

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary

Friday, July 9, 2021

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"/>	Hank Kastner
Robert Waddell		Alex Jeffers
Joel Ingram		Prof. David Wallin
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Kazimer		
Stephen Nyman		Staff Present
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Dearborn
Trevor Delgado		Kelly Chamberlain
Barry Wenger		Chris Elder
		Erin Page

1. Vice Chair Vikki Jackson started the meeting at 9:10
2. Vikki asked for Public Comment
  - a. Chris Elder provided update on climate action plan
    - i. Full draft has been released for comment to be reviewed July 30, 2021 hoping to present to Council on August 10
    - ii. Chris asked the Committee members to take a look at the Natural Resources section in particular
3. Vikki asked for additions or amendments to the meeting agenda
  - a. None
4. Committee cannot vote to approve previous meeting minutes as there is no quorum
5. Amy Dearborn asked to table discussion of Old Growth definitions as staff member Erin Page is not able to attend today
6. Vikki opened the floor for wildlife crossing discussion
  - a. Shannon Crossen said she doesn't have a major update on the Padden crossing installation but there is a new fish and wildlife passage going in along I-5 and the wildlife are being disturbed during the construction – Shannon advises caution driving on the highway through the city while construction is in action

- b. Chris Elder asked Analiese Burns for updates on her Wildlife Corridor program and for information on what types of wildlife are able to pass through some culverts etc.
    - i. Analiese said she will be able to share the results of their project at the Committee's September meeting
  - c. David Wallin asked Analiese asking how waterfalls to the north of I-5/Padden act as a natural barrier to fish passage
    - i. Team of Tribal and state biologists determined the waterfalls are fish passable – just not very often or for many fish
  - d. Analiese also noted the City of Bellingham has a prioritized culvert list available on their website
  - e. Shannon noted she has been seeing a highly unusual amount of live deer on I-5 and expects it will continue to be a problem until the corridor is fenced. She is wondering what the best avenues are to communicate the needs with highway patrol etc. for how to handle a live deer on the highway or if a protocol already exists – she asked if maybe the County would in interested in participating in that discussion or if WSDOT would also be suited
    - i. Amy Dearborn asked about signs being added to the region – Shannon noted the literature describes that signage are actually statistically not effective so she is cautious to rely on them
  - f. Amy noted wildlife crossing structures development plan is currently third on the Committee Work Plan
    - i. She would like to establish a community outreach facet as part of this development program
7. Amy opened for comments on the Committee Draft Work Plan
- a. Chris noted The Conservation Plan and Ecosystem Report are due for their 5-year update in 2022 but the Committee is also scheduled to “sunset” in 2022
  - b. Vikki provided some thoughts on the Work Plan, noting the Committee has not really delved into Work Plan Item 4. How might the Committee and County participate in citizen science opportunities; providing funding, partnering with local organizations, etc.?
    - i. Inviting some local groups to present to the Committee and asking what kind of support they could use from the Committee may be a useful step
    - ii. Amy noted the Committee is not funded but makes recommendations on avenues to pursue, but agrees that presentations from community science projects/programs would provide insight what kind of recommendations to provide
  - c. Amy also noted that Work Plan Item 5 about county-internal science and data collection would be refined – who is collecting data, what is it for, who is using it, what kind of gaps are there in the data?
8. Amy updated the Committee on the Species of Local Importance
- a. Natural Resource Committee for the County Council will review in August
9. No New/Old Business
10. Meeting adjourned 10:10am