Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
December 14-15, 2018 – Olympia

Attendance

**WA Commission:**
Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter
Kim Thorburn
Barbara Baker
Dave Graybill
Don McIsaac
Bob Kehoe
Jay Holzmiller

**WA Department Staff:**
Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Bill Tweit
Julie Sandberg
Ryan Lothrop
Kelly Cunningham
Kyle Adicks
Ciera Strickland
Morgan Stinson
Larry Phillips
Eric Gardner

**Commission Staff:**
Tami Lininger
Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Bill Tweit
Julie Sandberg
Ryan Lothrop
Kelly Cunningham
Kyle Adicks
Ciera Strickland
Morgan Stinson
Larry Phillips
Eric Gardner

**Public:**
Jay Shepherd
Rick Cook
Bill Richardson
George Harris
Laurence Bucklin
Cindy Hansen
Patrick Pattillo
Chris Hunt
Ross Barkhurst
Lee Hines
Darren Crookshanks
Francis Estalilla
Arron Scotten
Jeff Friedman
Tom Davis
Steph Sten
David Linn
Aaron Peterson
Comer LaRue
Peter Steelquist
Rick Cook
Fred Muscato
Lori Steele
Chad Price
Casey McLean
Martha Jordan
Robert Sudar
Phil Thorson
Karin Riemers-Kleven
Josh Bouma
Michael Schmidt
Rachel Vasak
Jim Coleman
Heath Heikkila
Irene Martin
Doug Hieronymus
Amy Fenlon
Martha Jordan
Robert Sudar
Phil Thorson
Karin Riemers-Kleven
Josh Bouma
Michael Schmidt
Rachel Vasak
Jim Coleman
Heath Heikkila
Irene Martin
Ben Nelson
Colleen Weiler
Jason Lundgren
Scott Brown
Bryce Devine
Kent Martin

Thursday, December 13, 2018

**Fish Committee meeting** – Commissioners Carpenter, Graybill, Thorburn, Kehoe
Location: Director’s Conference Room 537 – 5th floor

*Agenda topics*
  - Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622 review process
  - Columbia River Policy review – review list of ideas

Friday, December 14, 2018

**Wildlife Committee meeting** – Commissioners Holzmiller, Thorburn, Baker
Location: Room 175 A & B
Agenda topics
  • Lands showcase marketing and communication
  • Science Division update

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

1. **Call to Order**
   a. **Commissioners’ Discussion**
      The Commissioners discussed the following items:
      Mountain Quail release in Nevada
      Columbia River Policy update
      Bellingham meetings with Director Susewind
      Update on budget

   b. **Meeting Minute Approval**
      The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2018 conference call.

      Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

   c. **Committee Reports**
      Commissioner Thorburn highlighted the topics from the Wildlife Committee:
      Science Division overview
      Lands showcase
      Commission discussion on wolf plan

      Commissioner Carpenter highlighted the topics from the Fish Committee:
      Columbia River Policy Comprehensive Review, concurrency and next steps
      Willapa Bay Policy review

2. **Open Public Input**
   The following people provided input on various topics:
   Casey McLean – pinnipeds   Jeff Friedman – pinnipeds
   Martha Jordan – swans       Laurence Bucklin – Point No Point
   David Linn – wolves and salmon  Karin Roewers Klevan – pinnipeds
   Rick Cook – salmon policy/two pole  Doug Hieronymus – pinnipeds in Willapa/Grays Harbor
   Michael Schmidt – pinnipeds  Dr. Deborah Giles – pinnipeds
   Arron Scotten – wolves/community input  Tom Davis – Wildlife Damage WAC
   Robert Sudar – Columbia River  Colleen Weiler – pinnipeds
   Robb Krehbiel – Orca Task Force recommendation

3. **Director’s Report**
   The Director provided a written report and briefly discussed various topics including:
   Legislative preparations/meetings
   Wolf update
   North of Falcon
   Town Hall meetings
   Budget overview

4. **Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision**
Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager briefed the Commission and requested approval for two acquisitions.

Bill Richardson provided comments.

**Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the transactions as presented. Motion passed.**

5. **Landowner Hunting Permits - Briefing**
   Department staff will Ciera Strickland, Program Specialist and Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on the Landowner Hunting Permit Program and provided an overview of the current benefits, challenges and public perception.

6. **Pinnipeds - Briefing**
   Nate Pamplin, Policy Director; Dr. Joe Anderson, Fish Program Senior Research Scientist, and Dr. Scott Pearson, Wildlife Program Senior Research Scientist briefed the Commission on recent analyses examining pinniped (primarily harbor seal) consumption of salmonids in Puget Sound and the Outer Coast. In addition, Department staff provided management options within the Marine Mammal Protection Act and associated pros and cons.

7. **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) – Briefing**
   Rachel Vasak, Executive Director Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and Jason Lundgren, Executive Director, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group presented an informational overview of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) Program.

8. **Priority Habitats and Species – Briefing**
   Terra Rentz, Ecosystem Services Division Manager briefed the Commission on the Priority Habitats and Species Program and the status of the new management guidelines for riparian ecosystems.

9. **Abalone Status Review and Listing Recommendation – Briefing**
   Hank Carson, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Policy Coordinator provided a briefing on the status of Washington’s only native abalone population, the pinto abalone, and proposed a preliminary listing recommendation.

   Item #10 was removed from the agenda prior from the meeting.

11. **2109-20 North of Falcon Policy Review C-3608 – Briefing and Public Hearing**
    Kyle Adicks, Intergovernmental Salmon Manager provided a briefing of the Commission’s North of Falcon Policy C-3608 (currently in effect through December 31, 2018) setting guidelines for salmon management and proposed modifications for the Commission’s consideration of the January 2019 through December 2020 policy.

    The following people provided testimony:
    Karin Roemers Kleven
    Cindy Hansen
    Dr. Deborah Giles

12. **Executive Session**
    This item was removed.
Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

**Big Tent Committee meeting** – Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Smith, Graybill
Location: Director's Conference Room 537 – 5th floor (guests must have badge from reception)

**Agenda topics**
- Public Affairs staffing update
- Overview of WDFW’s social media
- Strategic Plan update & guidelines

**Saturday, December 15, 2018**

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

13. **Future Meeting Planning - Discussion**
Commissioners and staff discussed upcoming meetings and conference calls.

14. **Open Public Input**
The following people provided input on various topics:
Scott Brown – HPA Rulemaking

Item #16 was heard after item

17. **Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**
The Commissioners and staff discussed the following items:
Commissioner Thorburn highlighted the topics of the Big Tent Committee
Social Media update
Staffing in Public Affairs
Strategic Planning

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion requesting a briefing on bird predation on salmon smolts, Commissioners Holzmiller seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Baker made a motion requesting a briefing on whale entanglements in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Graybill requested that the briefing on spring salmon allotments happens soon. He also requested an update on the guide meetings that are taking place regarding log books.

15. **Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy Review – Discussion, Public Input and Guidance**
Commissioner Carpenter provided an overview of the discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and what the next steps would be for the proposed sub-group. Bill Tweit, Special Assistant and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Policy Coordinator received direction from the Commission on issues identified in the review of Policy C-3620.

The following people provided input:
Ross Barkhurst                               Jim Coleman                      Heath Heikkila
Bryce Devine                                 Darren Crookshanks               Kent Martin
Liz Hamilton                                 Francis Estalilla
16. **Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided a briefing of the Commission’s Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 (currently in effect through December 31, 2018) setting guidelines for management of the Lower Columbia River white sturgeon population and fisheries, and reviewed the proposed modifications for the Commission’s consideration.

No one provided comments.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant