



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

October 23-24, 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

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Anis Aoude
Ron Warren
Chad Herring
Jeff Davis
Carrie McCausland
Rob Geddis
Julie Sandberg

Staff

Joel Sisolak
David Whipple
Paul Dahmer
Jeff Burnham
Cynthia Wilkerson
Chris Donley

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Friday, October 23, 2020

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Carpenter mentioned that the #10 Hatchery reform item was struck from the agenda and Executive Session was moved from Saturday to Friday.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the October 2, 2020 and September 11-12, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2020 web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the September 11-12, 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

The committee met October 12, 2020. Commissioner Thorburn reported that Julia Smith gave an update on post recovery planning efforts. University of Washington staff who are creating the population status modeling were unable to join but provided a written report identifying all the factors that will go into the model and how the data will be pulled together. They are on schedule and expected to see results next spring. Donny Martorello gave an update on the timeline for the Governors wolf rulemaking mandate.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville, McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported the committee received an update from Hannah Anderson on the status of the Sage-grouse PSR and its 5-year deadline. Captain Myer and Eric Gardner discussed human-wildlife attack incidents. Anise Aoude reported on the current status of the hunting season 3-year package planning.

Habitat Committee

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

Commissioner Smith reported that Dana Oster and Lucas Hart from the Northwest Straits Commission provided a briefing on their Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan. You can find the plan Lucas and Dana spoke about [here](#). Commissioners are interested in field visit opportunities, when available.

Habitat Director Margen Carlson updated the committee on the status of mineral prospect rulemaking. It's been pushed from December to January for a briefing and then a decision in February 2021.

Margen updated the committee on the following habitat grant programs:

- **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB).** Background about the Board, funded projects, and the 21-23 funding list can be found [here](#).
- **National Estuary Program Strategic Initiatives.** Additional information about Puget Sound's National Estuary Program can be found [here](#). There are three strategic initiatives, including stormwater, shellfish, and the habitat focus, led by WDFW and DNR. WDFW is getting ready to apply for the next installment of that federal agreement, which would authorize \$15-100 million over the next five years, pending Congress continuing to allocate the resources.

Staff will look at bringing a kelp management briefing to the full commission in January. Margen will send grant details to the committee for additional reading.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Smith, Carpenter

The Big Tent Committee met on October 18 and discussed final modifications to the strategic plan provided by Commissioner Thorburn and the Commission statement.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

David Linn – Wolf recovery	Deborah Jensen – Strategic plan
Dave Hedrick – Strategic plan	Ilene Le Vee – Wolf recovery
Debra Chase – Strategic plan	Rachel Bjork – Wolf recovery
Toby Cooper – Strategic plan	

3. Strategic Plan – Decision

Jeff Davis, Conservation Director and members of the Strategic Planning team asked the Commission for approval of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the strategic plan as presented acknowledging it is a “living document” and staff

will provide plan updates ever 6 months. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Big Tent committee will meet before the next Commission meeting and discuss the Strategic plan report card, plan for next steps and regular updates.

Commissioner Thorburn asked that the development of regional advisor groups be promptly implemented.

4. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Agency and regional award ceremonies
- CARES Act update to the legislative Natural Resources Committee
- Region town halls
- Riparian strategy development with the tribes, agencies, and the Governor's office
- Met with Representative Dent and constituents in Davenport to discuss the strategic plan, grazing, and fire recovery.
- Wild Washington lessons status
- Razor clam status update
- Commercial whale watching
- Bighorn sheep challenges
- Grazing allotments
- 4-0 Ranch elk harvesting concerns

Deputy Director Windrope provided an update on the agencies ongoing efforts on the COVID-19 response.

5. Land Transactions – Briefing, Decision

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

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Citizen Awards

The following individual were recognized as important collaborations and contributors to the agency.

Organization of the Year: Ducks Unlimited Pacific Northwest Field Office

Landowners of the Year: Mark Bailey and Gary Bailey

Volunteer of the Year: Rachel Voss

Volunteer of the Year: Jim Terry

WDFW Terry Hoffer Award: Marty Kotzki

Director's Award: Matt Oram

Director's Award: Terry Williams (Tulalip Tribe)

Special Recognition: Capt. Phil Johnson

Break

7. Target Shooting – Decision

Joel Sisolak, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager, and David Whipple, Wildlife Program Hunter Education Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on target shooting.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt WAC 220-500-140 as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

8. Grazing Program Policy and WACs – Briefing, Public Hearing

Paul Dahmer, Wildlife Area Section Manager, Jeff Burnham, WDFW Range Ecologist, and Cynthia Wilkerson, Wildlife Program Lands Division Manager briefed the Commission on grazing guidance on WDFW lands and proposed changes to grazing policy and WAC.

The following people provided comments:

Jocelyn Leroux	Beau Henneman	Ilene LeVee
Carol Bordin	Martha Hall	Carol Bordin
Amaroq Weiss	Mark Streuli	

Commissioner McIsaac asked that at the next meeting there be a full version of the policy available with the changes for the Commission to review as well as the percentage of land owned by WDFW.

Lunch

9. Blue Sheet: Cooperative projects between WDFW and CTCR (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) – Briefing

Chris Donley, Region 1 Acting Regional Director and Casey Baldwin, Senior Research Scientist, and Holly McLellan, fish biologist with the Colville tribe presented a briefing on the status of Salmon and steelhead reintroduction into the blocked area above Chief Joseph Dam and Northern Pike Suppression in Lake Roosevelt.

Recess

Saturday, October 24, 2020

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

David Linn – Wolf recovery	Jason Lake – Willapa Bay
Stephanie Velea – Wolf recovery	

11. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) Comprehensive Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Chad Herring, Anadromous Resource Policy Analyst provided the Commission with a briefing on updated language to the comprehensive review document and seek Commission acceptance as a final report.

The following people provided comments:

Jason Lake	Andy Mitby	Larry Pryor
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Commissioner McIsaac suggested that the acceptance of the final report be tabled until the Fish committee has had time to provide their feedback on the report and public input at the December Fish committee. He would like to see staff come back with the answers at Fish committee about the AhA modeling method. He also recommended a policy revision, a SEPA evaluation and a list of alternatives be provided to the Commission on the policy.

Commissioner Thorburn requested big picture guidance on parts of the policy. Several suggestions from the Commissions were: timing of commercial fisheries, species designation, chinook run in season model, exploitation ceilings and in season management.

12. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioner Thorburn voiced concern over the agency's application with the conservation board. The agency already sits with the board as an advising capacity. This position could be perceived as threatening to other stakeholders.

Commissioner Linville reported that she had a conversation with Mike Livingston, DFW staff. He asked her about Shrub steppe habitat restoration. After her suggestions 932 acres of aril seed was laid by Swanson lake before a heavy snowfall, hopefully solidifying a first step in habitat recovery in that area.

Commissioners Kehoe asked some follow up questions about the kelp recovery presentation at the Habitat committee meeting. Commissioner Smith asked what the current volume being harvested is. Commissioner Baker suggested that staff reach out to the organization that gave the presentation and see what the Commission can do for them.

Commissioner McIsaac indicated there were a couple more areas for staff to address on the Columbia River decision document. It should be going out to the Commission and the public next week.

The Commission discussed next steps for Policy C-3619.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe that the Commission continue with the Policy C-3619 review process by noticing the public of a Fish Committee web conference for November 3 and a single- issue Commission web conference for November 5.

Some Commissioners were concerned with date selection wording of the motion. There was a consensus from the Commission that prompt action and direction from staff was critical to the process. Staff indicated they would respond with date availability on Monday, October 26, 2020 focused around the week of November 2-6, 2020 for a special Fish committee meeting and single-issue special Commission meeting.

Commissioner McIsaac withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Graybill spoke positively of the collaborative efforts between the Yakama tribe and WDFW. On October 1, 202 the Coho season opened on the Icicle River. He was happy to report it was full of salmon and had the opportunity to catch one himself.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.