



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

October 21-22, 2021 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
Lorna Smith
Fred Koontz
Jim R. Anderson

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Karen Edwards
Anis Aoude
Steven Caromile
Kirt Hughes
Stephanie Simek

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepper

Friday, October 22, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Carpenter announced that Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager will be presenting on item #5 instead of Brock Hoenes, Region 2 Director.

Chair Carpenter noted that in light of the scope of public interest in the spring bear topic the written public comment period will be reopened and will be accepting additional written public comment until 5:00 PM on Monday, November 1st.

Commissioner Anderson visited the Naches River to observe the Nelson Dam reconstruction.

Commissioner Smith visited Crab Creek and the Chief Joseph areas.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the September 16-17, 2021 and October 1, 2021, draft minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the September 16-17, 2021, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 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: Committee members: Linville, Smith, Anderson, Thorburn, and Commissioners McIsaac, Koontz, Baker

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed [Science in management, accounting for risk and uncertainty](#) and was provided a briefing on the Land Recreation plan.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Carpenter, Anderson, Baker, McIsaac, and Commissioners Koontz, Smith, Linville

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee discussed the [Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy](#) and potential [draft language](#). An update on the [P-3624 Hatchery Policy briefing on progress developing the technical procedures document](#) and a brief discussion on the [Cowlitz River Hooking Mortality Study](#). Under additional discussion staff provided an update on [Coastal Steelhead Town Hall Meetings](#).

ADA Committee

Commissioner Thorburn reported on the completed projects and that interviews for new committee members have been completed. Commissioner Smith and Thorburn have made the following candidate recommendations for approval.

- Ken McNaughton – Region 1 – filling a 2-year vacancy
- Jason Morris – Region 4 – filling a 2-year vacancy
- Greg Mallory – Region 5 – filling a 4-year vacancy
- Dustin Krall – Region 6 – filling a 4-year vacancy

Region 2-3 still have open recruitments with the hopes of filling them in the near future.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the ADA committee candidate recommendations. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

David Moskowitz – Coastal Steelhead Marie Neumiller – Partnership balance and cooperation
Rachel Haymon – Conservation efforts Lynn Mason – Klickitat County cougars
Martha Hall – Klickitat County cougars Paul Rudnick – Tad poles

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Update on the JLARC Culture Audit hearing
- Upcoming Centennial Accord meeting at Little Creek Casino
- Salmon recovery efforts
- Blue Mountain elk herds population decrease, this will be address at the Wildlife committee in December.
- Cooke Aquaculture Permits, the agency continues to review Fish Transport Permits for Cooke Aquaculture's net pens as they transition to steelhead.
- Update on the installation of a 3rd Pound Net, proposed location near the Elochoman River in the Cathlamet Channel, WA.

Amy Windrope, Deputy Director, provided an update on the [Governor's COVID Proclamation Vaccination Requirements](#) and agency impacts.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for approval of a land transaction recommended by the Department for the enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

The following people provided comment:
Martha Hall

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

BREAK

5. Importation of Dead Non-Resident Wildlife and Special Closures – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager ask the Commission for a decision on the proposed amendments to WACS 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife and 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i), the Commission met in Executive Session. No action was taken, and the public was not permitted to attend. The session concluded at 11:50 AM. The chair returned to recess for lunch.

LUNCH

7. Blue Sheet: Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

Steve Caromile, Inland Fisheries Manager and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager provided the Commission a briefing on the proposed policy language within the draft policy.

Commissioner McIsaac requested that a yearly evaluation be added to the policy.

The following people provided comment:
Todd Hass

Commissioners requested that Todd Hass, the public commenter, provide his additional thoughts to staff via the Commission email.

8. Spring Bear Hunting Seasons – Briefing, Public Hearing

Stephanie Simek, PH.D. Carnivore, Furbearer, Game Bird Section Manager, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-080 Spring black bear special permits.

The following people provided comment:

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| Rachel Bjork | Martha Hall | Lynn Okita | Susan Kane - Ronning |
| Ronald Reed | Adrienne Dorf | Ann Prezyna | Judith Adkin |
| Lois Ward | Lydia Sherwood | Patti Harter | Julia Lynch |
| Sophia Ressler | David Linn | Bernard McDevitt | James Davis |
| Janet Wainwright | Alejandra Suarez | Jennifer Enriquez | Janet Strong |
| Jean Davis | Jennifer Riker | Susan Conniry | Jerry Anderson |
| Rita Kinney | Chris Bachman | Lynn Mason | Ian Staeheli |
| Ann Bryant | Tim Coleman | John Brueggeman | Tammy Domike |
| Rick Eggerth | Gabrielle Gilbert | Rachel Haymon | Renee Dagseth |
| Bridget Bryck | Patrick Paulson | Debbie Reed | Robert Morgan |
| Tjitske Dekker | Marie Neumiller | Janice Brookshier | Zachary Packer |

David Niekerk	Josh Rosenau	Kate Sharadin	Susan Hartland
Alyne Fortgang	Ana King	Steph Taylor	Brendan Brannen
Bob McCoy	Dan Paul	Rita Morgan	Sindy Stagers
Patrick Townsend	Alice Flegel		

The Commissioners requested another meeting on the issue one week before the decision to receive responses on additional questions asked by Commissioners. Commissioners will send their questions to Nikki to be relayed to staff. Staff will also send the Commissioners the Spring Bear rulemaking file.

9. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commissioners gave thanks to the public for sticking it out to providing comment.

Commissioner McIsaac requested that the January 28 Cougar meeting be placed on the YAAG. Nikki reported it was on the YAAG just not the date as she was solidifying things with staff.

The Commission requested in January that there be a full Commission briefing on the Governors Salmon Bundle around the Snake River dam.

Commissioner McIsaac requested a future pound net briefing by WDFW staff. He expressed the importance of staff providing materials in a timely manner for the public and Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Linville requested an update on the Hound Pursuit Program. This will be provided at the next Commission meetings, Director's report.

Vice Chair Baker requested an update on E-bikes. Staff will provide an update via email.

Commissioner Anderson asked for a presentation on Blue Elk concerns. This will be addressed initially at the Wildlife committee meeting in December.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant