



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, May 17, 2024
Olympia, Washington

Attendance:

Commission:
Tim Ragen, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Woody Myers
John Lehmkuhl
Molly Linville
Steve Parker
Melanie Rowland
Barbara Baker, Chair – Excused
Jim Anderson - Excused

Department Staff:
Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Lisa Coffman
Richard Finger
Cynthia Wilkerson

Commission Staff:
Tami Lininger
Jamie Caldwell

Vice Chair Ragen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. **Director's Report**

Director Susewind reported out on the six petitions that the Commission delegated the decision-making authority to at the April 2024 meeting. He noted that five of them were denied and one of them was accepted. The petitions he denied were the use of decoys and calls, 3-pt. antler restriction standardization across District 1 in Region 1, spring black bear hunting season, and the cougar management and public safety hunting season. He accepted the petition to begin rulemaking for the closure date change on Park, Blue, and Deep lakes. He explained to the Commission his reasons for denying and accepting each of the petitions. He ended his summary with the recommendation that the Commission delegate the rulemaking on the accepted petition to the agency, as it was fairly simple and straightforward.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl moved to delegate the rulemaking authority to the Director to make rules on the accepted petition to change the closure date for trout fishing on Blue, Park, and Deep lakes from September 30th to October 31st and it was seconded by Commissioner Parker. The Commission voted 7-0 (Commissioners Baker and Anderson were excused); Motion carried. ([Begins at the 00:39 mark](#))

2. **Land Transaction – Briefing, Public Comment, Decision**

Lisa Coffman, Richard Finger, and Cynthia Wilkerson presented the land transaction for the Central Ferry Canyon Phase 2.

Public Comment: Comments in support of the transaction were provided by Jordan Ryckman and Seth Hulett.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the acquisition as presented by staff for shrubsteppe habitat in the wells unit and it was seconded by Commissioner Rowland. The Commission voted 7-0 (Commissioners Baker and Anderson were excused); Motion carried. ([Begins at the 20:05 mark](#))

Vice Chair Ragen adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Jamie Caldwell, Executive Assistant