

Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) Minutes

June 4, 2022

WCA Boardroom
1301 N. Dolarway Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Members Present: Mark Pidgeon, Dave Chromy, William Essman, Rob McCoy, James Horan, Mark Smith, Roy Lee, Jake Weise, Max Cole, Jason Bolser, Al Martz, Dave Duncan, Rachel Voss.

Staff Present: Anis Aoude (WDFW Game Division Manager), Eric Gardner (WDFW Wildlife Program Director), Kelly Susewind (WDFW Director).

Welcome: Anis introduced Rob as GMAC Chair & Jake Weise as Vice Chair. Rob noted how he expects the meeting to flow, members participating and showing respect for others comments, being polite, and staying on the agenda. He said GMAC member James Horan has offered to again take meeting minutes and that he may from time to time ask members to restate and/or clarify their comments for purposes of getting it right in the minutes

Introductions: Rob asked each member to introduce themselves, background, who they represent (organizations, nonaffiliated, etc).

Director/Wildlife Program Director Opening Remarks:

- Need hunter advocacy more than ever.
- Hunters need to be energized to support hunting.
- GMAC needs to decide what it wants to do over the next year, recent past has been a little deteriorated, not focused.
- Hunters need to talk to WDFW Commissioners about what hunting means to them.
- More people are interested in outcomes and conservation.
- We need to work together, be inclusive, focus on policy, not be as fragmented.

GMAC members responses:

- We're real pleased to know we have staff support for GMAC's work.
- Agreed, we need to focus on policy.
- Important to preserve and protect GMAC mandate.

GMAC Charter Discussion:

- Anis distributed a draft charter noting that all WDFW committees are required to adopt a charter, the draft has been available for member review for several months, and he hoped we can get through most of the draft today.

- **Member/staff comments regarding the draft charter.** These minutes are an attempt to capture the essence of specific discussions. Actual changes to the charter were recorded by staff and will be sent to GMAC members from their office separate from these minutes :

- **Mission:**

- Try to limit charter focus to advise the dept on policy and be careful of too much structure limiting the ability to get anything done.
- Should GMAC be a council or committee? Members decided GMAC was created as a council so should remain a council.
- Purpose of the council is to provide advice to the Commission.
- There is power in GMAC advancing advice to the Commission particularly unified or consensus recommendations.
- If possible/feasible its best to have a GMAC representative assisting staff reporting to the Commission regarding potential agency policies.
- Discussion regarding whether trapping should be listed separately from hunting. Decision was no, trapping is considered a method of hunting in RCW.

- **Vision:**

- The current wording as actually the Depts. Responsibility, not GMAC's.
- Maybe the vision statement should be limited to providing advice to the Commission regarding conservation.
- Be sure hunting has a role in game management and is relevant to the mission.

- **Member description:**

- Appointments should be staggered so that institutional memory is preserved.
- Very difficult for new members to become fully acquainted with the GMAC roles and responsibilities.
- Member turnover is too fast.
- Certain stakeholders need to be represented on the council.
- Important for new members to be involved in a Game Management planning session.
- Staff should provide new members with sufficient background information prior the their first meeting, and, if possible meet with them/or have an experienced GMAC member meet with them prior to their first meeting to review the background information, answer questions, etc.
- Members to provide staff with a draft list of items to be considered for background information.
- Staff will develop and recommend to GMAC a system for a staggered appointment and member replacement system.

- **Council roles and responsibilities and structure:**

- Details of these discussions were simplified, limited and were recorded by staff and will be presented to GMAC in an updated draft charter.
- **Elected council officers:**
 - Results of these discussions regarding Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary were simplified, limited and were recorded by staff and will be presented to GMAC in an updated draft charter.
 - Communication officer determined to be inconsistent with GMAC charter. This is the responsibility of agency staff and as appropriate can include council recommendations.
 - Legislative liaison determined to be inconsistent with GMAC charter. This is the responsibility of agency staff and as appropriate can include council recommendations. Though staff recognizes that it cannot always know through its resources draft or pending legislation and requests the council members be alert to such proposals and alert staff accordingly.
 - Subcommittee chair of task force leader. Minor changes to be reflected in updated draft charter.
- **Making recommendations:**
 - Much of the discussion centered around the relative importance of “consensus” vs. “majority/minority opinion”. The council understood that consensus was far more powerful than majority/minority opinion. To be sure, when consensus cannot be reached for whatever reason, (e.g. the issue is very controversial, not enough information is available, etc.) but there is a majority and minority opinion, both opinions will be captured in the minutes and include an analysis of potential outcomes and pros and cons. In the instance where the council needs more time to evaluate an issue it should request such time.
- **Meeting ground rules:**
 - No changes were recommended, however the council chair requested members take some time to further review the ground rules, make suggested changes if they have any, and be prepared to finalize these at our next meeting.
- **Agency roles and responsibilities:**
 - No changes were recommended, however the council chair requested members take some time to further review the agency roles and responsibilities, make

suggested changes if they have any, and be prepared to finalize these at our next meeting.

- Purpose statement/change elected officers/change forms/change information statements were determined to not be necessary. Issues had been discussed and as appropriate included elsewhere in the updated draft charter. Council chair reiterated that members should carefully review the updated charter and comment accordingly.
- **Elected officers:**
 - Mark Pigeon nominated Jake Weise for chair, seconded by Roy Lee,
 - Dave Duncan nominated Rob McCoy for vice chair, seconded by Jason Bolser,
 - Al Martz nominated James Horan for secretary, seconded by Jason Bolser,
 - Motion by Mark Pigeon, seconded by Jason Bolser to approve the nominations by acclimation. Motion approve

Next meeting/agenda items:

- Game management plan status.
- Rule making schedule/Commission position.
- Motion by Al Martz, seconded by Bill Essman, that GMAC supports 101. Approved.
- Dept proposing a rule to support a spring bear hunt in 2003, status.
- Motion by Al Martz, seconded by Jason Bolser, to support rejection of petition which would allow us to discuss more for 3 year program. This is a petition to allow 65 and older to use cross bow during archery season. Approved, general consensus.
- Update/take aways/next steps on recent strategic plan (3R) survey and public virtual meeting.

Staff recommendation:

- Requesting the Commission to do away with the current mandate re RCW 77.04.020, a legislative mandate to provide opportunity for sustained hunting and change definition of conservation to preservation. This is not for GMAC to consider. Its beyond their purpose to provide advice to the Commission. More important to pay attention to acts the Commission is engaged in.

Next meeting;

- August 27, 2022

Adjourn:

- The meeting adjourned a 2:47 pm.