

Wildlife Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Friday, May 14, 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		Alex Vanko
Robert Waddell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Jeffers
Joel Ingram		
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

1. Barry Wenger opened the meeting at 9:02
2. Barry opened for Public Comments
 - a. Analiese Burns commented for Native Plant Society – they have started a conservation community and are looking for policy-level opportunities to lend assistance
3. Review of previous meeting minutes – no comments or changes
4. Amy Dearborn announced Chris Elder has been forming a Climate Action Committee – he is hoping for comments on Climate Action Plan
5. Alex Vanko, GIS Specialist presented for Climate Action Committee / Wildlands Network
 - a. Wildlands Network “works to reconnect, restore, and rewild North America so life can thrive”
 - b. Identifying wildlife corridors and crucial habitat areas to keep habitats connected
 - c. Version 1 has been run with multiple datasets; Alex is looking for new datasets and more detailed data to identify more critical connections and cores for Version 2.

- d. Analiese asked if the County requested Wildlands Network to perform the work – Amy explained that Chris Elder requested it for the benefit of multiple committees/departments
 - e. Barry recommended Conservation Northwest who have researched multiple species in the NW area, as well as data from the Whatcom County Shoreline Restoration Plan
 - f. Alex Jeffers recommended a grad student project from WWU about Riparian Habitat Quality
 - g. Barry and Analiese noted aquatic, avian, and potentially amphibious habitats may not be captured fully in the layers created so far
6. Analiese provided an update on City of Bellingham Wildlife Corridor analysis project
 - a. Maps have been created with habitat locations for three surrogate species but corridors have not been overlaid yet
 - b. Consultants will combine the three maps and draw the corridors over the top – hoping to have combined corridor map by end of June
 - c. Analiese noted that the City of Bellingham appeared as lower in connectivity in the Wildlands Network maps, especially in comparison with the undeveloped areas in the East of the county; but with higher sensitivity the City would display more connectivity in specific urban areas
 7. Amy provided Species of Local Importance Update
 - a. PDS management have completed their review and edits
 - b. List is going to NR Committee within the County Council for review and approval
 8. Amy created new revised Work Plan for the Committee
 - a. Ecosystem Conservation Plan updates is now item #1
 9. Amy distributed Ecosystem Report for Climate Action Committee on Chris Elder’s behalf and asked the Wildlife Committee to provide comments if possible
 10. New Business/Old Business
 - a. Amy announced there is still one vacancy on the Committee and some members that do not often participate; there may be a push to fill some of those positions as well
 - b. No quorum this meeting, so minutes will have to be approved next meeting
 11. Barry adjourned at 10:30