



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, July 14, 2023
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:
Molly Linville, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Nikki Kloepfer
Lorna Smith	Joe Panesko, AGO	
Woody Myers	Amy Windrope, Deputy Director	
James R. Anderson	Theresa Nation	
John Lehmkuhl	Margen Carlson	
Melanie Rowland	Matthew Curtis	
Steve Parker	Stephanie Landry	
Tim Ragen	Karen Edwards	
	Lisa Coffman	
	Taylor Cotten	
	Abby Tobin	

Commissioner Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), the Commission met in executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend.

B. Petition: Mineral Prospecting Equipment – Briefing, Decision

Theresa Nation, HPA Rule Making Coordinator; and Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director asked the commission to consider a petition to “amend [WAC 220-660-305\(5\)](#).”

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to deny the petition from Kim McDonald, received by the department on June 2, 2023, to amend rules for mineral prospecting and mining in WAC 220-660-305 based on the staff recommendation provided in the posted [summary sheet](#). Commissioner Ragen and Rowland voted against; the remaining commissioners voted in favor. Motion passes.

C. Petition: Black Bear Management – Briefing, Decision

Stephanie Landry, Section Manager, Game Division asked the commission to consider a petition to “begin Rule Making for: Spring Black Bear Hunts that would use Recreational Licensed Hunters and/or Licensed Master Hunters when needed to address certain management objectives, such as timber damage, achieving ungulate management objectives, or human-wildlife conflict issues; AND/OR Modify rulemaking for: the language currently being written into the Black Bear Timber Damage Depredation Permits Rule Making CR-102 prior to the filing of same to include ‘Black Bear Timber Damage Depredation Permits on Public Lands’; AND/OR begin Rule Making for: the 2024 Recreational Spring Black Bear Hunting Season; AND/OR begin Rule Making for: the 2024 Public Lands Black Bear Timber Damage Program Hunting Season”.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl to deny the petition from Brad Thomsen, received by the department on June 5, 2023 based on the staff recommendation provided in the posted [summary sheet](#). All in favor. Motion passes.

D. Land Transaction – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager briefed the commission and asked for their approval of a land transaction recommended by the Department for the enhancement of habitat and public recreational opportunities.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to approve the land transaction presented by staff and provided in the posted [summary sheet](#). All in favor. Motion passes.

E. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) – Briefing

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, and Abby Tobin, Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on Wildlife Program's work on bat conservation and white-nose syndrome.

F. Future Meeting Planning and General Discussion

The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting agendas, reviewed an updated year-at-a-glance, and discussed recent activities and items of interest.

Commissioner Ragen offered a [Blue Sheet: Overview of a new Management Strategy Evaluation approach for salmonids in WA state](#) for discussion and approval.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl to accept the blue sheet as proposed. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer 8/11/2023
Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant