



## Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Web Conference  
**Friday, May 12, 2023**  
Olympia, Washington

### Attendance

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Commission:  
Barbara Baker, Chair  
Molly Linville, Vice Chair  
Lorna Smith  
Steve Parker  
Woody Myers  
James R. Anderson  
John Lehmkuhl  
Melanie Rowland  
Tim Ragen

Department Staff:  
Kelly Susewind, Director  
Joe Panesko, AGO  
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director  
Theresa Nation  
Anis Aoude  
Karen Edwards  
Taylor Cotten  
Cynthia Wilkerson

Commission Staff:  
Nikki Kloepfer

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

Commissioner Anderson went on a Columbia River ride along with DFW and ODFW test tangle net fishery.

Commissioner Smith participated in the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Conservation Northwest staff on a field trip called "Connectivity in Southwest Washington and across I-5" to a camera-monitoring site and training facility at a farm adjacent to Interstate-5 (I-5). Information can be found on the Wildlife Society Chapters page [here](#).

Commissioners Ragen and Myers met with Garfield County Commissioner Dixon, Marie Neumiller, the director of the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, and Dan Wilson with Conservation Northwest.

Commissioner Parker gave a shout-out to Region 3 staff about its excellent customer service.

**A. OPMA/Records Training – Joe Panesko, Washington State Office of the Attorney General**

Joe Panesko, Washington State Office of the Attorney General completed the OPMA/Records training from the April Commission meeting.

**B. HPA Rulemaking for SSB 5381 – Decision**

Theresa Nation, HPA Rule Making Coordinator; and Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director asked the Commission for a decision on expedited rulemaking to integrate elements of SSB 5381 into the Hydraulic Code Rules.

**Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to adopt the rule as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**C. Petition: Spring Bear 2024 Recreational Hunting – Briefing, Decision**

Anis Aoude, Big Game Manager presented a petition to “begin Rule Making for the 2024 recreational Spring bear hunting season.”

Commissioner Ragen offered to reach out to the petitioner.

**Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to deny the petition as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**D. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision**

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked for the Commission to approve the land transaction recommended by the Department for the enhancement of public recreational opportunities.

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

**E. White Pelican Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision**

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager asked Commission to consider a rule amendment proposal to reclassify the American white pelican within WAC 220-200-100 “Wildlife classified as protected shall not be hunted or fished” from threatened to sensitive.

**Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parker to adopt the rule change as presented by staff and downlist the American White Pelican from Threatened to Sensitive. Commissioners Ragen, Rowland, and Smith voted against it while Commissioners Parker, Lehmkuhl, Myers, Linville, and Anderson voted in favor. The motion passed with a 5/3 vote.**

**F. Directors Report**

The Director provided a 2023 legislative session report, an update on the Columbia River Springers, and announced the retirement of Steve Pozzanghera Region 1 Director. Mike Kuttel, Jr. will be the new director.

**G. 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 Lehmkuhl proposed a blue sheet on social sciences. The commission supported it unanimously.

The commission agreed to add a PSR Wolf agenda item to the June agenda to discuss the PSR outline, process, and timeline.

Commissioner Smith agreed to move the Wildlife Committee meeting scheduled for June 22, 2023, to a special meeting to accommodate committee members that are unable to attend.

Deputy Director Windrope asked for additional guidance on the Commission retreat merge with the September meeting and provided a timeline for the discussion on the Best available science blue sheet presented in April.

Vice Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

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Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant