

**Wildlife Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary APPROVED
November 4, 2015**

Start Time: 10:00am

Location: Whatcom County Northwest Annex

Attendees – Members	Present
Bob, Frank*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Harris, Wendy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ingram, Joel*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jackson, Vikki*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kazimer, Chris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
McLaughlin, John*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ochiogrosso, Guy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wenger, Barry*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Williams, Michael*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Woodcock, Paul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yarborough, Fenner*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* indicates Technical sub-committee member

Quorum Present	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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Attendees - Staff	Present	Attendees - Staff	Present
Elder, Chris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cliff Strong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Personius	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Others Present		
Gregg Dunphy		

Announcements/Public Comment/Agenda Review

Welcome and congratulations to committee members.

Committee reviewed the agenda with no comments

No comments were received from the public.

Committee Business

Staff and committee members introduce themselves

- Chris Elder, Planner I with Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
- Vikki Jackson, Partner with NW Ecological Services an ecological consulting firm, Project Manager with Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Project, Board member with the Wildlife Conservation Trust, Masters in Biology and Teachers Education from WWU, experience with botany, avian studies, amphibian studies, non-fish wildlife, lived in Whatcom for 30+ years
- Guy Ochiogrosso, CEO of Bellingham/Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce, limited technical experience with wildlife
- Fenner Yarborough, Biologist with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for District 14 which includes all of Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Masters in Field Biology, has worked with megafauna, songbirds, spotted frogs, terrestrial wildlife
- Mike Williams, retired, previous consultant experience in environmental analysis for public sector projects, Ph.D in Botany and Plant Ecology from UW, director of field stations UC Berkeley and UC Santa Barbara, worked on growth management ordinances,
- Chris Kazimer, general contractor in Whatcom County, founder of Cascadia Naturalist Association, works on eco-literacy/wildlife/habitat, Whatcom Land Trust land steward, Master Hunter with Washington Department Fish and Wildlife
- Paul Woodcock, retired from WTA, degree from Huxley in Environmental Education, serves on North Cascades Audobon Society, generalist background with focus on birds, also serves of Whatcom County Parks Commission
- Barry Wenger, retired Washington Department of Ecology, lead the effort for Shoreline Management Program updates, environmental planner for 40+ years, president of Re-Resources for Sustainable Communities, Board member of Wildlife Conservation Trust,
- Frank E. Bob, member of the Lummi Nation, lifetime resident of Whatcom County, employee with Lummi Business Council for 20 years, worked in habitat restoration primarily in upper Nooksack watershed basin, currently works as Lummi natural resource policy representative, working on wildlife management related issues, damage control, etc., served on Whatcom Conservation District Board of Supervisors
- Gregg Dunphy, works with Lummi Nation, timber, fish, wildlife, forest & fish manager,
- Joel Ingram, works with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat biologist for WRIA 1, works with most of Whatcom County, does permit related work for water related projects, works in forest practice arena, critical areas, river & flood, most of work product in fish related projects, familiar with PHS program
- John McLaughlin, wildlife ecologist and population biologist, professor at WWU, wildlife research, has worked with butterflies, amphibians/reptiles, forest carnivores, Ph.D Biological Science Population Biology
- Mark Personius, Assistant Director, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
- Wendy Harris, retired federal attorney, previously served on Futurewise Whatcom board, citizen member of Critical Areas Ordinance committee, active participant in county/city public planning process, served on volunteer committee for the state RCO urban wildlife grant program and on Whatcom County Planning Commission ad hoc committee on the Birch Bay In Lieu of Fee off-site habitat committee

All committee members watched the Open Public Meetings Act training

Discussion of Wildlife and WAC related topics

Other tribes from the Point Elliot Treaty should be made aware of the committee's activities, staff will work with Mr. Bob to determine best way to do this

Tribes from Point Elliot Treaty meet 3 to 4 times per year to discuss elk herd management, and other wildlife management strategies/issues

Northwest Indian Fish Commission is in constant contact with all tribes in the state.

Review DRAFT Business Rules and Procedures

Draft business rules and procedures provided were modified from Agricultural Advisory Committee Business Rules and Procedures, discussion of inclusion of reference of Robert's Rules.

Is it a possibility for alternates to participate and vote if a committee member is unable to attend?

Committee discusses business rules and procedures to understand what is or isn't required, Committee members offer recommended changes

Discussion of what constitutes quorum, committee agreed upon majority of total committee membership (6 out of 11) must vote in favor of a motion in order to carry

Discussion of when/how public can comment during committee meetings outside of initial public comment period. It was discussed that the chairperson, at his or her discretion, may call on a member of the public at any point during the committee meeting.

Review Ordinance 2015-031 to better understand committee work product and discuss how committee will go about fulfilling the tasks laid out in the ordinance. Discussion of what studies/activities/reports already exists in the County, challenges associated with characterization studies, etc.

Welcome and discussion from Councilmember Barry Buchanan. Councilmember Buchanan offered his thanks for committee members and looked forward to hearing from the committee as they work on the Existing Ecosystem Report.

Welcome and discussion from Councilmember Rud Browne. Councilmember Browne engaged the committee members on the work of the committee.

Discussion continues on how the Existing Ecosystem Report will benefit Council and Whatcom County, discussion of reasonable outcomes for the committee.

Wendy Harris brought up legal responsibility especially with regards to the Growth Management Act and local governments' requirement to protect ecosystem values. Discussion of GMA and planning for growth occurred and Ms. Harris noted the requirement to adhere to Critical Areas ordinance and the responsibility to protect ecosystem services and functions first.

Discussion of difference between full committee and technical sub-committee. Wendy Harris requested being allowed to join the Technical Sub-Committee. Staff explained that Council had already made those selections and that the committee does not have the power to appoint additional technical sub-committee members. Committee members discussed technical qualifications that could explain difference between technical and regular committee members.

Set Technical Advisory sub-committee meeting date.

End time: 12:15pm

Next meeting: Technical sub-committee will meet on Wednesday, November 18, 10:00am – 12:00pm at Northwest Annex. Next full committee meeting to be determined.