



## Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Meeting:  
February 7, 2008 9:00 a.m.  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Headquarters  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303

Meeting:  
February 8, 2008 8:00 a.m.  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Headquarters  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303

### *Minutes were approved at the Commission's April 17, 2008 Commission meeting*

Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Marla Rae, Chair  
Dan Edge, Vice-Chair  
Zane Smith, Commissioner  
Jon Englund, Commissioner  
Skip Klarquist, Commissioner  
Curt Melcher, Deputy Director  
Holly Michael, Strategy Leader

Mike Carrier, Governor's Natural Resource  
Policy Director  
Steve Denney, Southwest Region  
Manager  
Roxie Burns, Human Resources  
Administrator  
Doug Juergensen, Information Systems  
Division Administrator  
Steve Marx, South Willamette Watershed  
Manager  
Roger Fuhrman, Information and  
Education Division Administrator

Carter Kerns, Commissioner  
Bobby Levy, Commissioner  
Roy Elicker, Director  
Laurie Byerly, Deputy Director  
Steve Sanders, Assistant Attorney General  
Casaria Tuttle, Executive Assistant  
Tom Ruddiman, Administrative Services  
Administrator  
Craig Ely, Northeast Region Manager  
Ed Bowles, Fish Division Administrator  
Chip Dale, High Desert Region  
Administrator  
Captain Walt Markee, Oregon State Police  
Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator

### **MEETING**

On Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 9:00a.m., Holly Michael, Strategy Coordinator, brought together ODFW Commissioners and ODFW Staff to the "Vision for the Future" meeting. Commissioner Bobby Levy was not in attendance at the start of the meeting due to a family event but did attend the afternoon portion.

Holly Michael provided an overview for the day's discussion. The focus was on looking at the challenges facing the agency over the next 20 years and beginning build the capacity ODFW needs. The Commission also heard what the pressing

issues for the next two years will be and had an opportunity to discuss those with ODFW leadership.

The meeting began with a discussion of objectives, processes and ground rules. Introductions were made by the participants. Chair Rae made opening remarks encouraging members to look to the future of the agency and agency partners. Mike Carrier, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Director, shared comments on behalf of Governor Kulongoski. Mike Carrier expressed thanks to staff and Commissioners for their professionalism and dedication. He stated the Governor is concerned about climate change, as the single biggest threat to the vitality of the State of Oregon. He posed questions: How do we adapt to the affects of climate change. How do we mitigate climate change? How do we protect and continue to grow our economic vitality? How can we serve and enhance the natural resources, especially fish, wildlife and habitat? The Governor sees, critically, fisheries and water issues. Need to recommit and redouble efforts on salmon. The state is now standing on biology and principle over the Columbia River Biological Opinion. The Governor sees the importance to stand on principle. Hells Canyon Dam relicensing is in progress. Fish recovery/reintroduction and water quality are involved in the relicensing. Klamath Basin Settlement has been reached among many of the participants. The Governor will continue to need ODFW's cooperation with gaining the settlement and implementation. The Conservation Strategy is a focus of the Governor. The Governor is committed to assist with implementing strategies. He is also committed to the marine conservation strategy. The Governor will be asking the department to play a bigger role with marine reserves and the implementing the nearshore marine strategy. The Governor has made a commitment to bring forward in 2009 a statewide water initiative. He will take a funding strategy to address supply, quality and conservation. The department and commission will be looked to for leadership in the conservation aspect of the initiative. The Governor is aware of the funding concern of the agency. The Governor is committed to work to secure a long term stable funding portfolio for the department.

Commissioner Smith commented to Mike Carried that the various state natural resource agencies could do more to integrate priorities and work together. He suggested the GNRO could assist with that.

Director Elicker commented that the agency has a close working relationship with the Governor's Office and Legislature. The relationships have been built on the hard work of staff. He thanked Mike Carrier for his kind words and the Commissioners for their dedication. Director Elicker thanked Holly Michael for her hard work in putting together the vision meeting.

### **ODFW BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Tom Ruddiman, Administrative Service Division Administrator, and Laurie Byerly, Deputy Director of Administration, gave a high level overview of the ODFW

budget using a PowerPoint presentation and handing out the 2009-2011 External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) materials.

Commissioner Kerns asked for a future workshop on Mitchell Act funding. The workshop should include representatives from the Governor's Office and Federal Delegation. Laurie Byerly recommended including all federal funding in the workshop.

Chair Rae recommended finding a way to get the conservation community more involved in the agency's budget development.

## **VISION FOR THE FUTURE – THE YEAR 2015**

Holly presented ideas for the "Vision" discussion generated by the Commissioners and ODFW leadership. These included:

What should ODFW look like?  
What do we need to address?  
How do we build the agency we envision?  
What challenges are the Commission and ODFW facing in the next three biennia?  
Will the Conservation Strategy and Oregon plan get us where we want to be?  
What more do we need?

Commissioners offered additional ideas for discussion on critical issues including:

Changing demographics of Oregon  
Work with landowners  
Rural urban growth  
Support for ODFW  
Get the agency to full capacity

Commissioner Edge mentioned the changing workforce of the agency. With the changing demographics of the state there is a need and opportunity to greatly diversify the workforce, from both gender and cultural perspectives. This should be tied to the I&E program for marketing and outreach.

Chair Rae would like to see in 2015: various new and traditional constituent groups figuring out a way to coexist, a continued strong field presence, stable funding sufficient to address all programs and maintain full capacity, healthy populations of fish and wildlife and strong habitat to support them, buy-in from all who use resources to support the agency financially, support our volunteers, a happy rewarded workforce of career professions and strong trusting relationships with private and public landowners of all sizes.

Commissioner Smith wants the vision to describe the agency. He likes the words “healthy ecosystem”. In 2015 he would like the agency not to be reliant on hunter and fisher dollars. He would also like to see partnerships with federal and state agencies.

Commissioner Kerns would like the agency to engage the non-hunters. Wildlife viewing is increasing and is a way to bring non-hunters to support ODFW. He would like a bighorn sheep research facility placed in Wallowa County utilizing a facility that is already in existence but under utilized there.

Commissioner Smith cited a report done about the public perception and connection to nature and the outdoors. The report indicates that people spend less time outdoors and children in particular are no long connected to nature. The popular terminology is “nature deficit disorder”. The decline is attributed to the generations that are more focused on electronic entertainment. Commissioner Smith would like to get people into Wildlife viewing.

Chip Dale would like to see tribal participation in natural resource issues and management increase and said the cultural relationship is important.

Craig Ely agreed the tribal relations are very important.

Steve Denney mentioned the changing demographics of landowners. The trend is moving to wealthy landowners with less knowledge of natural resources who want to do something good for wildlife. Access onto some of these lands is becoming an issue, especially on the big ranches. He would like to be able to work proactively with the landowners and feels the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program is well positioned to help.

Steve Denney would also like increased emphasis on research with adequate research team capacity in each region. He would also like to see a focus on access and the need for conservation easements.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Steve Denney. He would like to see a bullet in a vision statement with the supporting ideas below that. He said with the mosaic of land ownerships and agencies, partnerships will be key.

Chip Dale would like the agency to build on programs that are people and process driven. It is the avenue the agency needs to go in the terms of eco-management.

Roger Fuhrman would like to see a population who is reconnected to the resource and nature.

Chip Dale would like to see a child be able to be a soccer player and a hunter/fisher. It would require the agency to facilitate easy access to the outdoors and the resources.

Steve Denney said the Conservation Strategy helps define important linkages for people to understand wildlife.

Ed Bowles would like to see the value of fish and wildlife recognized by all persons not just hunters and fishers. All Oregonians should value wildlife and the aesthetics and quality of life we have and the economic value of fish and wildlife within the local community all the way up to the state level. He would also like the agency to be proactive in addressing this need. The chasm between the idea and the product is very large. Need to simplify, streamline processes, take more action and manage adaptively.

Craig Ely would like to see a focus on winter range, which provides habitat for many fish and wildlife species. Acquisitions and easements are good tools. He'd like to see the agency come up with a land acquisition policy.

Ron Anglin would like to see development of a succession plan for leadership and for staff, providing a clear view of where they can go within the agency. They are the "unseen infrastructure" of the agency. He would like people to invest themselves in the agency and not feel penalized.

Roxie Burns would like to see funding increase and staffing levels increase across the agency.

Roger Fuhrman would like the infrastructure of the agency made visible to the public so they are willing to support additional funding.

Chip Dale feels the agency needs better access to the federal government. ODFW needs a tighter relationship with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He would also like the agency to have access to the Congressional Delegation.

Captain Markee acknowledged the difficulty they are having filling positions. He also needs more money for officers and needs to focus on providing recruiting incentives.

Commissioner Englund would like more access for the public for hunting and providing fishing and hunting regulations that are easier to understand and less complex.

Commissioner Klarquist feels the knowledge he has been able to gain about particular issues has been very beneficial. He sees human growth competing with fish and wildlife habitat and migration corridors. Need to work closely with

other decision makers (planners, engineers) to manage habitat wisely. Also need to inform the public and ourselves about the work.

Ron Anglin would like to see the agency focus on particular items, then marshal a lot of effort on the particular item and see it through. Examples include: restoration projects, Oregon Plan and the Conservation Strategy, must commit staff and funding.

Holly asked the group if ODFW is seen as the stewards of the resource (fish, wildlife and habitats). Craig Ely and Chip Dale felt the agency is, in rural areas. Ed Bowles and Ron Anglin said in urban areas, the role is filled by others, usually conservation groups and some local and federal agencies. Fish districts are seen as leaders because of the number of restoration projects they do in urban areas.

Commissioner Edge said we don't even exist in the minds of urban folks and he wants more Oregonians to be aware of the Conservation Strategy and the work of ODFW by 2015. The Strategy is the tool to engage urban constituents.

Chair Rae said stewardship perception varies by region and county, and that ODFW's role is not always clear.

Tom Ruddiman stated we should be upfront about our resource needs and be willing to discuss trade-offs with our constituents.

Commissioner Klarquist indicated we have competing roles with other natural resource agencies.

Craig Ely said that the agency is perceived as having more power than we actually have. The perception is we regulate more than we do. Also seen as the agency that says "no".

Tom Ruddiman recommended being more proactive when working with federal partners in explaining what the agency needs to carry out programs and projects.

Commissioner Edge would like to see the majority of Oregonians knowing and appreciating the work of ODFW.

After lunch was served, Holly Michael presented the themes heard from the morning session.

Themes:

Landowners

Services – increase tools and staff assistance for technical and funding needs

Access – develop more partnerships and relationships, recognizing the change in private landowner types

#### Partnerships with Agencies and NGO's

- Expand existing partnerships

- Build new partnerships

- Focus on agricultural and forest landowners and managers

#### Emerging Issues and Capacity Building

- Find new funding that allows us to grow into the agency of the future

- Increase and diversify staffing

- Build capacity to address emerging issues

#### Simplify Process

- Streamlining process allows us to take action

#### Bridge a Bridge between Constituents

Use the Conservation Strategy to show common ground, because its habitat-based; supports farms, forest and rangelands; identifies urban values and roles and identifies key issues (invasive species, land-use change, other) important to all constituents

#### ODFW Visibility/Contributions/ "Brand"

- Become more visible, relevant to public that does not hunt or fish

- Be seen as stewards of the resources

- "Brand" ourselves to be easily recognizable, with a known role or service we provide

- Connection to nature

#### Follow-up Comments to the Themes Review:

Steve Denney recommended using the Utah model for stream restoration. Minnesota had a state funded initiative to pay the timber company for access rights and habitat. ODFW could use that same model.

Chair Rae recommended refining the landowner theme to get the Commissioners more information. She suggested a workshop on landowner matters.

Holly Michael asked if the programs can do something to address the themes outlined during the meeting. Recognizing we do not have all the resources mentioned in the themes and will take time to develop them, what can programs do now to begin taking action on the themes. A timeline will be given for the programs to respond with one or two tangibles.

