



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

August 10-12, 2023 – Hybrid Olympia

Attendance

Commission

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

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Amy Windrope,
Deputy Director
Kelly Susewind,
Director
Nate Pamplin
Karen Edward
Tom McBride
Nate Pamplin
Phillip Dionne
Anis Aoude

Staff

Morgan Stinson
Kristin Kuykendall
David Trimbach
Braeden Van Deynze
Ken Warheit
Eric Kinne
Marlene Wagner

Commission Staff

Nichole
Kloepfer

Guests

Bill Sharp
John Organ

Friday, August 11, 2023

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

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

Commissioner Anderson talked about this summer's fish and wildlife adventures.

Vice Chair Linville shared her experiences at region 2 and 3 staff ceremonies.
Commissioner Rowland shared her experiences at the Region 2 ceremony.

Commissioner Ragen mentioned he met with John Dykes and Dane Czarnecki to talk about conservation and carnivore management. Chair Baker also had a conversation with Mr. Czarnecki.

Chair Baker and Commissioner Lehmkuhl provided a report from their recent attendance at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). WAFWA will be hosted in Washington in 2024. Chair Baker suggested that she would like to see more time for Commissioners and Directors to connect at the conference.

Joe Panesko, the agency's attorney provided the Commission with an update on active public litigation.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the June 22-23, 2023, hybrid meeting minutes and the July 14, 2023, web conference meeting minutes.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to approve the minutes from the June 22-23, 2023, hybrid meeting, as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to approve the minutes from the July 14, 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:

Big Tent Committee

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

Chair Baker reported that the committee was provided a [Communications and Public Engagement \(C.A.P.E.\) overview](#) The staff provided a [summary and the comments](#) of the draft Conservation Policy open comment period. The draft policy can be reviewed [here](#). Commissioner Lehmkuhl asked about the status of the science-policy interface. Deputy Director Windrope reiterated the [timeline](#). Chair Baker suggested a document working group. Commissioners Smith and Ragen volunteered to participate.

Wildlife Committee

Committee members in attendance: Anderson, Smith, Rowland, Myers

Commissioner Smith reported that the committee discussed the Game Management Plan (GMP) timeline update and the status of 3-year Season Setting. The staff presentation is available [here](#). Donny Martorello discussed the [science-policy framework of bear and cougar management](#) and asked for committee feedback. Committee members provided some questions and others will provide their questions via email. The committee was also given a briefing on the status of Avian Flu in [Washington State](#).

Fish Committee

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

Commissioner Anderson reported that the committee was provided an update on the progress of the [Co-Manager Hatchery Policy](#), a status update on the [OP Steelhead Federal Listing](#), the Saturday presentation on the Willapa Bay Draft Policy, an overview of the [Management Strategy Evaluation approach blue sheet](#), and discussed several items for future meeting planning.

Habitat Committee

Committee members in attendance: Linville, Lehmkuhl, Ragen, Myers

The committee was provided a [Fish Passage and Screening Rulemaking update](#).

Chair Baker reported that at the last Executive committee meeting the committee was asked by staff to provide a recommendation to the full commission on the following. The Executive committee supported the recommendation by staff.

WDFW is building an electronic licensing mobile application which will allow recreational hunters and anglers to carry and display their licenses on their mobile device, submit catch record cards, harvest reports, and access their licensing and harvest information. In addition, functionality is being added to the existing Fish WA regulations application for anglers to submit catch record cards and display their active privileges. In order to implement the mobile application, there are administrative changes to the WAC needed. The current WAC's describe a paper process, and we need to update the WACS to reflect digital licensing and reporting. The Executive Committee discussed this and the agency's recommendation that the Commission delegate this administrative rulemaking to the Director and we support delegation. The WACs listed on screen are impacted by the development of these applications.

- [WAC 220-220-010- General Licensing Rules](#)

- Recreational licensing definitions
- [WAC 220-220-020](#) Recreational License
 - Rules regarding the validity of licenses and catch record cards
- [WAC 220-310-010](#) Personal Use Fisheries-General Rules
 - Descriptions and required information on catch record cards
- [WAC 220-310-020](#)-Catch record cards
 - Rules regarding catch record card compliance for salmon, hatchery steelhead, halibut, sturgeon, and Puget Sound Dungeness crab
- [WAC 220-413-020](#) Hunting-General Rules
 - Big game and turkey tagging requirements
- [WAC 220-413-100](#) Mandatory report of hunting activity
 - Harvest reporting requirements for big game, turkey, and migratory bird
- [WAC 220-416-060](#) Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.
 - Migratory bird harvest card requirements, seasons, and regulations

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to delegate to the director final decision-making authority on the draft rules proposed by staff to implement the electronic licensing mobile application. The Director will report to the Commission on the rulemaking once its completed. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Sophia Ressler - wolf petition	Roxane Auer - carnivore management
Rachel Bjork - carnivore management	Claire Loeb Davis - wolf petition
Mike Herz - carnivore management	Jeff Holbrook - hunting appreciation
Josh Caple - carnivore management	Marie Neumiller - carnivore management
David Linn - wolf petition	Kim Thorburn - Spring bear
Spencer Burdick - Spring bear	Kathleen Callaghy - North American Model
Jon Dykes - carnivore management	Hannah Thompson-Garner - wolf petition
James Forslund - carnivore management	Julia Zelman - need for diversity
Jeremy Franz - North American Model	Andy Elliott - Conservation policy
John Rosapepe - wolf petition	Nicholas Hamm - North American Model
Ester Gonzalez - wolf petition	Peter Hapke - wolf petition
Judith Akins - wolf PSR management	Dane Czarnecki - hunting and conservation

Break

3. Director's Report

The director reported on various meetings, agency activities and provided an update on the Conservation Director position, the status of the Columbia River buybacks process, and confirmed the hemorrhagic disease case of a wild rabbit in Island County.

4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for a decision on land transactions recommended by the Department.

The following individual provided comment:
David Moskowitz

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

5. 2024 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

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

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the agency request legislation proposals 1-3 as proposed by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to approve legislative proposal 4 and its encompassing options addressing crop damage. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Operating and Capital Budget Request – Decision

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

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the proposed 2024 supplemental capital budget, the maintenance level portion of the 2024 supplemental operating budget and the 2024 supplemental operating budget request as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

Lunch

7. Blue Sheet: North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

John Organ, Ph.D. provided an overview of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

8. Forage Fish Management Policy C-3012 – Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

Phillip Dionne with Statewide Forage Fish Research and Management presented the draft Forage Fish policy and written public comment received.

The following individual provided comment:
David Moskowitz

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl to e adopt the amendments to Policy C-3012; Forage Fish Management Policy, Goals and Plan as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

9. Petition: Spring Bear 2024 Recreational Hunting – Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Game Division asked the Commission for a decision on a petition to “begin Rule Making for the 2024 recreational Spring bear hunting season.”

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to deny the petition to begin Rule Making for the 2024 recreational Spring bear hunting season. All in favor. Motion passes.

10. Blue Sheet: Social Science – Briefing

Nate Pamplin, Director of External Affairs; Dr. David Trimbach, Conservation Social Scientist, and Dr. Braeden Van Deynze, Natural Resource Economist provided the Commission with a briefing on social science and its application to fish and wildlife conservation.

Recess

Saturday, August 12, 2023

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

11. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rachel Haymon – carnivore management | Marie Neumiller – social science |
| Dan Czarnecki – hunting advocacy | Gary Strassburg - carnivore management |
| Daniel Johnson - hunting advocacy | Susan Kane-Ronning - carnivore management |
| Claire Davis – carnivore management | Julia Zelman – hatcheries |
| Carole Richmond - wolf petition | Ross Barkhurst - WBERT response |
| Mandy Carlstrom - hunting advocacy | Brian Blake – land and water rights |
| Doug Boze - carnivore management | Jake Pickett - carnivore management |
| Ann Prezyna - wolf petition | Dan Curtis - carnivore management |
| Eric Lagally - wolf petition | David west - carnivore management |
| Michael Crawford - hunting advocacy | Ross Sharp - hunting advocacy |
| David Moskowitz - CR Steelhead | Hannah Scott - hunting advocacy |
| Justin Spruiell - hunting advocacy | Joshua Reynolds - hunting advocacy |
| Cory Maxwell - hunting advocacy | Story Warren - wildlife management |
| Robert Sudar - CR buyback | Lon Ottosen - wolf petition |
| Jeff Cox - beach seine signage | Timothy Coleman - wolf advocacy |
| Wayne Johnson PhD - wolf petition | Emma Helverson - hatchery workshop |
| Hannah Thompson-Garner - Conservation policy | |

Break

12. Co-Manager Hatchery Policy Update – Briefing, Public Comment

Dr. Ken Warheit, Fish Health and Molecular Genetics Lab Manager Director, Eric Kinne, Hatchery Division Manager provided the Commission with written public comment received and the Commission took public comment on the policy.

The following people provided comment:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Brian Blake | Ron Gardner | Steve Manlow |
| Conrad Gowell | John McMillan | David Moskowitz |

13. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Draft Policy Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Marlene Wagner, South Coast Policy Lead, and Dr. Ken Warheit, Fish Health and Molecular Genetics Lab Manager presented the draft Willapa Bay policy and provided a summary of the

written public comments received.

The following people provided comment:

Ross Barkhurst

Ron Gardner

Andy Mitby

Lyle Cabe

Greg McMillian

Lance Gray

Heath Heikkila

John Baugher

Larry Pryor

14. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed future meeting planning and the retreat.

Deputy Director Windrope provided a summary of actions that came out of the meeting.

The Commission gave their thanks to Nichole Kloepfer for her time with the Commission and wish her the best of luck on her next adventure.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

DRAFT