

**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION ADVISORY PANEL  
MEETING MINUTES – November 19, 2020  
Teams Virtual Meeting**

**WDFW Staff Present:**

Patricia Thompson – WRAP Contact  
Dr. Katie Haman  
Sam Montgomery, Public Affairs

**WDFW Guest Speaker:**

Morgan Stinson, Budget Office

**WRAP members Present:**

Alysha Evans	Cindy Daily
Irene Holmes	Jasmine Fletcher Glaze
Jenny Schlieps	Alicia Bye
Suzanne West	Craig Moran
Lynn Tompkins	Emily Meredith
Nicky Finch	Jennifer Teitzel, Chairperson

**Not Present:**

Amy Hanson

**Chair Jennifer Teitzel called meeting to order at 1:02 pm**

**Nomination and election of WRAP Vice Chairperson**

Dr. Alicia Bye was nominated for Vice Chair position via email

Dr. Bye accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

**Meeting minutes approval**

WRAP members reviewed and commented on the 08/08/2020 and 10/10/2020 meeting minutes via email. No changes to the minutes were submitted during email review.

Jenny Schlieps made motion to approve 08/08/2020 minutes; motion seconded. All in favor and minutes approved.

Cindy Daily made motion to approve 10/10/2020 minutes; motion seconded. All in favor and minutes approved.

**WRAP Charter**

WRAP members reviewed WRAP Charter via email.

Cindy presented ideas and editing suggestions via email that will be considered in the final draft revision.

Jenny suggested that Tricia fill in department needs as goals and objectives and submit for WRAP review via email for approval at the January meeting.

## **Decision Package update for Wildlife Rehabilitation Account increased spending authority**

### **Presented by Guest Speaker Morgan Stinson, WDFW Budget Office**

Tricia and Hannah submitted a Decision Package (DecPac) to the Legislature for permission (spending authority) to spend an increased amount of \$300K from the Wildlife Rehabilitation account.

Morgan provided us the web site <https://abr.ofm.wa.gov/> on which all state budget requests are housed, including this one.

Morgan said that although we are in a recession and several budget items may not be approved, and WDFW was directed to submit reductions of 15% in overall budget, he is very optimistic that this DecPac will pass Legislative approval. The money is already in the Wildlife Rehabilitation account and revenue is still steadily coming in (from personalized license plates).

Because this account is wildlife rehabilitation only, we are not competing with other departments or interests.

Tricia stated that “spending authority” is like the Legislature telling us how much we are allowed to spend out of our budget. Morgan confirmed.

Tricia asked whether there is a possibility of partial approval (less money). Morgan answer that anything is possible, but he thinks that the full amount will be approved.

This is a budget proposal for the 2021-2023 biennium so we would not access the increased spending authority until at least July 1, 2021.

## **Working Group\* Reports**

### **Recruitment and Pathway to Permit**

Emily Meredith gave the report

- Emily is working through the emails sent by Tricia of those people interested in a wildlife rehabilitation permit and creating a spreadsheet of interests and needs.
- Next step is composing an email letter to all interested people asking if they still want to pursue wildlife rehabilitation.
- The working group will also compose an introduction “help” letter and decision package containing, possibly, information on wildlife rehabilitation permitting, what it takes to be a wildlife rehabilitator, and questions about the interested person’s needs.

### **Outreach and Public Education**

Jennifer Teitzel gave the report

- Jennifer is working on the Charter and has sent it out to the working group members, Craig and Lynn, for review.
- Craig and Lynn will return comments to Jennifer and the group will finalize the Charter.

### **Endorsements and Training**

Alysha Evans gave the report

- The group is working on outlining and building the training documents.
- Cervid training curriculum will be created first (there is also raptor and large carnivore).
- Alysha is delegating research subjects to each group member.

## Enforcement Report

Tricia gave the report

- Hannah has been in touch with the Region 4 Regional Wildlife Program Manager Fenner Yarborough to discuss illegal rehabilitation in that Region. Fenner indicated that enforcement was working on the Isis Caney case but did not have details. He has spoken with Capt. Anderson about the case.
- Tricia will speak with Fenner to see if there is any update.

## Group Discussion

It takes some time for Enforcement to be able to plan and execute especially if a search warrant is needed.

Isis Caney is still posting on several sites that she is a wildlife rehabilitator and is accepting wildlife for rehabilitation.

Suzanne brought up the SGN Sammamish Facebook page where there is interview with Isis. The creator's name is Nicole Steinbok whose email address is on the home page.

Tricia said she would email Nicole.

Irene told of a woman in in the Bonney Lake area claiming to be a wildlife rehabilitator, Courtney YellowWolf Graham who said she was with Kindness for Wildlife, but Mary Cunningham said she is not.

Irene asked an Enumclaw Community Page to remove her from their site and it looks like they did.

Jennifer asked about the status of For Heaven's Sake Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation because of reports of them possessing owls.

Tricia answered that they declined renewal of their wildlife rehabilitation permit but have many education owls.

~~Suzanne said there are seasonal fliers on neighborhood pages, perhaps Sam could work with us to get those posted. The Outreach and Education WG could also look into it. Department could create seasonal "fliers" and request that they be posted on neighborhood pages.~~

## Mustelids and SARS-CoV-2

Questions and Group Discussion

Alicia wondered where we are going with mustelid rehabilitation.

Jasmine's veterinarian feels that wild mustelids are not much at risk and that the rehabilitation setting is different than mink farms where animals are very crowded together.

Alysha reminded us that Katie is putting out guidelines for felids and mustelids

Tricia reminded everyone that we are having a training and discussion with all facilities on SARS-CoV-2 to form those guidelines.

Alicia said she is concerned about how the viruses mutate therefore would be cautious about transmitting to mustelids

Nicki had their first ferret testing positive for COVID at WSU and wonders if we will be testing for skunks, etc.

Tricia reported that Katie contacted the state veterinarian who would like to do testing of all mustelids and felids but did not know about skunks. He felt it was unnecessary to test bats.

Jenny suggested that the department could work on the preventative side by educating about feral cats because they could be a vector species.

Tricia explained WDFW's past Cats Indoors campaign with cooperating agencies and that, coincidentally, Chris Anderson is picking it up again with them.

Jenny would like to see Cats Indoors brought back to life and viewed more generally by the public.

### **Unpermitted individuals practicing wildlife rehabilitation**

Cindy proposed an idea for the WDFW "Finding a Wildlife Rehabilitator" web page adding a bullet point directing people to make sure to check that who they contact to take an animal is a permitted rehabilitator. This can be added to the web page soon.

### **Future WRAP meetings**

Discussion

Half-day WRAP meetings with Working Groups holding their own meetings in between was proposed.

Craig Moran made motion, seconded by Emily Meredith, for half-day regular WRAP meetings, working groups meeting separately. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Next WRAP regular meeting is January 9, 2021. Time TBD.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.**

### **\*Working Groups**

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

- Nicky
- **Emily** CHAIR
- Jenny
- Cindy
- Suzanne
- Alicia B.
- Jasmine
- Irene
- Alysha E.
- Jennifer

2) Outreach and Public Education

- Craig
- Lynn
- **Jennifer T.** CHAIR

3) Endorsements and Training

- **Alysha E.** CHAIR
- Jasmine
- Emily Meredith
- Jenny S.
- Alicia B.
- Cindy
- Suzanne
- Irene

~~○ Take hands-on training with permitted rehabilitator; mentor off-site with permitted rehabilitator~~

