

Options for Commission Budget and Legislative Timeline

The Commission approves WDFW's budget and legislative requests. This approval is scheduled in August each year, before OFM's September deadlines. The drafting, learning, and work towards successful bills and packages takes a long time, so Department staff approach the Commission months earlier. However, the Commission frequently asked how to become more involved in the budget and legislative processes and at an earlier stage. Below are goals and options towards solving this issue.

Goals

- Increase commissioner's awareness of budget and legislative actions at key during the year.
- Commission direction is strategic and agreed to by Commission vote.
- This isn't an opportunity to reallocate the budget or change the 25-year strategic plan.

Options - Staff recommendation is Option 2.

1. Status quo: **June** presentation, vote in August. (1 touch point)

If the current timeline allows commissioners enough time, this option might only require restating the timeline. There are signals ahead of the June meetings about budget and legislative efforts, then a briefing in June three months ahead of approval at the August meeting.

2. Committee reminders in **April**, presentation in June, and vote in August. (2 touch points)

CFO and/or Legislative Director would attend committee meetings in April, asking commissioners to review the work they've done that year and decide if the next step would require legislation or funding. First, each chair can explain the outcome or high-level policy goal they are looking for. Then it will be assigned to the appropriate staff. Draft items will be brought forward at the June meeting to be voted on by the commission to move forward.

3. Receive notice of Director's current strategy in **March**. (5 touch points)

The Director's Policy team meets early in the year to generate budget and legislative strategy. The CFO and Legislative Director would meet with chairs of each committee offline. They would ask what outcomes each committee has come up with that commissioners might want to see.

April – The CFO and/or Legislative Director would go to committees, and ask, “having reviewed the Director's guidance, what are your other priorities?”.

May – The CFO and/Legislative Director return to the commission with draft items. The CFO and Legislative Director will brief what they heard and the resulting method and outcome. Those methods and outcomes would be voted by the commission to move forward.

June – The CFO and Legislative Director will brief the full list of packages and legislative requests. Approval is not required at this meeting.

August – Approval on the full list of budget packages and legislative requests is sought at this meeting.