



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

February 17-19, 2022 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Molly Linville, Acting Chair
Barbara Baker
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Lorna Smith
Jim R. Anderson
Tim Ragen
Melanie Rowland
John Lehmkuhl

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Chris Eardley
Aaron Dufault
Cynthia Wilkerson
Lauri Vigue
Darric Lowery

Staff

Jeff Burnham
Laura Heironimus
Allen Pleus
Kelly Cunningham

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepper

Guests

Sara Converse
Beth Gardner
Lisanne Petracca

Friday, February 18, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Acting Chair Linville struck Item #4 Land Transactions from the agenda.

Commissioners took a moment to thank former Commissioner Carpenter for his service.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the January 13-14, 2022, webinar and the January 21 and January 28, 2022, draft web conference minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the January 13-14, 2022, webinar as presented. All in favor. Commissioners Rowland, Lehmkuhl and Ragen abstained. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022, special web conference as presented. All in favor. Commissioners Rowland, Lehmkuhl and Ragen abstained. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2022, web conference as presented. All in favor. Commissioner McIsaac abstained. Motion passes.

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

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members: Baker, Thorburn, McIsaac and Commissioner Smith, Lehmkuhl, Rowland, Anderson, Ragen and Linville

Commissioner Baker reported that the committee was provided introductions to the new climate change coordinator and sustainability coordinator. The climate change coordinator provided an

overview of [climate resilience](#). Staff provided a “[Preparing Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife For a Changing Climate](#),” report and an overview of the agencies [sustainability plan](#). Commissioner Baker provided an update on the efforts of an internal commissions policy review. The spreadsheet created will be circulated to the committee. Commissioner McIsaac requested the PowerPoints be posted to the meeting website and page numbers are added to the presentations. Staff posted the presentations and made the necessary modifications.

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members: Linville, Smith, Anderson, and Commissioner McIsaac, Baker, Rowland, Lehmkuhl, Ragen

Acting Chair Linville reported that staff provided an update on the [Shrub-steppe proviso](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Anderson, McIsaac, Baker and Commissioner Smith, Ragen, Linville, Rowland, Lehmkuhl

Commissioner McIsaac reported that Commissioner Baker was in contact with Oregon in regard to rescheduling the Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee meeting. Staff landed on the date of April 29. The committee was provided a briefing on the [Commercial shellfish regulation proposals](#) that will be presented to the Commission on Friday. Staff provided a [Coastal Steelhead Plan update](#) and the committee approved of the recommendations to be presented to the full commission. The schedule will be formalized, distributed to the public and added to the year-at-a-glance. Staff provided a briefing on the [Willapa Bay Policy review, revised process, and schedule](#), the committee supports and will recommend the revised schedule to the full commission. Commissioner Ragen asked for additional information on the issue. Staff asked the committee for a [recommendation](#) to maintain Willapa interim guidance for North of Falcon. The committees supported the recommendation to maintain the guidance.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Doug Boze – User equity/Spring bear	Cameron Lankhaar – Spring bear
Gabriel Garza – Spring bear	James Forslund – Spring bear
David Linn – Wolves, Spring bear	David West – Spring bear
Samantha Bruegger – Baiting petition	Spencer Burdick – Spring bear, Blue Mountain Elk
Brad Thomsen – Spring bear	Jon Dykes – Spring bear
Bryce Levin – Spring bear	Eric Crivello – Spring bear
Steve Snowden – Spring bear	Dan Wilson– Spring bear
Mike Henderson – Marine Area 7	Sophia Ressler – Spring bear
Rachel Bjork – Climate change	Jocelyn Leroux – Grazing permits
Ryan Garrett – Spring bear	Mike Herz – Spring bear
Martha Hall – Ethical hunting	Marie Neumiller – Spring bear

3. Director’s Report

The Director provided an overview of current events, activities, and meetings with impact within and in relation to the agency. Please listed to the audio for full details [here](#).

BREAK

4. Commercial Shellfish Regulation Proposals – Briefing, Public Hearing

Chris Eardley Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator, and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager provided the Commission a briefing on proposed revisions to commercial regulations for shellfish.

There was no public comment for this item.

The Commissioners asked for additional information on bycatch and excluder devices. Commissioner Ragen requested the previous year's derelict pot reports.

6. South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Plan – Briefing

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager, Lauri Vigue, Lands Planner, and Darric Lowery, Wildlife Area Manager briefed the Commission on the newly finished South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Plan.

LUNCH

7. New Cowlitz Wildlife Area Program Grazing Permit – Briefing

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager, and Jeff Burnham, Range Ecologist provided the Commission with an update on the grazing program implementation.

The Commission discussed the permit at length and decided to have a non-quorum discussion with staff and table the possible decision on the issue until Saturday.

8. Lower Columbia White Sturgeon Population Status and Management Annual Policy (C-3001) Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead provided the Commission an annual review briefing on lower Columbia River sturgeon population status, as stipulated within Policy C-3001, and discuss plans for 2022 fisheries.

There was no public comment for this item.

9. European Green Crab – Briefing

Allen Pleus, Aquatic Invasive Species Policy Coordinator and Kelly Cunningham, Director of Fish Program provided the Commission a briefing on the Governor's Emergency Proclamation for European green crab and status of implementation.

RECESS

Saturday, February 19, 2022

Acting Chair Linville called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. She announced that the Commission will hear the open public input portion of the meeting first then will finish the grazing permit discussion and transition into the Wolf Population modeling briefing.

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Adrienne Dorf – Spring bear	Brian Blake – Restorative grazing
David Linn – Spring bear	Mike Herz – Spring bear
Rachel Bjork – Grazing permit	Stephanie Taylor – Welcome new commissioners
Steve Snowden – Baiting	Susan Kane-Ronning – Big tent climate presentation

11. New Cowlitz Wildlife Area Program Grazing Permit Discussion Continued

Deputy Director Windrope summarized the issue and provided a scope of the grazing process. This grazing permit is ecologically sound and has been vetted and signed off by the Wildlife Area Manager, the District Fish, Habitat and Wildlife biologists, the wildlife conflict specialist, the regional director, the statewide range ecologist, the lands Stewardship and Operations Manager and the

Lands Division manager. The commission discussed two option number one is to let the 30 days run at which time it will move to the hands of the Director for consideration and implementation or a commissioner could make a motion to strike down the grazing permit, if there was a second, there would be commissioner discussion and then it would be vote on it. If the majority of the commission votes to strike down the permit, that is a final decision.

The commission discussed their options and concerns and the majority agreed to let the 30 days run and leave it to the director for consideration. Commissioner Ragen abstained.

12. Wolf Population Model – Briefing

Sarah Converse, Beth Gardner, and Lisanne Petracca from University of Washington presented the wolf population model and scenario outputs.

13. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

Commissioner McIsaac reviewed the year-at-a-glance for the March 11 and March 18 and shared his thoughts on the Spring bear portions of the meeting.

The commissioners discussed the February 25 special petition meeting.

Deputy Director Windrope reviewed the year-at-a-glance for the March 17-19 meeting and captured the following actions:

- A request to have an adaptive management staff report out over next few years in regards to grazing.
- Commissioners might be interest in a blue sheet on wetlands and/or the effects of grazing.
- A request to circulate the last forest service meeting agenda to commissioners.
- A request to provide commissioners with the 2021 legislative report on derelict fishing gear and shellfish pots.
- Provide additional information to commissioners on bycatch devices, data/impact from them as available by staff.
- Retreat agenda item – meeting facilitation - Hold questions until after presentations, stay on schedule
- Spring bear questions – Commissioner Lehmkuhl asked how is a vote consistent with policy? Commissioner Ragen will submit separate questions to staff in preparation of the new commissioner orientation on March 8.
- Request to update the year-at-a-glance to say, "Spring Bear Rulemaking."
- Add Chronic Wasting Disease to the year-at-a-glance for a briefing to the full Commission in April.
- Commissioner McIsaac requested that the C-3630 annual report be added to the September 22-23, 2022 meeting.

Acting Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Nichole Kloepper, Executive Assistant