



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
August 7-8, 2015

August 7-8, 2015 Regular Meeting

Attendance

Commission:

Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair
Miranda Wecker
Connie Mahnken
Bob Kehoe
Jay Holzmilller
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn
Jay Kehne

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Jim Scott
Steve Thiesfeld
Annette Hoffmann
Erik Neatherlin
Ken Warheit
Kelly Cunningham
Brian Missildine
Christina Iverson

Michele Culver
Lorna Wargo
Owen Rowe
Tim Burns
Ann Larson
Don Kraege

Guests

Michael Schmidt
Barry Berejikiam
Paul Hershberger

Public:

Greg Mueller
Gail Gatton
Howard Wilson
Ben Welton
Louis Farrar

Steve Fransen
Jennifer Syrowitz
Elizabeth Ruther
Bobbie Thorniley
Barry Howard

Linda Saunders
Rob McCoy
Jim Goldsmith
Kurt Snyder
Jay Gordon

Jacques White
Jake Weise
Richard Lapinski
Steve Gray

Friday, August 7, 2105

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

- Chair Smith – Reef Net Gear – Lummi Island
- Commissioner Thorburn – Steelhead fishing in lakes
- Commissioner Kehne – Update on Range Rider Training
- Commissioner Holzmilller – Great job of land management
- Commissioner Wecker – Drought updates

b. Meeting Minute Approval

June 12-13, 2015 – regular meeting

Vice-Chair Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to approve the minutes from the June 12-13, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Steve Pedersen – Bears

Ken Miller – Bears

Howard Wilson – Bears

Wayne Cline – Occupy Skagit

Jack Field – Cougar harvest, wolves and WAG

Dave Duncan – Cougar harvest

Bill Sieverkropp – Cougar harvest

Rob McCoy – Cougar harvest

Jake Weise – Cougar harvest

Elizabeth Ruther – Spotted owl and marbled murrelet

Jim Goldsmith – Cougar harvest

Richard Lapinski – Cougar harvest

Steve Fransen – Skagit steelhead

3. Director's Report

The Director provided a briefing to the Commission, some of the items included:

- Drought update
- Hatchery update
- Wolves – Nate Pamplin
- NOF process
- Upcoming listening sessions with the public – How can WDFW do a better job

4. Statewide Steelhead Management - Briefing

Jim Scott, Special Assistant, Annette Hoffmann, Region 4 Fish Program Manager, and Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Fish Program Manager provided the Commission with a briefing on the implementation of the Statewide Steelhead Management Plan.

Item 6 was presented before item 5

6. Salish Sea Program Review of Marine Survival of Salmon – Briefing

Erik Neatherlin, Fish Science Manager, Michael Schmidt, Program Director, Long Live the Kings, Barry Berejikian, Research Scientist & Behavioral Ecology Team Leader, NOAA Fisheries, Paul Hershberger, Research Scientist & Field Station Leader, USGS and Ken Warheit, Genetics Lab Director, Fish Program, provided a briefing on the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project.

5. Commission Overview of Steelhead At-Risk Report – Briefing

Erik Neathelin, Fish Science Manager provided an overview of the Steelhead At-Risk Report including which populations are most at risk, regional threats, and key management strategies and actions to address the threats.

7. Hatchery Reform Implementation – Briefing

Kelly Cunningham, Deputy Assistant Director, Brian Missildine, HEAT Lead Natural Resource Scientist and Christina Iverson, HEAT Natural Resource Scientist provided a briefing on the progress of implementing statewide hatchery reform in compliance with standards set by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group.

8. Coastal Pelagic Commercial Fisheries – Briefing

Michele Culver, Regional Director and Lorna Wargo, Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Manager briefed the Commission on the status of current populations and fisheries for Coastal Pelagic Species.

9. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

This item was removed from the agenda

10. Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Update – Briefing

This item was postponed until a future meeting.

11. 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget Request – Briefing

Owen Rowe, Budget Officer briefed the Commission on the agency's proposed supplemental operating budget requests.

12. Capital Budget Request – Briefing

Tim Burns, Assistant Director, Capital and Asset Management Program, provided a summary on the FY2015 - 17 Capital Budget.

13. 2016 Legislative Proposals – Briefing

Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison briefed the Commission on the agency's 2016 legislative proposals.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Saturday, August 8, 2015

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

Commissioner Kehoe was absent from the meeting on Saturday

14. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bobbie Thorniley – Cougar harvest

Steve Gray – Tangle net fishing

15. Migratory Waterfowl Seasons - Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Don Kraege, Waterfowl Section Manager provided a briefing and requested Commission action on the Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations.

The following people provided public testimony on this item:

Ben Welton

Kurt Snyder

Steve Gray

Louis Farrar

Jay Gordon

Commissioner Carpenter moved to amend WAC 232-28-436 2015-16 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations, and WAC 232-12-289 Official hunting hours for game birds – Migratory game birds, upland birds, and wild turkeys, as proposed with floor changes, and repeal WAC 232-16-790, Hayton Game Reserve; the motion was

seconded by Commissioner Wecker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

16. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioners Wecker and Mahnken requested that the December meeting be moved to the Port Townsend area.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant