



- The North Central Washington hosted a field trip that enabled Council members to meet with landowners in Entiat and Waterville. (p. 10)
- The Council provided feedback on policy options presented in four draft issue papers, on incentives, state institutional framework, biodiversity-friendly development, and education and public engagement. (p. 11)
- The Science Committee reported that *Washington's Biodiversity: Status and Threats* will incorporate comments from external reviewers and then be published and distributed. (p. 14)
- The Council reviewed a draft communications plan for the Council, prepared by staff.

#### **HANDOUTS DISTRIBUTED AT MEETING:**

- Revised Agenda (yellow)
- 2005-07 Biennial Budget Status (pink)
- Proposed Budget Transfer (deep pink)
- Workplan Update and Progress Report (white legal)
- Institutional Assessment Report
- Institutional Assessment Appendix
- Summaries of Issue Papers 1-4
- Strategy development process & 2005 framework (color; 1-page; from Cascadia Consulting)
- PowerPoint handout (black & white; multi-page; from Cascadia Consulting)
- Field Trip Program (yellow-orange)
- Meeting Evaluation form (buff)

#### **CONVENE and WELCOME:**

Maggie Coon, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Introductions. Council members, staff, and guest introduced themselves and, at Maggie's request, shared something they were very good at.

Overview agenda and materials. Maggie gave an overview of the revised agenda. Lynn reviewed the materials mailed prior to the meeting, including *Washington's Biodiversity: Status and Threats*, Issue Papers 1-4, and the new Council notebooks.

Announcement: IAC Name Change. Lynn announced that the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, after extensive review and consultation, are proposing a name change, to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Office. The Legislature needs to approve the name change before it can be enacted.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA:**

None.

Maggie invited Elizabeth Gray to comment at anytime.

#### **COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Approval of Minutes. Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the June 15, 2006 meeting minutes. Josh Weiss **MOVED** approval of the minutes. Dave Roseleip **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** as presented by a unanimous roll call vote.

Proposal and Decision on Budget Transfer. Lynn introduced the proposal, as detailed on the *Proposed Budget Transfer* handout (deep pink). The proposed change would transfer \$15,000 from the Pilot Projects Committee budget and \$1,000 from the Science Committee budget to the Education and Outreach budget because costs for graphic design and printing were underestimated in the Council's original budget.

In support of the transfer, Lynn made the following points:

- An email exchange among Pilot Project Committee members approved the transfer.
- \$5,000 will stay in the Pilot Project Committee budget for small remaining needs of the current pilot projects.
- A transfer of \$5,000 or more between Committee budgets requires Council approval.

Dave Roseleip **MOVED** approval of the budget transfer. Bonnie Bunning **SECONDED**. The budget transfer proposal was **APPROVED** as presented by unanimous roll call vote.

Budget Status and Workplan. Lynn reviewed the *2005-07 Biennial Budget Status* handout (pink). This version of the budget includes the transfer of funds approved above. She pointed out:

- \$20,000 in new revenue targeted to stakeholder outreach, thanks to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Other money (not on the budget sheet) has been contributed for the conference on incentives (described in Committee Reports below): Washington REALTORS (Bill Clarke) \$1,000; Washington Forest Protection Association (Josh Weiss) \$4,000; Defenders of Wildlife \$10,000. The conference is receiving good support from the Council's partners.

Brad noted that the budget goes through June 2006, and asked whether it would end with a balance of \$319,000. Lynn clarified that this handout does not include obligated money or staff costs; all money will be spent through June.

Lynn then talked through the *Workplan Update and Progress Report* (white legal). A checkmark (✓) means that an item is done; a circle (o) means that it is still to happen. Specific milestones are not yet fleshed out for the Strategy's Action Plan (Section A Part V). The dollar amounts on the workplan do not include staff.

07-09 Budget Proposal. Maggie reminded the Council that funding runs out at the end of the biennium (June 2007) but that the Washington Biodiversity Council is mandated until December 2007.

- A carry forward request (\$500,000) is already in the next biennial budget. A justification has not yet been requested, but probably will be.
- An add-on request was discussed over the summer, and \$300,000 for early action items included in the IAC budget.

Josh Weiss noted that it would be good to show early products from the Council's work and that these early action items are designed to do that. The projects included in the \$300,000 request are:

- A "one stop shop" and broker function to improve information dispersal and information sharing and coordination of conservation incentive programs.
- A feasibility study on developing a wildlife habitat mitigation bank in the state. Such a bank could allow developers to mitigate elsewhere, and allow the state to target areas of higher biodiversity value. This could be a hot button issue, but it's ripe for more investigation.

Comments on the \$500,000 carry-forward budget request:

- Carry-forward assumes that the Council or its successor continues? Funding during the eighteen months after Council sunsets is for implementation of Strategy.
- Helpful to have what the justification for the \$500,000 for the Priorities of Government (POG) meeting. Yes, it is drafted.

Comments on the proposed "one stop shop" and incentives broker:

- The Governor's Office is developing a business portal for the state—important to link with that.
- Recognize the barriers to incentives. Landowners go through hoops and then permitting fees kill the deal.

Comments on the proposed feasibility study for a statewide habitat mitigation bank:

- Would the feasibility study address getting agencies to work together on this issue?  
Response: Yes, that's the purpose, to take this idea a step further.

- Opportunities for habitat banking are out there that we are not taking advantage of. Feasibility study needs to add to our knowledge of what would make it work.
- Need to work with and show link to Shared Strategy for Salmon Recovery—they are looking at whether we can move mitigation to recovery sites as receivers.
- Need to make sure we are coordinating with Department of Ecology's work on wetland mitigation banks—there is habitat banking in Clark County.
- How does this project related to WDFW and the Department of Transportation mitigation optimization workgroup? Response: They are not very active.
- Linkages to other programs, other state efforts, other budget items, will make this more persuasive.
- Banking ultimately doesn't have to be a Washington Biodiversity Council project, but we need to get our voice behind it. It may be a better fit for Ecology or the Governor's office.

Conclusions of discussion on early-action items:

- Send additional comments and revised language suggestions to Lynn by October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The revised request will make explicit connections to ongoing efforts (Shared Strategy, habitat mitigation optimization, wetland mitigation).
- Revised request will also make clear that these are early actions only, and that a full Strategy will be submitted by the Council in 2007.

Elizabeth Rodrick commented that Dave Britnell had wanted to see an early action item that included biodiversity monitoring and citizen science. Responses noted that a supplemental request will be possible next year; the Executive Committee had discussed these options, but thought they might be better served at an agency level. With a limited dollar request they chose the above two projects.

Maggie noted that the Executive Committee will be calling on Council members to advance this budget request in the Legislature.

Meeting Calendar for 2007. Lynn advised the Council to hold five meetings next year, with three before June when the final Strategy is due from Cascadia Consulting. In addition, two rounds of stakeholder workshops and forums will be held during this period. Council concurred; dates will be finalized in the next few weeks.

*BREAK*

#### **STRATEGY PROGRESS AND THE PATH FORWARD:**

Review Progress Made on 2005 Framework. Lynn reviewed progress made on the Strategy Framework adopted in September 2005 (the blue sheet)

Part I: *Current Status of Biodiversity in Washington*

- **1. What's the current status of Washington's biodiversity?** and **2. What are the key threats and transformative forces?** are addressed by the report, *Washington's Biodiversity: Status and Threats*.
- **3. What are the social and cultural values related to biodiversity?** is addressed by the report, *Socioeconomic Conditions and Trends in Washington State*.
- **4. What protection do we get from the current institutional framework?** is addressed by the *Institutional Assessment Report and Appendix*.

Part II: *Biodiversity Conservation Priorities*

- **1. What places, species, and habitats must be conserved to maintain biodiversity and the processes that generate it?** and **2. Where are the gaps?** will be addressed in Issue Paper #6.

**Issue areas identified in the 2003 Report:**

Engaging Students and Citizens – Public education and outreach
Maximizing Opportunities for Local Government
Increasing Partnerships and Working with NGOs

Increase Voluntary Conservation on Private Land
Improve Conservation of Biodiversity on Public Land
Improve Collection, Management and Distribution of Biodiversity Information

These are being addressed in the Issue/Opportunity areas identified for the 30-year Strategy:

Education and Public Outreach
Biodiversity Friendly Development
State Government Institutional Framework
Incentives and Markets
Monitoring, Assessment, Information
Establishing Specific Conservation Priorities
Making the Case

Key Findings and Areas of Agreement to Date

Marc Daudon, Cascadia Consulting, discussed his PowerPoint presentation (see handout).

**Areas of Initial Agreement**

**Mandate, Mission, Vision** (slide 5)

**Audience for the Plan** (slide 6)

Council members commented on the **Audience for the Plan**:

- Agency directors need to be included in key decision makers.
- Where does environmental community fit in?
- Add the category “Key Opinion Leaders”—identify people who shape opinion; they will affect how the Strategy is received. They are separate from decision makers.
- Add tribal governments.
- Need to identify supporters and detractors. Who do we want standing with us?

Cascadia plans to draft the Strategy more to influence decision makers and less as a public document.

**Most Important Thing to Accomplish in the Plan** (slide 7)

The list on this slide was compiled from Council comments at the March 2006 meeting.

Council members commented on the **Most Important Thing to Accomplish in the Plan**:

- Include early success stories and tangible actions.
- Make a compelling case; include why people should care about this.
- Recognize, accelerate, and energize biodiversity conservation in ongoing efforts.
- The plan should make clear: “here is the next step of actions.”
- Clarify and identify what is most important for protecting biodiversity.
- This needs to be similar to a prior change in government regarding risk management; there was a shift in thinking. Now need that same kind of shift for biodiversity. It becomes self-rewarding. What are tangible things we get if we are thinking about biodiversity conservation?
- No agency now says “This is for biodiversity.” They say their actions are for salmon, water quality, hawks, etc. How do we get that connection? How do we change the mindset?
- It would be a mistake to make biodiversity the “WORD.” Our plan has to show how these activities are all part of protecting life and the environment. Make it really appeal.
- Are we trying to tweak (i.e., migrate the system so it considers biodiversity) or really shift (i.e., shift programs to be more explicitly for biodiversity)?

Marc noted that the strategic choices and options the Council chooses will address these questions. Maggie encouraged Council members to look at the policy options in the Issue Papers with that lens.

**The Problem Statement** (slides 8-12)

Marc encouraged Council members to look at the big picture. What are omissions? Errors?

## Key Findings—Threats (slide 10)

### Comments on the word *threats*

- A visceral reaction is that “threats” is very negative. Everyone needs to live in the landscape; we need agriculture, transportation. This seems to say that biodiversity is good and that human activities are all “threats”. Need to characterize in a way that does not imply judgment.
- Is “Forces at work that contribute to loss of biodiversity” better? Response: Makes it sound like we can’t have that activity and have healthy biodiversity.
- Marc emphasized that materials released to the public will recast this in a non-judgmental way. But we need to identify the forces at work so we can develop appropriate solutions.

### Comments on #1

- Everything relates back to “population growth” and “how we live.”
- Population growth itself is not a bad thing. But it is the choices that we make and decisions we have made that have not considered biodiversity.

### Comments on #2

- Forestry is highly regulated in Washington; wondering why it’s still in the “threats” category?
- Confused about “Land Use Changes: Conversion and fragmentation of habitat from agriculture and commercial forestry” Does this mean conversion of land *from* forestry/agriculture? Or that conversion *to* forestry/agriculture causes biodiversity loss? Not comfortable with this as written.
- Isn’t it that the loss of working landscapes is one of the threats to biodiversity?
- Agriculture and forest are culpable even if the conversion happened 100 years ago. Changes in agriculture, for example pasture to vineyard, do affect biodiversity.
- The question is: do agriculture and commercial forestry have an effect on biodiversity that we want to address, or not?

### Comments on #6

- Clarification that “Disruption of natural processes” was added to describe natural disturbance regimes (fire, hydrological changes).
- Can include volcanic activity.

### Other comments

- Add lifestyle values as key threat. What is that driven by? Madison Avenue? It relates to consumption. Response: lifestyle choices addressed as Transformative Forces.

## Conclusions of discussion on **Key Findings—Threats**

- The message of this section is important. Need to frame so people can see solutions. But it’s critical to understand the forces that are causing declines in biodiversity and address those.
- Wade and Josh will work on rewording “Land Use Changes: Conversion and fragmentation of habitat from agriculture and commercial forestry.” See below (p. 14) for summary of discussion on Sept 28. Council agreed to the following wording for now: “Land Use Changes: Changes in some existing forestry and agriculture practices can impact biodiversity.”
- The Science Committee will help rewrite “Disruption of natural processes.”

## **Key Findings—Gaps.** Why biodiversity is not being adequately conserved (slide 11)

### Comments on #2. Societal Value and Awareness.

- Recast this to include values (and see discussion of #5)

### Comments on #3. Legal Framework

- Contrary laws; laws that compete with each other.
- Legal framework quite unfriendly, unwieldy. Timeframe often unrealistic.

### Comments on #4. Institutional Framework

- Include local government and nonprofits—framework not well organized or well connected.

### Comments on #5. Information

- Lack of information is not the only issue. Needs to be deeper understanding of what people do and value, rather than just assume that they lack *information*.
- Puget Sound Partnership study found that 70% think Puget Sound is healthy, so information is at least part of it.
- The Socioeconomic Report drew together information that indicated that people don't know how things fit together for biodiversity conservation.

**Key Findings—Transformative Forces.** (slide 12)

Comments

- Include growth within Washington. The biggest impacts encouraging sprawl are a) housing prices within cities and b) lifestyle choices.
- So, housing prices are part of *patterns of growth*, but also their own thing.
- Missing: shift from rural to urban. Urbanites have much different perspective on natural world.
- Add aging of small forest landowners. They are fundamental to economy of state.
- Add natural forces: volcanic activity, longer term climate cycles.
- Isn't climate change a transformative force? What is the difference between a threat and a transformative force? Response: Climate change affects species in landscape. Could go into both categories.

**Strategic Assessment.** (slides 13-16)

Marc described the interviews with key stakeholders. They were asked *What are key constraints & opportunities that affect development of the Strategy? What are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats?* Results of these interviews are detailed in the Institutional Assessment Appendix.

David Troutt noted that the tribes were not interviewed. Marc responded that limited resources had constrained the process, but that this is a very important point.

Comments on the **Strategic Assessment** (slides 13-16)

- How strongly were stakeholders for a legislative mandate? Response: Stakeholders were pretty strongly in favor. Question is how to make it work for electeds.
- These two documents (Institutional Assessment Report and Institutional Assessment Appendix) were well done; appreciated the work.
- A rich set of comments from interviews. These represent people we need to hear from.
- We need the tribal perspective. Can we add? Response: Let's talk about that—we'll find a way
- There's a political willingness, ripeness.

**LUNCH BREAK**

Maggie reconvened the meeting. She reminded the Council that the Executive Committee had met over the summer to choose the topics for issue papers after the June meeting. The rest of the Council had been invited to those meetings. The topics of papers have been set.

**Focus Areas: Issues and Opportunities.** (slides 18-19)

**Issue Paper Topics.** Tomorrow's discussion will focus on Issue Papers #1-4.

1. Incentives for Conservation on Private Lands
2. State Institutional Framework
3. Biodiversity Friendly Development
4. Education and Public Engagement
5. Assessment, Monitoring, and Information (Science Committee will provide comments)

Two additional work areas have been identified:

- Making the Case (lead = Cascadia)
- Setting Biodiversity Conservation Priorities (lead = Lynn; input from Science Committee and Cascadia)

Maggie noted that the Issue Papers attempt to draw explicit connections between threats & gaps.

Bonnie asked whether the paper on the State Institutional Framework will include nonprofit and other organizations. Gaps between agencies being plugged by private nonprofits. Marc replied that the State is the starting point for the paper, but in the context of other institutions. Options address that.

Marc asked the Council if how these pieces tied together made sense to them. They assented.

#### Looking Forward—Strategy Development (slides 20-22)

##### **Overview of Strategic Choices (slide 22)**

###### Comments

- The issue papers are not really addressing financial need. People will ask what it is going to cost. Response: We'll address costs once we refine the list of policy options.
- The Institutional Framework Issue Paper needs to consider *what functions are important for the framework? What is most important to build an institutional framework that will succeed at implementation?* Perhaps focus more on education and incentives at first; don't get institutional framework too far out front.

##### **Strategy could consist of 4 core elements/sets of recommendations.** (slide 23)

Marc assured the Council that the four core elements would be underpinned with current efforts. Wanted to query Council—what is the best way to put this out there? Lynn added that this is a very preliminary effort to set direction. We will revisit in December.

Brad requested an initial outline at the December meeting.

#### **DESIRED STATES:**

Maggie introduced the topic. To be credible, the Council needs a statement on the desired state in 30 years for both the physical environment and the human environment. She suggested the Council take the vision statement and bring it closer to ground, and requested the Council's best cooperation.

Since the last Council meeting, the Executive Committee and the Science Committee have each discussed this issue. Several other conversations have taken place. The issue is important: How aggressive, how assertive do we want to be?

Dick asked whether the discussion was to craft language to inform people so they can understand it, or to have words for the Council to understand where the Strategy is headed. Maggie clarified that for now, this discussion is for the Council. Limited time today—may need subgroup to discuss this.

##### **Desired State: Physical Environment. Where we want to be in 30 years.** (slide 25)

Lynn commented that we are trying to come at this discussion differently by separating the physical state of the biodiversity and where we want our efforts (human environment).

The two statements about the physical environment under consideration:

1. The state has a diversity of viable native species and functioning and intact ecosystems that reflect our biodiversity heritage.
2. The quality of human life is sustained and supported by healthy ecosystems.

Marc facilitated the following discussion:

- David Troutt: We need goals. We need tangible objectives that the Strategy should be achieving. In salmon recovery we have measurable goals and objectives. We have to know where we want to go, so we know we're going in the right direction.
- Kate: What does "a diversity" mean? How many species? Response: a diversity that reflects our biodiversity heritage, a phrase used in the Executive Order. It means the full breadth or range of biodiversity.

