



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, August 26, 2022
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson
John Lehmkuhl
Melanie Rowland
Tim Ragen
Don McIsaac

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Karen Edwards
Aaron Dufault
Captain Chadwick

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Vice Chair Linville called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Commissioners Smith and Anderson attended the Region 6 awards ceremony.

Commissioners Lehmkuhl and Linville attended the Region 3 awards ceremony. Vice Chair Linville also participated at the Region 2 award ceremony and gave her thanks for the Enforcement highlights.

Commissioner McIsaac shared his experience at the Bouy 10 fish checker station. He appreciated DFW staff, Danielle Williams for her excellent customer service and expertise. The Commissioner also talked to anglers who expressed disappointment about the poor catch of marked only Chinook.

Commissioner Thoburn attended the Region 1 award ceremony.

Commissioner Anderson provided comment on the status of the Columbia River steelhead.

Commissioner Smith mentioned recent news about fisheries management.

Chair Baker shared her August Alaska trip and appreciated how people and animals can coexist.

A. Land Transactions – Briefing, Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager, provided a briefing and asked the Commission for a decision on land transactions recommended by the Department to enhance conservation and public recreation opportunities. Karen also provided an update on land acquisitions that have closed since the last Commission update.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the land transaction as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioner Smith amended the initial motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to add a bat survey to the property assessment before disposal of the property.

Commissioner Smith and Rowland withdrew their amendment to the initial motion, and Director Susewind committed to having staff investigate a bat assessment before disposal of the property.

The Commissioners took a vote on the initial motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

B. WA-Tix Commercial Electronic Catch Reporting App – Decision

Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, and Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager, asked the Commission for a decision on the proposed rule to add dealer geolocation to the required information provided on an electronic fish receiving a ticket. This rule change is needed to support a fishery enforcement feature of the new WA-Tix electronic catch reporting application under development by WDFW.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt the rule proposals as presented by staff in the CR-102 to amend WAC Sections: WAC 220-352-010 Fish receiving ticket definitions and WAC 220-3520-040, Required information for Washington state non-treaty fish receiving tickets and adopt an October 1, 2022, the effective date for the proposed changes. All in favor. Motion passes.

C. Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting agenda and reviewed an updated year-at-a-glance.

Chair Baker updated that the Big Tent committee for September will be discussing a Conservation policy, State Wildlife Action Plan, providing a Commission Policy update, and discussing changes to a draft delegation of authority.

Commissioner McIsaac indicated he would like to discuss the 2023 Commission meeting dates during the September Commission meeting debrief.

Commissioner McIsaac provided an update to the Willapa Bay Policy review and Co-Manager Hatchery Policy timelines. The initial Hatchery Co-Manager Policy briefing will be in September. If an agreement is made after the September 1 meeting with the tribes, then the Commission would like a special Commission meeting to provide Commissioners a briefing on the history of the issue. The Executive Assistant will get a hold on the calendar.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl presented two blue sheets. One on Spring bear policy development and the other on ungulate population management. After the Commission discussed the blue sheets, the staff offered to wrap the Spring bear policy blue sheet into the current Spring bear policy discussion. From the ungulate blue sheet, staff will provide Commissioner Lehmkuhl with a three-page summary of the ungulate population status in the state.

Commissioner Rowland presented a beaver blue sheet for consideration.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to request a blue sheet briefing on the status and management of beavers in the state, as well as the current state of knowledge on the benefit of beavers to habitat restoration.

The Commission discussed the blue sheet and motion.

Commissioner Rowland withdrew the motion and staff offered to work to provide a briefing on the status and management of beavers in the state. The Commission agreed on the direction moving forward.

D. General Discussion

There were no recent activities and items of interest to be discussed.

Vice Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer 9/23/22
Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant