



**MINUTES:**

**Approved April 16, 2026**

**Commission Work Session Agenda**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

January 28, 2026

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission HQ  
300 Desmond Dr SE, Lacey, WA 98503

**Commissioners:** Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Secretary Ali Raad, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Scott Merriman and Sophia Danenberg  
Director: Diana Dupuis

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will be holding their regularly scheduled commission work session on January 28, 2026. Please note that this is a hybrid meeting, you are welcome to attend in-person or online. We ask for patience as we navigate these hybrid meetings and want to remind you that attending in-person is the most reliable option.

You may participate remotely by listening and/or watching using the following link:  
**Watch the meeting on TVW:** <https://www.twv.org/watch/?eventID=2026011103>

You can find the agenda and presentations on our website:  
<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

**Public Comment:** This is a work session between staff and the Commission. The public is invited to attend, but no public comment will be taken. No decisions will be made by the Commission at the work session.

**Time:** Opening session will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

**9:01 a.m. CALL TO ORDER** – Holly Williams, Commission Vice Chair

- Call of the Roll
  - Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Secretary Ali Raad, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Sophia Danenberg and Scott Merriman
- Introduction of Staff
  - Director Diana Dupuis; Deputy Director Mike Sternback; Executive Assistant Becki Ellison; Business Support Services Division Director Laura Holmes; Workforce, Technology and Equity Division Director Amber Erdahl; External & Legislative Relations Division Director Brian Considine; Operations Director Jon Crimmins; Parks Development Director Heather Saunders; and Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz
  - Assistant Attorney General Andy Woo
- Changes to agenda *None*
- Logistics

- 9:04 a.m. STATE PARKS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** – John Floberg, Washington State Parks Foundation, Rangers Alicia “AJ” Feist and David Linthakhan, Administrative Assistant Johanna Painter, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Eric Kincaid, Construction and Maintenance Lead Rene De La Mora, student mentor Area Manager Aaron Davidson, and Region Superintendents Jessica Logan, Anna Gill, and Scott Griffith
- This presentation highlights our participation in the National Association of State Parks Directors (NASPD) Leadership School which was made possible by the generosity and support of the Parks Foundation. The Leadership School is a two-year certificate program through North Carolina State University and consists of both distance and in-person components. The school aims to prepare state park employees for leadership roles and focuses on building core competencies that are essential to effective and professional state park management. You will hear from Parks Foundation Executive Director John Floberg as well as from our students who will share their experiences.
- 9:42 a.m. WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE** – Rob Sendak, Boating and Winter Recreation Program Manager and Corey Tolar, Winter Recreation Manager
- This presentation provides the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission with an overview of the Winter Recreation Program and the 2025 non-motorized and snowmobile programs accomplishments and challenges.
- 10:21 a.m. BOATING PROGRAM UPDATE** – Rob Sendak, Boating and Winter Recreation Program Manager and Lydia Moorehead, Clean Vessel Program Specialist
- This presentation provides an overview of the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program and highlights key findings from the recently completed Washington State Recreational Boating Pumpout Assessment. The assessment recommends strategic investment in waste infrastructure to maintain a robust, statewide system and ensure continued eligibility for federal CVA funding.
- 10:49 a.m. BREAK**
- 11:05 a.m. STEPTOE BUTTE UPDATE**– Ken Graham, Real Estate Program Manager & Michelle Burke, Property and Acquisition Specialist
- This presentation will give the commission information on a proposal to grant a perpetual road easement at Steptoe Butte State Park Heritage Site to the Department of Natural Resources to allow them access to their adjacent property.

- 11:19 a.m. HISTORIC PRESERVATION 201** - Alex McMurry, Historic Preservation Planner
- This presentation will provide the commission with an overview of the agency’s historic properties and their management.

**12:05 p.m. LUNCH**

- 1:02 p.m. LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE** – Brian Considine, External and Legislative Relations Director
- This presentation will give the commission an update on the 2026 Legislative Session.

- 1:30 p.m. FINANCIAL UPDATE** – Laura Holmes, Business Services Division Director
- This item reports to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on 1) State Parks’ 2025-27 biennium operating and capital budget expenditures and 2) Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account (PRSA) revenue.

**1:55 p.m. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

**2:44 p.m. BREAK**

**2:55 p.m. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP UPDATES** *continued*

**3:10 p.m. BREAK**

**3:25 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Commission Vice Chair Holly Williams:*

*“The Commission will enter executive session at 3:25 pm to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and to discuss potential litigation with the Commission’s assigned legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The executive session is expected to end at 4:25 pm. The Commission will adjourn after the conclusion of the executive session.”*

**4:25 p.m.**

*Commission Vice Chair Holly Williams:*

*“The Commission is extending the executive session to 5:00 p.m.*

**4:55 p.m. ADJOURN**

## **Commission Meeting Agenda**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

January 29, 2026

Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Dr SE, Lacey, WA 98503

**Commissioners:** Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Secretary Ali Raad,  
Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Scott Merriman and Sophia Danenberg  
Director: Diana Dupuis

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will be holding their regularly scheduled commission meeting in-person on January 29, 2026. Please note that this is a hybrid meeting, you are welcome to attend in-person or online. We ask for patience as we navigate these hybrid meetings and want to remind you that attending in-person is the most reliable option.

You may participate remotely by [listening and/or watching](#) using the following link:

**Watch the meeting on TVW:** <https://www.tw.org/watch/?eventID=2026011104>

**Time:** Opening session will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

**Order of Presentation:** In general, each agenda item will include a presentation followed by Commission discussion and then public comment. The Commission makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda.

### **In-Person Public Comment:**

We will be accepting in-person oral public comment at the meeting. If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff at the sign in table. The Chair will call you up to the front at the appropriate time.

### **Virtual Public Comment:**

Virtual public comment will be accepted for our public meeting. To provide virtual comment you will need to be able to join the Attendee Web link from your computer (no phone option available). **Pre-registration is required.** To register email [commission@parks.wa.gov](mailto:commission@parks.wa.gov) by 5 pm on January 23. Please provide the name you will be logging in under, contact phone number as well as the agenda item or general topic you will be speaking on. You will receive an email by noon on January 26 with specific instructions around virtual testimony.

### **Written Public Comment:**

Written public comment will be accepted for all agenda items until 5 p.m. on January 23 by email or mail. Any comments received after the cutoff will be given to the commission before its next meeting.

Email: [Commission@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Commission@parks.wa.gov)

Mail: WSPRC, Attn: Becki Ellison, PO Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504.

You can find the agenda, agenda items and presentations on our website.

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

The meeting minutes and recording will be loaded within one week after the meeting.

**9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER** – Laurie Connelly, Commission Chair

- Flag Salute – Jonas Hawthorne, Administrative Assistant
- Call of the Roll
  - Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Secretary Ali Raad, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Sophia Danenberg and Scott Merriman
- Introduction of Staff
  - Director Diana Dupuis; Deputy Director Mike Sternback; Executive Assistant Becki Ellison; Business Support Services Division Director Laura Holmes; Workforce, Technology and Equity Division Director Amber Erdahl; Operations Director Jon Crimmins; Parks Development Director Heather Saunders; and Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz.
- Assistant Attorney General Andy Woo
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement
  - We respect and affirm tribal sovereignty and honor indigenous peoples whose traditional lands we occupy. The State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to working with all Tribes to help preserve and restore a healthy natural environment for the future Recognition of State, Tribal and Local Officials
- Changes to the Agenda
  - Approval of the Agenda
    - Motion by Ali Raad to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Scott Merriman. Approved unanimously as presented.
- Logistics
- Approval of minutes of previous meetings
  - October 15, 16, 2025 – Work Session/Commission Meeting, Olympia
  - November 19, 2025 – Commission Meeting - Virtual
  - December 9, 10, 2025 – Planning Meeting, Olympia
    - Motion by Ali Raad to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Alfie Alvarado-Ramos. Approved unanimously as presented.

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – *general public comment and items on the agenda (any comments regarding Westport Light State Park will be taken with the agenda item at 2:30 p.m.)*

- None

**9:04 a.m. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**9:31 a.m. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Items not on the agenda***

- In-person public comments only
  - Donna Albert, *Westport Golf - opposed*

**9:35 a.m. COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Legislative
- Budget
- Real Estate
- Executive

**9:40 a.m. DIRECTOR REPORT**

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**9:58 a.m. BREAK**

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**10:17 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION**

Item E-1: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Rules of Procedure

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to adopt the Commission's Rules of Procedure document for implementation.

**REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:**

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Adopt the Washington State Parks and Recreation Rules of Procedure.
2. Rescind Commission Travel Policy 25-12-09.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**Motion** by Ali Raad to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Alfie Alvarado-Ramos. Approved unanimously as presented.

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**10:34 a.m. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Election of Officers for 2026
  - Election of Chair and Vice Chair
    - Scott Merriman nominates Holly Williams for Chair
    - Ali Raad nominates Scott Merriman for Vice Chair
      - **Approved unanimously**
  - Transfer of the gavel to 2026 Commission Chair Holly Williams
  - Recognition of 2025 Commission Chair Laurie Connelly
  - Commission Committee Assignments
    - Legislative
      - Alfie Alvarado-Ramos
      - Scott Meriman

- Sophia Danenberg
  - Executive
    - Laurie Connelly
    - Holy Williams
    - Scott Merriman
  - Budget
    - Laurie Connelly
    - Alfie Alvarado-Ramos
    - Holly Williams (*until new commissioner appointed*)
  - Real Estate
    - Ali Raad
    - Scott Merriman
    - Sophia Danenberg (*until new commissioner appointed*)
  - Representative to the Washington State Parks Foundation
    - Ali Raad
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**10:48 a.m. RECOGNITION**

- Gold Stars
    - Michelle Garcia, Brett Gladson, and Jamie Villa
  - Service Pins
    - Sarah Yearout – 35 years state
    - Jeff Vassallo – 30 years state and parks
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**11:01 a.m. BREAK**

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**11:18 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION**

Item E-3: Saint Edward State Park—Letter of Agreement to Subdivide

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to delegate to the Director authority to approve a Letter of Agreement to Subdivide the parcel leased by the Lodge at Saint Edward Park, LLC into a three-lot short plat subdivision

**ACTION REQUESTED OF COMMISSION:**

*That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission*

1. Delegate to the Director or designee authority to approve and sign a Letter of Agreement to subdivide the leased parcel, substantially in the form presented in Appendices 1 and 3.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**Motion** by Scott Merriman to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Laurie Connelly. Approved unanimously as presented.

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**11:37 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION**

Item E-2: 2026 Director's Performance Evaluation

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to adopt the 2026 Director's Performance Agreement which includes the previously approved 2025-2027 Commission Priorities. This will document their conclusion that the Director performed satisfactorily in 2025, and that a meaningful evaluation process was used to reach this conclusion.

**REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:**

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Record their satisfaction with the Director's 2025 performance, and that a meaningful evaluation process was used.
2. Adopt the 2026 Director's Performance Agreement as presented in Appendix 1.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**Motion** by Laurie Connelly to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Alfie Alvarado- Ramos. Approved unanimously as presented.

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**11:41 a.m. LUNCH**

**1:03 p.m. REQUESTED ACTION**

Item E-4: 2027-2029 Grant Requests

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve a list of acquisition, development, and restoration grants to be applied for through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

**REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:** That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Authorize the Director or designee to seek funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office in the 2027-2029 biennium for the projects listed in Appendix 7.
2. Authorize the Director or designee to defer applications for specific projects or pursue funding for projects through other grant categories if needed.
3. Authorize the Director or designee to make necessary project scope and cost changes as applications are prepared.

4. Authorize the Director or designee to substitute projects in the alternates list in Appendix 7 for others that are found to be infeasible through the detailed scoping process.
5. Authorize the Director or designee to pursue small foundation grants, federal grants, Winter Recreation grants, unanticipated RCO grants, and other time-sensitive opportunities that may arise throughout the 2027-2029 biennium.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**Motion** by Ali Raad to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Scott Merriman. Approved unanimously as presented.

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**1:39 p.m. BREAK**

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**2:28 p.m. DISCUSSION**

Westport Golf LLC Proposal Update

This discussion will update the Commission regarding the status of the proposed Westport golf course.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Virtual:

- Ryan Young - support
- Meaghan Anderson - oppose
- Anna Vallery - oppose
- Jermaine Kearse - support
- Anne Beasley - oppose

In-person:

- Donna Albert – comment given at 9:31 am - oppose
- Brian J. Hill – support
- Peter Stielquist – Washington Policy Advisor - Surfrider Foundation – oppose
- John Shaw - support
- Georgia Anne Miller –Chair of the Board of Grays Harbor County Commissioners - support
- Scott Boettcher – Grays Harbor County Consultant - support
- Darrin Raines – Greater Grays Harbor Inc. - support

**ACTION:**

Discussion only, no action taken.

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**5:01 p.m. ADJOURN**

*Submitted by Becki Ellison, Executive Assistant*

*January 29, 2026*

A recording is retained by WSPRC as the formal record of meeting. The recording is accessible on the park's website approximately one week after the meeting - <https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

The services, programs, and activities of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact the commission assistant Becki Ellison at (360) 902-8502 or [becki.ellison@parks.wa.gov](mailto:becki.ellison@parks.wa.gov). Accommodation requests should be received at least five business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide 7-day notice for requests to receive information in an alternative format and for ASL/ESL interpretation requests.