



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Conference Call
Friday, March 02, 2018
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:
Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair
Kim Thorburn
Dave Graybill
Don McIsaac
Barbara Baker
Bob Kehoe
Jay Kehne

Department Staff:
Joe Stohr, Acting Director
Ron Warren
Craig Burley
Chris Donley
Bill Baker
Bruce Botka

Commission Staff:
Tami Lininger

Friday, March 02, 2018

Vice Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Petitions – Change opening fishing day on Waitts Lake - Decision

The Commission will be briefed and consider petitions filed regarding changing the opening day of fishing season on Waitts Lake.

Commissioner Thorburn moved to deny the petition, Commissioner Smith seconded.

Commissioner Thorburn provided the following reasons for the denial:

1. There was a thorough process followed during the rule simplification process, including extensive public outreach;
2. No public comments opposing the Waitts Lake rule change were received during the rule simplification process;
3. There is no actual harm to the petitioners – Petitioners claim of harm is speculative. Commission does not believe that anglers will cease using the lake during late April because of the rule change
4. Staff will continue to creel survey on opening day, last Saturday in April, comparing current angler use to past creel surveys to understand if there is a reduction in angler participation. Staff will alert the Commission if there is a measurable change in angler participation that could be construed as affecting resort business/revenue.

The Commission did ask staff to work with the petitioners on assisting to create a successful "opening day" effect, to the extent possible. In addition, they requested that the impacts of the change be monitored.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

B. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission will consider approval of the following minutes:

- February 16 conference call

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Graybill seconded the motion. Commissioners Smith and Kehne abstained. All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. General Discussion

- Discussion of the March 15-17, 2018 agenda
- Director recruitment update
- Diversity Committee update
- Eastern Washington Regional visits

Vice Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant