



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

December 14-16, 2023 – Webinar Minutes

Attendance

Commission

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice chair
Lorna Smith
Tim Ragen
John Lehmkuhl
Jim Anderson
Melanie Rowland
Steve Parker
Woody Myers

Staff

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Tami Lininger
Nate Pamplin
Margen Carlson
Cynthia Wilkerson
Karen Edwards
Lisa Coffman
Chris Donley
Jeff Burnham

Kelly Cunningham
Edward Eleazer
Bill Baker
James Losee
Kyle Adicks
Kyle Spragens
Eric Gardner
Anis Aoude
Wendy Connally
Fenner Yarborough
Jim Brown

Friday, December 15, 2023

1. Call to Order

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and announced that we would be moving the meeting minute approvals to the end of the meeting.

Commissioner's Discussion:

Commissioners Anderson and Linville shared their experience attending the WAFW Meeting in Nevada the end of November.

Committee Meeting Updates:

Fish Committee

Committee members in attendance: Anderson, Linville, Ragen, Parker.

Chair Anderson shared that staff briefed the committee discussed Lake Roosevelt Sturgeon, Coastal Steelhead, the North of Falcon policy, and the Whatcom Lake. They also discussed the next several months and timing of upcoming meetings.

Habitat Committee

Committee members in attendance: Linville, Lehmkuhl, Ragen, Myers

Staff presented information on the upcoming land transaction regarding Chapman Lake in Region 1 and gave an overview of the Lands 20/20 process and projects. Margen discussed three topics that will be added to the YAG:

- Overview of the Growth Management Act comprehensive plan
- Mapping of riparian ecosystems
- Update on the Net Ecological Gain legislative proviso

Wildlife Committee

Committee members in attendance: Smith, Anderson, Rowland, Myers

Several Commissioners attended the meeting. Staff provided a presentation on the SWAP and the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and then a presentation on Sea Ducks. Anis Aoude went over the GMP planning process and timeline. There was some discussion about pulling back some items that were delegated to the Director in Table 1 but that decision was tabled at this time.

Big Tent Committee

The Committee members in attendance: Baker, Parker, Lehmkuhl, Smith

Several of the Commissioners attended the Big Tent Committee. Chair Baker and Nate Pamplin shared information on the edits received and shared the updated policy. The Committee presented the updated draft to the full Commission on Friday. There was a discussion on how to handle public comments when there are far more than what time allows. It was decided that for Fridays meeting each presenter would be allowed 2 minutes and the Commission would stick to the 90-minute time allowed on the agenda in order to complete the other items. Chari Baker also mentioned some upcoming items she would like to see discussed:

- How the committee could take a deeper dive into budget and legislation
- Recreational use of lands, it was suggested that this be covered in the Habitat Committee.

2. Open Public Input

Please see the attached list of commenters. To listen to the audio please visit our webpage.

3. Director's Report

The Director briefed the Commission on meetings he's participated in over the last month. He also shared that the Governor's budget came out and it is very good news for the agency. He also briefly discussed the announcement of the Biden Administration's commitment to partnering with the Six Sovereigns on actions that address the urgency of the salmon, climate, energy, and Tribal justice crises facing the Columbia River Basin.

4. Land Transaction– Briefing, Public Hearing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a land transaction regarding Chapman Lake in Region 1.

The following person provided comments: Dan Wilson

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion to approve the land transaction as presented, Commissioner Ragen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Lands 20/20 – Briefing

Staff briefed the Commission on the process for the Lands 20/20 projects and provided an overview of 20 properties under consideration and shared the summary of public comments.

6. Black Bear Timber Damage – Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on amendments to WAC 220-440-210; Wildlife management and wildlife interactions, Black bear timber depredation permits and asked for approval.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the amendments as presented, Commissioner Linville seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6 to 3 vote.

Commissioners asked that staff come back next year and provide a report on how this is going.

7. North of Falcon Policy (C-3608) – Briefing, Public Comment

Staff briefed the Commission on the North of Falcon policy and heard further comments.

The following people provided comments: George Harris, Heath Heikkila, Pat Pattillo, David Moskowitz, and Robert Sudar

8. Petition: Amend the Fishing Season for Deer Lake – Briefing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a petition to amend the fishing season for Deer Lake.

Commissioner Linville made a motion to accept the petition and begin rulemaking, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

9. Petition: Begin Rulemaking for the Return of Recreational Spring Bear Hunting Seasons – Briefing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a petition to begin rulemaking for the return of the Washington State Spring Black Bear hunting season.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to deny the petition, Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

10. Petition: Black Bear and Cougar Rulemaking – Briefing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a petition to amend bear and cougar general season rules for WACs 220-415-100, 220-400-050, and 220-415-090.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the petition before us related to bear and cougar management and season setting. The Commission will work with staff, to decide on what elements of the petition would be included in the proposed rules and the timing for those rules. Commissioner Ragen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 2 vote.

Chair Baker recessed the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

11. Open Public Input

Please see the attached list of commenters. To listen to the audio please visit our webpage.

12. Rules of Procedure Update and Review – Decision

Staff presented the latest edits to the Rules of Procedure document. Commissioners made a couple edits and then voted to accept the document. Revisions will be dealt with as they come up.

13. Chair and Vice-chair Elections – Decision

Chair Baker was nominated and selected as Chair. Vice-chair Linville was nominated and Commissioner Ragen self-nominated for the vice-chair role. With a vote of 5 to 4 Commissioner Ragen was selected as the new vice-chair.

14. Selection of new Executive Assistant – Decision

The Commission selected Jamie Caldwell as their new Executive Assistant. The salary was set at \$87,000 and her start date is February 1, 2024.

15. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

Deputy Director Windrope reviewed the tasks from the meeting.

Meeting Minutes Approvals:

Commission Lehmkuhl made a motion to approve the following minutes, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

March 21, 2023 – Hatchery Workshop
June 9, 2023 – Hatchery Workshop
September 8, 2023 – Hatchery Workshop
October 26-28, 2023 – Hybrid Meeting, Olympia
December 7, 2023 – Carnivore Science Panel
December 8, 2023 – Hatchery Workshop

Several items will be added to the year at a glance.

16. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), the Commission will meet in executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 2:06 p.m.



Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant