

# WDFW BUDGET AND POLICY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

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**January 5, 2023**  
**10am-12:00pm**  
**Online Meeting**

## **BPAG Attendance**

Alexei Calambokidis, Trout Unlimited  
David Cloe, Inland NW Wildlife Council  
Tom Davis, Washington Farm Bureau  
Mitch Friedman, Conservation Northwest  
Kathleen Gobush, Defenders of Wildlife  
Lucas Hall, Long Live the Kings  
Deborah Jensen, Washington Audubon  
Eric Johnson, WA State Assoc. of Counties  
Dave Mastin, Assoc. of Washington Business  
Nora Nickum, Seattle Aquarium  
Tom O'Keefe, American Whitewater  
Mark Pidgeon, Hunters Heritage Council  
Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Butch Smith, Ilwaco Charter Association

Mindy Roberts, Washington Conservation Action  
Kerston Swartz, Woodland Park Zoo  
Rachel Voss, Hunter

## **WDFW**

Kelly Susewind  
Nate Pamplin  
Commissioner Tim Ragen  
Tami Lininger  
Tom McBride  
Chalee Batungbacal  
David Trimbach  
Morgan Stinson

## Welcome, Introductions, Agency Update with Director Susewind

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Nate Pamplin welcomed the Budget and Policy Advisory Group (BPAG) members and other guests to the meeting.

Kelly Susewind provided agency updates including the departure of Region 5 Director Kessina Lee and the upcoming retirement of Region 1 Director Steve Pozzanghera. Kelly also shared that we are waiting on news from the Governor's office on the appointments for the vacant commission seats.

He also shared the Department's disappointment with the biodiversity package not being included in the Governor's budget but thanked the group for all their support. He stated that WDFW will continue to work hard to secure funding needed. Kelly encouraged BPAG to tune in to the January 11<sup>th</sup> legislative hearing. The support and engagement of the BPAG has had an instrumental role in the success of agency budget requests in the past and we're hopeful for the future. Some BPAG members shared in the frustration. Some members suggested that maybe an Advocacy Day would be beneficial. Butch Smith shared that there will be another Seafood Day in February and that all are welcome and he's hopeful that biodiversity will come up during that event.

## Legislative Overview and Pre-filed Bills

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Tom McBride provided an overview of changes to legislative seats for 2023, a legislative overview and reviewed the list of pre-filed bills. He also provided an update on the required reports that were submitted to the legislature the end of 2022 which can be found [here](#).

### Upcoming Work Sessions:

Wednesday, January 11 – the Director will be before the House Natural Resources Committee to provide a quick overview of the agency, and then a requested discussion on biodiversity.

Thursday, January 12 – A panel of Susewind, Hurst and Crosier will be before the Senate Natural Resources Committee to discuss the Columbia River license buyback proviso.

Monday, January 16 – Fenner Yarborough will be before the Senate Natural Resource Committee on the Skagit Elk fencing proviso; Jeff Wickersham will present on cougars and public safety, emphasis upon Klickitat County.

### Pre-filed bills:

- 1004 – this bill addresses signing on bridges to deter jumping. This would impact DFW lands management and the CAMP program. It has a prospective application, which applies to construction or replacement of bridges on department land. DFW must consider whether to place signing – Section 10. There is some liability protection.
- 1010 – Creates express authority for the Department of Health to regulate crab in relation to biotoxin contamination. State Board of Health must adopt rules by June 30, 2025.
- 1076 – Encouraging salmon recovery by creating a voluntary option to incorporate it into GMA planning. Funding eligibility for landowners and tracking of funding to implement the adopted plan.
- 5083 – Creates liability standards for conservation easements, stating in part that a “...nonprofit nature conservancy corporation that holds or acquires a conservation easement shall be subject to strict liability for damages caused to a third party where land management activities undertaken pursuant to the conservation easement created, exacerbated, or contributed to a hazardous condition...”
- 5093 – Ecology request legislation to update/implement climate change response strategy under RCW 70A.05.
- 5104 – Requires Ecology to map existing general Puget Sound shoreline conditions, structures, and structure conditions. The baseline and survey must use georeferenced oblique aerial and 360 degree on-the-water imagery. It must be updated every two years.

For more details about the proposed agency request legislation which can be found here <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/administration/legislative-priorities>, please contact Tom McBride.

## 2023-25 Operating and Capital Budget Requests

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Morgan Stinson presented an overview of WDFW’s 2023-25 Operating and Capital Budgets and pointed out the natural resource agencies are now appropriated more than 1% of the total state operating budget. WDFW is the second largest recipient of the general fund appropriations among Washington’s natural resource agencies. He provided an update on how WDFW fared with respect to the Governor’s budget proposals and he also walked through the timeline and highlighted next steps. The presentation is attached.

Director Susewind ended the meeting stating that there is lots of work to do but we're ready to get it done. He thanked everyone for their commitment and engagement.