

Present: Alicia Bye, Cindy Daily, Alysha Evans, Nicky Finch, Emily Meredith, Craig Moran, Jenny Schlieps, Jennifer Teitzel, Lynn Tompkins.

Absent: Jasmine Fletcher-Glaze, Amy Hanson, Irene Holmes

WDFW Staff: Katie Haman (WDFW Veterinarian), Patricia Thompson (WDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager)

Facilitator: Patricia Thompson

Meeting Minutes: Jenny Schlieps

Meeting called to order 09:35

Announcement

- Sonnya Wilkins has resigned from WRAP with regrets.

Update Round Robin

- Alicia Bye: Major fundraiser tonight, very busy. Otherwise going well; above average intakes
- Craig Moran: Still on vacation (no in school teaching due to COVID), doing research on rehabilitation and raptor research. Connected with person at Cornell (Curtis Evans).
- Cindy Daily: Things mostly the same, busy, following protocols for driveway admission and maintaining small staff.
- Emily Meredith: Gone back to winter hours with one team on staff (down from two teams during summer). COVID protocol still in place; interns and seasonal staff done for the season.
- Katie Haman: Excited to be a part of this group.
- Jennifer Teitzel: Hoping to get back to West Sound internship. Gray's Harbor volunteering weekly. Difficult to volunteer during COVID, new job and personal life have been very busy.
- Lynn Tompkins: Numbers back down to normal. Still not open to public (education groups).
- Suzanne West: Continuing with COVID protocols; 20-25% over intakes from last year.
- Jenny Schlieps: Busy at work as well as working on Standards.
- Alysha Evans: Up 30% of intakes from last year, phone calls through the roof. Maintaining COVID protocols. All interns have left for the season.
- Patricia Thompson: WDFW offices will not be open until June 2021.

Meeting Minutes from August 8 2020

- Group consensus that Aug 8 and Oct 10 meeting minutes be reviewed by group, comments submitted, minutes revised and resubmitted to group for approval. Approval through standard Robert's Rules of Order (http://diphi.web.unc.edu/files/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS_RULES_CHEAT_SHEET.pdf)
- Reasonable deadlines should be given for review/comment submission and approval.

WRAP Objectives

- Important to have clear goals before tasking working groups.

Enforcement Discussion

- Meredith: Concern re: lack of enforcement for illegal wildlife possession. Rehabilitators bear more repercussions than those breaking the law. Very demoralizing.
- West: WDFW should be focused on providing humane care.
- Schlieps: Not rehabilitation role to tell enforcement that they are not doing their job correctly. Can provide expertise in rehabilitation but are not responsible for job performance evaluations. Potential for NWRA and IWRC to provide enforcement training using new Standards book.
- Tompkins: Need to be tactful; focus on consequences to wildlife.
- Moran: Agree, focus on wildlife consequences, not locking people up.
- Daily: Look at partnership, public health and public endangerment.
- Evans: Strengthen department's image by engaging public. Department needs to get in front of the problem and present positive stewardship in getting wildlife to permitted rehabilitators.
- Thompson: Has discussed with headquarters the need for animal welfare and consequences to wildlife.
- Teitzel: Enforcement does not concentrate on transport; lack of facilities creates a problem and shelters get all types of wildlife calls. Transport needs to be a priority.
- Consensus among group that wildlife would be picked up/transported if they had been given the option to do so before enforcement allowed a person to keep the animal (e.g., case with Riley Wisdom and burned porcupine).
- Thompson: Has ability to request person to transfer animal to a rehabilitator, but otherwise enforcement needs to be involved.
- Group: Empower Thompson as department Rehabilitation Manager to contact person in illegal possession, coordinate transfer to a specific rehabilitation center in advance of contacting person and then state the person must transfer. Rehabilitators cannot confiscate animals from public and should not be tasked with this unless coordinated by department in these types of cases.
- West + group: Enforcement will often transfer raptors, but often not be willing to transport other animals (small mammal species). Often transports animals after being kept for too long and must then be euthanized by rehabilitators. Isis and Dylan Caney continue to take in wildlife without repercussion (GBHE, EGSQ, EACO, VGSW) also hazed black bear, had deer in truck.

Blasted over social media and creating a problem for WDFW in the future. Enforcement needs to prevent problem in advance.

- Thompson: Can't go out and seize animals on own, LE can if situation is illegal.
- Moran: Sounds like this is a greater issue than would have thought. Is public mostly unaware that it is illegal? Does the department provide adequate messaging re: illegality of wildlife possession?
- Thompson: WDFW is working on blog to discuss issues. Two camps, people who did not know it is illegal; second camp thinks there is no reason for a permit. Blog only goes to WDFW subscribers; limited range.
- Moran: TV spots? Other means of messaging; social media messaging?
- Tompkins: The more specific the department can be when contacting a person with an animal, the better the outcome will be. Consequence is enforcement will follow up.
- Schlieps: Had suggested PSAs for biennium spending: prevent kidnapping and illegal possession. Department messaging through social media; reshare messaging from NWRA, IWRC, WWRA. Work on seasonal calendar and messaging through Public Outreach WG?

Standardized Terminology

- Meredith/Bye: Orgs have been using same codes for many years and would be difficult to interpret retrospective data if they change codes now.
- Thompson: Has been recoding organizational ledgers for years by hand. Still accepting handwritten ledgers, may require excel spreadsheets or electronic documents. Wants a greater understanding of causes of admissions, anthropogenic causes, release sites, etc.
- Moran: Everyone seems to be using different codes; suggest department can provide funding for database use. Has been meeting with Gail Buhl, discussing need for decision-making to be based on statistics.
- Meredith/Bye: Some orgs have invested a great deal of time and money into database and may not be willing to change systems. Not every database is fit for purpose for every organization.
- Schlieps: Suggest Thompson create list of codes she wants WA rehabilitators to use; group can vet against their databases to see if codes are used across the board or can be added. Mandate electronic reports for 2020.

Working Group Reports

- Outreach WG: (Teitzel) Have not met yet, will meet on Tues Oct 13 2020.
- Wildlife Services WG: (Meredith) Approved charter. Created two documents, WDFW regional needs and potential rehabilitation candidates. Candidates have largely been vetted already and are not good candidates for potential rehabilitators.
- Endorsement WG: (Evans) Approved charter, group met and created endorsement template and process for getting endorsement.
- Bye: Efficient to work over email for document sharing and feedback from the panel once WGs are ready to share information.
- Meredith: May be able to share documents by Jan 9 meeting date. Evans: Won't have endorsement ready but might have other pieces ready. Teitzel: Won't have everything ready but

will have something ready to share. Need more guidance from department on expectations and deliverables.

Enforcement Discussion revisit

- Schlieps: Great deal of concern re: Caney with various animals in possession. Likely to continue and result in a public safety issue or injury which may open the department up to lawsuit/ bad press since they are not enforcing their own regulations. What can be done to prevent this now?
- Thompson: On enforcement radar. Kim Chandlers is following up with Isis Caney and Dylan.
- West: There is probable cause on Facebook. Why is the department not removing these animals? Sammamish Marketplace has been directing people to go to Isis, can WDFW reach out to people who moderate the page? Platform is essentially advertising illegal activity. This is happening in “our backyard”, in Sammamish.
- Moran: From an observer, if animals are being abused it should rise to top of enforcement priority list rapidly. How are they making decisions re: releasability and release site? Asked if there were standard release criteria. Group discussed resources for release criteria.

Vice-chair position

- Schlieps: Large role for Chair and Vice-chair. What is the process for WRAP to have new Vice-chair?
- Teitzel: Willing to be Chair, has time she can commit to it now.
- Bye: Willing to support as needed/happy to assist. Suggest giving time to consider and vote over email prior to next meeting.
- Group consensus to wait for a few days and decide virtually on Vice-chair.

Next meeting dates 2021: Jan 9, April 10, July 10, Oct 9 (every second Saturday quarterly)

Meeting adjourned 13:45 pm

ACTION ITEMS

- WDFW contact moderators of Sammamish Marketplace group to request they no longer refer people to Isis Caney or other members of the public for rehabilitation care. Provide resources for rehabilitators in area.
- WDFW provide guidance from department on working group expectations and deliverables.