

WASHINGTON STATE BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: February 16, 2005
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Gwinwood Retreat Center
Lacey, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Ack	Puget Sound Action Team
Ken Berg	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Dave Brittell	Department of Fish & Wildlife
Bill Brookreson	At-large
Maggie Coon	The Nature Conservancy
Donna Darm	NOAA Fisheries
Rob Fimbel	State Parks
John Gamon	Department of Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark	Double J. Ranch
Yvette Joseph	Colville Confederated Tribes
John Marzluff	University of Washington
Jackie Reid	Thurston County Conservation District
Ken Risenhoover	Port Blakely Tree Farms
Mark Schaffel	Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association
Kate Stenberg	At-large
Naki Stevens	At-large
Wade Troutman	At-large
Dick Wallace	Department of Ecology
Josh Weiss	Washington Forest Protection Association
Megan White	Department of Transportation

ACTIONS TAKEN

Item	Action	Reference
Minutes – December 16, 2004	Motion Approved	p. 2
Amendment to bylaws – Executive Committee officer selection	Motion Adopted	p. 6
Executive Committee officers	Amended Motion Approved	p. 6
Standing Committee charges and members	Consensus	p. 7
Authorization for Executive Committee to expend uncommitted funds	Amended Motion Approved	p. 8

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Maggie Coon, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Each Council, staff, and audience member gave a brief introduction.

The Chair noted that guest speaker, Ed Miles, co-director of the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington, was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Chair Coon introduced Elliot Marks, Natural Resource Policy Advisor for Governor Gregoire. Formerly with The Nature Conservancy, he has traveled and promoted biodiversity conservation throughout the state and said he is seeing a shift toward conservation of multiple species. The Council's goals and tasks are supportive of the governor's environmental agenda. Governor Gregoire believes in collaborative processes, non-regulatory solutions, and incentives for private landowners. Elliot thanked the Council for its work in this area and said he looks forward to receiving the Council's recommendations.

REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA

Chair Coon reviewed the revised agenda noting the main focus of this meeting is to complete the organization phase. Her hope is to come out of this meeting with a clear sense of roles and responsibilities, and to agree on charges for the standing committees. She recommends using the Executive Order's direction as the organizing principle.

There was one addition to the agenda – a brief Executive Session is planned at the end of the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Peter Goldmark **MOVED** to accept the December 16, 2004, meeting minutes. Dave Brittell **SECONDED**. Minutes were **APPROVED**.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Carole Richmond reviewed the 2005 meeting schedule and locations:

April 27 – Natural Resources Building

June 14 – Nisqually Wildlife Refuge Center

September 22 – Natural Resources Building

December 7 (changed from December 8) – Natural Resources Building

Dick suggested holding the September meeting somewhere in eastern Washington.

Carole discussed the meeting management survey that allows each person an opportunity to comment on the meeting. Received good feedback from the last meeting from Council members and public attendees. One suggestion was to review meeting

materials at the beginning of each meeting. The consensus of the group was to continue having the survey.

Biodiversity Council information has been put on IAC's website at <http://www.iac.wa.gov/biodiversity>. This interim website includes an explanation of what biodiversity is, the Executive Order, list of members, meeting schedule and summaries, and the 2003 strategy report. Carole asked members to give her any suggestions for changes to the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Coon suggested the "committee charter" handout be used as the starting point for discussion. The Communications Committee is a new proposal. The Science Assessment Working Group would become a new Strategy Committee. Connecting committee work to the Executive Order will improve clarity.

Incentives Working Group

Dick Wallace presented this agenda item. (See notebook for details.)

The Incentives Working Group, comprised of Dick Wallace (leader), Ken Berg, Bill Brookreson, Peter Goldmark, Ken Risenhoover, Steve Tharinger, and Wade Troutman, met on January 14. The group determined that in working with landowners, the most critical part is listening. A good approach would be to "listen to understand and speak to educate."

The group determined the following categories of landowner incentives:

- Direct payment, cost-share
- Market incentives
- Sale, lease, or transfer of property interests
- Tax advantages
- Technical assistance
- Recognition for success
- Regulatory certainty

The group recommends the following committee charge:

1. Assess existing and potential landowner incentives;
2. Working with landowners, develop recommendations on ways to market existing incentive programs; and
3. Integrate with Pilot Projects Committee to get more specific success on the ground.

The current membership should continue, in addition to other Council members who want to participate, plus technical advisors.

Additional staff time is needed to begin assessing incentive programs. Oregon Defenders of Wildlife has offered staff time plus funding for this. Another effective tool

would be a broad-based landowner survey to determine which incentive programs are in use by county. Would like to have a draft assessment by June, 2005. Should have a draft of the committee's scope of work by the April Council meeting.

Based on Council discussion, Chair Coon will make the following changes to the Incentives Committee charter:

- Focus on landowners, both public and private
- Make link to pilot projects work
- Include disincentives
- Evaluating cost effectiveness of both existing and potential new incentives

The Chair asked each person to think about which working group he or she would like to work with. She expects everyone to participate in at least one area.

Pilot Projects Working Group

Jackie Reid presented this agenda item. (See notebook for details.)

The Pilot Projects Working Group, comprised of Brian Collins (leader), Jackie, Rob Fimbel, and Ken Risenhoover, met in early January. The group discussed the importance of allowing landowners to provide leadership for the pilot projects. The committee was not sure how much work had already been done with local groups. Need to have a compelling message for bringing groups together and some sort of professional facilitation.

Pilot Projects Committee Charge:

1. Meet with landowners to identify those willing to participate in pilot project. Better participation when local people are interested.
2. Develop a funding proposal for foundations that supports an experienced facilitator for each pilot project.
3. Work with the Incentives Committee to develop an integrated "conservation tool kit" of incentives.
4. Recognize good land stewardship.
5. Encourage integration of local and state data.
6. Encourage the leveraging of educational and other resources at the local level.

The group believes a one-year timeframe should be adequate to complete the pilot projects. The goal is to have the candidate pilot sites identified prior to the April council meeting.

Chair Coon summarized the Pilot Project Committee's charges as listed on the Committee Charter handout. She stressed that the committee's role is only to oversee the projects, not to do the actual work.

Science Assessments/Strategy Working Group

Rob Fimbel presented this agenda item. (See notebook for details.)

The Science Assessments/Strategy Working group, comprised of Rob Fimbel (leader), Naki Stevens, Megan White, Donna Darm, John Marzluff, Ken Risenhoover, Jeff Koenings, and Mel Moon, has met twice. The group determined there is a role for science to play in developing a strategy for the Council but that other types of scientific information should be considered. It's important to understand the conservation priorities and threats to biodiversity. The group struggled with coming up with a charter. Need to step back and address the strategy issue.

Dee suggested coming back to the discussion on committee structure after the break.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dee Frankfourth gave a PowerPoint presentation on how to communicate information on biodiversity.

There are four questions we need to ask ourselves when trying to communicate: How can we be heard? How can we be believed? How can we be remembered? Are we being repeated?

Dee offered ten tips from the "Biodiversity Project" (see presentation handout).

The Chair discussed the possibility of creating a Communications Committee. The proposed charter for the Communications Committee would be to:

1. Oversee development of the biodiversity website;
2. Assess currently available biodiversity-related educational approaches and materials;
3. Recommend a stakeholder-outreach strategy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Coon proposed an amendment to the bylaws that would change the composition of the Executive Committee. Currently, the bylaws read "The Executive Committee shall consist of the Council chair and vice-chair, and the chairs of any standing committees." The new language would read: "The Executive Committee shall consist of the Council chair and vice-chair and up to six additional council members as selected by the full Council." This proposal stems from a need to spread the responsibilities around and balance different kinds of representation.

Bill Brookreson **MOVED** to accept the amendment to the bylaws as follows:
Peter Goldmark **SECONDED** the motion.

Discussion:

Brad feels this may be asking too much of the Executive Committee. Need to make sure we have a balance on the committee of local government, private, federal, and tribes.

The Chair wants to keep the Executive Committee a manageable size.

Wade suggested having a liaison serving on each committee.

Dick agrees with having a liaison. The value of the Executive Committee brings integration of the committees without duplicating. There needs to be a connection between the Executive Committee and other committees.

Kate noted we won't move ahead unless we have that direct connection between committees and Executive Committee. All the pieces need to be integrated.

Motion **PASSED**.

After discussion, the following names were suggested for membership on the Executive Committee: Maggie, Brad, Ken Berg, Ken Risenhoover, Mel Moon, Steve Tharinger, and Jeff Koenings.

Dave voiced his concern that, due to his full schedule, Jeff may not be able to have full participation on the Executive Committee. The Chair responded that she had spoken with Jeff and because of the WDFW work on the wildlife strategy, he feels this Council will help that work.

Bill **MOVED** to adopt the slate of Executive Committee members as follows: Maggie, Brad, Ken Berg, Ken Risenhoover, Mel Moon, Steve Tharinger, Jeff Koenings. Wade **SECONDED** the motion.

Discussion:

Mark asked about proxy votes. The Chair responded that voting would not be a major issue as the work is done by consensus.

Dick also has concerns about continuity with Jeff, as there is need for full participation of members. The duties of the Executive Committee are above and beyond the full Council and connection is critical.

The Chair suggested electing those who are here and willing to serve, while keeping open the option of electing additional members.

Donna Darm **MOVED** to amend the motion, changing the Executive Committee nominees to Maggie, Brad, Ken Berg, and Ken Risenhoover. Josh **SECONDED** the motion. Amendment to motion **PASSED**. Amended motion **PASSED**.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chair Coon introduced Senator Ken Jacobsen, Chair of the Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation Committee. He is also Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee and a member of the Agricultural and Rural Economic Development Committee. Sen.

Jacobsen co-sponsored Senate Bill 6400, signed into law in 2002, and got the biodiversity conservation process underway.

Sen. Jacobsen discussed "Oregon's Living Landscape – Strategies and Opportunities to Conserve Biodiversity" published by Defenders of Wildlife. This publication does a great job of breaking down the ecoregions and making conservation easy to understand by the average person. We need something like that for Washington.

The senator reported that our state is on the cutting edge of fish and wildlife conservation with salmon recovery restoration projects. He also noted that Washington and Alaska lead the world in legal concepts on natural resource issues.

STANDING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, continued

The Chair proposed establishing a Science and Information Committee with items 2, 3, and 4 of the draft science committee charter as the charge. The Executive Committee's charge would be items 1 and 5.

After some discussion, the Chair asked the group to go forward with this charge and come back if it isn't working.

Committee members are:

Science – Rob and Donna, Co-chairs – Peter, John, Yvette, Jeff/Dave

Incentives – Peter, Chair – Bill, Ken R, Mark, Wade, Dick

Pilots – Bonnie, Chair – John, Jackie, Ken R, Josh, Megan

Communications/Education – Kate, Chair – Bill, Yvette, Naki, Wade

REVIEW OF BUDGET

Carole presented this agenda item. (See notebook for Summary Fiscal Report.)

Total estimated expenditure of biodiversity funds is \$99,352, which leaves \$25,000 in unallocated state funds to spend before July '05. Proposed possible expense items:

- Website development: This is a requirement of the Executive Order. Could have in place before end of 2005. Web development and design estimate at \$6,000-7,000 – more expensive with maps.
- GIS work: This would help Pilot Projects Committee with map work and aid selection of pilot. Cost could be \$2,000.
- Incentives research expenses: Could be less than \$1,000.

Bill feels allocating funds for the website development is a great idea. He does not agree with putting any money into GIS at this point. He would allocate funds to the Incentives Committee to spend at their discretion.

Bill Brookreson **MOVED** to spend up to \$12,000 on development of a website, up to \$4,000 for the Incentives Committee for expenses, and to authorize Executive Committee to approve the expenditures. Peter Goldmark **SECONDED**.

Discussion:

Jackie noted the need to purchase education materials to give to the public.

Ken Risenhoover reminded the group that most reports are available on the internet. Can use website instead of printing copies.

Brad proposed spending up to \$4,000 for the Incentives Committee, as well as the other three committees. Recommends putting no money into website until it can be done right.

Bill noted the \$12,000 for the website development would be just to get it started.

Ken Risenhoover feels it is critical to have a biodiversity website as soon as possible.

John Marzluff suggested giving each committee a deadline of two weeks to submit their budget requests and give the Executive Committee authorization to approve expenditures up to \$25,000.

Kate believes the website development should begin in the next six months. GIS work for pilot projects and science committee work to pull that information together would be very valuable. By the end of June, we should have some work products.

Dick Wallace **MOVED** to amend the motion that we authorize the Executive Committee to work with the various subcommittees for the best expenditure of the \$25,000. Wade Troutman **SECONDED** the motion to amend. Original motion **PASSED**. Amendment to motion **PASSED**.

The Chair reminded the group of the March 15 deadline for committees to submit proposals for expenditures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council members went into executive session at 3:10 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Executive session ended at 3:30 p.m. at which time the meeting was adjourned.



Maggie Coon, Chair

Next meeting: **April 27, 2005**