

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes

Friday, April 29, 2016

Start time 1:05 pm

Northwest Annex Conference Room

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services Department

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA 98226

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 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"/>

<b>Quorum Present</b>	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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Others Present</b>			
Holly (Whatcom Chamber of Commerce Intern)			

Welcome, public comments, announcements & agenda review

Chairperson Mike Williams opened the meeting at 1:05pm and called for public comments. No members of the public were present at this point.

No announcements were made.

Agenda was reviewed with additions requested under New Business to also include

- Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Plan consistency with wildlife planning and wildlife corridors.
- Discussion of fencing of critical areas and riparian buffers
- Discussion of species of local importance

- Data gaps in wildlife planning
- Buffer intrusions

#### OLD BUSINESS (30 minutes)

Review and discussion of meeting minutes from 3/18/2016

Motion to approve by VJ, Seconded by BW. No further discussion, unanimous approval, Paul Woodcock abstained due to absence from meeting.

Discuss any comments to be made regarding Comprehensive Plan Update and Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

WH discussed the use of the term natural systems in Chapter 11 and mentions that in the Growth Management Act (GMA) the term ecosystem is used to describe habitat and ‘natural systems’.

Discussion ensued regarding how best to make recommendations on Comp Plan and CAO Habitat Conservation Areas section. WH discussed the idea of dedicating a single meeting to each the Comp Plan Ch. 11 & CAO Art. 7. MW discusses the scale of the work being requested of the committee and would like to encourage the Council to consider hiring consultants to support development of work products.

GO mentioned how the City of Bellingham was having graduate students come and support work load related to wildlife and habitat studies. Committee discussed benefits and challenges of having graduate students doing some of the work.

Members discuss what the committee can feasibly accomplish. Crafting a list of projects and checking them off would be a good idea.

VJ recommends giving committee members an additional week to review Chapter 11 of the Comp Plan and get comments to Chris. Next full committee meeting should be focused on Chapter 11 committee recommendations.

Committee discussed the scope of committee recommendations and how recommendations are received by the County Council and how current drafts were developed by staff and other advisory committees.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion of Citizen Science (existing & potential) in the County

Discussion ensued regarding how to approach and incorporate citizen science into the Comprehensive Plan and the County in general. Committee members encouraged WH to submit recommendations/comments for Chapter 11 regarding citizen science

- Discussion of impacts of recreation on wildlife

WH discussed CAO low impact development requirements and language. She expressed concerns of siting trails in critical areas and buffers. CE discussed meeting with Parks & Rec staff and their approach to trail and critical area planning.

- Discussion of continuance of cultural use areas within wildlife protection planning

FB discussed cultural resources from his perspective that cultural resources include all natural resources. JM discussed cultural resources and tribal concerns in planning documents. Discussion continued regarding how cultural resources are interpreted and planned for in other agencies and how cultural resources can be better identified and considered in County documents.

Remaining agenda items including the following were tabled for a future meeting.

- Discussion of fencing of critical areas and riparian buffers
- Discussion of species of local importance
- Data gaps in wildlife planning
- Buffer intrusions

Written comments on Comp. Plan are due back to CE by May 6. CE will get comments back to committee by May 11, with next committee meeting on May 13.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

MW = Mike Williams

VJ = Vikki Jackson

BW = Barry Wenger

CK = Chris Kazimer

JM = John McLaughlin

FY = Fenner Yarborough

JI = Joel Ingram

WH = Wendy Harris

PW = Paul Woodcock

GO = Guy Ochiogrosso

FB = Frank Bob

CE = Chris Elder