



**Minutes**  
**Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting**  
January 8-10, 2015

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**January 8, 2015 – Special Meeting**

**1. Commission Discussion – Department Selection Procedure**

The Commission met to discuss the procedure for further considering the applications for the Director position. A vote was taken to identify candidates that the Commission was interested in continuing to consider. All applicants were referred to by label to maintain confidentiality as agreed to with all applicants. Four finalists were included in the list of candidates for further consideration. The Commission did not take final hiring action today.

**2. Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), the Commission met in executive session to evaluate the qualifications of the four finalists and pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency open government legal issues related to the Commission's selection of a new Director. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to listen to the executive session.

The Commission reconvened in open session at 3:20 pm. The Chair then adjourned the meeting.

**January 9-10, 2015 Regular Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Commission:**

Miranda Wecker, Chair  
Brad Smith, Vice Chair  
Conrad Mahnken  
Jay Kehne  
Jay Holzmilller  
Bob Kehoe  
Rollie Schmitten  
Larry Carpenter

**Commission Staff:**

Tami Lininger

**Guest:**

JT Austin

**Department Staff:**

Phil Anderson, Director  
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director  
William Frymire, AGO  
Joe Shorin, AGO  
Nate Pamplin  
Josh Nicholas  
Ron Warren  
Eric Gardner  
Lynn Helbrecht  
Guy Norman  
Robin Ehlke  
Charmane Ashbrook  
John Whalen  
Irene Goldenberger

Steve Thiesfeld  
Craig Burley  
Chris Donley  
Jeff Korth  
John Easterbrooks  
John Weinheimer  
Brad James  
Ron Roler  
Jim Scott  
Cindy LeFleur  
Kirt Hughes  
Julie Henning  
Greg Schirato  
Jeff Davis

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**Public:**

|                |                        |                    |                     |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Dennis Karras  | Terry Turner           | Bruce McCloskey    | Linda Saunders      |
| Greg Mueller   | Kent Martin            | Carl Burke         | Samuel Roder        |
| Liz Hamilton   | Frank Haw              | Butch Smith        | Steve Mathews       |
| Ralph Grossman | Marlisa Williams Dugan | Bruce Crookshanks  | Jerry Lowe          |
| David Knutzen  | Heath Heikkila         | Greg Johnson       | Tim Buckendahl      |
| Bryce Divine   | Paul Cox               | Art Holman         | Ron Schoeitzer      |
| Tim Hamilton   | Ross Barkhurst         | Lance Gray         | Warren Wessling     |
| John Campbell  | Francis Estalilla      | Dale Scott         | Diane Gallegos      |
| Harriett Allen | Patt Poinsett          | Brian Kramer       | Wendy Spencer       |
| Bob Lake       | Dave Hamilton          | G.W. Bill Osborn   | Martha Jordan       |
| Michelle Teed  | Bob Mulhauser          | Jack Hollingsworth | Allan Hollingsworth |
| Steve Gray     | Steve Boerner          | Greg McMillan      | Jeremy Payne        |
| Kouichi Armga  | Evan Furrer            | Vern Forsberg      | Heath Heikkila      |
| Robert Sudar   |                        |                    |                     |

**Friday, January 9, 2105**

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

**3. Call to Order**

**a. Commissioners' Discussion:**

- Commissioner Smith – ADA Committee regional activities and vacant Region 2 seat

**b. Meeting Minute Approval**

- December 11-13, 2014 – meeting

**Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten to approve the minutes from the December 11-13, 2014 conference call as presented. Motion passed.**

**4. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Terry Turner – Sturgeon

**5. Director's Report**

The Director and Deputy Director briefed the Commission on the following items:

- Holiday Break
- Fee Bill Update
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan Update
- Stemilt Lease/Purchase
- HGMP Update
- Federal Budget/Mitchell Act Hatchery Impacts
- Cougar Management
- Enforcement Command Staff Summit

- Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan
- NOF Team
- New Game Division Manager – Mick Cope
- Wolf Management Update
- Partnerships
- Governor’s Budget
- Discover Pass

## **6. Statewide Wildlife Action Plan Revision Process - Briefing**

Eric Gardner, Diversity Division Manager and Lynn Helbrecht, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator briefed the Commission on the beginning stages of the State Wildlife Action Plan revision process. The briefing provided an overview of the key elements of the Plan and highlighted opportunities for stakeholder and public engagement.

## **7. 2015 - 16 Sportfishing Regulation Proposals – Decision**

Regional Fish Program Managers requested adoption of the Sportfishing rules and regulations for the 2015-16 season.

**Commissioner Mahnken moved to adopt the proposed permanent amendments to: WAC 220-56-105 River mouth definitions, WAC 220-56-210 Fly fishing, WAC 220-55-220 Two-pole endorsement, WAC 220-56-282 Sturgeon—Areas, seasons, limits and unlawful acts, WAC 220-56-510 Gamefish possession limits and size limits, WAC 220-310-175 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—General, WAC 220-310-185 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Southwest, WAC 220-310-195 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Eastside, WAC 220-310-200 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Columbia, as presented by staff; it was seconded by Commissioner Schmitten.**

**Commissioner Holzmilller moved to amend the main motion to adopt Option 3 for the Grande Ronde River (Asotin County) - as stated in Option 3 with mandatory steelhead retention of up to 3 hatchery (adipose clipped) fish through January 1 through April 15 for both management zones (mouth to State line) the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahnken. The amendment was approved.**

**A vote was called on the main motion as amended and it passed.**

## **8. ALEA Grant Program Overview and Proposal to Offer Grants once per Biennium – Decision**

Josh Nicholas, ALEA Grants Manager, requested approval from the Commission for a modification to the application submittal requirement for ALEA grants from an annual to a biennial timeframe

**Commissioner Smith moved to approve the proposed change as requested and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitten. All were in favor, so the motion carried.**

**9. 2015 – 16 North of Falcon Policy C-3608 – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Ron Warren, Deputy Assistant Director for Intergovernmental Salmon Management provided a briefing of the Commission’s North of Falcon Policy C-3608 and proposed modifications for the Commission’s consideration of a January, 2015 through December, 2016 policy.

The following people provided public testimony:

David Knutzen

**10. Review of the Columbia River Fishery Management Policy C-3620 – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Guy Norman, Region 5 Director, Ron Roler, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, and Robin Ehlke, Assistant Columbia River Policy Coordinator provided the Commission with an annual briefing required in policy C-3620 to review the past season's fisheries on the Columbia River.

The following people provided public testimony:

|               |              |                   |                |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Steve Mathews | Jerry Lowe   | Bruce Crookshanks | Vern Forsberg  |
| Kent Martin   | Greg Johnson | Bryce Divine      | Tim Buckendahl |
| Robert Sudar  | Liz Hamilton | Heath Heikkila    |                |

**11. Columbia River Commercial Catch Area Amendments - Briefing and Public Hearing**

Ron Roler, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, briefed the Commission on the proposed designation of new commercial catch areas to aid in management of existing and emergent commercial fishing opportunities in the Columbia River.

The following people provided public testimony:

Kent Martin

**12. Lower Columbia River Sturgeon - Briefing and Public Hearing**

Cindy LeFleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager and Brad James, Fish and Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on issues associated with lower Columbia River sturgeon management and discussed options for management in 2015.

The following people provided public testimony:

|              |              |              |             |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Kent Martin  | Greg Johnson | Robert Sudar | Butch Smith |
| Terry Turner |              |              |             |

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

**13. Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), the Commission met in executive session to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment and pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency legal issues related to the Commission’s selection of a new Director.

No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to listen to the executive session.

**14. Department Director Selection - Decision**

After each Commissioner discussed the qualifications and personal traits most critical to the position of Director, a motion was made by Commissioner Mahnken and seconded by Commissioner Smith to select Dr. Jim Unsworth, presently Deputy Director of Idaho's Department of Fish and Game, as the next Director of Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife. All Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioners then expressed their enormous appreciation for the outstanding work of outgoing Department Director, Phil Anderson.

**15. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:  
Representative Shelly Short – Wolf Management  
Martha Jordan – Johnson Debay Swan Reserve status  
Allan Hollingsworth – Grays Harbor Policy

**16. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Fish Program Manager briefed the Commission on Willapa Bay Salmon Management challenges, described the public process, and asked for additional guidance on management options to be considered in the draft policy. The Commission reviewed the draft policy and provided its consent to public dissemination of the draft. The Commission also directed staff to take as much time as needed to develop the Policy.

The following person signed up to provide public input on this topic:

|                     |                    |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bob Lake            | Jack Hollingsworth | Art Holman        |
| Allan Hollingsworth | Tim Hamilton       | Ross Barkhurst    |
| Jerry Lowe          | Steve Gray         | Lance Gray        |
| Greg McMillan       | Brian Kramer       | Francis Estalilla |

**17. Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair - Decision**

Pursuant to RCW 77.040.060, the Commission elected a new chair and vice chair.

**Commissioner Mahnken moved to appoint Brad Smith as Chair and Larry Carpenter as Vice Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Commission, seconded by Commissioner Schmitt. Motion passed**

**18. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**

The Commissioners and Director expressed their deep appreciation and thanked Commissioner Schmitt for his dedication and loyalty to fish, wildlife and conservation in Washington.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

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Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant