



Wildlife Advisory Committee

LOCATION
Zoom Meeting
(Online Meeting Only)

Time: September 11, 2020 9:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

Topic: Wildlife Advisory Committee

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://zoom.us/meeting/tJMvd-uurj0iE9J3bmZ0DgatNu9CBNiumhU8/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCvrDsoHNSTuBCBRowEAliga-7ziCFHj_p3zx3oOXB3ZQLiGPcbEZBRGc3d

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97202606896?pwd=OHdtN2xpTTY2M2tqTW55U1RFTVI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 972 0260 6896

Passcode: Wildlife

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,97202606896#,,,,,0#,,67616231# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,97202606896#,,,,,0#,,67616231# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 972 0260 6896

Passcode: 67616231

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome, public comments, announcements & agenda review
2. Determination of a quorum and review of meeting minutes (June and July 2020)
3. Transition of Chair
4. Species of Local Importance –
 - a. Review task assignments
 - i. Amphibians – Stephan
 - ii. Bats – Greg
 - iii. Large Mammals – Robert
 - iv. Small Mammals – Chris
 - v. Fish and other freshwater aquatics – Joel
 - vi. Invertebrates - Shannon and Vikki
 - vii. Marine Mammals - Greg
 - viii. Raptors –Audubon?
 - ix. Waterfowl, Waterbirds, Gallinaceous birds - Audubon?
 - x. Passerines and other smaller birds (hummingbirds, etc.) - Audubon?
 - xi. Marine Non-Mammals – Barry and Shannon
 - xii. Plants – Vikki
 - b. Overview of report framework.
5. Whatcom County Ecosystem Conservation Plan or Program –
 - a. Develop working group for plan review
6. New Business/Old Business
7. Adjourn (5 minutes)

Staff contact at Whatcom Planning and Development Services
Amy Dearborn, (360) 778-5909, adearbor@co.whatcom.wa.us

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes (June 12, 2020 and July 10, 2020)
- Revised Draft 2020 Work Plan

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Friday, July 10, 2020

Start time: 9:00 A.M.

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

Northwest Annex Portable Conference Room

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA



QUORUM		
Members Present		Public Present
Frank Bob		Analiese Burns
Greg Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Jeffers
Robert Waddell		Ana Ledgerwood
Joel Ingram		Barry Wenger
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Elder
Chris Kazimer		D and M LaFever
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Megan LaFever
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peyton Morrison
Trevor Delgado		Glen Kalisz
		Staff Present
		Amy Dearborn
		Kelly Chamberlain

Chair Greg Green called the meeting to order at approximately 9:19 am.

- Greg opens for public comments
 - Barry - Council will be voting on Barry's assignment to the committee (21st?)
 - Analiese – squalicum reroute project, convert Bud Lake into historic forested wetlands and move stream out of intersection and into larger floodplain. Going into construction next week. Reduce temperatures and predatory creatures from impacting salmon population
- Greg asks for comments on today's agenda – None
- **No Quorum**
- Unable to approve minutes
- Transition of Chair – Greg will be stepping down as chair and will remain on the committee. Amy asks for anyone who is interested to step up for nomination. Barry has previously offered himself as chair
 - Stephen: someone only needs to suggest a motion and a quorum majority needs to approve
- Species of Local Importance
 - At previous meeting the committee discussed assigning species groups for individual research in order to present to the whole
 - Barry offered to reach out to Audubon society for a bird specialist
 - Vikki volunteered for plants

- Greg for marine mammals
- Shannon for invertebrates/marine invertebrates
 - Barry to potentially help with this group and marine habitat
- Marine mammals is the only group unassigned
 - Amy noted that a lot of Marine is already largely protected
- Analiese: See Eric Beamer study categorized nearshore habitat for Chinook – included nearly entire Bellingham Bay
 - Will send link to Amy
- Megan, Ana and Peyton – UW students presenting Wildlife Crossing Site Selection (GIS Certificate program)
 - Wildlife collisions cause property damage, deaths/injuries, damage to wildlife populations, loss of genetic variability
 - Two locations selected based on “Human Safety Model” and “Elk Priority Model”
 - Analiese: low ecological vulnerability vs. high collision rate?
 - Ecological Vulnerability definition from WSDOT based on impact to threatened species (elk, spotted owls, lynx etc.)
 - High collision rates were mostly deer (not threatened) and thus higher Collision ratings were through the city center, away from the elk population (and their higher vulnerability rating) in the mountainous region
 - Shannon: sites with many collisions are not necessarily the best sites for wildlife crossings
 - Megan specified that some of the specific location information shared in the presentation must be kept private for safety reasons
- Vikki moved to close the meeting at 10:42

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Friday, June 12, 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"/>	Analiese Burns
Greg Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Jeffers
Robert Waddell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ana Ledgerwood
Joel Ingram		Jeremiah Johnny
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Elder
Chris Kazimer		Barry Wenger
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Wallin
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Trevor Delgado		Staff Present
		Amy Dearborn
		Erin Page
		Kelly Chamberlain
		Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke

Chair Greg Green called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 am.

1. Greg opened the meeting to public comments
 - a. Barry Wenger noted the Rose Foundation is receiving funds from the CDC to support Orca research with Friends of the San Juans, he asks if anyone knows of any Orca researchers to pass along their contact information so they may be included
 - b. Greg announced he will be stepping down as chair sometime this summer but hopes to remain on the committee
2. Review Past Meeting Minutes
 - a. Greg moved to approve meeting minutes from February and March, seconded by Vikki.
3. UW Certificate Program Guest
 - a. Ana Ledgerwood discussed her UW Certificate Program research into Wildlife Crossing sites, sponsored by Chris Elder and WSDOT
 - b. The research team compiled collision and carcass removal data to identify potential crossing sites and is hoping to share their presentation/report with the Committee
 - i. Amy invited them to present at the next Committee meeting in July
 - c. Analiese noted she was invited to a Wildlife Camera installation in Bellingham and is interested in the potential interactions of this research with City of Bellingham

4. PDR Program
 - a. Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke detailed the Purchase of Development Rights Program – an effort to purchase conservation easements in order to protect the lands from development
 - b. The program has historically focused on protecting farm/agricultural land and would like to expand their criteria to include wildlife/ecosystem protections – Becky is requesting recommendations from the Committee on ways to integrate these areas into the program.
 - i. Erin asked if the PDR program is needing a definition of “wildlife corridors” to include in their criteria
5. Revised Work Plan Review
 - a. Greg noted that adding a fourth item to the Species of Local Importance list is a priority for the Committee. (See Revised Draft 2020 Work Plan)
6. Amphibian Recommendations – Stephen Nyman
 - a. Stephen noted that he included the Western Toad, Coastal Tailed Frog, and Northern Rubber Boa in his evaluations
 - i. Western Toad
 1. No outside protections, threatened by movement during vulnerable stages
 - ii. Coastal Tailed Frog
 1. Often threatened by development near streams, sensitive to raised temperatures or loss of buffers/cover
 - iii. Northern Rubber Boa
 1. Not much information available, unusually distributed, may be threatened by loss of hibernation areas
 - b. The Oregon Spotted Frog and Cascades Frog were considered, but not evaluated
 - i. Oregon Spotted Frog is state and federally protected
 - ii. Cascades Frog is not exhibiting state-wide or regional decline
 - c. See document “Recommendations for Amphibians and Reptiles”
 - d. Stephen and Greg discussed the “Recommendations for Amphibians and Reptiles” document as an appropriate template for moving forward with creation of the Species of Local Importance List
 - e. Amy noted that there are multiple categories that are unaddressed that need to be assigned for research:
 - i. Birds, Plants, Marine, Invertebrates
 - ii. Shannon volunteered to be responsible for Invertebrates
7. Ecosystem Conservation Plan
 - a. Greg noted that finalizing the Ecosystem Conservation Plan is part of the 2020 work plan
 - b. Chris discussed existing GIS reports for this plan, noting that the bulk of the remaining work may be organization and a refreshing of the conditions assessments and recommendations
8. Agenda Review
 - a. Dave Wallin brought up work being done by a grad student at WWU regarding review of the Nooksack basin – offered to connect her with the committee in case her research is helpful
 - b. Chris noted that the work plan notes for the Conservation Plan are wide and could be slimmed down to focus the efforts
 - i. Amy agreed and specified that points 1 and 2 on the work plan are the Committee priority
 - ii. Chris suggested small work groups to make progress on research etc. between meetings
 1. Shannon interested in work groups

- c. Analiese mentioned that the work plan section for Habitats of Local Importance does not include many terrestrial habitats
 - i. Shannon asked if there has been a systematic review of the habitats listed, Greg confirmed there has not been
 - ii. Analiese recommended editing the drafted list and avoiding working on list items that are protected at other levels (state or federal)
 - iii. Shannon recommended reference Whatcom County Code as a guide for selecting the list items, she noted that Code does not disqualify list items that are covered by state or federal levels
 - iv. Shannon and Steve discussed if specifying local habitats to specific iterations/locations will limit management recommendations too much for unknown habitats
 - v. Amy noted that County Code specifies that species protected at a state level are to be also regulated at county level
 - 1. Analiese advocated for tailoring species protection locally
- d. **Action Item:** Greg will prepare assignments for Species List work groups/research

Greg moved to adjourn at 10:29, seconded by Shannon

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
 6. ?
 - 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.