



WASHINGTON STATE  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION**  
19010 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE SOUTH, BURIEN, WA 98148

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**COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
10 AM

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Myers (Chair), Chief, Hoquiam Police Department  
Bill Elfo (Vice-Chair), Sheriff, Whatcom County (telephonically) *WAO*  
Julie Anderson, Auditor, Pierce County  
Ned Newlin, Chief of Corrections, Kitsap County  
Laura Wells, Citizen-at-Large  
Joshua Kelsey, Officer, Lynnwood Police Department  
Kenneth Hohenberg, Chief, Kennewick Police Department  
John Turner, Sheriff, Walla Walla County (telephonically)  
Darell Stidham, Deputy, Spokane County Sheriff's Office  
John Hillman, Assigned Counsel, Washington State Office of the Attorney General

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Shannon Bendiksen, Captain, Washington State Patrol (for Commissioner Batiste)  
Cheryl Sullivan-Colglazier, Washington State Department of Corrections (for Commissioner Pacholke)  
Andrew Suver, Sergeant, Lakewood Police Department  
James Syler, Officer, Lakewood Police Department  
Randal Potter, Sergeant, King County Sheriff's Office  
Daniel McNamara, Group Supervisor, Homeland Security Department, for Redmond Police Department  
Kris Peters, Chief, Squaxin Island Police Department  
Chad Wallace, Officer, Redmond Police Department  
Sam Hovenden, Officer, Redmond Police Department  
Shan Hanon, Officer, Bellingham Police Department  
Steve White, Sergeant, Seattle Police Department  
Mitch Barker, Executive Director, WASPC (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs)  
Rob Richey, Trooper, Washington State Patrol

**WSCJTC STAFF PRESENT:**

Sue Rahr, Executive Director  
David Bales, Deputy Director  
Marisa O'Neill, Executive Assistant  
Brian Elliott, Manager, Fiscal Services Division  
Sonja Peterson, Manager, Human Resources Division  
Rick Bowen, Commander, Basic Training Division  
Tisha Jones, Manager, Certification Unit  
Rex Caldwell, Program Manager, WSCJTC

## OPENING

**The Chair** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Marisa O'Neill** conducted a roll call of the Commissioners. **A quorum was present.**

**The Chair** asked guests to sign in if they wanted to be accounted for in the meeting minutes.

**The Chair** opened the meeting by congratulating Commissioner Newlin on his upcoming retirement and he thanked him for his contributions to the Commission. Commissioner Newlin will be leaving the Commission on 12/31/15, as he plans to retire from Kitsap County after 25 years. Commissioner Newlin was presented with a plaque and he shared a few words of thanks. Commissioner Newlin will be beginning a position with WASPC as the Jail Liaison and will be around and checking in with WSCJTC often.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**The Chair** called for review and approval of the meeting minutes from September 9, 2015.

**Commissioner Hohenberg** moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Wells** called for amendments.

**Amendments:** Page 6, Under WAPA Training Request, first line should read "from" instead of "form." Also, in discussion Commissioner Satterberg's presentation was meant to read as a one-time \$90,000 supplemental budget request with a carry forward of \$90,000 making \$180,000 bi-annualized moving forward.

**Commissioner Hohenberg** moved to approve the minutes with the revisions requested by Commissioner Wells. **Commissioner Newlin** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously with revisions.**

## CHAIR'S REPORT

*Jeff Myers, Commission Chair*

**The Chair** opened by addressing a draft philosophy statement in the packet. He felt it is important for the Commissioners to publicly share the philosophy being followed by the WSCJTC. Much attention has been paid to what has been changed, but his belief, (receiving nodding agreement from the group), is the type of principles we are expecting from our recruits and implementing and formalizing is just what good officers have always done. He went on to share arguments can be made over the terms warrior and guardian. "Getting hung up on the terms; however, could cause one to miss the real direction that we're going. All we're really trying to do is to put deputies, police officers, correctional officers, out to work, interact, and serve the community, thinking for themselves, being articulate, intelligent, utilizing the skills given to them to problem solve and use force as necessary and reasonable, but to treat people with respect and dignity."

The Chair then asked if Commissioners would like to review the draft, then have it ratified by the Commission and signed by him in order to make it clear to stakeholders

what is meant by the philosophy and the reasons behind the philosophy here at the WSCJTC.

**Commissioner Wells** asked if this is intended to be a letter to our stakeholders updating them on what we're doing.

**The Chair:** "I'd say both, yes. A purpose statement for the Commission, also giving where we are as of this point with links to the studies."

**Commissioner Wells:** "Because it describes specific changes that have happened and processes that are ongoing, I think it falls under the category of an update rather than a position statement. At some point we could develop something that is more like a position statement related to the philosophy if that's appropriate that wouldn't include what we're doing next Tuesday, but this is the overarching philosophy of the Commission. Because this is coming from the policy makers and not staff it should be an action item."

**Commissioner Newlin** made a motion for this to be brought to the March Commission Meeting. In the meantime, the Chair will work with Commissioners and the Executive Director to check the pulse of stakeholders as to whether this is needed and if so, refine the "update" letter, and begin working on an overarching policy statement which reflects the guardian philosophy. Commissioners can submit drafts and ideas should they so choose. **Commissioner Stidham** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chief Lasnier** requested to make a comment regarding non-compliance and violation of the Open Public Meeting Act which requires the Agenda be published on the website 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

**Marisa O'Neill** responded to Chief Lasnier affirming the agenda was not posted because items on the agenda came in late. After receiving the items, an email was sent to the webmaster to make updates, but due to late arrival, it did not get done. Ms. O'Neill will ensure that proper notification is made going forward and thanked him for his attention to this matter.

**Marisa O'Neill** advised the Commission of the meeting schedule for 2016 and advised an invitation will be sent to each member for March 9, June 8, September 14, and December 14, 2016. All meetings will be held at this location beginning at 10am. This will be the meeting schedule that will be published with the State Registrar. If changes are made, all will be notified.

**The Chair** reminded the Commission with the year ending it is time to revisit the Commission positions. Hearing no other volunteers, Commissioner Myers will remain as Chair and Commissioner Elfo will remain as Vice-Chair.

**The Chair** chose to take the agenda out of order to accommodate the guests in attendance.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Variance Requests

*Tisha Jones, Certification Manager*

#### **Sgt. Brett Fish, Squaxin Island Tribe Police Department**

The Squaxin Island Tribe is a certified tribe with an agreement between the Commission and the tribe for tribal police certification. The request being presented is for Sgt. Brett Fish. Due to illness, Sgt. Fish was asked not to attend. Chief Peters was in attendance to address any questions. Tisha reviewed the entire packet showing Sgt. Fish attended the BLEA here at WSCJTC in August of 1996, when it was 440 hours. Sgt. Fish then worked for Tacoma Police Department, but then took an employment opportunity which caused a break in service of about six years. He went to work for the tribal agencies and in doing so there was a break in service of those six years. Sgt. Fish has been working for over 10 years as a tribal police officer. This request is for him not to be required to go through full basic training, but to be allowed to attend the equivalency. They are asking that his 10+ years working as a tribal commissioned officer and his BLEA attendance be recognized as a variance.

*overlooked " makes the intended term*

**Chief Peters** shared that Sgt. Fish had some family issues causing him to leave Tacoma PD, but he took a break in service and came back. Squaxin Island Tribe hired him on. The background done on him shows the break in service, but was somehow overseen. As Tisha mentioned it's not required to follow the standards, but it's something that Squaxin Island has always done. When Chief Peters was promoted to his current position, he immediately promoted Mr. Fish to Sergeant. He is a fantastic police officer and is currently on the Mason County SWAT Team. He is highly respected within Mason County and when the error came to light, Chief Peters was in contact with Tisha. The hardship on the tribe because they are such a small agency is that sending Sgt. Fish away for months would be incredibly difficult, because of his responsibilities within the agency. Therefore, Chief Peters requested Sgt. Fish be allowed to attend the equivalency instead.

**Commissioner Newlin** made a motion to approve the variance. **Commissioner Hohenberg** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Daniel McNamara, for Redmond Police Department**

Mr. McNamara attended a full basic academy in Iowa in 1998, completed an FTO program, and then transferred over to the Federal Government in the ICE Unit. While there he conducted trainings and did everything required by the position. Mr. McNamara has been given a conditional offer of employment. All poly, psych, and background tests have been completed by Redmond PD. If approved today, he will be hired. In reviewing experience and training, Tisha Jones, Commander Bowen and Donna Rorvik were unanimous in providing Redmond PD the opportunity to bring the variance before you. The request would be for Daniel McNamara to attend the equivalency training instead of the full BLEA program.

**Officer Chad Wallace** explained Lt. Julie Beard conducted the background, but due to weather conditions could not make it. She summarized Mr. McNamara's experience in a written statement. Both Lt. Beard and Officer Wallace request that Daniel McNamara be granted entry into the equivalency academy through this variance request process.

**Daniel McNamara** shared a bit of his biography. He highlighted the fact that in April, he will have 20 years of law enforcement experience. He currently supervises a narcotics task force made up of state and local task force officers and special agents.

**Commissioner Kelsey** made a motion to approve the variance with the stipulation that we don't make hiring decisions. A variance could be granted since there is a conditional offer from Redmond PD and that he successfully complete equivalency.

**Commissioner Stidham** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Panel Member Appointments**

**Sonja Peterson, Human Resources Manager**

**Sonja Peterson** shared the first decertification hearing was held last month for a tribal police officer. For this reason, WSCJTC needs more officers that are certified tribal police officers approved to carry out this duty.

**Officer Eric Rollson, Puyallup Tribal PD** - Hired June 4, 2004. Certified as a tribal Police Officer in February 2007, therefore he has 10 years as a certified tribal officer. He has the support of Chief Joe Duanes of the Puyallup Tribal PD.

**Commissioner Hohenberg** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner Kelsey** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Officer Richard Wolfington, Stillaguamish Tribal PD** - Has 21 years of experience. He was with Everett Police Department from 1993-2013 and he is now with Stillaguamish PD and has been since February 2015. He is a certified peace officer since January 2002, and has full support of Chief Orford.

**Commissioner Newlin** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner Wells** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Deputy Sgt. Ed Lavesk, Yakima County Sheriff's Office** - Has over 10 years of experience. He started his career at Union Gap PD in April 1994. He has been a certified peace officer since it went into effect in January 2002, and he has support of Yakima County Sheriff Bryan Winters.

**Commissioner Hohenberg** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner Newlin** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Chief for a Day**

**Sonja Peterson, Human Resources Manager**

Rachelle Wright and Sonja Peterson will be kicking off 2016 Chief for a Day. It will be held on Thursday, August 18. The first planning meeting will be on January 14. Ten agencies have already signed up.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Sue Rahr, Executive Director*

### WASPC Update & Feedback

**Director Rahr** gave an update on the WASPC Conference. One of the discussion points brought up was gathering input from stakeholders. WSCJTC is planning more effective ways to do that. In the Training and Education Committee a question was raised on how we receive feedback in a structured way from our stakeholders. One of the suggestions from the group was that we hold our Commission meetings in conjunction with the WASPC conferences. We did a preliminary look at what the cost of that would be and because we have to transport our staff to where the Commission meeting is being held and all the recording equipment needs to be there it would be close to \$10,000 in all the cost just to get staff there. An estimate of costs for Commissioner travel has not been made, but can be if necessary. **Sonja Peterson** shared some historical experience in this idea. "We've never held a Commission meeting in a different location other than here or the WASPC building, but we used to hold the BLETSE meetings in conjunction with the WASPC Conference where WACs pertaining to law enforcement went before that Board and then were signed off and forwarded to the Commission, but even when we held those meetings at WASPC conferences there weren't many attendees." **Vice-Chair Elfo** backed up Sonja's statements saying those meetings were poorly attended. **Commissioner Hohenberg** voiced his request that we not hold it in conjunction with the WASPC meetings due to competing priorities.

**Director Rahr** discussed another mechanism that we have in place to solicit feedback from our stakeholders. We conducted a survey of the attendees of the WASPC Conference. There were about 250 people attending, but of all those attendees and with having a drawing for an iPad, we were only able to get 48 people to complete the survey to provide input. Director Rahr suggested we start with developing some advisory work groups that work at the behest of the Commission. Starting with the Basic Training Strategy Work Group. Commander Rick Bowen helped put this together. The idea is the advisory group would meet four times a year and ideally in between when Commission meetings are held. The advisory group would be ad hoc and lead by Commander Bowen.

**Commander Bowen** addressed the group explaining the intent being to continually get feedback from stakeholder agencies. "Our view here is that we want to meet the needs to the best of our abilities of the stakeholder agencies, but to also assume the rightful leadership role of WSCJTC to make sure the training we're putting out is not only best practice, but is also defensible." With a forum like this, there would be room for discussion and then when a decision is made by WSCJTC, the work group attendees who receive a deliverable will know the exact starting point where they get their recruits once they leave basic training.

**Director Rahr** suggests if the agency can find the funding, the Training Commission will pay for the travel and lodging expenses for the subject matter experts that are invited to participate and keep the meeting open for others to attend.

**Commissioner Wells** wondered if a decision was made to have a Commissioner be a liaison for this workgroup and whether it's allowed. **Commander Bowen** advised a decision had not been made for the Basic Training Strategy Work Group. **John**

**Hillman** shared it is allowable, but if the Commission is going to take action based on the input from the work group, it needs to take place in the Commission setting. That Commissioner cannot discuss what actions should be taken by the Commission as a whole with other commissioners unless in this setting.

**Commissioner Anderson** asked for a feedback aspect be put into place for this. **Commissioner Wells** requested these meetings be held in an online web-based forum so that those who cannot attend are able to keep abreast of the happenings.

### Leadership Training

We are losing our primary trainers for first level and mid management leadership training. This provides us an opportunity to reassess how we're providing leadership training. We have some ideas and are looking for preliminary feedback. Consideration is being given to utilizing LPO as our foundational leadership training program. It's very well researched and validated. Rod Covey from the Port of Seattle PD is a certified trainer with experience in this area. Material in LPO is foundational and focused on leadership. This will take at least a year to figure out how to fund it and execute it. This issue is something we'd utilize a work group to do. The Commission has the latitude to shift this. A WAC change would be required. In the mean time we have a vendor we can work with to provide the first and mid-level management training. The LPO program as it is delivered now is very expensive. We have been able to mitigate that over the last year and a half through the generosity of Port of Seattle PD. Deputy Chief Covey felt that the training was so important they put every supervisor in their department through the LPO training and offered the extra seats at a discounted rate. The feedback from students has been positive. We will be meeting with IACP to see if there can be a cost break and we would be a model of the entire state using this as the training mandate.

**Commissioner Anderson** asked that an advisory sheet detailing vendor classes be placed in the packets each month.

### Blueprint

**Director Rahr** directed attendees to a description of the project which is located in the packet. She advised the Blueprint Project will be highlighted on the White House blog next week as one of the promising practices to come out of the President's Task Force. The soft launch begins in January 2016. Auburn PD is being guided through the process with us. If it goes well, full pilot programs will be launched in April with Seattle PD; Tempe, Arizona; Camden, New Jersey; and Aurora, Illinois. Funding was received by the Dunham Fund out of Aurora, IL. Substantial funding is expected soon from the McArthur Foundation.

**The Chair** pointed out while discussing this, we need to be careful how we use the terms when we discuss trust. As in the case with Auburn, they are not starting at zero so we don't want to imply that we think they are broken and need to be built. The term "amplify" may help convey the message intended.

### Strategic Plan

The Washington Post is doing a fairly extensive story on what we're doing at the academy. The reporter was on campus once or twice. We're anticipating the story will be about police training and how that influences some of the perceptions that are currently being debated in the public.

