



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

June 22-23, 2023 – Hybrid Seattle

Attendance

Commission

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Tim Ragen
John Lehmkuhl
Jim Anderson
Melanie Rowland
Steve Parker

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Kelly Susewind, Director
Nate Pamplin
Eric Gardner
Brendan Brokes
Karen Edward
Tom McBride

Staff

Morgan Stinson
Kristin Kuykendall
Taylor Cotton
Mary Linders
Trevor Hutton
Mike Livingston

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Guests

Bill Sharp

Thursday, June 22, 2023

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

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

Commissioner Smith reported on her attendance at the Pathways conference. Chair Baker shared her experience traveling to Kenya.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

- The Commission considered approval of the April 4-6, 2023, hybrid meeting minutes and the May 12, 2023, web conference meeting minutes.

Commissioner Parker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes from the April 4-6, 2023, hybrid meeting, as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Linville made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2023, 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

Committee members in attendance: Anderson, Smith, Rowland, Myers
Commissioner Smith reported that the committee was provided a Wolf PSR briefing on the [commissions engagement with the process](#) and staff provided an [overview and timeline presentation](#). The committee discussed [Colorado's request for wolf translocation](#). Commissioner Smith and Chair Baker recommended that the Director draft a letter initiating an exploratory conversation with Colorado to better understand what translocation might mean while the state listing of wolves is being evaluated. The Commission agreed with the recommendation.

The committee discussed the direction and further development of the Game Management Plan (GMP).

The following is the recommendation to the full Commission:

1. Support Department staff's recommendation to allow the existing Game Management Plan to expire,
2. Encourage the WLC to focus their resources on the development of draft policy language associated with game management while also continuing to participate in the development and review of the new GMP,
3. Encourage department staff and the WLC to redirect toward development of a single GMP document that provides staff guidance regarding game management issues, including potential rulemaking efforts, adhering to the appropriate SEPA process,
4. Encourage Department staff to work with the WLC to identify any additional policy topics in the new GMP that may need to be addressed through policy discussions or addressed outside of the GMP process, and,
5. Encourage department staff to work with the WLC during the 3-year season setting process to determine which rules will be opened with proposed changes, taking into consideration the status of any related policy discussions related to the topic. At the appropriate time, the WLC may recommend that the commission delegate some or all of the rulemaking process to the Director.

The Commission, except for Commissioner Linville, accepted this recommendation. Commissioner Smith will work with staff to plan the remaining Wildlife committee meetings for the year.

The Commission discussed the need to delegate rule making authority to the director for WAC 220-412-090 Multi-season deer and elk tags. The intent is to add 100 multi-season deer permits for the 2024 season. These permits will be used in a drawing as an incentive for hunters to submit CWD samples during the 2023 season. The commission would have to delegate the rulemaking to the Director to expedite the process.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, that rule making on WAC 220-412-090 be delegated to the Director to create incentive multi-season deer permits to be use in a drawing for hunters that submit a deer or elk CWD sample. All in favor. Motion passes.

Fish Committee

Committee members in attendance: Ragen, Linville, Anderson, Parker

Vice Chair Linville reported on the [June 16, 2023](#) and [May 23, 2023](#) special committee meetings.

Staff presented the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Draft Policy. The committee recommended to the full Commission that the draft policy be posted on the agency web site for public comment. Staff will brief the Commission and public comment will be taken on the draft policy at the August Commission meeting. The Commission unanimously supported the recommendation.

Dr. Ken Warheit provided an update on the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy Update to the committee on the status of the draft policy, provide a high-level summary of public comments on SEPA received. A detailed summary of those comments will be provided at the August meeting. The Committee was joined by Lisa Wilson, the ESA Manager for the Lummi Nation, Scott Schuyler from the Upper Skagit Tribe and Jason Gobin from the Tulalip Tribes to share perspectives on the policy. There was a request for a meeting with tribal co-managers this summer so the policy can be finalized.

Kelly Cunningham provided a briefing on the draft forage fish policy and shared the latest draft policy with the Committee. The changes to the policy clarify that it applies to both marine and

freshwater ecosystems. The committee directed staff to post the updated policy on the agency web page for public comment. The Commission will consider the new policy at their August meeting.

Nate Pamplin presented a briefing about pinniped conservation and management activities being conducted by WDFW in the Salish Sea and the Columbia River.

Kelly Cunningham walked the committee through a draft schedule for the remainder of the calendar year and talked about potential priorities for 2024. The committee approved the future fish committee draft agenda with one change, moving the Coastal Dungeness Crab update from the August meeting and adding the management strategy evaluation agenda item.

Big Tent Committee

Committee members in attendance: Baker, Lehmkuhl, Parker, Smith

Chair Baker reported that the committee discussed the recent version of the Draft Conservation Policy. Deputy Director Windrope will circulate the recent draft with staff provided edits. This will be an ongoing discussion. Staff and committee also discussed the [best available science timeline](#). This briefing will be provided at the August meeting. At future committee meetings there will be C.A.P.E briefing. Staff will bring recommendations to improve the public comment process at the December meeting.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sophia Ressler – Wolf PSR | Paul Rudnick – tadpoles |
| Dane Czarnecki – hunting rights | Lynn Okita – Wolf PSR |
| Julia Zelman – Wolf PSR | Alyne Fortgang – Wolf PSR |
| Tanea Stephens – rat poisons | Ann Prezyna – Wolf PSR |
| Ben Harrison – WDFW appreciation | Josh Rosenau – data interpretations |
| Dan Paul – location matters | Andrew Luk –location matters |
| Sandy Smith – Wolf PSR | Bernard McDevitt – location matters |
| Peter Hapke – North American Model | Suzanne Lieberman – Wolf PSR |
| Aaron Buch – North American Model | Ruth Musgrave – Wolf PSR |
| Dennis Dart – Gray Squirrel PSR | Drew Wilkinson – Wolf PSR |
| Patricia Arnold – Klickitat Cougar | Mike Herz – multiyear deer tags |
| David Linn – Wolf PSR | Stephanie Bell – eco crisis |
| Sandy Labowitz – Wolf PSR | John Rosapepe – location matters |
| Emma Helverson – Hatchery Co-Manager Policy | |
| David Moskowitz – best available science | |

3. Deputy Director and Regional Director's Report

The director reported on various meetings, and agency activities, and provided a budget and legislative update. Brendan Brokes, Director for Region 4, provided a report on area activities.

Break

4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for a decision on three land transaction recommendations by the Department for the enhancement of conservation and public recreation opportunities, and hatchery operations.

There was no comment provided on this item.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the land transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

5. Conservation Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

The Commission discussed the draft Conservation Policy and accepted comments from the public. The commissioners approved the staff recommended timeline.

The following individuals provided comment:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Alex Baier | Dane Czarnecki | Claire Davis |
| John Rosapepe | Adrienne Dorf | Jen Syrowitz |
| Carl Barner | Hannah Thompson-Garner | Ann Prezyna |
| Josh Rosenau | Will Christison | Justin Boardman |
| David West | Patricia L. Arnold | Douglas Boze |
| Ryan Garrett | Josh Caple | Mike Herz |
| Kim Thorburn | Ian Martiszus | Heather Nicholson |
| David Linn | Max Cole | Mason Liddell |
| Steve Snowden | Ron Garner | Dave Hedrick |
| Sam Bruegger | | |

Recess

Friday, June 23, 2023

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

6. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

| | |
|--|--|
| Jon Dykes – hunting | Rachel Bjork – Wolf PSR |
| John Rosapepe – Wolf PSR | Clarie Davis – Wolf PSR |
| Julia Zelman – Conservation policy | Hannha Thompson-Gardner – Wolf PSR |
| Josh Rosenau - Cougar safety | Ann Prezyna – conservation |
| Adiran Tuohy –CR Buyback | Heath Heikkila – Columbia River (CR) buyback |
| Jake Jensen – North American Model | David Linn – Wolf PSR |
| Gary Strassburg – Conservation policy | Joan Beldin – Wolf PSR |
| David Moskowitz – salmon conservation | Alex Baier – Wolf PSR |
| Mandy Carlstrom – Conservation policy | Heath Heikkila – CR buyback |
| Lloyd Lytle – Conservation policy | Jason Spadaro – Gray Squirrel PSR |
| Dane Czarnecki – hunting is conservation | Ron Reed – Conservation policy |
| David Bain – Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) | Deborah Giles –SRKW |

7. Staff and Community Appreciation Awards

Deputy Director Windrope and Director Kelly Susewind announced the Staff and Community Appreciation awards.

The following individuals were awarded:

Manager of the Year – Rachel Blomker
Employee of the Year – Bill Baker
Director’s Award – Ben Maletzke
Organization of the Year – The Trail Blazers
Educator of the Year - Columbia Springs Team
Volunteer of the Year – Mike & Trudy Barker
Landowner of the Year – HT Rea Farms

Region award ceremony location information will be circulated to the commissioners when available.

Break

8. 2024 Agency Request Legislation – Briefing

Tom McBride, Legislative Director briefed the Commission on the agency's requests for the 2024 legislative session.

9. Operating and Capital Budget Request – Briefing, Public Comment

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer, and Kristin Kuykendall, CAMP Program Director briefed the Commission on the maintenance and performance level portions of the 2023-25 budget for the 2024 legislative session.

There was no comment provided on this item.

Lunch

10. Periodic Status Review Gray Squirrel – Briefing

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, and Mary Linders, Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on the periodic status review of the western gray squirrel.

11. Klickitat Hatchery Transfer – Briefing, Public Comment

Mike Livingston Region 3 Director and Trevor Hutton, Region 3 Fish Program Manager provided the Commission an update on the SEPA review and comments received on the proposed transfer of the Klickitat Hatchery property and facility.

The following individual provided comment:
David Moskowitz

12. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The following actions were captured from the meeting:

- The Commission supported a recommendation from the committee to have the director connect with the Colorado director about wolf relocation and gather more information.
- Staff will provide the current BAS draft to Committee members.
- Tom McBride will follow up with commissioners with additional legislative WAC information.
- Staff will recirculate the draft retreat agenda for feedback.
- Commissioner Ragen will present a Blue Sheet at the July meeting, the staff agreed to provide a briefing at the August fish committee meeting.
- Commissioners had questions on wolf research modeling and the significant portion of the range. Staff will follow up via email with clarifications and answer any additional questions.

Committee actions were captured during call to order, committee report outs, and are listed above.

13. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), the Commission met in executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting once the executive session concluded.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

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