

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

## Meeting Summary

Friday, September 10, 2021

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"/>	
<b>Members Present</b>		<b>Public Present</b>
Frank Bob		Alex Jeffers
Greg Green		Alex Vanko
Robert Waddell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Analiесе Burns
Joel Ingram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vikki Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Chris Kazimer		Amy Dearborn
Stephen Nyman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Chamberlain
Shannon Crossen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Elder
Trevor Delgado		Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke
Barry Wenger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cliff Strong
		Jon-Paul Shannahan
		Erin Page

1. Vikki Jackson started the meeting at 9:05
2. Vikki opened for Public Comment – none
3. Vikki opened for Announcements
  - a. Barry Wenger planned an announcement for Department of Ecology Stream Restoration Grant but is having technical problems, will send the Committee distribution list an email with information
4. Vikki opened for Agenda review – no comments
5. Vikki opened review of August meeting minutes
  - a. Stephen Nyman motioned to adopt minutes, Shannon Crossen Seconded
  - b. Approved
6. Alex Vanko presenting from Wildlands Network - Whatcom County Connectivity Mapping
  - a. Review from Alex’s previous presentation:
    - i. Identify areas crucial for wildlife and habitat connectivity
    - ii. Identify important wildlife corridors
    - iii. New international study area available up into Canada

- b. Resistance Layer represents cost in energy, or risk to a species moving across the landscape
    - i. Roads, railroads, trails, slopes, land-cover
  - c. Corridors created by selecting which habitats to connect
    - i. Alex selected land blocks larger than 200 acres to connect
  - d. Linkage Mapper displays “least cost paths” between cores that may be surrounded by high cost corridors as pinch point areas that may require restoration attention
  - e. Next step: Omniscape
    - i. Connectivity without cores, allowing easier travel across habitats
  - f. Stephen Nyman noted that the 200-acre threshold for land blocks is likely to eliminate many wetland habitats from consideration – Vikki added that even 100 acres would be an extremely large wetland and maybe those types of habitats would require a closer look in Alex’s Omniscape step
7. Species of Local Importance Council presentation discussion
- a. Amy Dearborn noted that Barry will likely be the primary presenter
  - b. Cliff Strong explained the Wildlife Advisory Committee will be presenting to the Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee, a public hearing will then be needed to determine the species as “Locally Important”
    - i. the Committee could be in agreement, or some/all species may require additional defense
  - c. If the Natural Resources Committee agrees to hold a public hearing the Wildlife Committee will need to propose the List during the Whatcom County Council public hearing
    - i. Cliff reminded it could also be helpful to note that the Wildlife Advisory Committee was originally tasked with creating this List by an iteration of the County Council itself
  - d. Amy shared a draft power-point presentation for review and edits
8. Barry closed the meeting at 10:40