



## Minutes

### Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

April 7-9, 2022 – Webinar

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#### Attendance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Commission Staff</u>
Barbara Baker, Chair	Amy Dona, AGO	Ciera Strickland	Nichole Kloepfer
Molly Linville, Vice Chair	Amy Windrope, Deputy	Karen Edwards	
Donald McIsaac	Director	Anis Aoude	
Kim Thorburn	Eric Gardner	Hank Carson	
Lorna Smith	Kyle Garrison	Katie Sowul	
Jim R. Anderson	Kyle Spragens	Chris Eardley	
Tim Ragen	Julia Smith	Aaron Dufault	
Melanie Rowland	Melia Devivo	Craig Burley	
John Lehmkuhl	Benjamin Maletzke	Kelly Cunningham	
	Ken Warheit	Charlene Hurst	

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#### **April 8, 2022**

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

#### **1. Call to Order**

##### **a. Commissioners' Discussion**

The Chelan River Rulemaking Delegation – Briefing, Decision item has been struck from the agenda and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Commissioner Anderson shared his experience netting and tagging cutthroat trout on Lake Lenore.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl shared a cougar experience on his property.

Commissioner Rowland shared her experience with the Ephrata office field trip in March. Commissioner Lehmkuhl was also in attendance.

Commissioner Smith attended the WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop and shared items of interest from the event.

##### **b. Meeting Minute Approval**

The Commission considered approval of the March 17-19, 2022, webinar and April 1, 2022, draft special web conference minutes.

**Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 17-19, 2022, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2022, special web conference as presented. All in favor. 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 Thorburn, Baker, McIsaac, and Commissioners, Smith, Anderson, Lehmkuhl, Rowland, and Ragen**

Commissioner Thorburn reported that Nate Pamplin, Policy Director provided an update on the Communications and Public Engagement Assessment. He also briefed the committee on the status of some near-term actions within the 25-year Strategic Plan strategy to Engage Communities through Recreation and Stewardship. Commissioners noted the importance of the Commission forum as an outreach/engagement platform and discussed ideas for improving the synthesis of public comments received at Commission meetings.

Jeff Davis, Conservation Director briefed the committee on an approach to develop a conservation roadmap—to connect broader conservation work and objectives, by WDFW and partners, across Washington state. The agency is scheduling a conference with partners to develop shared goals and priorities, with the idea to create a collective long-term conservation agenda.

Chair Baker requested that the next committee meeting in June discuss the following items with the allotted times. RAWA (30 minutes), Conservation Roadmap process (30 minutes) and the Conservation Policy (60 minutes). Materials for the committee meeting can be found on the meeting agenda [here](#).

## **Fish Committee**

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

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee struck the Pinto Abalone Recovery Plan from the committee discussion due to time constraints. The committee was also provided a Pound Net (Blue sheet) overview, discussed the Policy C-3624 implementation report that will be provided to the full commission and under general discussion – current events, staff provided a Grays Harbor Coho impact rate change briefing that required a recommendation for the full commission. Craig Burley, Deputy Director, Fish Program, updated the committee on the Chelan petition that will be brought to the Commission for additional guidance. After discussion the committee supported the staff recommendation for the Grays Harbor Coho impact rate change and the committees supported striking the Chelan petition adjustments from the Commission agenda for a later date. Materials for the committee meeting can be found on the meeting agenda [here](#).

**Following delivery of the Fish Committee report to the Commission, Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, for 2022 only, to approve delegation to the Director to negotiate optimal fisheries for the Grays Harbor area in accordance with the Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy (Policy C-3621), with the exception of the 5% fishery impact ceiling applicable to coho salmon referred to in the Adaptive Management section. All in favor. Motion passes.**

## **2. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Mike Herz - alternative gear/Spring bear

Doug Boze – Spring bear

Paul DeBruyn – alternative gear

Heath Heikkila - alternative gear

Anne Kroeker – diversification

## **3. Director's Report**

Deputy Director Windrope provided an overview of current events, activities, and meetings of impact within and in relation to the agency.

**4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision**

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager briefed the Commission on the Lands 20/20 process and current land transactions and asked the Commission for approval of a land transactions recommended by the Department for the enhancement of conservation and public recreation opportunities.

The following people provided comment on this item:

Janet Strong                      Anne Kroeker                      Mark DeLaurier

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the land transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**BREAK**

**5. ~~Chelan River Rulemaking Delegation – Briefing, Decision~~**

~~Craig Burley, Deputy Director, Fish Program will brief the Commission and ask for a decision on the rulemaking process for the Chelan River.~~

**MOTION LANGUAGE**

**6. Pinto Abalone Recovery Plan – Briefing**

Hank Carson, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, Katie Sowul, Abalone Biologist, Chris Eardley Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator, and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager provided the Commission a briefing on the recovery plan for pinto abalone.

**7. Landowner Hunting Permits – Decision**

Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager asked the Commission for a decision on proposed changes to WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**BREAK**

**8. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Prioritization Plan – Briefing**

Melia Devivo, Ungulate Research Scientist provided the Commission with a briefing on the CWD prioritization plan.

**9. Wolf Livestock Conflict Deterrence Rulemaking – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Julia Smith, Wolf Policy Lead briefed the Commission on the status of the CR-102 Wolf rulemaking process.

The following people provided comment:

Senator Shelly Short	Samantha Bruegger	Zoe Hanley
Alyne Fortgang	Judith Akins	Jocelyn Leroux
Susan Kane-Ronning	Hannah Thompson-Garner	Chris Bachman
Sophia Ressler	Joan Beldin	David Linn
Stephanie Taylor		

The remaining commenters and commissioner discussion was held on Saturday after open public input.

**10. Deer General Seasons and Special Permits – Decision**

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager asked the Commission for a decision on deer general seasons and special permits.

- WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-030 2022 Deer special permits.

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**11. Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Decision**

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager asked the Commission for a decision on elk general seasons and special permits.

- WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.
- WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-060 2022 Elk special permits.

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**12. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Decision**

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager asked the Commission for a decision on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons.

- WAC 220-415-070 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-120 2022 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-130 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**13. Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations - Decision**

Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager Staff asked the Commission for a decision on amendments to the migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations.

- WAC 220-416-060 2021-2022 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.
- WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.
- WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**14. Hunting, Equipment and Other Restrictions - Decision**

Anis Aoude, Section Manager in place of Stephanie Simek Carnivore Section Manager and Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager asked the Commission for a decision on rule changes and updates regarding:

- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife –Evidence of sex-Definitions.
- WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting –Firearms.
- WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.
- WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.
- WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.

**Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to adopt the recommended rule changes to WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt the recommended rule changes to WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl to adopt the recommended rule changes to WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. The motion failed with 6 votes in against, Commissioners McIsaac, Baker, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, and Linville and 3 in favor, Commissioners Thorburn, Anderson, Lehmkuhl.**

**Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt only subsection (1)(a) of the proposed amendments to WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. The motion passes with 7 in favor, Commissioners Baker, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, Linville, Anderson and Thorburn with 2 against, Commissioners McIsaac, Lehmkuhl.**

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes to WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife –Evidence of sex-Definitions and WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to adopt only subsection 1(f) of the proposed amendments to WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. The motion passes with 5 votes in favor, Commissioners Baker, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, and Linville, McIsaac and 4 against, Commissioners Thorburn, Anderson, Lehmkuhl.**

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to adopt the recommended rule changes to WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements as presented by Department staff. The Commission discussed the motion. The motion failed with 5 votes against, Commissioners McIsaac, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, and Linville and 3 in favor, Commissioners Thorburn, Anderson, Lehmkuhl.**

### **15. Chronic Wasting Disease – Decision**

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager asked the Commission for a decision on WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

**Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff. All in favor. Motion passes.**

### **RECESS**

**Saturday, April 9, 2022**

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

### **16. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Brian Love – pound nets	Ron Garner – pound nets
Jim Coleman – pound nets	Rachel Haymon – carnivore management
Andy Mitby - – Grays Harbor increase	Aaron Jorgenson – pound nets
Marie Neumiller – Chronic wasting disease	Robert Sudar – pound nets
Bill Spillman – pound nets	

### **9. Wolf Livestock Conflict Deterrence Rulemaking – Briefing and Public Hearing Continued**

The Commission listened to the remaining commenters and had discussion on the issue.

The following people provided comment:

Adrienne Dorf	Ann Prezyna	Jerry Anderson
Rita Kinney	Tim Coleman	Marlene Penry
Peter Hapke	Marie Neumiller	David Hedrick
Dale Magart	Janet Strong	Ron Reed

The Commissioners agreed to not hold a decision on the issue May 13 but to continue discussion about alternatives.

### **BREAK**

### **17. Pound Net (Blue Sheet) – Briefing**

Kelly Cunningham, Director of Fish Program, and Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead provided a briefing on pound nets in the Columbia River.

Adrian Touhy from the Wildlife Fish Conservancy provided an update on their latest pound net research. Their presentation will be available once provided to staff.

### **BREAK**

### **18. Wolf Annual Report – Briefing**

Benjamin Maletzke, Statewide Wolf Specialist provided the Commission with an annual wolf update.

### **19. Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C- 3624 Implementation Update**

Ken Warheit, Supervisor, Fish Health, and Molecular Genetics provided the Commission a

progress report on the implementation of the policy, as stipulated in the policy.

## **20. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning**

The Commission discussed, and staff captured the following items that arose throughout the meeting and discussed April meeting planning. Commissioner Thorburn presented a blue sheet on the Shared Stewardship program requesting a briefing at the Commission, priority medium.

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to approve the blue sheet on the Shared Stewardship program as requested. All in favor. Motion passes.**

Deputy Director Windrope reported on the following actions from the meeting:

- Make June Big Tent committee, 2 hours, 30 mins on RAWA, 30 min on additional conversation on road map process, 1hr on conservation policy.
- Commissioner Rowland asked more information about Commercial Alternative Gear reports, commercial mortality rates, and stock status in the Columbia River.
- Connect new Commissioners to Dave Whipple for Hunter Education program.
- Report back on TFW meeting and the Joint Action on Puget Sound meeting.
- Ask Larry Delgado to come to June meeting for an introduction.
- Send ICC Report to Commission.
- Provide an email about the 4/3 split and get back to Fish Committee about the impact of raising the ceiling on the split.
- Chronic Wasting Disease Prioritization - Commissioners Rowland/Baker requested an update in the summer/fall.
- Deer General Seasons – Commissioner Ragen requested time with wildlife staff to go over season setting information/process.
- Livestock Conflict Deterrence Rulemaking remains on May 13 agenda, no decision.
- Commissioners asked for additional information on range rider capacities.
- Commissioners requested an email about Kalama production changes regarding NOAA action.
- Staff will work to schedule the Commissions annual meeting with the Governor.
- Commissioner Thorburn presented a blue sheet for briefing to full commission on shared stewardship.

Chair Baker reported the following changes with committee assignments:

- Habitat committee – Commissioners Molly Linville (Chair), John Lehmkuhl, Lorna Smith, Tim Ragen
- Fish committee – Commissioners Don McIsaac (Acting Chair), Jim Anderson, Molly Linville, Tim Ragen
- Wildlife committee – Commissioners Kim Thorburn (Chair), Jim Anderson, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland
- Big Tent committee – Commissioners Barbara Baker (Chair), Kim Thorburn, Don McIsaac, John Lehmkuhl

Any additional committee structural decisions will be determined at a later date. Committee chairs are elected during committee meetings by committee members.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.