



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
August 5-6, 2021 – Webinar

Attendance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Commission Staff</u>
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	Morgan Stinson	Nichole Kloepfer
Donald McIsaac	Kelly Susewind, Director	Tim Burns	
Kim Thorburn	Amy Windrope, Deputy Director	Tom McBride	
Molly Linville	Karen Edwards	Taylor Cotton	
Lorna Smith	Jeff Davis	Gerald Hayes	
Fred Koontz		Jessica Stocking	
Jim R. Anderson		Megan Kernan	

Friday, August 6, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Commissioner Thorburn provided a report on the virtual (WAFWA) Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the June 24-26, 2021, July 12-13, 2021 and July 16, 2021 draft minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz, to approve the minutes of the June 24-26, 2021, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes of the July 12-13, 2021, workshop as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2021, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

Wildlife Committee

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

Commissioner Thorburn reported that there was a special wildlife committee meeting on July 16. The committee discussed the remaining 3-year season setting package and improvements that can be made to the process. The meeting can be listened to [here](#).

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Science in Wildlife Management agenda item had been struck from the committee agenda. The committee discussed the ADA permit points request. The committee made a recommendation, to bring to the Commission, to maintain the current rules and not reopen them. The commission agreed to take no further action on the request. Staff provided a presentation on Vice Chair Baker's [Grazing blue sheet](#) request. The presentation can be access [here](#). Staff also noted that the periodic status review of the Stellar sea lion was a post-delisting and final review.

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Linville, Koontz, Smith, McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee was given an update on the wolf-livestock conflict deterrence rule making. A preliminary draft staff report and SEPA review proposal is available [here](#). Staff provided a [presentation](#) that outlines the components, process, and timeline of this rule making.

Julia Smith was promoted from Wolf Coordinator to Wolf Policy Lead.

The wolf population model from the University of Washington will be presented to the Commission in September.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: McIsaac, Baker, Thorburn, Koontz, Anderson, Smith

Commissioner Koontz reported that staff provided a [Climate readiness report](#). Vice Chair Baker asked staff to send the Commission paper copies of the report. Staff also gave an update on outreach and engagement plan efforts with the strategic plan. At the next meeting the committee will discuss the development of a Commission Conservation policy and be provided a briefing on rules vs policies and how the department determines the most appropriate path.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Koontz, Smith, Carpenter, Anderson

Commissioner McIsaac reported that staff provided an update on the Chinook Resource Management Plan and the Hatchery Policy Implementation and Joint Policy. Staff will be providing a formal briefing to the Commission on the Hatchery policy in the Fall. Staff provided a briefing on the budget proposal developed in response to the Governor's letter received after he vetoed the [Columbia River Buyback and Alt Gear](#) proviso. The committee recommends that the budget proposal be brought to the full Commission for discussion and that it be brought to the August 27 Commission meeting for approval. Commissioner McIsaac suggested the following for future Fish committee agenda items: Willapa briefing in September, EPA Coldwater report, and a possible closed session on the Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan. Commissioner McIsaac also provided a report on the July 28 Joint Columbia River meetings with Oregon and Washington. You can listen to the meeting [here](#).

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Heath Heikkila – Columbia River buyback | Adrian Tuohy – Columbia River pound nets |
| Amaroq Weiss – Wolf conservation | Jamie Glasgow – Pound nets |
| Robert Sudar – Columbia River buyback | Stephanie Taylor – Wolf/livestock conflict |
| Marie Neumiller – Wolf/livestock conflict | Rachel Bjork – Cougar management |
| Jessica Helsley – Salmon runs | Joan Beldin – Wolf/livestock conflict |
| Bob Kehoe – Legislation (HB 1437) | Katie Enslow – Legislation (HB 1437) |
| Dave Hedrick – Wolf/livestock rulemaking | Joshua Rosenau – Wolf/livestock conflict |
| Rachel Haymon – Cougar management/climate readiness report | |
| Ravae O’Leary – Coastal Steelhead management | |
| David Moskowitz – Steelhead management | |

3. Director’s Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Signed the North of Falcon Rules
- Participated in a co-management improvement workgroup
- Met with Senator Short to discuss range riding
- Provided an update on the Director’s Policy Team
- Supported Julia Smith’s promotion from Wolf Coordinator to Wolf Policy Lead
- Provided an update on the Chinook Resource Management Plan
- Provided update on the culture audit timeline; will be out in September
- Provided information on the fire risks and how the agency is working with -partners to mitigate them
- Pathway’s conference (September 19-22) discussing human dimensions
- Meeting with Northwest renewables
- Point-no-point update following the Corps of Engineers permit denial

4. Lands Transactions and Project Update- Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for a decision on a right-of-way transfer to WSDOT and provided an update on current projects.

There was no public comment for this item.

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

BREAK

5. Governor’s Salmon Recovery Planning – Briefing

Jeff Davis, Conservation Director provided the Commission with an update of the Governor’s Salmon recovery planning efforts.

6. 2022 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget – Decision

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer and Tim Burns, CAMP Program Director asked the Commission on the 2022 supplemental operating and capital budget proposals for the 2022 legislative session.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the proposed 2022 supplemental capital budget request, the maintenance

level portion of the 2022 supplemental operating budget request, and the performance (policy) level portion of the 2022 supplemental operating budget request as presented by staff, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepare final documents for submittal to the Office of Financial Management, with the exception of Policy Item # 5—Columbia River Policy Objectives—which shall be scheduled for a final decision at the August 27, 2021 Commission meeting.” All in favor. Motion passes.

7. 2022 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

Tom McBride, Legislative Director asked the Commission for a decision on the agency request legislation for the 2022 legislative session. He also requested support for a non-WDFW bill, SHB 1508, that would clarify regulation and enforcement of crab biotoxin contamination.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to approve the agency-request legislative proposals as proposed by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to the support SHB 1508 during the 2022 legislative session. All in favor. Motion passes.

LUNCH

8. Ferruginous Hawk Periodic Status Review (PSR) Uplist – Briefing, Public Hearing

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program, and Gerald Hayes, Conservation Assessment Biologist, briefed the Commission on the Periodic Status Review (PSR) of the Ferruginous Hawk in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. The PSR outlines the status of the species and includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public. The staff recommendation following the review is to uplist the Ferruginous Hawk from its current status of state threatened to endangered.

The following people provided comment:
Marie Neumiller

9. Steller Sea Lion Periodic Status Review (PSR) Maintain – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, and Jessica Stocking, Biologist, briefed the Commission on the Periodic Status Review (PSR) of Steller Sea Lion in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. The PSR outlines the status of the species and includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public. This was the first and final review following delisting of the Stellar Sea Lion.

The following people provided comment:
Rachel Bjork
Ilene LeVee

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to maintain the Steller sea lion status as an unlisted species in Washington as recommended by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

10. State Drought Update – Briefing

Megan Kernan, Water Policy Section Manager, Habitat Program provided a briefing on this year's drought emergency and of the current agency drought plan triggers.

11. Commissioner Guidelines and Procedures – Public Comment, Decision

The Commission discussed the following final draft sections of their guidelines and procedures.

Under V. Operating Principles, B. Meeting Schedules and Agenda, the addition of the sentence, "The Chair shall endeavor to keep the Commission apprised of changes to an agenda prior to the agenda being published."

Commissioner Thorburn suggested striking "endeavor to".

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to accept the additional sentence at the end of paragraph B, as submitted. Motion passes. 4/2 vote, (Commissioner Thorburn and Koontz Nays, Commissioners Linville, Anderson, Smith, McIsaac, Yays) Motion passes.

Second section to be addressed under V. Operating Principles, E. When working with constituents and the public, Commission members shall 1. Promote relationships with all users of natural resources. There was a suggestion for rewording to state "Promote relationships with citizens concerned about the conservation of Washington's fish, wildlife and ecosystems, and the use of these natural resources."

The Commission discussed their concerns about the modification.

Joe Panesko suggested the verbiage "Promote relationships with all individuals in the conservation and use of Washington's fish, wildlife and ecosystems."

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz to accept the language stating, "Promote relationships with all individuals in the conservation and use of Washington's fish, wildlife and ecosystems." under V. Operating Principles, E. #1. All in favor. Motion passes.

The following people provided comment:

Rachel Bjork
Josh Rosenau
Marie Neumiller
Heath Heikkila

Commissioner Koontz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to approve the Commission Guidelines and Procedures with redlined changes and as modified in the meeting today. Motion passes. 4/2 vote, (Commissioner Thorburn and McIsaac Nays, Commissioners Linville, Anderson, Smith, Koontz, Yays)

12. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Joe Panesko provided a 9th Circuit court update on the Snoqualmie Tribe hunting rights case.

Commissioner Linville requested a briefing on solar development, landscape considerations, and the impacts to shrub steppe/sage grouse. She also requested a letter from the Commission regarding a solar project in Douglas County. Michael Garrity provided context on the project of concern and will work with Commissioner Linville for an upcoming briefing.

Commissioner McIsaac asked for a Policy 3630 progress report at the September or October meeting, update the Non-native Game Fish item on the year-at-a-glance, an addition of a 2021-22 Coastal Steelhead rules in November and a Columbia River Basin Taskforce goals report out at an upcoming Fish committee meeting.

Commissioner Thorburn also suggested removing Stellar sealion item from the Year-at-a-Glance and add the Columbia River budget item to the August 27 agenda. She is also interested in hearing a briefing on the solar development in Douglas County.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant