



# Wildlife Advisory Committee

Friday, April 10, 2020  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

## LOCATION

**Zoom Meeting  
(Digital Meeting Only)**

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Whatcom County PDS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Wildlife Advisory Committee  
Time: Apr 10, 2020 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/480433557>

Meeting ID: 480 433 557

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adsZR7Fjpo>

# AGENDA

1. Welcome, public comments, announcements & agenda review
2. Determination of a quorum and review of meeting minutes (Feb and March)
3. Review changes made to specific action items on draft work plan
4. PDR program interface and update – Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke
5. Species of Local Importance –
  - a. Review draft list from 2019
  - b. Discuss scope of deliverable
  - c. Assign tasks for completion of list
6. Whatcom County Ecosystem Conservation Plan or Program –
  - a. Review the 2017 Whatcom County Ecosystem Report – existing conditions
  - b. Develop a scope of work for a Conservation Plan or Program
  - c. Discuss draft goals, objectives, strategies for implementation, and action items
7. New Business/Old Business
8. Adjourn (5 minutes)

Staff contact at Whatcom Planning and Development Services  
Amy Dearborn, (360), [adearbor@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:adearbor@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Attachments (provided with this email and/or provided at the meeting)

- Draft meeting minutes (February 21, 2020)
- Draft meeting minutes (March 13, 2020)
- Revised Draft 2020 Work Plan

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary

Friday, February 21, 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"/>	
<b>Members Present</b>		<b>Public Present</b>
Frank Bob	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Analiese Burns
Caanan Cowles		Alex Jeffers
Joan Drinkwin		Solvei Metcalf
Greg Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremiah Johnny
Robert Waddell		
Joel Ingram		
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Kazimer		<b>Staff Present</b>
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Dearborn
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin Page
Trevor Delgado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Isaac

Chair Greg Green called the meeting to order at

approximately 9:15am.

### 1. Meeting introduction by Greg Green

- a. 2018/2019 Workplan has been revised for 2019/2020
- b. Intent to re-focus the committee on Critical Areas Ordinance in line with committee mandate
  - i. Analiese Burns commented in support of focusing in on Species of Local Importance List as a comparable list does not exist at City of Bellingham and they would like to pull from the committee's list, Kim Weil may want to be involved in creating a subset list for City of Bellingham

### 2. Introduction to new PDS Committee Liaison Amy Dearborn

- a. Interested in creating a productive, achievable work plan to get items approved by Council
  - i. Specifically Species of Local Importance List
  - ii. Amy noted that she considers herself the bridge between committee and council

### 3. Focus of today's meeting – Revising the Workplan, Creating 2020 Workplan

- a. **Action Item** – a new committee member is needed since Caanan Cowles is leaving; a new member with avian background is preferred since the committee will have no avian specialist without Caanan
- b. Species of Local Importance List needs to be finalized
  - i. Species Groups should compile ideas to discuss at next meeting
  - ii. Shannon Crossen inquired about methodology for compiling list
    1. Potential to refine existing Whatcom County Species List

- c. Frank Bob brought up item #2 from 2019/2020 work plan, asking if Wildlife Crossing Structures are to include wooded areas – consensus that mapping, easement exploration, and development rights are still being processed by Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke and Whatcom Land Trust

#### **4. Refining Work Plan to tasks achievable within 1 year**

- a. Shannon voiced that the committee should select one or two items to focus on in the next year; agreed that Critical Areas Ordinance should be priority, specifically item #3 from 2019/2020 work plan – Local Importance Lists for Species and Habitats
  - i. Followed up that item #2, Wildlife Crossings could also be second priority
- b. Vikki Jackson agreed that item #3 should be top priority and noted that item #1, Ecosystem Conservation Plan/Program is being addressed by other committees and may even fall into the scope of item #3
  - i. Analiese supported that progress may be made on item #1 by City of Bellingham Salmon and Watershed Staff Teams
- c. Stephen Nyman agreed #3 should be priority
- d. Alex from Whatcom Land Trust mentioned that item #4, expanding county-sponsored science programs, could be benefitted from prioritizing item #3
  - i. Greg agreed and specified that item #4 is vaguely written
- e. Greg asked for further discussion on item #2 – Wildlife Crossings
  - i. Shannon noted that road improvement/management plans would contribute to the committee making a decision
    - 1. Analiese mentioned City of Bellingham is working on a fish passage data, and a culverts and analysis program
      - a. Comment that a subcommittee may be needed
  - ii. Frank brought attention to the Recreation of Wildlife Corridor Bill currently moving through the state
  - iii. Greg agreed CAO is top priority and that item #2 should stay as second priority

#### **5. Closing Comments**

- a. Shannon to compile reference list of what a project from the committee might look like
- b. Members to bring questions for species experts to help refine Species of Local Importance List
- c. Vikki to reach out to Audubon for potential new avian specialist committee member
- d. New 2020 work plan will be distributed along with the current Species List
- e. Shannon motioned to approved minutes from the previous meeting – Frank seconded
- f. Shannon motioned to adjourn the meeting – Frank seconded

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary

Friday, March 13, 2020

Start time: 9:00 A.M.

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services  
 Central Conference Room  
 5280 Northwest Drive  
 Bellingham, WA



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

Chair Greg Green called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10am

1. Amy Dearborn introduced Zoom online meeting platform, with the exception of PDS Staff all attendees participated digitally via Zoom due to recent social distancing measures.
2. Greg opened the floor for public comments
  - a. Barry Wenger introduced himself as a previous committee member and mentioned specific experience with migration corridors and the Species of Local Importance list.
    - i. Barry noted lists like this often defer to a similar collection from a federal level and argued that a Whatcom County list should stay very specifically local – staff that reference the list can't depend on state/local lists to be locally relevant
3. Greg mentioned the committee will be focusing on the Species List, and that he agrees the committee should focus on species that do not already have protection
  - a. Stephen Nyman noted it is possible to also consolidate lists and priority status from nearby counties – specifically Island County
  - b. Chris noted there are very local species with cultural or economic value that need to be considered
  - c. Analiese Burns noted that a Species of Local Importance list generated by Whatcom County fills a gap in the protections laid out by the code requirements
    - i. Greg asked Analiese for a City of Bellingham perspective on the uses of the list
      1. Analiese explained the City of Bellingham would be most interested in the methodology used to create the list for the purpose of creating a Bellingham specific Species List. She also noted a narrower list is more manageable.

2. Analiese also said the City would be interested in sensible regulations based on species that need protection
  - d. Stephen noted that justification and explanation of species will naturally result in a smaller list
  - e. Barry informed the committee the City of Bellingham GIS system includes a species list
  - f. Greg stated a volunteer will likely be needed to conduct research on methodology for the list since the committee together is not likely to be able to create the list at the table
    - i. Potentially Stephen
  - g. Amy Dearborn referenced Whatcom County code guidelines for creating the list
    - i. The Ecosystem Report includes important assessment information and should be updated by the end of the year (see Workplan point #2)
  - h. Stephen suggested splitting the work load among committee members, requesting members to look at individual species to save time
    - i. Amy also notes the Species list that will be submitted to Council will be a living list that can be revised as needed
4. Amy announced there are now two vacancies on the committee, she is looking into filling them
  - a. Website will be updated by PDS staff
  - b. Barry mentioned he may be interested in joining- will email Amy directly
5. Quorum is needed to approved the minutes from the previous meeting – the committee will address this at the next meeting
6. Greg announced a personal health issue and that he may need to step back from his active role on the committee
7. Greg asked Stephen to work on a memo for amphibians for the Species list
8. Greg moved to adjourn at 10:30
  - a. Seconded by Stephen

## Revised Draft 2020 Work Plan

1. Review Critical Areas Ordinance for the following considerations:
  - a. Submit Species & Habitats of Local Importance List to County Council
    - i. Species
      1. Rubber Boa
      2. Western Toad
      3. Coastal Tailed Frog
      4. ?
    - ii. Habitats
      1. Riparian Corridors
      2. Snags
      3. Large Wetland Complexes
      4. Beaver Ponds
      5. Chuckanut Wildlife Corridor
  - b. Develop terrestrial wildlife habitat management recommendations for biodiversity areas and corridors (ecosystem permeability).
  - c. Re-evaluate types of permitted activities and exemptions within Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.
2. Develop a Whatcom County Ecosystem Conservation Plan or Program to improve habitat connectivity, protect important remaining habitats, restore degraded or important habitat areas, and develop the programmatic support within Whatcom County government to enact the Plan. This Plan would build upon existing ecosystem reports including development of goals, objectives, strategies for implementation, and action items.
3. Ideas for future County-sponsored science programs and data collection efforts:
  - a. Expand/Develop plan for incorporating terrestrial wildlife crossing structures in new road designs or during culvert replacement and/or road improvements.
  - b. Explore expanding citizen science such as what the Marine Resource Committee currently does, for terrestrial ecosystems.
  - c. Greg Green working on Countywide bat survey in collaboration with WDFW
  - d. Support other science and data collection efforts through university, agency, and other partners
  - e. Develop county-internal science and data collection effort.