

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
January 25, 2020, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Skype Meeting

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- Rich Mann
 - Rich helped Jim Conway with his classes.
 - He also volunteered at the tri-city sportsman show.
 - He also did some mentoring in the fall.
- Randy Absolon
 - Randy has a traditional class this coming week with 17 signed up.
 - He has three online courses in the next two months.
- Butch Buffalo
 - Butch has scheduled his team's classes for this year.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff is planning on holding a class in March.
- Eric Lauver
 - Eric will have his first class in March.
 - His team will get busy in the late summer.
- Jim Conway
 - Jim completed 10 classes last year and is planning on offering 10 this year as well.
 - All his classes will be online classes.
- Bob Palmer
 - Bob has been offering NRA classes to instructors.
 - He is in contact with a region 4 instructor who is asking vendors if they have HEI discounts.
 - Bob has been promoting events outside hunter education classes like NHTD, sportsmen's shows, etc. in his classes.
- John Malek
 - John has 10 classes scheduled for 2020.
 - He is planning a turkey clinic April 5th at Black Diamond Gun Club with NWTF and NAABS.
 - He had a sight impaired student in his October 2019 hunter education class and the student is now interested in being an instructor.
 - John is also working with the North American Association of Blind Shooters and will have a fundraiser shoot in April in association with the turkey clinic. He asked WDFW to help promote the clinic and NAABS shoot. He provided a flier and requested it be forwarded to WDFW's Public Relations group.
 - John suggested WDFW investigate the feasibility of braille tests.

- Larry Lufkin
 - Larry had a lot of personal conflicts and didn't get a lot of time for HEI work.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty held two online classes in December.
 - He held a traditional class in January and only had eight students showed up.
 - He has one traditional class and online class scheduled each month through September.
- Steve Mills
 - Steve held a December class at Cowlitz to help some instructors maintain certification.
 - He had some issues with the scheduling staff at Cowlitz but has since cleared up the issue.
 - He is also helping Amy at a sportsman show in Chehalis.
- Jim Gleiter
 - Jim has his 2020 classes planned but not in Kalkomey yet.
 - He enrolled in an RSO class in March through the department.
 - Jim was deployed on a Master Hunter damage hunt in the Wynochee valley.

⊙ WDFW Budget Update

- ⊕ WDFW was for the most part “made whole” last session, but only for the first fiscal year; it was not ongoing, stable funding.
- ⊕ The Legislature & Office of Financial Management expected a large Supplemental Budget request from WDFW (not normal for a supplemental budget).
- ⊕ WDFW's request is \$26 million. (See fact sheet: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/administration/budget/update>)
 - After a lack of success with recreational fee bill last session (& past biennia), WDFW opted to only request State General Fund revenue for this short, supplemental session.
 - Also, much of WDFW's work benefits all Washingtonians and we were pursuing a broad-based funding source to address and sustain long-standing activities that have been impacted from decisions made since the Great Recession.
- ⊕ The governor's budget was released on December 19.
 - His budget includes a combination of State General Fund and new fees to fund WDFW.
 - It requires revenue generated from a recreational license fee bill, like the one WDFW proposed last session, to be passed in order to fund many of our budget requests.
 - The fee bill has across-the-board 15% increase with caps on bundled license packages

- It also re-establishes the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement, which expired in June 2019.
- The Office of Financial Management (OFM) writes the budget and have introduced this fee increase in Senate Bill 6166.
- OFM’s decision to introduce the recreational fee bill was not anticipated. While WDFW thought State General Fund was the best approach in the supplemental session, the agency is committed to working with the governor and the legislature to find a solution for stable, ongoing funding for the department.
- A positive sign is that in general, we’re seeing the budget conversation shift from IF this work should continue to HOW it should be funded.
- The governor’s budget appropriates more expenditure authority for the State Wildlife Account in future biennia than the recreational fee bill would generate, leaving WDFW a gap that we would need to resolve in 2021. WDFW will work with the legislature to try to avoid that outcome and see if we can convert the appropriations to be backed by revenue and thus sustain the work into the future.
- The governor’s budget is an important step in the budgeting process, and it sets the tone for the House and Senate proposals. As early as February, the House and Senate will release their own versions of the 2020 Supplemental Budget, at which point the two chambers will work to create a Conference Budget. Throughout the legislative session, WDFW’s Executive Management Team will make every effort to ensure WDFW achieves a fully funded agency.

⊙ **WDFW Legislative Update** (*click the links below to go to the Washington State Legislature website for that bill. The actual bill, bill reports, etc. can be read by clicking a document under “Available Documents”*)

⊕ [SB 6166 - Concerning recreational fishing and hunting licenses](#)

- *NOTE: during the IAC Dave referred to House and Senate bills from last year, which were agency-request legislation. WDFW did not advocate a mechanism to solve problems this year. This year there is a new bill number (SB 6166), although very similar or the same as last year’s bills. See below.*
- The bill includes many elements, including a 15% fee increase on licenses (with caps), allowing the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules to offer one-time discount (up to \$20) on a hunter education graduate’s first hunting license, removing the hunter education deferral requirement that the accompanying hunter have held a hunting license in the prior three years, etc.
- The bill has been read and referred to the House Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee. No hearing was scheduled as of January 27.

⊕ HB 2557 - WDFW hunting pamphlet

- This bill proposes to simplify the hunting seasons and regulations pamphlet.
- It would require WDFW to publish hunting seasons & regulations in the form of a two-sided highway map, similar to the regulations published in 1969.
- A public hearing occurred January 11 in the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

⊕ SSB 6072 - State wildlife account

- This bill would divide the state wildlife account into the fish, wildlife, and conservation account and the limited fish and wildlife account.
- This is agency-request legislation. WDFW's citizen Budget and Policy Advisory Group recommended this legislative change be pursued to create a much better understanding of the complex state wildlife account. The wildlife account is comprised of many restricted accounts in addition to more flexible accounts housing license revenue. The restricted accounts can only be used for very specific purposes, so positive balances in these subaccounts give a false impression that the license review subaccounts are healthy when they are not. Positive variances can occur in restricted accounts for various reasons, such as saving annual funds for a larger project for a specific species.
- The bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means and was passed to the Rules Committee for second reading.

⊕ HB 1346 – Preventing lead exposure in young people

- This bill would affect hunter education by making it generally unlawful to give or make available any ammunition other than nonlead ammunition to a person who is under the age of 21.
- Because the bill was introduced last year, by resolution, it has been reintroduced and retained in present status. No public hearing was scheduled as of January 27.

⊙ **WDFW Updates**

⊕ Student statistics

- 2019 stats were as follows:

Total Classes	705
Capacity	15155
Registered	12173
Total Pass	9901
Total Fail	261
Total Incomplete	130
Total No-show	1882
Total % Fail	2.54
Total % NS	15.46

- 2018 stats are as follows:

Total Classes	708
Capacity	15330
Registered	11954
Total Pass	9669
Total Fail	258
Total Incomplete	127
Total No-show	1898
Total % Fail	2.57
Total % NS	15.88

- The difference of 2018 and 2019 was as follows:

Total Classes	-3
Capacity	-175
Registered	219
Total Pass	232
Total Fail	3
Total Incomplete	3
Total No-show	-16
Total % Fail	-0.03
Total % NS	-0.42

⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants

- As of December 31, 2019, WDFW has 1,025 instructors.
- Certified 95 instructors in 2019

⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates

- Mike Whorton
 - Mike is working on scheduling PST's for new instructors.
 - He is losing a Spokane area shooting range as a hunter education venue because it is being sold to a local school district.
- Aaron Garcia
 - Aaron has several PSTs scheduled in the next few months.
 - He is working at the sportsmen's shows in eastern Washington.
 - Aaron helped match 26 mentees with turkey mentors this fall.
 - He also held three pheasant clinics.
- Amy Elliott
 - Amy is working on a shotgun/hunter education workshop coming up for Washington Outdoor Women on March 14 in Wenatchee.
 - She was invited to the Lewis County Home & Sportsmen's Show on January 31 through February 2.
 - She has a lot of instructors who have posted classes.

- One of Amy's instructors was invited by Jan to witness the incentive permit drawing and Amy will also be attending.
 - She has a Pheasants Forever chapter starting in Vancouver and was contacted by their president. They are planning on holding a pheasant clinic in region 5 in the future.
- Bill Montgomery
 - Bill is helping Steve with RSO trainings this year.
 - He is also working with JBLM and Russ McDonald on a turkey clinic.
 - Bill was approached by the Jamestown S'klallum tribe about having a tribal hunter education class and then opening classes to the public.
 - Centralia college contacted Dave about having a hunter education course and Dave asked Bill to take the lead on working with the college.
 - Bill is also scheduling PSTs for 2020.

⊙ Female Instructor Recruitment

- ⊕ WDFW is working on recruiting female hunter education instructors and bolstering their numbers.
- ⊕ Currently only about nine percent of instructors are women.
- ⊕ Dave would like to increase the percentage of women instructors to around 15 percent.
- ⊕ WDFW will be sending a notice to all women Master Hunters about becoming instructors to satisfy their volunteer hours.
- ⊕ Another thought was to send an email to all women 21 and over who have purchased a hunting license in the past year or two who are not currently an instructor.
- ⊕ Kris has also compiled a list of some women firearms instructors and groups within Washington that we might directly market to.
- ⊕ Bob automatically includes a call out to his classes about becoming an instructor.
- ⊕ Marty has also been recruiting at the end of his classes.
- ⊕ John indicated he also recruits at the end of his classes.

⊙ IAC Recruitment Debrief

- ⊕ In 2019, we had 10 applicants for the IAC including all five members whose terms were ending on July 31, 2019.
- ⊕ Randy Absolon, John Malek, Bob Palmer, Steve Mills, and Larry Lufkin were appointed to three-year terms starting July 31, 2019.
- ⊕ We also had a member of the IAC who determined that they did not want to continue on the IAC.
- ⊕ Sam Grubbs was appointed to fill the vacated seat for the remaining one year of the term.

- ⊕ No applications were received from regions 1 or 2.
- ⊕ Regions 3, 5, and 6 had one application submitted for each region.
- ⊕ Region 4 had seven applications submitted.
- ⊕ Bob asked about why we do not have the interest from instructors. Kris said that we don't necessarily know. The Master Hunter Advisory Group had a similar problem in the past, especially with region 1 applications.

⊙ **Kalkomey "How-To" discussion**

- ⊕ WDFW has updated the Kalkomey "How-To" document to reflect changes to the current Event Manager system and make it easier for instructors to navigate the tool.
- ⊕ The draft booklet was sent to IAC members for their review and comment on the draft.
- ⊕ Kris asked the IAC if they had any suggestions/comments/etc.
- ⊕ The members offered their suggestions.
- ⊕ Kris will edit the document with the members suggestions.
- ⊕ Kris asked everyone to review the document again and send any other comments to him by Feb 7.

⊙ **Chief Hunter Education Instructor Booklet Discussion**

- ⊕ WDFW has created a new booklet to help new and existing chief instructors.
- ⊕ The draft booklet was sent to IAC members for their review and comment on the draft.
- ⊕ Kris asked the IAC if they had any suggestions/comments/etc.
- ⊕ Sam was unable to make the meeting and suggested adding:
 - How to deal with online students who did not sign up before the class
 - How to handle student that says he would like to cause harm to persons etc.
- ⊕ Butch suggested we have CHEI instruct other non-CHEI on how to be a CHEI.
 - Add information into the book about training new
- ⊕ Amy suggested a section on how to handle certain situations like not printing the certificate, etc.
- ⊕ Steve said he has blanked a certificate and has the person who doesn't bring their certificate fill out the blank and verifies it on their phone.
- ⊕ Kris will take the suggestions and edit the booklet accordingly and asked everyone to review the document again and send any other comments to him by Feb 7.

⊙ **Ethical Hunting Question**

- ⊕ This was brought up by Butch at the last meeting.
- ⊕ He had a situation where some other hunters found him in the field asking if he had an elk tag because they had elk on their trail camera in real time.
- ⊕ Other states have regulations around trail camera use and hunting.
- ⊕ Butch suggested that we bring this up to the game division for a possible rule change.

⦿ **For the good of the order**

- ⊕ Bob received word from the Friends of the NRA that the grant for student vests is in the running for funding this year.
- ⊕ Bob asked about the Laser Shot system that was stolen from WDFW staff.
 - Dave is working on replacing the system in the future.
- ⊕ Dave asked the IAC for input on how they believe the Skype meeting worked today.
 - Larry thinks the Skype meeting is good for the winter month meetings.
 - Jeff had some trouble hearing the people in other locations were saying.
 - Most of the members feel that Skype for the winter meeting is a good idea (to avoid hazardous travel conditions that can develop) and holding the other meetings face to face.
- ⊕ Jeff noted that he doesn't have a list or count on region 2 instructors or a contact list per region.
 - He suggested a report to the IAC members each quarter with an updated list of current instructors.

⦿ **Adjourn** – Next meeting is April 11, 2020.