

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Friday, October 9, 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"/>	David Wallin
Greg Green		
Robert Waddell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Joel Ingram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Kazimer		
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff Present
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Dearborn
Trevor Delgado		Kelly Chamberlain
Barry Wenger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin Page

1. Barry Wenger called meeting to order at 9:09 am
2. Barry opened the meeting to public comment – there were none
3. Member announcements:
 - a. From Barry – Orca research grants out of San Francisco, there are 15 proposals and one is from Sea Doc
 - b. Greg Green may miss the next few meetings but is still planning to provide review on Bats – review is on hold until he returns
 - i. Shannon Crossen offered to help
 - ii. Stephen Nyman noted there may only be one species of bat to review (Large Eared Townsend Bats), but their habitats may still be important to consider
 1. Shannon agreed, there are very little protections on bat habitats
4. Vikki Jackson motioned to approve minutes from September 11, 2020.
 - a. Joel seconded – minutes approved
5. Robert Waddel provided review on Large Mammals (document found on Committee webpage).

- a. Spotted Skunk: population declining in Whatcom County – not much known about this animal
 - b. Elk: already some protections offered; the Committee may be able to provide more protections in Parks etc.
 - c. Robert noted that he considered all large, mammal carnivores and ungulates for review
6. Barry noted he would like the Committee to advise on culverts
 - a. Shannon has previously run a report and would like to present it to the Committee
 - b. Vikki noted these recommendations will be implemented on all permit review within the county and asks the Committee to keep that in mind when drafting them
7. Stephan commented that Robert’s prepared review is well done but could include stronger recommendations
 - a. Robert agreed and indicated that strong recommendations can be difficult in developing areas
 - i. Shannon noted strong mitigation factors are an option
8. Joel is a habitat biologist and will be working on Fish and Freshwater Aquatics
 - a. These populations already have extreme protections in place and it can be difficult to identify species that need additional protections; there may be a difference between species that are “Important” vs. “Imperiled”
 - b. Because of this Joel proposed a Watch List for some lesser-known species
 - i. He is specifically interested in Tribal input regarding the cultural importance of 1-2 species
 - c. Joel also reiterated the need to focus review on county code recommendations for permitting – any recommendations will be to be specifically defined
 - i. Amy Dearborn agreed and noted it is difficult as a county employee to apply recommendations when they are not practical
 - ii. Vikki also agreed and added that Council will need very specific recommendations in order to implement them
9. Barry commented that he feels “regulatory” attempts should not be the primary point of the reviews currently being provided by the Committee members
 - a. Amy mentioned there are goals other than regulation captured by the maintenance and update of the Ecosystem Conservation Plan/Program
10. Shannon voiced concern about adding another task to the Committee work load with the proposed Watch List
 - a. Barry asked the present members for approval
 - i. Approved
11. Stephan pointed out that the Spotted Skunk in Robert’s Large Mammals review may be better suited for the Watch List instead of the Species of Local Importance List since not much is known
 - a. Robert agreed
12. Shannon updated the Committee on her Invertebrate review; she is working on a preliminary list and referencing state agencies

- a. Shannon plans to have a preliminary list in 1-2 weeks and then will be able to refine it
13. Vikki reported there are not updates on Birds or Plants reviews
14. Frank Bob began discussion on population growth and urban spread of Whatcom County, its affects on natural and cultural resources, and how the fast pace of growth impacts the Committee's and Council's ability to mitigate damage
- a. Frank noted he is not sure if any recommendations will be effective while the population continues to spread
 - b. Frank defined Cultural Resources as a life line; interchangeable and integral with Natural Resources; the people do not exist without them
 - c. Various members commented on potentially holding a panel on Cultural Importance