Topics of Interest to the Commission:

Holly Michael introduced topics for general discussion. These are identified by the Commission and ODFW leadership as new issues we must address in the next 20 years and opportunities we need to act on:

- Oregon Conservation
- Habitat Protection
- Energy and Infrastructure
- Water Development
- Invasive Species
- Partnerships w/ sister agencies and NGOs
- Kids in the Woods
- Coordination w/ Federal Land Management Agencies
- Marine Reserves
- Mega Ranchers
- Law Enforcement needs
- Predator management

Once the list was reviewed, the discussion was opened.

Commissioner Edge asked that forest health and fire be added to the list.

Commissioner Levy mentioned there is not enough water. Need to allocate resource and balance between agriculture and fish/wildlife. This is a big issue with her constituents. What is ODFW's role? Need a vision that ties this to ESA work.

Ed Bowles said ODFW is considered a "constraint" and says no. This is not restricted to development issues. He asked how to change our role in resource issues and management.

Commissioner Smith said before any answers can be given the agency vision has to be realized first. Habitat conservation is the umbrella category for water topics and forest health.

Steve Marx indicated that capacity is the issue with all of these discussion topics.

Ron Anglin gave a brief presentation on the various types of energy projects existing and proposed in Oregon and the infrastructure development that comes with them. He stated we have on ½ position to address all these needs. Marine habitat and connectivity from all the various energy developments are significant and ODFW needs more resources to adequately meet our needs.

Ron Anglin gave a brief presentation on the wind energy potential of Oregon.

Based on Ron Anglin's presentation, Chair Rae voiced concern over the resources that will be tied up in wind energy and wave energy.

Commissioner Smith wants to see the department have impact on energy decisions.

Commissioner Levy asked if we can tax the energy developments to help defray costs and impacts to ODFW and wildlife.

Commissioner Edge and Roger Fuhrman want the agency to be ready to handle unanticipated events. Roger Fuhrman said we need to improve our response to crises, both anticipated and surprise.

Chip Dale stated we have many user-group conflicts, such as the Columbia River, ATV use and archery/rifle seasons.

Commissioner Kerns would like a discussion about public discourtesy when involved in F&W conflicts.

### **WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION NEED TO SPEND TIME ON IN 2008/09 – WHAT PROGRAMS AND ISSUES WILL WE LOOK AT**

The divisions each gave an update on a series of topics that will go before the Commission in 2008-2009.

Chair Rae asked that an energy related workshop be scheduled for the Commission.

Captain Walt Markee discussed Oregon State Police needs offshore equipment to enforce ocean regulations including crab fisheries.

Steve Denney updated the Commission on the Diamond Lake plan which will go before the commission within the next year.

Craig Ely updated the Commission on landowner preference process going to the Legislature in 2009 and the forest plans process.

Chip Dale updated the Commission on the Klamath Settlement and land issues.

#### Workshop Review

The Commission felt they reached their objectives for the day.

Chair Rae asked that Laurie Byerly give a budget process update each month during the Director's Report portion of each Commission meeting.

Chair Rae also asked staff to plan ahead for building capacity starting with this next biennium and wants a presentation on what we're doing at the June 2008 Commission meeting.

Zane Smith provided a draft Vision Statement to help frame the future discussions on the agency. He wants the employees of the department to buy into the vision and support it and have a role in developing it.

## **FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

Energy and infrastructure  
Climate change  
Ocean health and marine reserves  
Landowners – how can we meet their needs?  
Water issues  
Mitchell Act

Workshop Wrap-up

Holly Michael will send out a homework assignment to ODFW participants to identify one or two elements they can modify to address issues identified in today's discussions.

Two focal topic workshops will be held in 2008. Likely to be energy and climate change.

Holly Michael concluded the workshop and thanked the participants.

Chair Rae provided her insights on the day's events and expectations for next steps.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 3:33 pm the Commission went into executive session to discuss U.S. versus Oregon with legal counsel.

At 4:03 pm the Commission recessed until 8:00 am, Friday, February 8, 2008.