- Ken: Maybe think about it as “success to us is... this...”
- Brad: This is a more turgid and watered down vision statement. We need a stepped down vision statement, but this isn't it. Want Science Committee to take it and make it more specific. That's how Puget Sound Partnership did it. This does not give me any more guidance
- Josh: The vision statement is much more difficult to get arms around. For a broad policy document this is the right approach. I actually had problem with vision statement.
- Bonnie: It is helpful to separate concepts so have one thought at a time. If separate out one thing that's sort of simple, can then address that individual concept.
- Dave Roseleip: Agrees with Bonnie. Likes vision statement better, but this does break it down.

**Marc: Most are saying that this is working to bring it down to the next level.**

- Elizabeth Gray: This is a great conversation. If we can get more specific would be helpful. Strategic actions will be directed by desired future state. To determine: are we there? Or not?
- Rob: Science Committee can work on this, but haven't received more direction than last year.

**Marc: Hearing that measurable objectives are wanted.**

- Dick: Suggest breaking into four categories. Reframe the vision statement:
  - native critters (plants and animals; not pre-settlement)
  - habitats and ecosystems
  - working landscapes and residential communities
  - values and stewardship
- David Troutt: Need measurable objective on human side as well.
- Josh: Skeptical that dividing into four would work. With statements #1 and #2 saw beginning of approach I'm comfortable with. The four concepts are good, but...
- Lynn: Specificity has been sticking point.
- David Troutt: There needs to be policy direction around these goals.
- Josh: I'm not even there yet. Strength of statement #1 is that it allows us to look at the State as a total landscape. Not the same expectation in all areas, and it has the sense that it is state of flux, that nature is always changing, knowledge is always changing. Harmony in nature is a myth. This statement has adaptability.
- Rob: Science Committee would benefit from direction:
  - Where is benchmark or reference point? Is it 1800? Further back? A reference point is useful, so that we can reach toward that state again.
  - Exotics: are they part of biodiversity or not?
- David Troutt: Salmon restoration looks at 1850, today, and the future, and considers, where can we make reasonable gains? Projecting into the future.
- Bonnie: Struggling with this. It will be different if looking at critters versus each of these issues separately. I like statements #1 and #2. We can't have everything.

**Marc: So—take critters and habitats put into statement #1? Give to Science Committee with a given historical standard and have them consider where we can make reasonable progress?**

- Brad: Science Committee can't define “reasonable.” The Council has to.
- Rob: Use 1854 (when treaties signed), but take the human element into consideration? We can improve on current habitats. That 1854 period is our heritage and what we should be reaching for.
- Ken: Or maybe use statehood (1889)? What are our opportunities to keep and restore? Do we need to give a goal about what species we want to have? Not trying to bring back utopia.
- David: What about three strategies for next thirty years: no action, full-blown restoration, and a middle ground. Would that help us define policy choices?
- Rob: Certain habitats would be all but impossible to restore. But we could probably have all native species present in the state. And improve or maintain functioning of ecosystems. How many measures looking for?

**Agreements: Science Committee and Policy Group can clarify benchmarks, and define “reasonable”. Bring back a more specific narrative by December. Science Committee needs to articulate what the policy questions are.**

- Bonnie: What about statement # 2? Response: We haven’t really addressed it.
- Brad: We need the Science Committee to do some work first. Tell us what kinds of measures. For example, with grizzlies—tell us what is a viable population?
- Ken: Don’t need to break down step by step.
- Brad: We need measures of what’s realistic.
- Elizabeth: WDFW has new tool that gives landscape guidance for maintaining species on a gradient from urban to wild lands, and what are limiting factors.
- Dave Roseleip: We need discussion outside of this group that sets up a framework. We’re not here to do the recovery or to really set goals regarding how many wolves etc.
- Megan: Seems like we’re talking either incredibly vague versus very specific.
- Elizabeth: The really specific are just as examples.
- Josh: The fundamental purpose of strategies is to put forth general goals. This is NOT an implementation document.
- Brad: The Executive Order reads “Develop a 30-year, comprehensive prioritized strategy and implementation plan for the state of Washington that enables the state to protect its biodiversity heritage.”
- Ken: I question whether a subset of the Council can do this. This is the crux. I want full representation.
- Steve: Language is important. Using 1854 is very incendiary. We don’t have quantitative data from 1854. We need to say how we’re stepping down from that.
- Bonnie: Critters more or less means species. We’re looking to create better policy document without being specific at species level.
- Brad: Looking at outcomes.
- Kate: Set a benchmark
- Lynn: Needs to be measurable.

The “Inspired Policy Guidance Group” consists of Maggie, Brad, David Troutt, Ken Berg, Bonnie, Josh, Kate, Dick, and the Science Committee.

Marc suggested the following task order: Come up with an approach. Provide something more specific, but not too specific, and reasonable. Consider the comments and guidance from Steve, Elizabeth, and others today. Bring back to full group for review and adoption in December.

For maximum inclusiveness, when certain benchmarks are reached in the process, will send out and get feedback. Also will let people know when group is meeting

Maggie encouraged the group: despite how challenging this is, this is the crux. She felt good about people’s investment in this.

Marc then considered the second set of statements, on the desired state of the human environment, and explained that these relate to the issue papers that will be discussed Thursday.

- Bonnie: Statement #2 is still relating to the physical environment. Will the ad hoc group consider? What’s best for species and humans—can’t de-link them.
- Steve: I agree. Humans are not going away; that’s the limiting factor.
- Brad: Puget Sound Partnership broke quality of life into two: human health and prosperity.

#### **FIELD TRIP: North Central Washington Pilot Project**

Entiat. Presentation on habitat farming by local farmers, members of the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit, and staff of the Chelan Conservation District.

Waterville, North Central Washington Fairgrounds. Farmers, ranchers and other participants in the Pilot Project joined Council members for a presentation of the Project's slide show on the region's biodiversity and to discuss preliminary results from focus groups on conservation incentives.

## **Day 2 – Thursday, September 28, 2006**

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Maggie opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

### Observations from field trip

- Depressing that farmers aren't getting the prices they need to be farmers.
- The hard work and values of the people we met were impressive.
- Too bad so many battles between environmentalists and landowners. People on the land are stewards. Methods may need to be fine tuned but farms are better for biodiversity than sprawl.
- Amazing to hear about landowners working 8 to 12 years on a Habitat Conservation Plan. How do they sustain their commitment?
- The watershed management plan in the Entiat took 12 years, and it considers relatively non-controversial factors.
- There's a real institutional challenge to doing something different.
- Success is more likely when you convince local farmers, ranchers. Landowners are learning to differentiate between environmental groups. Need to find ways to help local process. Bring in respected land owners—if they buy off then others will come along.
- The real threats are the huge land prices and conversion to residential. What do we do about that?
- The Pilot Project is a pretty good investment of \$20,000!
- Nice PowerPoint presentation; appreciate what it takes to pull something like that together

### **PRELIMINARY POLICY OPTIONS- Session One**

Marc encouraged Council members to think about short, medium, and long term options, or perhaps as sequenced strategies: mild to assertive.

He instructed the Council to split into two groups, each considering one Issue Paper. Sessions to be one hour (10-15 minutes on the "desired state" and problem statement, 45-50 minutes on options). Consider: *Is this on the right track? Is it a good list? What other options to consider? Any options to remove?* Report out. Cascadia will take and revise for options package to consider in December.

### **Issue Paper # 1: Incentives for Conservation on Private Land.**

Work group: Ken, Dave Roseleip, David Troutt, Wade, Josh Lynn facilitating.

Notes from session:

#### **Desired State**—slide 27 (changes underlined)

1. Private landowners are aware of conservation priorities, receive adequate assistance to manage land to conserve biodiversity resources and are treated as stewardship partners.
2. Incentives, market mechanisms and other voluntary measures are a well established, effective, efficient, and widely used mechanism to conserve biodiversity resources on private lands
3. A full range of incentives are offered, recognizing that landowners respond to different incentives (different sectors have different drivers)

#### **General comments on paper (see attachment for specific changes)**

- Overemphasis on programmatic incentives. Need to be sure we include options to promote an "incentives first," regulation second approach.
- Increase opportunities for regulators and others who work with landowners to find creative solutions and use flexibility.
- Not enough recognition of private landowners' voluntary efforts to meet biodiversity and regulatory goals.

- Need to explore how to acquire funding/resources. (option: explore using the initiative process).
- Need to increase the capacity of state agencies to develop/implement voluntary approaches (Josh wants a staff person funded at agencies who just focuses on voluntary approaches).
- Need to include incentives that will address escalating land values.
- Need to explore new tools (for example the “flexible incentive account” in Oregon) or new programs to explore how developers could pay for conservation incentives.

### **Issue paper # 2: State Institutional Framework**

Work group: Brad, Maggie, Jackie, Elizabeth Rodrick, Kate, Dick, Bonnie, Steve, Megan, Rob. Marc facilitating.

Question: State only? Not local city/county? Response: Cascadia focused on state institutional framework. The paper on biodiversity-friendly development has more local options.

Notes from session:

#### **Desired State**—slide 28 (changes underlined)

- The state institutional framework fosters/enables/supports at protecting biodiversity; intentions, programs, and activities lead to outcomes
- The State provides strong effective leadership in conserving Washington’s biodiversity resources
- Biodiversity conservation is an integral component and key driver/organizing principle of the mission and goals of agencies responsible for management of the state’s natural resources
- Strategic choice: biodiversity as a “key driver” (center of the universe – longer term aspirational) or organizing principle – discussion needed
- Conservation planning occurs on an ecoregional basis with biodiversity conservation as a priority.
- Ecoregional assessments and priority setting are fully integrated into the processes and decision making of all state government institutions responsible for land and water management
- Government programs and local service delivery are coordinated and effective in support of on-the-ground biodiversity conservation
- Government agencies and programs have the capacity to and are effective at working in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors on biodiversity conservation as well as local governments, tribes, and the federal government

#### **General comments on paper (see attachment for specific changes)**

- Reframe problem statement to show areas for improvement. Perhaps combine statements on lack of overarching state policy on biodiversity conservation, lack of its incorporation into state agencies’ culture/plans, and lack of coordination.
- Rephrase and reorganize policy options. Integrate several into one: Establish legislative intent & funding to support locally based, landscape scale biodiversity efforts and a leadership framework to advance the protections of Washington’s biodiversity.
- Short term recommendations still being considered include emphasizing the role of the executive branch, requiring coordination on working lands coordination, and reorganizing programs for a landscape approach.
- Long term/secondary options: train state employees; coordinate with BC and OR.

### **PRELIMINARY POLICY OPTIONS- Session Two**

#### **Issue Paper # 3: Biodiversity-Friendly Development**

Work group: Brad, Ken, Maggie, Dave Roseleip, Kate, Steve, Wade, Josh, Megan. Marc facilitating.

Notes from session:

#### **Desired State**—slide 30 (changes underlined)

- Biodiversity is taken into consideration in all development projects – The conservation of biodiversity can be promoted by developers (and land managers) assessing their likely impact on biodiversity and following best practices for biodiversity, including impact avoidance and mitigation.

- Local planners have the resources (budget, maps, best management practices) and political will to protect biodiversity in their jurisdictions through use of incentives and regulations.
- Development is directed towards existing urban areas.
- **4<sup>th</sup> bullet removed?**
- Landowners have incentives and support to maintain their properties as working land or native habitat.
- Conservation planning occurs on an ecoregional basis with biodiversity conservation as a priority.
- Strategic choice—what definition of or standard for biodiversity friendly development: Widespread adoption of biodiversity friendly development practices means that development 1) minimizes impacts, 2) does no harm 3) in some cases enhances the affected biodiversity resources.

**General comments on paper (see attachment for specific changes)**

- Need to communicate sense of priority and sense of where benefit is worth the effort.
- Show the very strong cross linkage between science and mapping and development.
- Focus on more effectively implementing the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- Focus on increasing use of transfer of development rights.
- Focus on the best way to mitigate adverse affects of development
- Focus on incorporating biodiversity assessments into transportation planning.
- Support the rapid expansion & adoption of green building practices.
- Support toolkit of existing incentives and regulations for conserving biodiversity
- Financially related options also of interest: increase funding for enforcement and for WDFW planning projects/tools. Provide assistance to local governments; incorporate biodiversity criteria into existing funding programs; require impact fees for new development.
- Less interest in: biodiversity assessment requirements for large developments; inclusion of biodiversity conservation in watershed planning.
- Create NEW section for How Best to Preserve Working Lands. To include: enhancing existing local programs; encouraging more jurisdictions to use Current Use Taxation and Public Benefit Rating System; aiding succession planning for owners of working lands.

**Issue Paper # 4: Education and Public Engagement**

Work group: Bonnie, Rob, Jackie, David Troutt, Dick, Sarah  
Lynn facilitating.

**Desired State**—slide 31 (changes underlined)

- The education system provides tomorrow's decision makers with a comprehensive understanding of the science and value of biodiversity and what you can do about it.
- Kids get it early and throughout K-12.
- Include landowners
- Focus on personal action, an understanding about what you can do, how what you do matters.

**General comments on paper (see attachment for specific changes)**

- K-12 is more important, higher priority than university.
- Focus on encouraging interdisciplinary options.
- Focus on integrating biodiversity into “applied science”—don’t pull it out separately.
- Support local and regional outreach efforts rather than funding big new state programs.
- Social marketing campaigns are great, but expensive. We should focus on tying our message to other organizations and other campaigns (such as Puget Sound Partnership).
- Some new ideas: working more with media and consumer education; internships with K-12.

**DEBRIEF**

Maggie thanked Marc for the very helpful materials and for doing a really good job of bringing the subjects to the Council in a way the Council could address.

She asked Wade and Josh to report back on their assignment to rewrite part of the problem statement for **Key Findings—Threats** “Land Use Changes: Conversion and fragmentation of habitat from agriculture and commercial forestry.”

They suggested: “Changes in forestry and agriculture practices can impact biodiversity.”

Discussion included the following points:”

- Conversion to forestry or agriculture is not so much of a threat anymore. The impact has already been felt.
- “Changes in” is confusing. Response: we were trying to get at the continually evolving science and technology for better or worse. Didn’t like conversion—that’s over.
- Conversion still happens, but on small scale.
- Need to capture differences between forestry and agriculture. Also the differences between public and private lands, and the notion that conversion not a risk anymore.
- The real threat is new technologies that may help us survive financially but haven’t been evaluated for effect on biodiversity.

The Council agreed they could live with the following statement for now: “Land Use Changes: Changes in some existing forestry and agriculture practices can impact biodiversity.”

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### Science

Rob made the following report

- *Washington’s Biodiversity: Status and Threats* is being revised to incorporate external reviewers’ comments. It will be redesigned, printed, and distributed.
- The Committee is giving feedback on Issue Paper # 5, Assessment, Monitoring, and Information Gathering.
- After this meeting the Committee has a new task, to work with the policy sub-committee to define measures of the physical environment desired state.

Lynn noted that the Science Committee will also be helping with Issue Paper #6 on Conservation Priorities. These will not be spatial priorities but qualitative features. The need for them has been established. This paper will be staff led with Committee support. Maggie commented that having a desired state will help with setting priorities.

### Incentives

Josh reported. The Incentives Committee has been very active organizing a forum in Tacoma on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The forum will be the Committee’s major focus.

- They formed a partnership with Defenders of Wildlife, Washington Forest Protection Association, Washington REALTORS®, Cascade Land Conservancy, American Farmland Trust, Stewardship Partners, and the Washington Conservation Commission. All will participate in forum, not just act as sponsors.
- Financial contributions have come from Defenders of Wildlife (\$10,000), Washington Forest Protection Association (\$4,000), and Washington REALTORS® (\$1,000).
- Josh facilitated an in-kind contribution from Port Blakely of quarter-time staff help.
- The Committee is trying to get the Governor’s endorsement for the event.
- The audience (100 people) will be targeted: brokers of existing programs, landowner representatives, interested parties, conservation groups. Hope to get legislators. Aim to get representation from eastern and western Washington.
- Goals are to share information on how to improve effectiveness of incentive programs, hear what new programs are needed, and build coalitions.

Lynn requested Council members let her know if there are people in their organizations that they want to be involved.

### Pilot Projects

Bonnie reported that the Council saw the North Central Washington Pilot Project in action yesterday. The Pierce County project held its BioBlitz in June, and they are undertaking stakeholder work in the project area. They will present at the December meeting.

### Outreach

Kate and Lynn gave this report.

- The website is up and running. Website guidelines are available for review. Still holes on website, notably ecoregion sections and stewardship & incentives pages. Planning public launch in December.
- Draft communication plan: Susan Zemek, communications manager of IAC helping prioritize tasks. Plan (green sheet) has Phases I-IV. Stakeholder work in two parts, to gather feedback on options and on draft strategy. Staff will continue to develop with Executive Committee.

Maggie commented that the Council would need to begin to implement the communication plan soon.

Dave Roseleip asked, how widespread is knowledge of Washington Biodiversity Council? Maggie replied that there's a list of interested parties and partners of about 100 people. Knowledge not widespread; there's been no media push yet. Now have products and tools to aid more of a push. Tools for publicity include an introductory slide show and a fact sheet (needs updating). Josh will notify Dave regarding stakeholder work on incentives.

Maggie noted that John Mankowski is a key staff member in the Governor's office, and he has been updated regularly. She plans to invite him to the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Maggie then asked members for their insights after this meeting:

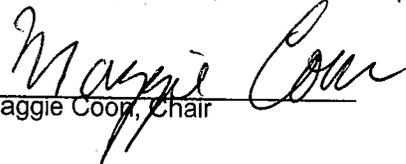
- Dave Roseleip commented that this was his second Council meeting—he's impressed with the tremendous group of people.
- Kate noted that at the Wildlife Society meeting last week there had been unanimous agreement on the importance of K-12 education. Although she heard some discouragement, she likened raising awareness about biodiversity conservation to smoking: attitudes and behaviors are now changing but only after a long, long time.
- Ken was inspired by the landowner who put 2,100 acres of his land in conservancy—for his children and the future.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

  
Maggie Cooper, Chair

12/5/06