

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary

Friday, December 11, 2020

Start time: 9:00 A.M.

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

Northwest Annex Portable Conference Room

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA



QUORUM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Members Present		Public Present
Frank Bob	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sunshine Wilkinson
Greg Green		Analiese Burns
Robert Waddell		
Joel Ingram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Kazimer		
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Dearborn
Trevor Delgado		Kelly Chamberlain
Barry Wenger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin Page

1. Barry Wenger opened the meeting at 9:07
2. Barry asked for any public comments
  - a. Analiese Burns informed the Committee of a Wildlife Corridor Analysis being conducted by City of Bellingham and asked if the members would be willing to provide comments
  - b. City of Bellingham will be modeling corridors and will need to select three species to model
    - i. She would like to distribute information to Committee members once the species are selected for comments – the City would need to know where the primary corridors are located in the city
3. Barry asked for any agenda comments – none.
4. Barry asked for introductions since there are guest speakers present today
  - a. Sunshine Wilkinson teaches Culture and Language at Lummi Middle School and will be presenting to the Committee
5. Barry opened the floor for discussion on Cultural/Spiritual importance as it relates to the Species of Local Importance List

- a. Frank Bob noted that all aspects of Elk behavior are impacted by recreational uses of their habitat. The Elliot Point Treaty members recently met to discuss these impacts within the state and are developing a task force to address their plans.
    - i. Additionally, Frank stated there is a lack of reports and studies of the recreational impacts on wildlife in Western Washington
  - b. Barry mentioned identifying locations of plant species for use by the Committee
    - i. Amy Dearborn noted such a list would be valuable but that identifying the *types* of habitat instead of specifying their locations is more effective for regulation so they may be identified when encountered in the field
    - ii. Shannon Crossen stated she believes the Committee should focus all their efforts at this time on completing the Species of Local Importance List before discussing other methodology
    - iii. Sunshine noted that she has an existing list of plants she is willing to share
      - 1. Analiese asked if Sunshine's list is specific to plants found in Lummi Nation – Sunshine noted it addresses plants found in all tribes covered under the Point Elliot Treaty
  - c. Sunshine noted the Point Elliot Treaty is meant to be a very powerful document and is older than Washington State itself, which is why the tribes depend on its protections so much more than comparable Federal protections
    - i. Sunshine also expressed to the Committee that many spiritually important meanings from the tribes cannot be publically discussed – further, there are gathering places and sacred leaving places that are meant not to be disturbed where trees are being felled or cleared for logging altogether.
  - d. Frank noted that the tribes have been working with the Department of Natural Resources for 3 years on similar issues but that the Cultural Resources section of the FPA is still considered “optional”
6. Joel Ingram presented his species review on Fish
- a. Longfin Smelt have a cultural component with the Lummi and Nooksack tribes
    - i. Neither Smelt or Nooksack Dace are being considered for official inclusion on the Species of Local Importance list but instead for the Watch List due to the limited information available
    - ii. Joel has been communicating with the Northwest Indian College regarding their research on Longfin Smelt
  - b. Joel informed the Committee there is not a lot of Washington State data available on Salish Suckers or Nooksack Dace, but Dace are being threatened by loss of habitat
    - i. Dace would be forced into habitats already occupied by other, predatory species
  - c. The Salish Sucker is found in low-flow areas like wetlands and ponds and is threatened by low dissolved-oxygen levels and invasion of non-native vegetation which commonly absorb the available oxygen in their habitat (Reed Canary Grass for example)

- i. Analiese and Amy noted the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County may be interested in a habitat survey
  - d. Analiese asked about Western Lamprey – Joel responded he was not able to find much research, Analiese recommended reaching out to Lummi Nation in case they have research or information related to cultural significance
  - e. Shannon reminded the Committee that they still have not agreed on a solid methodology for officially assigning species to the Importance List or the Watch List
7. Vikki Jackson noted an error in the meeting minutes from November, but moved to approve as amended
  - a. Stephen Nyman seconded
  - b. November minutes approved as amended
8. Stephen argued the Watch List being drafted alongside the Species List should be presented to Council with it as well to indicate that the species under “watch” also require attention
  - a. Amy indicated the list as-is is still vague and asked if anyone would volunteer to write a protocol for the Species List or draft a methodology for the Watch List
    - i. Vikki volunteered
    - ii. Ryan Ericson presents to Council at the end of February – so the Committee will plan to draft the list in January and finalize in February
  - b. Stephen noted the Rubber Boa from his existing review should probably belong on the Watch List instead of the official Species List
9. Shannon will have a review of some invertebrates at the January meeting.
10. Joel asked the Committee to provide comments on his fish species review
  - a. Amy noted she intends to combine the reviews cohesively for the February meeting and there will be an opportunity for comments
11. Meeting closed at 10:45