Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
January 22-23, 2016

January 22-23, 2016 Regular Meeting

Commission:
Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair
Miranda Wecker
Connie Mahnken
Jay Holzmiller
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn
Jay Kehne
Bob Kehoe

Attendance
Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Penny Becker
Joseph Buchanan
Derek Stinson
Gary Wiles
Lynn Helbrecht
Bill Tweit
John Long
Ron Warren

Department Staff:
Steve Crown
Mike Cenci
Guy Norman
Ron Roler
Robin Ehlke
Pat Frazier
Brad James
Kelly Cunningham
Craig Burley
Jim Scott
Craig Bartlett

Commission Staff:
Tami Lininger

Guests:
Representative Liz Pike
Representative Lynda Wilson

Public:
Robert Alverson
Donny Jackson
Milton Gudgell
Lee Blankenship
Dave Mackay
Diane Gallegos
Kurt Kreege
Mark Heirigs
Joe Klobucnik
Deborah Loewer
Richard Dryland
Rob Bignall
Ross Barkhurst
Steve Emrich
Gerry Glen
Jamie Birkland
Tyler Comeau
Brent Hutchinson
Ken Thistle

Tom Linde
Allen Thomas
Travis Buck
Dave Mackay
Diane Gallegos
Kurt Kreege

Cliff Richard
Greg Mueller
Ray Coswell
Jim Steelhammer
Ed Wickersham
Steve Long
Craig Mullen
Richard Dryland
Rob Bignall

Rob Sudar
Lyle Cabe
Jim Hutchinson
Brian King
Brett Hutchinson

Frank Marre
Derrick Robbins
Ed Wickersham

John Anderson
Gregg Robinson
Steve Long

Grant Jensen
Jim Hutchinson
Craig Mullen

Kirk Harrison
Mike Kiemels
Tom Hester

Robin Comeau
Bill Comeau
Brian King

Trish Johnson
Dave Brown
Martel Fish

Jim Coleman
Rodger Jacobs
Kent Gray

Steven Jones
Christine Schindewolf
Kuni Masuba

Randy Woolsey
John Straub
Jim Pannell

Liz Hamilton
Diane Barnum
William Barnum

Mike Backman
Butch Smith
Brian Lutz

Cheryl Hutchinson
Nick Horsky
Bryce Divine

Larry Cassidy
Heath Heikilla
Mike Mudgett

Chris Connolly
Bill Myers
Harry Barber

Dick Seaberg
Michael Laroso
Keith Isaacson

Thomas Dulcich
Brian Davern
Dean Patterson

Benson Lee
Steve Cushing
Kurt Wallace

Gene Reiwert
David Irvine
Allan Cabe

Michael Seitzinger
Bruce Barnes
Gary Villella

Jim Stewart
Darrell Thomas
Jennifer Stahl

Leon Stevenson

Bill Tweit
John Long
Ron Warren

Lee Blankenship
Dave Mackay
Diane Gallegos
Kurt Kreege
Mark Heirigs
Joe Klobucnik
Deborah Loewer
Richard Dryland
Rob Bignall
Ross Barkhurst
Steve Emrich
Gerry Glen
Jamie Birkland
Tyler Comeau
Brent Hutchinson
Ken Thistle

Robert Peterson
Bill Jennings
Glen Johnston
Don Kphler
Russ Flakerud
Steve Carpenter
Jack Matike
Friday, January 22, 2016

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Call to Order
   a. Commissioners’ Discussion:
      • Commissioner Holzmiller – Francine Madden is making a difference
      • Commissioner Graybill – Columbia River salmon endorsement
      • Chair Smith – WAFWA meeting in San Diego

   b. Meeting Minute Approval
      January 8, 2016 – conference call

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2016 conference call as presented. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input
The following people provided input on various topics:
Robert Alverson – Bering Sea halibut surveys and NPC interaction
Donny Jackson - Coyotes
Milton Gudgell – Sturgeon, Bears and Lingcod in Long Beach
Lee Blankenship – HGMP update
Shawn Cantrell – SWAP and WAG
Travis Buck – Kalama River nutrient enrichment programs

3. Director’s Report
The Director provided an update on various issues including:
• Wildlife Conflict staff training
• Legislative topics
• Wild Future updates
• WAFWA meeting
• Tribal hunting
• Salmon and steelhead HGMPs
• Wild Fish Conservancy - Notice of Intent
• The Director described the recent settlement of a lawsuit filed by Matthew and Alex Tarabochia and made the following statement: “The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that WDFW violated the constitutional right of Alex and Matthew Tarabochia. We have settled with the Tarabochias, agreeing to pay them $130,000.”
4. Periodic Status Review (Northern Spotted Owl, Snowy Plover, Western Gray Squirrel, and Greater Sage-grouse) – Briefing and Public Hearing

Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Joseph Buchanan, Natural Resource Scientist, Derek Stinson and Gary Wiles, Wildlife Biologists briefed the Commission on the Periodic Status Reviews compiled for these four state listed species and outlined the comments provided by peer scientists and the public. Staff provided their recommendations to the Commission as to the appropriate classifications for these species (i.e. retain current status, up-list, down-list or de-list).

The following people provided comments on this item:
Shawn Cantrell

5. Washington State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – Briefing

Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program and Lynn Helbrecht, SWAP & Climate Change Coordinator, Habitat Program briefed the Commission on the final State Wildlife Action Plan highlighting the tools developed to assist in conserving Washington’s species and habitats, including the development of a climate watch list and new range maps for several species of greatest conservation need.

6. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council’s Bering Sea Halibut Management – Briefing

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant to the Director, briefed the Commission on the recent North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) decision regarding management of halibut bycatch in Bering Sea fisheries and a description of the NPFMC next steps on halibut bycatch management.

7. North of Falcon Policy C-3608 – Briefing

John Long, Intergovernmental Salmon Manager provided the Commission with a briefing on the North of Falcon annual salmon fishery planning process, as stipulated within policy C-3608.

8. Wildlife Poaching and the License Suspension Process – Briefing

Chief Crown and Deputy Chief Cenci briefed the Commission on poaching and its impacts on resource management and opportunities for harvest and provided information on the license suspension process, including commercial license suspensions.

An Executive Session was added at the end of the day.

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) the commission met in Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee; No action was taken during the Executive Session and the meeting adjourned immediately following.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

9. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:
Bruce Barnes – Hoof rot and chemical spraying
Glen Johnston – Fishing
Jamie Birkland – Importance of youth fishing
10. Review of the Columbia River Fishery Management Policy C-3620- Staff Briefing, Panel Comments and Public Comments
Guy Norman, Region 5 Director, Ron Roler, Columbia River Policy Coordinator and Robin Ehlke, Assistant Columbia River Policy Coordinator provided the Commission an annual briefing on Columbia River fishery management as set forth per policy C-3620. Commercial and Recreational panels provided comments followed by additional public comments.

The following people provided public comments:
Recreational Panel – Heath Heikkila, Jim Martin, Bob Rees, Jennifer Stahl
Commercial Panel – Robert Sudar, Irene Martin, Jim Wells, Greg Johnson
Representative Liz Pike Larry Cassidy
Lyle Cabe Bryce Divine
Brad Halverson Frank Marre
Harry Barber Ed Wickersham
Kent Martin Mark Heirigs
Thomas Dulcich Gary Loomis
Michael Setzinger Ross Barkhurst
Rick Quashnick William Hunsinger
Nello Picinich Randy Woolsey
Steve Jones Tom Hester
John Anderson Mike Backman

11. Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Population Status and Management Annual Review – Briefing and Public Comment
Pat Frazier, Region 5 Fish Program Policy Coordinator and Brad James, Fish and Wildlife Biologist provided the Commission the annual review on lower Columbia River sturgeon, as stipulated within policy C-3001. The Commission further discussed the impacts of continuing the current catch and release or changing to a non-retention sturgeon policy and instructed staff to engage in conversations with Oregon to discuss the impacts.

The following people provided public comments:
Bryce Devine Harry Barber
Kent Martin Butch Smith
Ed Wickersham

12. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief
Nothing was discussed during miscellaneous and meeting debrief

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant