

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Friday, November 13, 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		Chris Elder
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		Amy Dearborn
Trevor Delgado		Kelly Chamberlain
Barry Wenger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin Page
		Ryan Ericson

1. Vikki Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:16am
2. Vikki opened for public comments – there were none
3. Vikki asked if there are any announcements – there were none
4. Vikki moved into Agenda Review
 - a. Since Frank Bob and Shannon Crossen, Vikki recommended the committee wait to have an in-depth discussion on Cultural Importance until they can be present
 - b. Robert Waddell asked about the scope of cultural/spiritual resources/importance; is the discussion to center around Tribal definitions or go wider?
 - i. Vikki indicated the discussion will likely be Tribal focused but with potential for wider use
 - ii. Stephen Nyman agreed the intent seemed to be for Tribal purposes even if it has not been specifically described as such
 1. Joel Ingram noted that code mentions “recreational/cultural and other economic value” which indicates “cultural” is likely meant to specify Tribal uses

5. Vikki asked if there are any comments on the previous meeting minutes – there were none
 - a. Stephen moved to approve; Vikki seconded
 - b. October meeting minutes approved
6. Barry provided excerpts from county and state Shoreline Management Practices (see attached documents on Committee page)
 - a. Barry noted there is no definition of *spiritual* significance for sites, only for physical literal items or structures/artifacts, remains
 - i. Ryan Ericson specified when protecting natural resource lands cultural values are considered and the field of consideration is narrowed to species in decline due to threatened habitat. “Local importance” of habitat is a broad definition
 - ii. Ryan also noted changes are being made to Cultural Resources definitions in the Shoreline Management Practices update to make them more comprehensive
 1. The Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Management Practices update are with Council at this time and it would be very beneficial to have the Species of Local Importance List from the Committee to go along with it, otherwise the Species List will have to go to Council individually
 2. Ryan told the Committee he requires the List and enough information to justify each species if asked
 - a. Stephen’s existing review format will work
 - b. Robert noted he will add a county map for Elk to his review
7. Stephen asked if there are any species that can be added to the list for certain since the Committee will not be able to finish all its planned reviews by January
 - a. Barry noted interested in adding a “Research List” to species without enough information available – he would like the list to be an educational/research tool for the public
 - b. Amy Dearborn mentioned she would like to add Mature Forest to the list for Habitats of Local Importance; this addition may capture keystone species that don’t otherwise have enough information to include on the Species List
 - i. Barry specified that he is particularly interested in protecting bat habitats
 - ii. Vikki noted that both Mature Forests and bat habitats are already protected in PHS.
 1. Amy stated there is not public access to many public sites.
 - iii. Joel reminded the Committee that if the Species List is going to include already-protected species it will need to very clearly define what additional protections or recommendations are desired
 - iv. Ryan noted that Whatcom County Natural Resources staff make attempts to request species reviews during the permitting process but the incoming reports are inconsistent; County staff can only provide

recommendations based on best available science; the Species List must be formed around that science or it will not be a functional tool

8. Robert stated that Elk have been included on the Species List for their high cultural/spiritual significance, not because of need for additional protections
 - a. Joel noted that in a similar vein, he would like to add Longfin Smelt to a “Watch list” for cultural reasons
9. Vikki noted she would like to add Rocky Balds to the Habitats of Local Importance List
10. Amy asked if the “Watch List” and “Research List” should be combined; and should Elk be moved from the Species List to the Watch List instead
 - a. Barry believed the lists should be separate
 - b. Vikki and Stephen agreed with Amy that the lists could be combined; Vikki suggested the new combined list could be ranked
11. Robert reminded the Committee that Elk are generally not found near urban or residential/lower areas – they’re more likely to be seen in agricultural areas
 - a. Robert will add a map to his existing review
12. Stephen suggested all Committee members look into their species list before the next meeting and to also think about what birds to include since the Committee has no specialist at this time
 - a. Barry noted the Audubon Society will review the Committee’s list of birds
13. Vikki let the Committee know the preliminary Invertebrates list may be too big to process for this round of reviews
14. Barry opened the floor for discussion on new business or old business
15. Barry closed the meeting at 10:28