

**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION ADVISORY PANEL
MEETING MINUTES – August 8, 2020
Teams Virtual Meeting**

WDFW Staff Present:

Patricia Thompson – WRAP Contact
Hannah Anderson

WRAP members Present:

Alysha Evans
Irene Holmes
Jenny Schlieps
Suzanne West
Lynn Tompkins

Jasmine Fletcher Glaze,
Alicia Bye
Craig Moran
Emily Meredith,
Jennifer Teitzel

Not Present:

Nicky Finch
Amy Hanson
Sonnya Wilkins
Cindy Daly

Agenda Review:

August 8, 2020 meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

COVID 19 Check-in:

- Jasmine – Has 19 skunks, 2 minks and a new fawn. Currently closed due to quarantine.
- Craig – Currently on pandemic vacation due to schools being closed.
- Alicia Bye – Caring for the same number of patients as last year but without the benefit of volunteers. Finances are OK for now but future is concerning due to change in fundraising opportunities. Parking lot intakes are working well for those transporting and staff.
- Alysha Evans – Able to use 4 volunteers/interns instead of the normal 14 during this rough transition. 300 more intakes than normal. Finances are ok for now. Fall is concerning due to the unknown. Parking lot intakes are working well. Alysha will be leaving on maternity leave in two weeks.
- Suzanne – Reporting the same as Alicia and Alysha. Information is being taken over the phone to minimize contact. Patient load is up 15% but only able to utilize half of the volunteers. They are hoping to bring back more volunteers soon.
- Lynn – Volunteers are available for transporting only. No interns are being utilized this summer. Numbers are up 8 to 9% from last year. Same financial situation as other facilities.
- Irene – Facility is inundated with opossums, squirrels and cottontails. Lots of time spent educating others.
- Emily – Reports to be in the same situation as the others. Reduced number of volunteers and interns. Calls are up 100%. Using education techniques to try to rehome/reunite when possible. The walk up window has been helpful. One half works on one shift and the other half works on the alternate shift.
- Jenny – The Pandemic Plan waived the border crossing quarantine requirement. Also reports minimum staff.
- Jennifer – Due to changing jobs and COVID restrictions, intern opportunities have been drastically decreased. Hoping to resume normal routine in the fall.

Changes to the Minutes from the January 11, 2020 meeting:

- Services Recruitment and Path to Permit combined
- Issues with the lack of ramifications for those who are illegally keeping wildlife. Alysha would like clarification on what Law Enforcement is able to do with their resources and time to support wildlife rehabilitation violations
- Agree that WRAP should create a list of recommendations how enforcement could help rehab
- The members from Endorsement Group are as follows:
 - Emily
 - Jenny
 - Alicia Bye
 - Cindy
 - Suzanne
 - Irene
 - Jasmine
 - Alysha Evans – Chair
- With the changes noted, Emily moved to approve. Alicia seconded. Minutes from January 11, 2020 meeting were approved.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Group is now called the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Panel.

Charter:

- Jenny commented the purpose of the charter is unclear and wants more content for clarity.
 - Some amendments were made to the Charter
 - Suggestion that Objectives be included in the Charter

Spending Authority Decision Package – Information for WRAP:

- Dedicated Wildlife Rehabilitation funds. The Legislature gives the Department the authority to spend allotted amount. This year's decision package – we are asking for authority to spend an additional \$300,000 next biennium; \$150,000/year to advance and enhance the program. Not asking for extra but rather to spend already existing funds. This does not go out for public comment. Money cannot be spent on salaries but can be applied towards services.
- Proposed direction of funds is similar to the WRAP working groups
 - Recruitment/Presentation for those interested in career in Wildlife
 - Candidate workshop
 - Purchasing a motorhome to house interns which has been a barrier for recruitment
 - Out of state training for a wildlife rehabilitator species expert
 - Provide in-state training and workshop for Continued Education Credits
 - Specialized species enclosures
 - Transport van
- Per Hannah, criteria for new money will need to be defined in more detail as the Decision Package progresses.
- Per Suzanne, biennium grant and additional funding are not the same. Biennial grant is still in place and \$150K. WDFW determines spending for the increased authority allocation which is above and beyond grant. To get the Grant you must be licensed rehabber and not an interested intern. There is a need to vet the applicants well.
- Per Hannah, there are multiple things WDFW can invest in. There is a clear need to add training for existing rehabbers. A competitive process to access the funding for training, equipment, and new enclosures based on need is preferred. Also a clear need to train new rehabilitators.

- WAC identifies permitted rehabilitation specialists – Raptors, cervids, large carnivores; bats are identified as special species because of disease concerns.
- Per Patricia, there is a need to make it fair in allocating funding.
- Per Jenny, would like a list shared with panel on the specific things increased allocation will fund
- Per Hannah, a “draft” can be shared but understand it can change because we do not want to be locked in.
- Motorhome would be an asset but where would it be parked and how is it insured
- Per Jasmine, if a motorhome becomes available, she will be happy to park it near her and provide Cervid training for anyone interested.
- Transport van would be very helpful but insurance, drivers, getting it between rehabilitation facilities, and parking would need to be worked out.

WDFW/ODFW Migratory Bird Agreement – Information for WRAP

MOU finalized with Oregon to maintain the ability to send eastern WA raptors and songbirds to OR wildlife rehabilitation facilities just across the border. WA/OR Agreement and Requested Amendment were emailed to WRAP members.

- Only raptors and songbirds may be transferred from WA into OR rehabilitation facilities
- Waterfowl are not permitted to be transported across the border.
- Comment: Intakes can only happen at USFW permitted facilities in OR and Leslie would not have the contact info for non-bird rehabilitators.
 - Response:
 - No birds are sent to any non-Federally permitted facilities
 - Any acceptance of migratory birds into OR non-Federally permitted facilities is beyond the purview of this Agreement and WDFW.
- Infectious disease protocol must be followed.
- Comment: Notification to all rehabbers who may not be aware.
 - Response: WA/OR Agreement was sent to all Washington Rehabilitators; OR rehabilitators received the Agreement, but WA does not know exactly who or if all did
- Comment Per Jenny, One sheet from WDFW and USFWS stating how the regulations interact and implications for things such as transfer/intakes which could be attached to permit.

Auburn Humane Society – Dr Emily Purvis offered drop off/pick up site

- Per Alicia, she has a close relationship with the facility
- Per Irene, have public contact rehab directly otherwise everything gets dropped off without protocol
- Per Alysha, a network needs to be established for transport
- Per Suzanne, if euthanized or DOA, how would it be accounted for? Statistics need to be properly documented and a partnership needed for information
- Per Alicia, Patient number is needed for tracking. Staff time would be used without financial gain. We would need to define financial clarity for euthinizations and disposal fees.

Conclusion – probably would not work as a drop-off site/pick-up site.

Letter to Public Affairs to make more visible on website – tabled

- To be written by Outreach group (Jennifer, Sonnya, Craig)

Principal Vet Internship/Mentorship - tabled

- Educate on whether wildlife can be accepted/treated.
- WWRA working on this with Dr. Sonnya

- Survey to be sent

Standardized terms and Language:

Needed in order to be able to analyze and synthesize data across WA State

- Difficult to put data together due to the differences in coding and injury/disease assessments
- Example analysis question: What percentage of small mammals are injured by cat attacks. No standard code to search; some coded as cat/dog attack, some coded as cat injury, some coded as cat caught, some cbc, etc. One code has to be created in order to filter, sort, or query
 - General trauma vs extensive injuries.
 - Possible Coding with a legend on Ledger but too many codes would make it difficult
 - DOA – DIC – DIC within 24 hours – DIC after 24 hours
- Jenny has list of standardized terms that should/could be used
- Per Craig, Possibly create glossary terms or degree of commonality committee
- Changing and recoding the Ledger databases would be cumbersome.
- Per Patricia, Excel would allow you to filter and query; all rehabilitators will be required to report on Excel spreadsheet next year, however, codes and descriptions are still not standard
- Need to standardize and summarize on annual form once it is determined what is needed

Working Groups

- 1) Recruitment of New Rehabilitators & Path to Getting a Rehabilitation Permit (for those already interested)

○ Nicky	○ Alicia
○ Emily CHAIR	○ Jasmine
○ Jenny	○ Irene
○ Cindy	○ Alysha
○ Suzanne	○ Jennifer
- 2) Outreach and Public Education
 - Craig
 - Sonnya
 - **Jennifer T.** CHAIR
- 3) Endorsements and Training

○ Alysha CHAIR	○ Alicia B.
○ Jasmine	○ Cindy
○ Emily Meredith	○ Suzanne
○ Jenny S.	○ Irene

Tasks:

- Tricia will re-send spreadsheet of Regional Needs to Emily
- We need business plans for rehabilitators – Sonnya created a business plan as part of her P4W fellowship project
- Need training plans for wildlife rehabilitator candidates
- WDFW website needs streamlining – WRAP will compose a letter to WDFW webmaster/Public Affairs – Outreach and Public Education WG will write the letter
- Public needs assistance in how to navigate wildlife rescue, i.e. don't call animal shelter
- Discuss Novice or Apprentice permits for certain species
 - Take hands-on training with permitted rehabilitator; mentor off-site with permitted rehabilitator

Reports from WG breakouts – What we plan to do; resources we plan to create

Charter Work Plan – Emily

- Subcommittee
 - Recruitment and Path
 - Per Craig, Charter and work plan prepared by next meeting

Recruitment:

Recruitment remains one of the highest priorities

- How to get new members
 - Workshops on the road
 - Facebook and Instagram
 - Hands on Training – How to facilitate fellowship on beginning business

Outreach:

- Educate more effectively
 - Teach not to kidnap
 - What public could/should do
 - Resources available.

Ideas for Continued Education Credits

- WDFW Cervid Rehab Course
 - For large Carnivore
- Public relations
- Good business practices
- Professionalism

Recruitment and Path:

- Recruitment strategy
- Training options
- Species of priority
- Business Plan
- Training plan for interested party

Outreach and Education:

- Role of rehabber
- Role of public
- Resources available
 - Direct to WWRA
 - Easier path
 - List clinics/options
 - Website updates

Endorsement and Training

- Information needed for criteria; what is needed for criteria for endorsements and tests
 - Endorsement educations
 - Training templates
 - Create trainers
 - WAC – Minimum standards
 - Test to capture all details

Next meeting will be October 10th