Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
September 8-9, 2017 – Port Angeles

September 8-9, 2017 Regular Meeting

**Commission:**
- Kim Thorburn –
- Acting Chair
- Bob Kehoe
- Barbara Baker
- Dave Graybill
- Jay Kehne
- Don McIsaac
- Commission Staff:
- Tami Lininger

**Department Staff:**
- Jim Unsworth, Director
- Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
- William Frymire, AGO
- Eric Gardner
- Tim Burns
- Nate Pamplin
- Hannah Anderson
- Penny Becker
- Michele Culver

**Attendance:**
- Julie Sandberg
- Erik Neatherlin
- Becky McRoberts
- Chief Steve Bear
- Rob Geddis
- Annette Hoffmann
- Joe Anderson
- Bill Twet
- Amy Windrope
- Rich Harris

**Public:**
- Rod Fleck
- Bernie Flores
- Lyle Almond
- Jason Lake
- Cherie Kidd
- Robert Beausoleil
- Gary Salem
- Kari Smith
- Kevin Holden
- Richard Deane

**Commission Staff:**
- Don Wallace
- Wendy Schmidt
- Jim deBond
- Michael Carmen
- Shelly Ament
- Michael Craig
- Benjie Flores
- Rob Mikaine
- Diane Gallegos
- Rosemary Deane

**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 McIsaac. 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 Witzczak – 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

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:
  o 2018 meeting calendar

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

  o Commissioner Kehoe asked about follow up on the Elwha property that Mr. Bowen brought up.
  o 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