEPA and the PSR timeline. The committee agreed to have another Wolf committee meeting in the coming weeks to talk to the UW post doc and the progress being made on the PSR population modeling.

Wildlife Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville
Commissioner Thorburn reported that staff provided presentations on plans to address at-risk ungulate populations and the review of the grazing program. The committee will continue the ungulate population discussion at their next committee meeting.

Fish Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Graybill, Mclsaac, Carpenter, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker
Commissioner Graybill reported that Commissioner Kehoe chaired the committee meeting. Staff provided progress reports on the Hatchery Policy Review: Policy C-3619 language revision development and the Willapa Bay Policy: C-3622 comprehensive review. Staff provided an overview and status update of the North of Falcon process and the Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan. The public provided comment on their concerns.

Staff also provided an update on the Fisheries Assistance through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act.

CR Policy Workgroup
Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Graybill, Mclsaac, Anderson, Baker
Commissioner Mclsaac reported that the workgroup met May 27 and June 10. The workgroup reviewed the remaining analyses, received additional public comment from both meetings, drafted policy language, and provided draft CRW recommendations to the full Commission for a public review.

Big Tent Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Mclsaac, Thorburn, Smith
Vice Chair Baker reported that the committee discussed the development and next draft of the strategic plan that is available for the public to review and provide comment. The agency has received feedback from advisory groups. The committee discussed a governance conservation policy. Vice Chair Baker will follow up with committee with her thoughts on what that might look like.

2. Open Public Input
The following people provided input on various topics:

- Paul Birkeland – Wolf Recovery
- Virginia Haver – Wolf Recovery
- Amaroq Weiss – Wolf Petition
- Jocelyn Leroux – Wolf Petition
- Rein Attemann – Orca Recovery
- Sharon Burke – Wolf Recovery
- Nick Kovalcik – Wolf Recovery
- Sandy Labowitz – Wolf Recovery
- Samantha Bruegger – Wolf Petition
- Nick Cady – Wolf Petition
- David Linn – Wolf Recovery
- Robert Sudar – Commercial Fishing
- Greg King – HSRG
- Sophia Ressler – Wolf Petition
- Marie Neumiller – Ungulate Recovery
- Patty Teubner – Wolf Recovery
- Chris Bachman – Wolf Recovery
3. **Director's Report**
The Director provided oral highlights on the following:
- National climate of race relations and addressing implicit bias within the agency
- Agency hiring freeze and budget reductions
- Agency and resource reopening challenges
- Tribal co-management meetings
- Region 2 recruitment process
- Addressing wolf livestock depredations and nonlethal interventions
- Stakeholder and external group meetings and outreach

4. **Lands Transactions - Briefing, Decision**
Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of land transactions recommended by the Department.

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

**BREAK**

5. **Draft 2021-23 Operating Budget Request and Draft SFY2021 Second Supplemental - Briefing**
Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs and Morgan Stinson, Budget Officer briefed the Commission and seek guidance on draft operating budget proposals for the 2021 legislative session.

6. **Draft 2021 Agency Request Legislation - Briefing**
Tom McBride, Legislative Director briefed the Commission on the draft agency request legislation for the 2021 legislative session.

**LUNCH**

7. **Strategic Planning - Briefing, Public Comment**
Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation Policy and Robert Geddis, Lean Performance Manager briefed the Commission on the draft strategic plan.

   The following people provided comments:
   Warren Jackson  Robert Sudar

8. **Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review - Briefing, Public Comment**
Bill Twelt, Special Assistant to the Director and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Policy Coordinator briefed the Commission on the Policy C-3620 review process. The Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup provided a recommendation for a public draft review of revised Policy C-3620. The Commission reviewed the draft C-3620 policy language.

   The following people provided comments:
   Steven Manlow  John Foltz  Health Heikkila  Jim Coleman
Commissioner Kehoe asked if the document should be put out for further review.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to release the draft document for further review to the public. Commissioner Smith, Graybill, and Chair Carpenter opposed. Commissioner Thorburn, McClasac, Anderson, Linville, Kehoe and Vice Chair Baker approved. Motion passes.

Hannah Anderson, Diversity Division Manager and Derek Stinson, Diversity Division Biologist briefed the Commission on the status of the Mazama Pocket Gopher recovery and recently completed recovery plan.

10. Target Shooting – Briefing, Public Hearing
Joel Sisolak, Lands Planning, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager – Wildlife Program; David Whipple, Manager, Hunter Education; Captain Bob Weaver, Enforcement, Region 3; and Michael Livingston, Region 3 Director briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments of WAC 220-500-140 Firearms and target practicing.

The following people provided comments:
Rachel Voss  Bill Essman  Steve Miller  John Baranowski
Dennis Harman  Martha Jordan

Due to the large volume of comments the rulemaking there will be a supplemental CR-102 filed. Staff will come back to the Commission in July for the formal public hearing and then for a decision in September.

RECESS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING

11. Open Public Input
The following people provided input on various topics:
Brian McLaughlin – Fisheries management  Amaroq Weiss – Wolf Recovery/Management
Robert Sudar – Columbia River  David Linn – Wolf Recovery
Jim Wells – Salmon Recovery  Ronald Redd – Wolf Recovery
Marth Hall – Wolf Recovery  Lucy Flannagan – Wolf Recovery
Rachel Bjork – Wolf Recovery
Tim Ragen – Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery

12. Blue Sheet: Tribal Fish Co-Manager Presentation – Briefing
Michael Livingston, Region 3 Director and Phil Rigdon, Superintendent of Department of Natural Resources, Yakama Nation presented the requested blue sheet from Commissioner Graybill on the status of fish restoration efforts in the Columbia Basin by Yakama Nation and WDFW.
13. **Eastside Solar Farms Wildlife Impact – Briefing**
Michael Garrity, Water, Energy and Major Projects Division Manager and Mike Ritter, Habitat Biologist & Statewide Technical Lead provided an update on trends in the development of solar farms, and their impacts on habitat and wildlife.

14. **Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**
The Commission discussed future meeting agenda planning.

Commissioners discussed statewide meeting venues for the remainder of 2020. They agreed that some transition to in-person meetings was critical. Other ideas included:
- Having webinars in lieu of Olympia physical meetings
- Continuing to meet in other counties
- Looking at phase criteria per area
- Watching how each situation develops

Commissioners touched on topics for meeting with Governor on June 24, 2020. Commissioners with topics of interest will send to Chair Carpenter.

15. **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.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant