



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, August 27, 2021

Attendance

Commission:
Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Don McIsaac
Fred Koontz
Molly Linville
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson
Lorna Smith

Department Staff:
Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Taylor Cotten
Morgan Stinson
Charlene Hurst
Raquel Crosier

Commission Staff:
Nikki Kloepfer

Friday, August 27, 2021

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

Vice Chair Baker gave a report on the Joint State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Committee work and ongoing efforts.

A. 2022 Columbia River Supplemental Budget Proposal – Decision

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer; Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant to the Assistant Director, Fish Program and Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead asked the Commission for a decision on the 2022 Columbia River supplemental budget proposal for the 2022 legislative session.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Columbia River License Reduction Program and Alternative Gear Development and Implementation decision package, adding it to the WDFW's 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.

The Commission discussed the motion. Commissioner McIsaac stressed that the motion intent with regard to the phrasing "decision package" was meant to include not only the financial amount but also the narrative that has been prepared by staff, when providing material in the OFM process, Governor's Office communications, and inquiries during any legislative process. There was discussion among some Commissioners about amending the motion to exclude the portion dealing with the license reduction program.

Commissioner Koontz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to amend the original motion to approve the Columbia River License Reduction Program and Alternative Gear Development and Implementation decision package as presented by staff, without the License Reduction portion. This adds it to the WDFW's 2022 supplemental operating budget, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepare final documents for submittal to the Office of Financial Management."

The Commission discussed the amendment.

The vote was -4/4: Commissioners Smith, Koontz, Carpenter and Baker in favor; Commissioners McIsaac, Linville, Anderson and Thorburn opposed. Motion failed.

The Commission returned to the original motion for discussion and vote.

The vote was 5/3 : Commissioners McIsaac, Linville, Anderson, Baker, and Thorburn in favor; Commissioners Smith, Koontz, Carpenter opposed. Motion passed.

B. Changes to the 2022 Supplemental Maintenance Level Request - Decision

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer asked the Commission for a decision on approval changes to the maintenance level operating request for the 2022 legislative session.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commission Smith to approve the maintenance 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. All in favor. Motion passed.

C. Ferruginous Hawk Periodic Status Review (PSR) Uplist –Decision

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, Wildlife Program asked the Commission for a decision on the Periodic Status Review recommendation to up list the Ferruginous Hawk to state endangered in accordance with WAC 220-610-110.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by staff to uplist Ferruginous Hawk from Threatened to Endangered. All in favor. Motion passed.

D. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners highlighted the following:

Commissioners asked for an Executive Session at the September meeting. Commissioner Smith requested discussing some personnel issues at this time. Commissioners Thorburn and McIsaac requested an executive session to discuss legal matters.

Commissioner Thorburn noted that there will not be a Wildlife committee meeting and likely not a Wolf committee meeting at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Koontz expressed concern about that Togo pack depredation and requested that the Wolf committee let the Commission know 48hours before the information is distributed to the public.

Further discussion about future agenda planning was postponed until the next meeting.

E. General Discussion

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Nichole Kloepper, Executive Assistant