## Personnel

**Director Rahr** shared staffing updates.

Rachael Anderson - Working with Tom Hill in our FTO/PTO/Reserves Programs.  
Deborah Miller - Working with the CIT Program through funding from the Legislature.  
Karen Saul - Brought in temporarily to help with final stages of CALEA Accreditation and also working on getting our curriculum updates completed.  
Tom Hill - New FTO/PTO/Reserves Program Manager.

**Deputy Director Bales** advised we are finishing interviews for the new Facilities Manager. Wes Anderson retired in September. We received approximately 60 applications for the position and offered interviews to 16 and 11 accepted interviews. Currently four will be doing a second round of interviews with an employment offer expected by January 15, with a start date of February 1, 2016.

**Director Rahr** asked Commander Bowen to speak to our dilemma with TAC Officers. **Commander Bowen** shared two agencies have pulled back their TAC Officers because of agency staffing problems. It's a true problem for us as it's critical we maintain a high standard of training. Our TAC's are working at 100% capacity at all times. We can handle the workload for a short amount of time, but it cannot be maintained. Requests have been sent to agencies and advertised on the website.

**Deputy Director Bales** discussed the issues we're up against finding TAC's. The good quality people we want are hard for agencies to let go. When running short, they want their best there for them. Also, there are the commute considerations. We're limited to those within about a 50 mile radius. In the past we have offered up a male and female dormitory for trainers, but it's not cost effective if we're having to house students in hotels. We will revisit the state ethics laws about renting a small apartment or some duplexes to offer that up for TAC Officers outside of a commutable distance.

**Commander Bowen** advised Spokane's session begins February 1, 2016. We were hopeful to have more attendees being local, but that didn't pan out. The majority are still from the East side, but we will have to have some in hotels. We did find a reduced rate to help save costs.

## OLD BUSINESS

### WAC Rule Review

*Sonja Peterson, Rules Coordinator*

#### **WAC 139-05-915: Canine Certification**

This WAC is up for final action. At the last Commission meeting there was a request to repeal this WAC. Sonja received six comments from chiefs, sheriffs, and others. Three people attended to testify. If the WAC is not repealed today, the option is to propose alternate language and final action can be taken at March Commission Meeting. If final action is not taken at the March Commission Meeting, this WAC's proposed changes die in May and the current language remains. Should changes be desired after that, the process begins again from step one.



**Commissioner Stidham** updated the Commission on the progress of the work group and shared recommendations. He proposes that the Commission reduce the WAC down to simply that a canine will certify biannually to the standards set forth by WSCJTC. The standards are then moved out of the WAC, so that if we have to make changes to these standards again we don't have this process. The WAC states solely that a canine will certify. The certification standards are then moved into policy. WSCJTC has been issuing certifications without actually seeing the dogs work. In order to fix this a solution would be to put together what WSCJTC would accept as the subject matter experts. WSCJTC would recognize SME's as just that and those individuals would be testing/certifying the dogs. The end product would be a WSCJTC certification that has the Executive Director's signature on it. The subject matter expert would also sign the certificate, so if there were a court case that subject matter expert would be called in to give their background and they would be able to testify to the dog's standards. The workload would be put on the individual agencies and evaluators. A list of WSCJTC approved evaluators would be listed on the website so agencies can easily find experts to test K-9's.

**Director Rahr** explained WSCJTC does not have K-9 trainers or experts on staff as experts in this area as we do with Firearms and Defensive Tactics. She reiterated the need for WSCJTC to develop a work group or find funding for a staff of people who are trained experts in order to provide those certifications. We can't lose sight of the fact that there is a whole body of work that needs done to maintain the integrity of those people who are signing the forms.

**Officer Sam Hovenden, Redmond PD**, attended to ask that the Commission stay the hand and rescind the vote to repeal the WAC. The SME list would be made up of master trainers from varying agencies. He shared he's been part of the selection process when choosing someone for a K-9 position. He says it's not like choosing someone for an FTO or a Task Force. To become a master trainer takes approximately four years. He asks they be allowed to continue to have the work group meet and work with Commissioner Stidham. He believes the work group can come up with answers to the funding questions and certification issues. He also vowed to encourage the work group to communicate better within the group and to the WSCJTC.

**Officer Shan Hanon, Bellingham PD**, explained his belief the WAC is used as a guidance for all, something that handlers, trainers, and departments all looked to. His belief is should it be repealed, the state would take a step backwards. Loopholes were found in the WAC, and the work group was formed to overcome those loopholes. The work group had accomplished quite a bit, but midway things went in another direction. He asked the Commission to vote not to get rid of the WAC and secondly to defer more improvements to the work group. The subject matter experts that are there, they want to be there. We don't want the Commission to have to pay for any of this. We're willing to do the work, we're passionate for it and we think it's a very worthy cause.

**Sgt. Steve White, Seattle PD, Training Supervisor for the K-9 Unit**, provided some historical context that he hoped would help the Commission come to an informed decision.

**Commissioner Wells** asked for clarification. She questioned Sgt. White saying, "You said that when we have the WAC we have the force of law. But it's voluntary to have a K-9 team certified in the state of Washington, isn't it?"

**Sgt. Steve White** responded, "Because the State has chosen to actually articulate in the WAC what those standards are, if you choose to go ahead and participate to that, that's the standard to which everybody in the state chooses to train. If somebody decides to go out of that they do not have that yard stick that the state has clearly articulated at the most public level. If we create a standard within the Training Commission or in a work group that says this is what it is, there are a couple layers of transparency to go through to get down to where that is, but when it's in the WAC its right there anybody can pull it up any time very easily just by searching for Police Dog, Washington State Law and it pops up. Any agency that goes ahead and certifies that level and gets the blessing of the Training Commission, gives that person who looks for that gives them assurance that that team is the best they possibly can be. There's no penalty, but in terms of having it codified in the strongest, most visible manner, I think there is something to be said for having it actually in the state's laws."

**Commissioner Wells** asked a follow-up question directed to Tisha Jones. "You said people send you papers saying this dog is going to do all these things and you take it at face value and we've actually had cases where the dog has not been put through those phases."

**Tisha Jones responded**, "Yes, Ma'am. What happened is that I went out to the training and I'm in no way a subject matter expert, but I was watching what they were doing and I asked some questions because I noticed they weren't marking certain boxes and I questioned whether they were meeting the standard and they said that they don't do that and I said, but I've been certifying your teams because your application said you were. So that's how a lot of this opened. Evaluators were not marking a box on a score sheet, but on the application marking the box."

**Commissioner Wells** returned questioning to Sgt. White asking, "What's the solution to that?"

**Commissioner Stidham** responded offering to answer the question. "Under the old WAC there wasn't a narrowed requirement to certify the dogs, so if through the work group or the process we narrow down exactly who can perform this test, they are the ones that are on the same sheet of music, it's their signature that is attesting in court that they performed to these standards. The subject matter expert is swearing that he is the one who is certifying that dog."

**The Chair** clarified, "He is vetted by the Commission, not by an individual group or number of groups? Also, if the sworn statement is submitted to the Commission it is to be done under penalty of perjury and the Commission could move to revoke peace officer certification should it be submitted falsely."

**Commissioner Stidham** responded, "Correct. Also, I understand not wanting to put a huge workload on the state. I believe having it biannually it reduces the effects on the Commission."

**Mitch Barker, Executive Director of WASPC**, shared WASPC did not vote on this, but a number of chiefs and sheriffs asked him to come here to ask the Commission to hold off on doing away with certification at this time. The chiefs and sheriffs feel it's very important to have some standard and he realizes any certification is arbitrary. Director

Rahr and Mr. Barker have had long discussions about this and he understands the concerns. He has a number of concerns as well. Not just about the training, but the certification and ongoing certification. He admits he probably doesn't have as high a level of trust in K-9 Officers certifying other K-9 Officers based on some experiences he had in a couple agencies, but to have some standard is very important. The chiefs and sheriffs would ask for the Commission to not take the action to get rid of the certification or WAC at this time and give some time to move forward to find another process.

**The Chair** closed public testimony and brought the WAC for final action.

**Commissioner Kelsey** withdrew his previous motion to repeal WAC 139-05-915.

**Commissioner Hohenberg** also withdrew his seconded motion.

**The Chair** opened the floor for discussion by the Commission. **Commissioner Turner** voiced he's in favor of the work group getting together to continue to work on this issue. He is willing to serve on the group to help steer it towards a successful conclusion.

**Commissioner Turner** motioned to return this issue to the work group for additional handling. **Commissioner Elfo** seconded the motion.

**Commissioner Anderson** stated, "I would have liked to see a motion with a little more specificity. I'm supportive of "staying the hand," but in the next few months between now and March the work that needs to be done is very specific so I'll speak in favor to the motion, but specifically what I'm in favor of is the truncated WAC that has been suggested, that moves all of the specifics into administrative standards, so it can be updated, fluid, and contemporary. I support that specifically and would like the next proposal to move in that direction. The idea of having a registry of Subject Matter Experts who would conduct the testing of the K-9 teams as opposed to what this draft WAC implies the Commission is going to be training the SME's."

**Chief Hohenberg** addressed the Commission and provided commentary. "We've had this WAC since '89 so I don't see a big hurry to go through this. A lot of feedback has come to me. Part of our job is to listen to our stakeholders and I'm hearing loud and clear the wishes. The thing is, if agencies are having their dog certified hoping they don't get sued, good luck. People can and do sue for anything. But I also read the letters attached and what the WAC does is it sets some standards and how we get there I think the sooner the better, but I don't think we're in a hurry and we have an opportunity to make it better. I hope that everyone involved in this process brings back something that we can be comfortable with."

**The Chair** reminded the Commission the only urgency is the fact we are currently not doing anything with the existing WAC as far as issuing certificates. In that sense we're in a little bit of limbo.

**Commissioner Anderson** expressed her request the Commission be provided clarity about what the Commission's role is regarding SME's. "Are we simply maintaining an inventory? Are we training? Are we testing? Are we certifying? What are we doing with the SME's?"

**Commissioner Wells** read from the handout, "It says we're recognizing and appointing them."

**The Chair** asked, "What does that mean?"

**Commissioner Stidham** shared that's where the work group left off. "I have a stake in this, having done this all my career, it's important to me to see it through. We want to work on specifically the WAC right away and then the certification process and SME's, we will focus on that straight away as well."

**Commissioner Turner** voiced he had similar concerns and he's committed to working with Commissioner Stidham and taking a look at all of these different issues.

**Commissioner Elfo** echoed the comments as has heard the same comments from around the state and has deep regard for those who have invested a large amount of their time to K-9 programs and we have an obligation to work with them to find a solution to this.

**The Chair** called for further discussion, hearing none, he added that a stipulation to the motion on the table is to have the work group meet and put something together to bring before the March Commission Meeting. He asked they work with urgency to get the process rolling so we can meet the WAC change requirements that are upon us. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**The Chair** appointed Commissioner Stidham and Commissioner Turner to the work group. There were no objections.

**Director Rahr** requested the work group establish and regularly update WSCJTC staff on meetings.

**Sonja Peterson** requested they keep her up to speed so that she can meet statutory requirements with the Code Reviser's Office.

**The Chair called** for any additional comments or questions. None were expressed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.**


**Next Meeting: March 9, 2015, 10 AM, WSCJTC**

Written by:

  
Marisa O'Neill, Executive Assistant

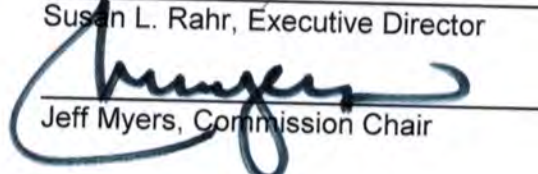
3/9/15  
Date

Reviewed by:

  
Susan L. Rahr, Executive Director

3/9/16  
Date

Approved by:

  
Jeff Myers, Commission Chair

3/9/16  
Date