

**WASHINGTON STATE BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

*DATE: June 10, 2008  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.*

*PLACE: Tacoma Nature Center  
Tacoma, Washington*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Maggie Coon (Council Chair)  
Jim Armstrong  
Leonard Bauer  
Ken Berg  
Dave Brittell  
Nina Carter  
Donna Darm  
Rob Fimbel  
John Garner  
Ron Juris  
Judd Kirk  
John Marzluff  
Ikuno Masterson  
Ken Risenhoover  
Dave Roseleip  
Ron Shultz  
Cullen Stephenson  
Kate Stenberg  
David Troutt  
Josh Weiss (Vice Chair)

The Nature Conservancy  
Spokane County Conservation District  
Washington Dept of Community, Trade & Development  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Audubon Washington  
NOAA Fisheries  
Washington State Parks  
Tacoma Nature Center  
Diamond J. Farms, Inc  
Port Blakely Communities  
University of Washington  
ESA Adolfson  
Washington Department of Transportation  
Washington Agriculture & Forestry Education Fndn  
Washington State Conservation Commission  
Puget Sound Partnership  
CDM  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Washington Forest Protection Association

**STAFF:**

Sarah Gage  
Lori Lawrence  
Rachel LeBaron  
Marc Daudon

Cascadia Consulting

**GUESTS:**

Jamie Tolfree  
Bill Brookreson  
Linda Burgess  
Karen Dvornich  
Jeannette Fancher  
Michele Tirhi

Washington State Association of Counties  
Emeritus Council member  
Puyallup River Council  
UW NatureMapping  
Friends of the Lower White River  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**ACTIONS TAKEN**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Meeting minutes	Approved	Page 2
Approval of Bylaws	Approved	Page 2
Approval of Officers and Executive Committee	Approved	Page 3
Approval of Executive Committee Authority for Early Action Items	Approved	Page 5
Approval of Council Budget	Approved	Page 5
Approval of Executive Committee Authority for 09-11 Budget Request	Approved	Page 6

## **SUMMARY OF MEETING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- The Council completed administrative tasks associated with its extension. It approved bylaws and elected officers (Maggie Coon, chair; Josh Weiss, co-chair) and the executive committee (Ken Berg, Bonnie Bunning, Rob Fimbel, Dave Roseleip, Ron Shultz, David Troutt).
- The Council empowered the Executive Committee to make decisions on early action items for the 08-09 fiscal year, to be based on Council feedback from this meeting.
- The Council approved its 08-09 budget.
- The Council authorized the Executive Committee to prepare an 09-11 budget request, to review and consolidate of agency requests related to biodiversity conservation, and to plan a potential budget reduction package.
- The Council made a preliminary consideration of key leadership and accountability needs for biodiversity conservation in Washington.

## **HANDOUTS**

Agenda (yellow)

Minutes from March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (white)

Proposed Bylaws (white)

Proposed Slate of Officers and Executive Committee (green)

Work Areas and Next Steps (legal)

Draft 08-09 Budget (color printed)

Investing in Biodiversity (color printed)

08-09 Early Action Project Proposals—Budgets (green)

Leadership & Accountability (PowerPoint notes)

Biodiversity Efforts in other States (spreadsheet)

Detail on Biodiversity Efforts in 5 states (white)

## **OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Maggie Coon, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Maggie thanked Sarah Gage for filling in while Lynn Helbrecht is on leave. Maggie introduced Jamie Tolfree, Skamania County Commissioner, who has been nominated to the Council by the Washington State Association of Counties pending appointment by the Governor.

Sarah Gage announced that the Washington Invasive Species Council had released their Strategy; staff mailed a copy to each Biodiversity council member.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the March 11, 2008 meeting minutes. Dave Brittell **MOVED** approval of the minutes. Leonard Bauer **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED as presented** by unanimous vote.

### ***Approval of Bylaws***

Sarah reviewed the highlights and changes to the bylaws that the Council discussed in March. Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the Council Bylaws. Josh Weiss **MOVED** approval of the bylaws. Ron Shultz **SECONDED**. The bylaws were **APPROVED as presented** by unanimous vote.

### ***Approve Slate of Council Officers and Executive Committee***

Sarah reviewed the nomination process. The slate is: Maggie Coon, chair; Josh Weiss, vice-chair; Executive Committee: Ken Berg, Bonnie Bunning, Rob Fimbel, Dave Roseleip, Ron Shultz, David Troutt.

Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the Slate of Council Officers and Executive Committee. John Garner **MOVED** approval of the slate. Josh Weiss **SECONDED**. The Slate of Council Officers and Executive Committee were **APPROVED as presented** by unanimous vote.

## **UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES IN COUNCIL WORK AREAS:**

### ***Overview of the 2008 Workplan & Priorities***

Sarah reviewed the handout "Work Areas and Next Steps based on March 2008 discussions"

### ***Conservation Opportunity Framework updates:***

The Science Committee recommends completing the Conservation Opportunity Framework by adding the two ecoregions not yet included (Blue Mountains, Canadian Rockies) and by addressing fresh water conservation priorities.

Leonard Bauer convened a group of planners to learn about the Framework and to provide input. They provided useful information on their needs and about the scale of the Framework. A primary concern was access to the data underlying the maps. John Pierce can provide the GIS files, and John Gamon has proposed creating user-friendly website to make the information broadly available.

Josh Weiss noted that one of the roles of the Framework is to focus incentives in the most important areas and find out what tools are needed. Several Council members voiced their support for integrating incentives and the Framework.

In further discussion, Council members made the following points:

- Using maps with incentives is an approach that has not been used anywhere else.
- Puget Sound Partnership is very interested.
- Birch Bay (Whatcom County) is a good example of a local level implementation.
- There will never be enough money to acquire easements on all important local lands.
- There are opportunities to tie the Framework concept to other policy areas.
- There may be some tie-in with outreach and messaging.
- In Pierce County, the advance planning unit is understaffed. Staffing levels vary in the state.
- WDFW has asked to create an FTE to work with local governments.
- Important to bring all to the table (agriculture, critical areas ordinance, planners, PSP) and move it forward.

### ***Citizen Science and Scorecard update***

The Science Committee met and discussed how to create a scorecard and have citizen science feed into it. They considered contracting a consultant or an agency, but determined that a post-doctoral fellow would be the most cost-effective. John Marzluff noted that it will take someone really focused and with access to the expertise needed. The scorecard will be constantly evolving.

The interim executive committee had some questions about this proposal when it met; these will be addressed during the budget section.

### ***Outreach & Effective Messaging update***

- Council staff mailed strategies to the state libraries, conservation groups, and land trusts
- The new brochure is nearly ready to go to the state printer.
- Council staff created CD copies of the strategy. These are cheaper to produce than the printed strategy and can be distributed widely. The CD also contains other Council documents.

### ***Incentives and Markets update***

Ron Shultz is working with Puget Sound Partnership on an RFP about conservation markets, contingent on funding.

**BREAK**

## **INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY: BUDGET AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES:**

### ***Overview of budget status and project opportunities***

Maggie introduced this agenda item. She emphasized the importance of showing how the Biodiversity Council helps to leverage others efforts. The handout of the current budget does not include contributions from partners.

### ***2008 Council Budget***

Sarah gave an overview of the current budget (handout) and reviewed the discussions at the March 11 meeting. She led the Council through a handout, Investing in Biodiversity: the executive order directives, the proposed activities to meet the directives, and the resources and partners involved.

The Interim Executive Committee asked staff to find pilot projects that could deliver specific, tangible, short-term results to show the Strategy working on the ground, consistent with discussion at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Given the short timeframe, staff explored options with existing partners. The Committee discussed the potential projects and submitted them for Council discussion.

1. Biodiversity Scorecard and Citizen Science (\$84,000). John Marzluff presented the Science Committee's proposal, including the type of indicators to be measured, how to involve citizens to gather the right information, and a person to organize the information. The scorecard will need to integrate ongoing data collection efforts, not invent something new. A post-doctoral fellow would work for the council.

2. Biodiversity Education through Hands-on Student Projects (\$15,000). Sarah presented Pacific Education Institute's proposal to train teachers to lead student biodiversity projects in the Grays Harbor area. It can serve as a model to other groups and school districts. The teacher training and biodiversity aspects will not go forward without our funding, which would leverage a grant from Washington Sea Grant. Some high school seniors will finish in January, and their culminating projects will be available then. Pacific Education Institute is already working with these school districts.

3. North Central Washington—Piloting Multiple Aspects of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (\$50,000). Sarah presented this proposal from the Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship (IRIS). The project will focus on regional use of the conservation opportunity framework, regional strategic planning for biodiversity conservation, and engaging and supporting citizens in monitoring effective of biodiversity management actions.

4. Pierce County Biodiversity Sub-area Plan (\$40,000). John Garner and members of the Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance spoke to this proposal. Pierce County has 17 Biodiversity Management Areas (BMAs) adopted in the county's management plan. The group proposes to focus on parts of the Nisqually BMA, working with the local community. A BioBlitz may be used as a means to engage the public. Land conversion is happening faster than scientists can evaluate areas. This project, in response to feedback from the Interim Executive Committee, is shifting its focus to the oak woodland and prairie parts of the Nisqually BMA.

5. Biodiversity Scorecard in Crescent Valley (\$10,000). The Crescent Valley area of Pierce County has developed a biodiversity conservation stewardship plan and formed a citizen group, the Crescent Valley Alliance. They propose to complete five action items in their plan to measure the health of their community and to train citizens in monitoring. This project moves the scorecard to the local level.

6. Ecosystem Services Analysis of Nisqually Watershed (\$40,000). David Troutt presented this proposal to commission an analysis to establish estimates of economic value provided by the natural assets of the Nisqually Watershed. This watershed-specific example will look at all the services available and give a better idea of its natural capital. The dollar value of nature will help the public really understand its importance. It would use the Conservation Opportunity Framework, help develop the scorecard, and has tremendous public outreach potential.

### ***Funding Sources and Proposals***

Maggie detailed the contributions partners have made and thanked them.

- The Nature Conservancy, \$50,000
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, \$10,000
- Department of Natural Resources, \$20,000

With the Council's available funds (\$55,000), these donations bring the total to \$135,000. Ken Berg noted that USFWS might be able to find additional funds to support work on oak woodlands.

- Dave Brittell offered \$10,100 from WDFW. He will see if they can do more.
- John Garner indicated that Point Defiance Zoo might be able to offer \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Cullen Stephenson may be able to contribute funding (perhaps \$15,000) after he meets with PSP's leadership council.

### ***Council comment on funding requests:***

David Troutt recused himself from decision making due to conflict of interest.

In a roundtable discussion, Council members expressed which project proposals they most favored, how they would rank them, and why. Criteria mentioned included:

- Build momentum before going to Governor and Legislature for further funding.
- Fund a good cross section of political areas.
- Fund post-doc at full level or not at all.
- Need a council that addresses Eastern WA, so rank the North Central Washington project higher.
- Need the scorecard and citizen science, or other projects may be held up.
- Meet the goals of previous and current Executive Order—the PEI project does that and is relevant to the strategy.
- Be timely—ecosystem valuation is hot right now and could help implement biodiversity conservation by connecting the dots for local government on what they need and what the environment provides.
- Find opportunities for creative funding—the Pierce County proposal has good potential (NRCS grants?).

The Council tabled the discussion until after lunch.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

Speaker: Cullen Stephenson, Council Member, Puget Sound Partnership Deputy Director, shared a Puget Sound Partnership PowerPoint with the council and showed the video "Shifting Baselines" (available on the PSP website).

### ***2008 Budget discussion continued***

Marc Daudon asked each council member to use three dots to pick his or her top three proposals.

16 dots: Biodiversity Scorecard & Citizen Science - \$84,000

15 dots: North Central WA Pilot - \$50,000

11 dots: Education – Hands on - \$15,000

11 dots: Pierce County – Prairie oak Amended - \$40,000

07 dots: Nisqually Ecosystem Valuation - \$40,000

00 dots: Scorecard in Crescent Valley - \$10,000

### ***Approval of 08-09 Council Budget***

Josh Weiss **MOVED** to give the Executive Committee authority to spend funds on early action items based on today's feedback from the Council. Dave Roseleip **SECONDED**. Leonard Bauer **AMENDED** the motion to give the Executive Committee authority to attempt to raise the money to fund the entire package. The motion was **APPROVED as amended** by unanimous vote.

Ron Shultz and Nina Carter suggested that future project proposals be solicited more widely and systematically. Maggie noted that these projects were based on discussions at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, especially for specific, tangible outcomes in the next six months.

Maggie and Josh encouraged the Council to consider approving a budget for the full package of projects, even though not all of the money was in hand. This would be a way to focus the Council on generating additional funds, but the Council would not spend money it does not have.

Josh Weiss **MOVED** to adopt the 08-09 Council budget as amended, changing Early Action Implementation to \$229,000, and the Total to \$532,660. Ron Shultz **SECONDED**. The motion was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

#### **Video Proposal**

Judd Kirk questioned the relative allocation between projects and outreach. The Council needs a video (like "Shifting Baselines") to clarify our message and move people. Council members responded enthusiastically to this idea. Discussion included these points:

- We need a clear strategy and message to target the correct audience.
- Agency communications officers can work on this project.
- Some funds available within the carry-forward budget.
- Jim Armstrong volunteered to produce the video once the content is generated.
- The PSP video cost \$25,000.

The group agreed that a video should become an early action item. The outreach and education working group shall tap agency communications officers and existing funds.

#### **Budget Requests for 2009-2011**

Staff has been in communication with other agencies about their 2009-2011 budget requests that relate to the Strategy. Maggie suggested that the Council show a united front among several agencies working toward common biodiversity goals. The Executive Committee could shape the 09-11 request. All Executive Committee meetings will be open to the entire Council and the public.

Discussion included the following questions.

- How does the 2010 sunset date affect the budget request?
  - This was a question during the 07-09 budget process too—should carry forward as we did during the last budget cycle.
- Is the Executive Committee authorized to make a budget cut this year as well as 09-11 if necessary?
  - Would review any cut with entire Council.

Dave Brittell **MOVED** to authorize the Executive Committee to make decisions for the 09-11 budget request and prepare the final budget request for submittal. All Council members are requested to provide input to staff by June 17. The request will include a review and consolidation of other agency requests and a potential reduction package. This will be sent to full council for review. Nina Carter **SECONDED**.

After further discussion, John Garner **AMENDED** the motion: the budget request should be aggressive within the Priorities of Government framework. The budget request should look for opportunities to link with the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda.

The motion was **APPROVED as amended** by unanimous vote.

Marc summarized the discussion and the motion:

- All Council members are requested to provide input to the decision package to staff by June 17.
- Executive Committee will meet soon thereafter and prepare proposal for 2009-2011; this will be circulated to full council for comment and feedback.
- Executive Committee will then prepare final budget for submittal
- The budget request should be aggressive within the Priorities of Government framework and look for opportunities to link with the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda
- The Executive committee will prepare the following:
  - A budget request

- o A review and consolidation of agency requests
- o A potential budget reduction package.

The Council was reminded that the Open Public Meetings Act covers email communication and not use the "reply all" feature when commenting on the decision package and other Council business.

**LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN WASHINGTON**  
**Background**

Ron Shultz gave brief overview of the Council's background (see PowerPoint handout). The Council is housed at the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for administrative reasons. In the interests of time, Ron shortened the presentation.

**Needs and criteria**

The Executive Order directs the Council to put forward a proposal on leadership and accountability by November 1, 2008. The Council will discuss this in more detail at the September meeting with special attention to key leadership and accountability needs.

The council discussed pros and cons of a continuing Council being housed in state government. Concerns included:

- If we lose too many of our private partners we will only hear from government entities. This was an issue in PSP; to solve this it had to be clear that they were not a regulatory agency.
- Do we want a council always present to act as a conscience, or do we want the idea of biodiversity conservation so infused into the state that it is always there?
- A continuing council should be a true partnership, and not be too connected with government so that it can avoid becoming regulatory.
- It is more important to bring our work forward than to bring the council forward. The council should not exist just to exist.
- A regular review should be built into the structure.
- Some criteria speak to agenda, others to structure. Focus more on structure, or if agenda-driven (e.g., conservation incentives) then articulate why they are included in the structure.
- Want to be able to maximize the funding sources and provide stable (state) funding.

**Overview of options**

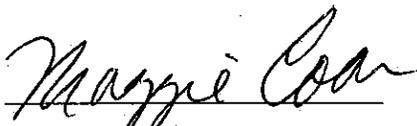
Ron reviewed the PowerPoint. The working group and other interested Council members will frame this discussion for the September meeting. Council members are encouraged to comment.

**NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING COMMENTS:**

- Outreach and education working group shall convene with agency communications officers and use existing funds to work on a video.
- Council members supply proposals for 09-11 budget request by June 17.
- Council members encouraged to comment on leadership and accountability criteria and options.
- The leadership and accountability working group and others will frame this discussion for the September meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

  
 Maggie Coch, Chair