



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Conference Call
Friday, January 05, 2018
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair
Kim Thorburn
Dave Graybill
Jay Holzmilller
Don McIsaac
Barbara Baker
Bob Kehoe
Jay Kehne

Commission Staff

Tami Lininger

Public:

Laurie Evans
Heath Heikkila
Nick Chambers
Dean Finnerty

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
Bill Frymire, AAG
Nate Pamplin
Randi Thurston
Jeff Davis
Kirt Hughes
Kelly Cunningham
Ron Warren
Michelle Dunlop
Annette Hoffmann
Chad Herring

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Vice Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

A. Petition - Motorized Suction Dredging - Decision

Jeff Davis and Randi Thurston provided a briefing and the Commission considered changes to WAC 220-660 regarding motorized suction dredging.

Commissioner Smith (motion read by Commissioner Thorburn) moved to deny the Trout Unlimited petition at this time and requested staff work with Commissioners to schedule sufficient time at a future meeting to provide an in-depth briefing on the science related to mineral prospecting, potential risks to fish life; avoidance minimization and compensation options; and policy considerations. We also request that representative from Trout Unlimited and the mineral prospecting community be given the opportunity to present at that meeting. The Commission will decide what action to take after that briefing. Commissioner Thorburn then seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

B. Petition – Elective Catch and Release on Steelhead Trout and Salmon

Kirt Hughes provided a briefing recommending denial of the petition, explaining that the Department's view is that for steelhead, the Department manages fisheries consist with the Statewide Steelhead Management plan which is quite conservative and provides protection for Mr. Petersen's concern, and for salmon, Mr. Petersen's concerns would need to be brought up through the North of Falcon Salmon Season Process between the state and the case area Treaty Tribes.

Commissioner Kehoe moved to deny the petition as recommended by staff, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, the motion passed.

C. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission considered approval of the December 7-9, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Thorburn moved to approve the minutes from the December 7-9, 2017 meeting as presented, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, the motion passed. Commissioner Kehoe abstained from the vote.

D. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director will discuss recent activities and items of interest.

- Clarification on Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy
 - During the February meeting staff will seek clarification on next steps and then work with Advisory Board members before a full briefing and public input including panels at a future Commission meeting.
- Deputy Director Stohr mentioned the beginning of a trial of a former WDFW employee.
- Staff and Commissioners discussed the January 18-20 agenda.

E. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), the Commission met in executive session to review the performance of a public employee. Then the Commission met in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to listen to the executive session.

Vice Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant