



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

September 8-9, 2017 – Port Angeles

September 8-9, 2017 Regular Meeting

Attendance

Commission:

Kim Thorburn –
Acting Chair
Bob Kehoe
Barbara Baker
Dave Graybill
Jay Kehne
Don Mclsaac

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Eric Gardner
Tim Burns
Nate Pamplin
Hannah Anderson
Mike Cenci
Penny Becker
Michele Culver

Julie Sandberg
Erik Neatherlin
Becky McRoberts
Chief Steve Bear
Rob Geddis
Annette Hoffmann
Joe Anderson
Bill Tweit
Amy Windrope
Rich Harris

Michelle Dunlop
Tina Nisbet
Sgt. Dan Chadwick
Sgt. Kit Rosenberger
Captain Paul Golden
Ron Warren

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Public:

Jim Kerr
Norm Metzler
Patti Happe
David Botgenbach
Daniel Witczak
Colleen McAleer
Ryan Bullock
John McMillan
Bart Eykemans
Leah Neanebu
Doug Ahmann
Pat Crain

Rod Fleck
Bernie Flores
Jerry Wright
Lyle Almond
Jason Lake
Cherie Kidd
Robert Beausoleil
Gary Salem
Kari Smith
Kevin Holden
Richard Deane

Don Wallace
Wendy Schmidt
Jim deBond
Stan Garlich
Michael Carmen
Shelly Ament
Michael Craig
Benjie Flores
Rob Mikaine
Diane Gallegos
Rosemary Deane

Lee Whetham
Steve Schmidt
Jim Hill
Brett Elofson
Shawn Cantrell
Denny Rohr
Martha Jordan
Dave Croonquist
Russ Hepfer
Anne Shaffer
Robert Fredickson

Friday, September 8, 2017

Acting Chair Thorburn called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m.

It was announced that item #4 – Land Transactions was removed from the agenda.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

- Commissioner Thorburn welcomed new Commissioner Don Mclsaac. Don thanked the Commission and provided a few comments.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the August 18, 2017 conference call minutes.

Commissioner Graybill moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2017 conference call as proposed. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics: Jim Kerr – guide legislation
Ryan Bullock – guide legislation
Robert Beausoleil – more hatcheries
Rod Fleck – halibut and steelhead effects
Don Wallace – fish ladder at Canyon Creek
John McMillan – support for guide legislation
Lee Whetham, City Counselor – safety concerns re: halibut
Martha Jordan – Shared Values Alliance
Gary Grahn – halibut
Daniel Witczak – other fishing opportunities
Jason Lake – Willapa Bay and Columbia River
Colleen McAleer, Port Commissioner – safety concerns re: halibut

3. Director's Report

The Director provided a written report and briefly discussed various issues including:

- Thanks to the public
- Staff introductions
- No tolerance for the misconduct in WDFW
- Staff training
- Budget and Proviso update – Nate Pamplin
- Atlantic Salmon net pen update – Ron Warren and Amy Windrope
- Douglas County PUD contract termination
- Wolf update

4. Land Transactions – Removed from the agenda

5. Federal Rules on Overfishing Determination – Briefing

Michele Culver, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager, briefed the Commission on NOAA's determining factors for considering a stock as overfished, and the interface between federal agencies and state fisheries management relative to conservation objectives.

6. Overview of Protecting Species with State Classifications – Briefing

Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager and Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission on the State classification process in WAC 220-610-110.

7. Periodic Status Review (Fisher, Blue Whale, Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Northern Right Whale, and Sperm Whale) – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager and Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission and requested approval for the Periodic Status Reviews compiled for Fisher, Blue Whale, Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Northern Right Whale, and Sperm Whale in accordance with WAC 220-610-110.

No one signed up to provide testimony

Commissioner Kehoe moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne to retain endangered status for the fisher, blue whale, fin whale, sei whale, right whale and sperm whale as presented. Motion passed.

8. Periodic Status Reviews (Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Loggerhead Sea Turtle)- Decision

Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager and Penny Becker, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program requested approval from the Commission on the Periodic Status Reviews compiled for the yellow-billed cuckoo and loggerhead sea turtles, respectively, in accordance with WAC 220-610-110

Commissioner Kehoe moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne to amend WAC 220-200-100 as presented. Motion passed.

9. Monitoring and Recovery Status of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listed Fish Populations - Briefing

Erik Neatherlin, Fish Program Chief Scientist provided a statewide geographic overview of ESA-listed fish populations, discussed methods utilized in the monitoring of these species, as well as highlighted some example trends of listed species either experiencing an improved population status or a declined status.

10. Shared Values Alliance – Briefing

Deputy Chief, Mike Cenci and Becky McRoberts, Community Outreach Liaison briefed the Commission on what the Enforcement Program is doing to expand citizen awareness and support from a larger constituency base.

The Director delivered the Oath of Office to incoming Enforcement Chief Steve Bear.

11. 2017-19 Strategic Plan and Performance Agreement – Proposal/Briefing

Rob Geddis, Lean Manager presented updates regarding the plan for the 2017-19 Strategic Plan and the proposed next steps for the Performance Agreement.

Commissioner Kehoe moved seconded by Commissioner Kehne to approve the Strategic Plan and to defer the Performance Agreement to the October meeting, all were in favor and the motion passed.

12. 2018 Supplemental Capital Budget Request – Briefing and Decision

Tim Burns, Assistant Director, Capital and Asset Management provided a briefing and requested approval for the agency's 2018 Supplemental Capital Budget.

Commissioner Kehoe moved seconded by Commissioner Graybill to approve the proposed FY2018 Supplemental Capital Budget request as presented, allowing for minor adjustments to project scope and budget, all were in favor and the motion passed.

13. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Shawn Cantrell – wolf conservation

Doug Ahmann – halibut season

Ed Bowen – Elwha land ownership

Rosemary Deane – restrict weapons in GMU 624

Anne Shaffer – support continued interagency moratorium on fishing along the Elwha

14. Elwha Moratorium Briefing and Tour

Annette Hoffmann, Region 6 Fish Program Manager and Joe Anderson, Senior Research Scientist provided a briefing on the status of Elwha River salmon and steelhead populations following the removal of two dams, and discussed the extension to the fishing moratorium initially implemented in 2011.

Commissioners and Department staff toured the Elwha River watershed.

The meeting will recess immediately following the tour.

Saturday, September 9, 2017

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

15. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Don Wallace – American Dipper banding
Lee Whetham, City Counselor – halibut season
Kevin Holden – halibut season
Dave Croonquist – halibut season
Cherie Kidd, Deputy Mayor – halibut

16. Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries 2013-2017 Review - Briefing

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided a review of the Columbia River recreational fisheries for spring chinook from 2013-2017, including the impact of the 75/25 allocation, catch balancing and run size buffers. Also, on the agency response to several recent letters from local governments in SE Washington about spring chinook recreational fishing opportunities and on the implementation status of the draft harvest framework for non-treaty fisheries in the upper Columbia.

17. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commission discussed the following items:

- 2018 meeting calendar

Commissioner Kehne made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Graybill to accept the proposed dates for 2018 meetings.

- Commissioner Kehoe asked about follow up on the Elwha property that Mr. Bowen brought up.
- Commissioner McIsaac inquired about the following items:
 1. How do we follow up on items from the meeting and suggested that we cover what items we all heard during debrief.
 2. He also would like to receive more of the meeting materials in advance and make sure they are available to the public.
 3. He would also like to see the year at a glance so Commissioners can see what's coming.
 4. There was discussion about Commission input on the items that the department will be reporting to the legislature on next spring.
 5. Committee structure and options were discussed with additional discussion at the October and December meetings.
 6. It was discussed what can be covered in an Executive Session.

Acting Chair Thorburn adjourned the meeting at 10:59.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant