

**M I N U T E S**  
**WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**June 1 & 2, 2012**

Natural Resources Building - First Floor, Room 172 - 1111 Washington St

**ATTENDANCE**

**COMMISSION:**

Miranda Wecker, Chair  
Gary Douvia, Vice Chair  
Larry Carpenter  
David Jennings  
Jay Kehne  
Conrad Mahnken  
Chuck Perry  
Rolland Schmitten  
Bradley Smith

**DEPARTMENT STAFF:**

Phil Anderson, Director  
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director  
William Frymire, AG  
Jair Reitsma  
Dave Ware  
Joe Williams  
Dan Budd  
Jennifer Quan

Carol Turcotte  
Joanna Eide  
Travis Nelson  
Captain Whorton  
Rich Childers  
Bruce Botka  
and other department  
staff

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

Tami Lininger  
Erin Gariépy

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**Public:**

Dan Grogan  
Bob Schlecht  
Ken Miller  
Harold Bronstad  
Richard Atkins  
Marie Atkins  
Ed Wickersham  
Brian Walter  
Lyle Cabe  
Bob McCoy  
Liz Hamilton  
Linda Saunders  
Larry Zalaznik

Alan Shady  
Rachel Vasar  
Jason Lungren  
Rebecca Beryau  
David Beatty  
Carl Chartain  
Doug miller  
Patty Michak  
Ric Abbett  
Arly McGregor  
B. J. Thorniley  
Tom Bugart  
Tom Juelson

Chet O'Brien  
Casey Bakker  
Gordon Ruh  
Joan Neff  
Joe Verdoes  
Bret Andrich  
Mark Pidgeon  
Tracey Elmore  
Mike Elmore  
Maura Niemisk  
Pamela Maciel  
Diane Gallegos

**Friday, June 1, 2012**

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

- Audubon Magazine - Wolverine back in Washington's Cascade Mountains
- Grizzly Bear recovery in Wedge area
- Compliments to WDFW staff for creating a new Range Rider position
- Wolf Management seminar in Albany, Oregon presented by Oregon Hunter's Association

- Advisory Committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities interviews
- Pheasant Farm Visit
- Northeast County Commissioners and US Forrest Service Plan
- Colville Trout Hatchery partnership

2. Open Public Input

The Commission is a direct link between citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. The following individuals provided testimony during this portion of the meeting:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Ken Miller: bear damage                     | Dan Grogan: Columbia River, economic impact on business           |
| Richard Atkins: bear damage                 | Bob McCoy: Karelian Bear Dog program and immobilization equipment |
| Ed Wickersham: Columbia River fisheries     | Liz Hamilton: Columbia River fisheries                            |
| Brian Walter: Columbia River fisheries      | Harold Brunstad: bear permits/damage                              |
| Lyle Cabe: Columbia River fisheries         |   |
| Bob Schlect: economic value of sportfishing |   |

3. Director's Report

The Director briefed the Commission on various items:

- Retirements – Jo Wadsworth, Deputy Assistant Director, Fish Program & Peter Birch, Deputy Assistant Director, Habitat Program
- Introduction of new Community Relations and Public Affairs Division Manager – Bruce Botka
- Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has 3 new appointments Greg Wolley, Laura Anderson and Krystyna Wolniakowski
- Annual Centennial Accord meeting
- Razor Clams
- Wild System Vendor
- Puyallup Trout Hatchery removed from agenda
- US/Canada Albacore Treaty
- Governor's retreats
- Wolves – 4 new staff, implementation of non-lethal methods, Range Rider, 2 wolves captured & collared from Smackout Pack.
- Chinook Fisheries Regulation Assessment Model
- Budget – Joe Stohr

4. Regional Fish Enhancement Groups- Briefing

Joe Williams, Coalition President and volunteers from various Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups (RFEs) presented the history of the RFE program, highlighting ties to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife & the Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as showcasing a variety of projects and programs from around the state. The briefing covered the program in general, community involvement, funding, leveraging, and took a closer look at project and program accomplishments in several different regions.

5. Public Records Rules Updates – Briefing & Public Hearing

Joanna Eide, Administrative Regulations Analyst, Enforcement Program & Carol Turcotte, Public Affairs Office, briefed the Commission on the proposed Public Records Rules update that was filed on March 21, 2012 in conjunction with the WAC overhaul project.

No one signed up to provide public input for this item.

6. Stewardship of WDFW Lands - Briefing

Jennifer Quan, Lands Division Manager, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission outlining the current status of operations and maintenance of the Department's lands.

7. Proposed Land Transactions - Decision

The Commission considered approval of various land transactions presented by Dan Budd, Real Estate Section Manager, Wildlife Program for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement of public recreation opportunities and responsible property management:

- Proposed easement of 40 acres in Okanogan County
- Proposed easement of 160 acres in Okanogan County
- Proposed acquisition of 51.57 acres in Clallam County
- Proposed transfer of properties in Pacific County

The following member of the public signed up to provide oral testimony regarding this item:  
Tom Bugert

**Commissioner Jennings motioned, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the land transactions as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Energy/Major Projects – Briefing

Travis Nelson, Energy/Major Projects Section Manager, Habitat Program, briefed the Commission on the Habitat Energy/Major Projects Program and provided an overview of work that has been accomplished through a collaborative approach involving the project proponent and in consultation with tribal, federal, state and local experts.

9. Dangerous Wildlife Interaction & the Karelian Bear Dog Program – Briefing

Captain Whorton, Enforcement Program, provided the Commission with an overview of the Karelian Bear Dog Program and described the history and structure of the program as well as the accomplishments, future needs and what is being done in regards to public outreach.

10. Commercial Sea Cucumbers/Sea Urchins - Rule Briefing & Public Hearing

Rich Childers, Shellfish Policy Manager, briefed the Commission on the commercial license buy-back program for the sea cucumber and sea urchin fishery and the recommendation to increase the maximum bid prices for permits.

The following member of the public signed up to provide oral testimony regarding this item:  
Casey Bakker

11. Comprehensive Review of Puget Sound Shrimp Fishery & Commission Policy – Briefing

In response to a Commission request Rich Childers, Shellfish Policy Manager, provided an overview of the Puget Sound shrimp fishery management.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 5:38 pm.

## **Saturday, June 2, 2012**

Chair Wecker called the meeting back to order at 8:31 am.

### 12. Open Public Input

The Commission is a direct link between citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. **NOTE:** During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that are not on the agenda for decision action.

The following member provided oral testimony:  
B. J. Thorniley – Wolf Management Plan

### 13. Puyallup Trout Hatchery Partnership – Item Removed from the Agenda

### 14. Wolf Plan Implementation and Follow Up

Dave Ware, Game Division Manager provided the Commission with updates on current and planned activities regarding the Wolf Plan Implementation.

### 15. Strategic Plan – Briefing

Joe Stohr, Deputy Director & Jair Reitsma, Performance and Accountability Manager briefed the Commission on the process and the framework being used for the strategic plan model.

### 16. Commission Committee Reports

The Commissioners discussed recent activities of the various Commission committees.  
·Advisory Committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities:  
Commission requests a briefing from Dolores Noyes on the makeup and future plans of the Advisory Committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

**Commissioner Perry moved seconded by Commissioner Mahnken to appoint Mr. David Martin as the Region 4 member of the Advisory Committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Motion passed unanimously.**

### 17. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief: deferred to next meeting

·Colville Trout Hatchery Partnership – further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

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EKG

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

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Erin Gariépy, Administrative Assistant