



**Minutes**  
**Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting**  
June 10-13, 2020 – Webinar

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**Attendance**

**Commission:**

Larry Carpenter, Chair  
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair  
Bob Kehoe  
Dave Graybill  
Donald McIsaac  
Kim Thorburn  
Molly Linville  
James R. Anderson  
Brad Smith

**Commission Staff:**

Nikki Kloepfer

**Department Staff:**

Joe Panesko, AGO  
Kelly Susewind, Director  
Amy Windrope, Deputy  
Director  
Julie Sandberg  
Nate Pamplin  
Morgan Stinson  
Tom McBride  
Jeff Davis  
Bill Tweit  
Ryan Lothrop

**Guest Speaker:**

Phil Rigdon

Robert Geddis  
Hannah Anderson  
Derek Stinson  
Joel Sisolak  
David Whipple  
Michael Livingston  
Captain Bob  
Weaver  
Michael Garrity  
Mike Ritter

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**Public:**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

**a. Commissioners' Discussion**

The Commission discussed the ADA Advisory Committee motion. It was supported by the Commission pending staff approval of allocated funding.

Commissioner Thorburn commented on the current climate of race relations and its correlation to recreating outdoors.

**b. Meeting Minute Approval**

The Commission considered approval of the May 14-15, 2020 minutes.

**Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the May 14-15, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:**

### **Wolf Committee**

#### **Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville**

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed the Eastern Washington conflict and the status of the translocation SEPA and the PSR timeline. The committee agreed to have another Wolf committee meeting in the coming weeks to talk to the UW post doc and the progress being made on the PSR population modeling.

### **Wildlife Committee**

#### **Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville**

Commissioner Thorburn reported that staff provided presentations on plans to [address at-risk ungulate populations](#) and the review of the [grazing program](#). The committee will continue the ungulate population discussion at their next committee meeting.

### **Fish Committee**

#### **Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Graybill, McIsaac, Carpenter, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker**

Commissioner Graybill reported that Commissioner Kehoe chaired the committee meeting. Staff provided progress reports on the [Hatchery Policy Review: Policy C-3619 language revision development](#) and the [Willapa Bay Policy: C-3622 comprehensive review](#). Staff provided an overview and status update of the [North of Falcon](#) process and the Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan. The public provided comment on their concerns.

Staff also provided an update on the Fisheries Assistance through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act.

### **CR Policy Workgroup**

#### **Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Graybill, McIsaac, Anderson, Baker**

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the workgroup met May 27 and June 10. The workgroup reviewed the remaining analyses, received additional public comment from both meetings, drafted policy language, and provided draft [CRW recommendations](#) to the full Commission for a public review.

### **Big Tent Committee**

#### **Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Thorburn, Smith**

Vice Chair Baker reported that the committee discussed the development and next draft of the [strategic plan](#) that is available for the public to review and provide comment. The agency has received feedback from advisory groups. The committee discussed a governance conservation policy. Vice Chair Baker will follow up with committee with her thoughts on what that might look like.

## **2. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Paul Birkeland – Wolf Recovery

Virginia Haver – Wolf Recovery

Amaroq Weiss – Wolf Petition

Jocelyn Leroux – Wolf Petition

Rein Attemann – Orca Recovery

Sharon Burke – Wolf Recovery

Nick Kovalcik – Wolf Recovery

Sandy Labowitz – Wolf Recovery

Samantha Bruegger – Wolf Petition

Nick Cady – Wolf Petition

David Linn – Wolf Recovery

Robert Sudar – Commercial Fishing

Greg King – HSRG

Sophia Ressler – Wolf Petition

Marie Neumiller – Ungulate Recovery

Patty Teubner – Wolf Recovery

Chris Bachman – Wolf Recovery

**3. Director's Report**

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- National climate of race relations and addressing implicit bias within the agency
- Agency hiring freeze and budget reductions
- Agency and resource reopening challenges
- Tribal co-management meetings
- Region 2 recruitment process
- Addressing wolf livestock depredations and nonlethal interventions
- Stakeholder and external group meetings and outreach

**4. Lands Transactions – Briefing, Decision**

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of land transactions recommended by the Department.

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the transaction as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**BREAK**

**5. Draft 2021-23 Operating Budget Request and Draft SFY2021 Second Supplemental – Briefing**

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs and Morgan Stinson, Budget Officer briefed the Commission and seek guidance on draft operating budget proposals for the 2021 legislative session.

**6. Draft 2021 Agency Request Legislation – Briefing**

Tom McBride, Legislative Director briefed the Commission on the draft agency request legislation for the 2021 legislative session.

**LUNCH**

**7. Strategic Planning – Briefing, Public Comment**

Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation Policy and Robert Geddis, Lean Performance Manager briefed the Commission on the draft strategic plan.

The following people provided comments:

Warren Jackson                      Robert Sudar

**8. Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review – Briefing, Public Comment**

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant to the Director and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Policy Coordinator briefed the Commission on the Policy C-3620 review process. The Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup provided a recommendation for a public draft review of revised Policy C-3620. The Commission reviewed the draft C-3620 policy language.

The following people provided comments:

Steven Manlow                      John Foltz                      Health Heikkila                      Jim Coleman

Irene Martin  
Greg King  
Curtis King  
Nathan Grimm

Kent Martin  
Dave Schamp  
Robert Sudar  
Keith Hyde

Lyle Cabe  
Robert Velikanje  
Stan Brogdon

Brandt Coppell  
Liz Hamilton  
Nello Picinich

Commissioner Kehoe asked if the document should be put out for further review.

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to release the draft document for further review to the public. Commissioner Smith, Graybill, and Chair Carpenter opposed. Commissioner Thorburn, McIsaac, Anderson, Linville, Kehoe and Vice Chair Baker approved. Motion passes.**

**9. Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review - Briefing**

Hannah Anderson, Diversity Division Manager and Derek Stinson, Diversity Division Biologist briefed the Commission on the status of the Mazama Pocket Gopher recovery and recently completed recovery plan.

**10. Target Shooting – Briefing, Public Hearing**

Joel Sisolak, Lands Planning, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager – Wildlife Program; David Whipple, Manager, Hunter Education; Captain Bob Weaver, Enforcement, Region 3; and Michael Livingston, Region 3 Director briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments of WAC 220-500-140 Firearms and target practicing.

The following people provided comments:

Rachel Voss  
Dennis Harman

Bill Essman  
Martha Jordan

Steve Miller

John Baranowski

Due to the large volume of comments the rulemaking there will be a supplemental CR-102 filed. Staff will come back to the Commission in July for the formal public hearing and then for a decision in September.

**RECESS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING**

**11. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Brian McLaughlin – Fisheries management

Amaroq Weiss – Wolf Recovery/Management

Robert Sudar – Columbia River

David Linn – Wolf Recovery

Jim Wells – Salmon Recovery

Ronald Redd – Wolf Recovery

Marth Hall – Wolf Recovery

Lucy Flannagan – Wolf Recovery

Rachel Bjork – Wolf Recovery

Tim Ragen – Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery

**12. Blue Sheet: Tribal Fish Co-Manager Presentation – Briefing**

Michael Livingston, Region 3 Director and Phil Rigdon, Superintendent of Department of Natural Resources, Yakama Nation presented the requested blue sheet from Commissioner Graybill on the status of fish restoration efforts in the Columbia Basin by Yakama Nation and WDFW.

**13. Eastside Solar Farms Wildlife Impact – Briefing**

Michael Garrity, Water, Energy and Major Projects Division Manager and Mike Ritter, Habitat Biologist & Statewide Technical Lead provided an update on trends in the development of solar farms, and their impacts on habitat and wildlife.

**14. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**

The Commission discussed future meeting agenda planning.

Commissioners discussed statewide meeting venues for the remainder of 2020. They agreed that some transition to in- person meetings was critical. Other ideas included:

- Having webinars in lieu of Olympia physical meetings
- Continuing to meet in other counties
- Looking at phase criteria per area
- Watching how each situation develops

Commissioners touched on topics for meeting with Governor on June 24, 2020. Commissioners with topics of interest will send to Chair Carpenter.

**15. Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during executive session and the public was not permitted to attend.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant