

**WASHINGTON STATE BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

*DATE: December 5, 2006  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.*

*PLACE: Comfort Inn  
Tumwater, Washington*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Ack	Puget Sound Action Team
Ken Berg	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Dave Brittell	Department of Fish & Wildlife
Bonnie Bunning	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Maggie Coon	The Nature Conservancy
Donna Darm	NOAA Fisheries
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks
John Marzluff	University of Washington
Jackie Reid	Thurston County Conservancy District
Ken Risenhoover	Port Blakely Tree Farms
Mark Schaffel	Private Industry, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers
Kate Stenberg	At-large, biologist
Naki Stevens	At-large, People for Puget Sound
Wade Troutman	At-Large, Open Heart Ranch
David Troutt	Nisqually Indian Tribe
Dick Wallace	Washington Department of Ecology
Josh Weiss	Washington Forest Protection Association
Megan White	Washington State Department of Transportation

**PRESENTERS**

Marc Daudon	Cascadia Consulting Group
Karen Dvornich	Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance
Tracy Engels	Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance
John Garner	Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance
Michelle Tirhi	Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance

**GUESTS:**

John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Molly Ingraham	The Nature Conservancy
John Pierce	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bill Robinson	The Nature Conservancy
Elizabeth Rodrick	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**STAFF:**

Lynn Helbrecht  
Sarah Gage  
Jen Dial

**ACTIONS TAKEN**

Item	Action	Reference
Meeting minutes	Approved	Page 2
Appointment of Council Chair & Vice Chair	Approved	Page 3

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Council approved Maggie Coon and Brad Ack as Chair and Vice Chair for 2007.

- John Mankowski, Natural Resource Policy Advisor to the Governor, updated the Council on the Governor's priorities.
- Council reviewed Desired State statements, benchmarks, and possible metrics. Members suggested content and wording changes.
- The Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance presented information about their ongoing Pilot Project.
- Working groups provided feedback on draft policy options and on proposed lists of stakeholders.

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

Agenda (yellow)  
 Biennial Budget Status (pink)  
 Workplan Update and Progress report (white legal)  
 Draft Desired States and Proposed Benchmarks (white legal)  
 Draft Benchmark Options for Desired States (buff legal)  
 PowerPoint notes, Towards a 30 Year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (green)  
 Biodiversity Strategy Development: Revised Draft Policy Options (26 pp, white)  
 Stakeholder Information (grey)  
 Strategy Development Timeline (white, 11x17)  
 Invasive Species Update (purple)  
 Proposed New Working Groups (blue)

#### **CONVENE AND WELCOME:**

Maggie Coon, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

#### Introductions.

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Maggie asked members to share what they aspire to.

#### Update, overview agenda and materials.

Maggie gave an overview of the Council's progress. She noted that the Council is a key player in the state. The Council has identified a rich set of possibilities for public outreach and education. She noted that the Council's tasks today include reaching agreement on the desired states and benchmarks and continuing work on the policy options.

Lynn reviewed the materials distributed to the Council. She announced that:

- The Invasive Species Council had their first meeting last week. Part of their mandate is to work with the Biodiversity Council. John Mankowski is chairing until they select their own chair.
- The 2007 meeting dates are listed on the back of the agenda: February 15, April 23-24, June 12, September 18-19, December 5.

She asked whether Council members prefer to receive meeting materials as both email and hardcopy in advance, or to get email versions ahead of time and receive hard copies at the meeting. Wade, Kate, and Jackie need hard copies in advance of the meeting.

Announcement. Josh announced that the Incentives Committee's work for the last year has been focused on the upcoming Forum for Conservation Incentives in Tacoma on January 5. They are working with partners to put together a dynamic agenda. He urged everyone to attend. (See Workplan update below for more information.)

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

None

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

##### Approval of Minutes.

Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the September 27–28, 2006 meeting minutes. Josh **MOVED** approval of the minutes. Dave Brittell **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** as presented by unanimous roll call vote.

David Troutt asked that the minutes reflect that he represents the Nisqually Indian Tribe rather than the Nisqually River Council. Staff made the change.

Update on 07-09 Biennial Budget request.

Lynn reported that the carry forward request appears to have done well so far. The budget add was related to several other agencies' requests and staff have been working to clarify relationships for OFM.

Current Budget Status and Workplan Status Update. Lynn reviewed these two handouts and made the following points:

- We are on track with the current budget. Additional funding of \$15,000 came in for the incentives forum.
- The Work Plan includes budget amounts for specific projects. It does not reflect staff funds.
- The Council, WDFW, and The Nature Conservancy recently applied for a grant from the Doris Duke Foundation. Funds are being offered to non-governmental organizations to assist state agencies in implementing wildlife action plans.
- Sarah has continued to develop the website. New features include: a new landowner profile, an overview of stewardship and incentives, and a compilation of incentives analyses. A public launch is planned for mid-January.

Washington Forum for Conservation Incentives:

- The Council is leading the Washington Forum for Conservation Incentives in partnership with several organizations. It has been a significant focus of staff time.
- 100 people are expected at the forum; 350 people received flyers.
- Attendees will be a mixed group. The forum is not a place to learn about incentives, but rather for people who have experience with them.

Council Officers for 2007. The bylaws state that officers are to be elected annually. Officers serve for the calendar year. Naki proposed the slate of candidates for 2007. She thanked Maggie and Brad for ably serving the Council, and she proposed that they continue as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Dick Wallace **MOVED** the slate as proposed by committee: Maggie Coon, Chair and Brad Ack Vice-Chair. Wade Troutman **SECONDED**. The slate was **APPROVED** as presented by unanimous roll call vote.

Legislative announcements. Council members shared legislative issues relevant to the group. Wade noted that the Conservation Commission is incorporating biodiversity into its implementation plans. Brad discussed the expectations and timeline for the Puget Sound Partnership's recommendations.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE:**

Maggie introduced John Mankowski, Natural Resource Policy Advisor to the Governor.

John made these comments: The Council is in his portfolio along with categories such as agriculture and timber. He is happy to work with this Council; he thinks its work is important. He will try to be as involved as he can. He feels that the Council has a unique responsibility to knit together a coordinated strategy, including a long-term vision and how to target limited dollars.

John mentioned the Governor is developing a working lands initiative. Washington is growing at an enormous rate and needs to be innovative in the way that it produces trees and crops. Property values are outstripping production values. Transfer and purchase of development rights (TDR/PDR) need to be more available to willing landowners.

He suggested that the Governor is looking for the following in a biodiversity strategy:

- Be bold. (Bold doesn't have to be expensive)
- Get stuff done. Make it about actions, not process.
- Be clear on what problems you are fixing.
- Focus on outcomes and accountability measures

- Prioritize options. Scale different package sizes for choices.
- Bring the public along.
- Provide strategy for long-term investment and stability in natural resource issues.

### Questions and Answers

**Q:** What about potential conflicts of affordable housing with natural resources and biodiversity?

**A:** We have to understand its part of the equation.

- Federal lands and rural lands are the next buildable lands. This extends sprawl.
- We need more density in the cities, including affordable housing and buildable lands in towns.
- The Governor tries to provide incentives to groups to help with this process. You need to connect all of the dots. Target monies to towns that are willing to take on more density.

**Q:** Funding for natural resources has decreased by half over the last ten years.

**A:** We have an opportunity to get better ways to fund with a strategic blue print, so we can see where we're going long term. Also an opportunity to build a coalition that can be more strategic.

**Q:** The Governor has an opportunity to elevate the importance of biodiversity with the public in Washington. Biodiversity is frequently in the vocabulary of international conversation.

**A:** The Governor deals with subcomponents of biodiversity (water and forestry). It is hard to relate the word *biodiversity* to the public. Biodiversity is not one agency's mandate. It's all related, but when the phone rings, people want to talk about bugs and fires, not biodiversity.

Maggie thanked John, on behalf of the Council, for his visit.

### **DESIRED STATES AND BENCHMARKS:**

The Council reviewed the handout, Draft Desired States and Proposed Benchmarks (white legal). Lynn pointed out that the first two Desired State statements have evolved since the last meeting, and that the benchmarks are at different levels of maturity for each of the three statements. She also noted that the Science Committee and policy-oriented council members (Dick Wallace, Maggie, Ken Berg, Josh Weiss) met on November 7 to further develop a draft set of benchmarks created by the Science Committee. Their comments are reflected in the handout.

Marc Daudon from Cascadia Consulting facilitated the discussion. He noted that the Desired States and Benchmarks are now prefaced with "the state has made significant progress."

Donna and Rob (Science Co-Chairs) explained the idea of *significant progress*.

- Previously, Desired State statement #1 said that within 30 years we would have a diversity of ecosystems. The Council asked the Science Committee to be more specific.
- Making significant progress is still aspirational, but it doesn't require that we specify a particular number as a goal, which is a policy rather than a science call.
- We don't want to set the bar so high that you fail if you don't achieve it. This approach keeps the momentum moving forward.

**Marc D.: Do people have questions or reservations? We would like to have concurrence.**

- Naki: How does our work relate to other large scale policy efforts currently underway?
  - Some of the timelines are different (e.g., Puget Sound Partnership's timeline is 2020). How does this affect our benchmarks?
  - Suggest eliminating the word maintaining. We want to be improving, not maintaining.
  - It's important that the Biodiversity Council's Strategy not hold back other efforts.
- Dick: Didn't initially rally around the idea of significant progress but I came around. The essentials, critters, humans, and the institutional framework are addressed by statements #1, #2, and #3.
  - Statement #3 should be where the public helps decide what significant progress is.
  - Statement #3 does allow for other actions and timelines. We need to find the right words to bring together Statements #1 and #2 and reflect ongoing activity.

- Donna: Statement #1 benchmarks can incorporate other programs. For example “Ecosystems at Risk” includes Puget Sound.
- Maggie: Significant progress *helps* this effort to be compatible with other efforts. It can serve as a framework for frequent report cards that show trends.
- Donna: We will be lucky to maintain what we have, so let's leave that language.
- Wade: I agree with Maggie. This is a statewide Strategy.
  - Statement #1 justifies work to be done. For example, the struggle in Douglas County will be to maintain their ecosystems. Statement #1 allows fit to different circumstances.
- David Troutt: The Governor is looking for bold steps; *significant progress* is not bold enough. We should not be afraid to say the equivalent of “we’re going to be on the moon in ten years.”
- Brad: The language is different from that being used by the Puget Sound Partnership.
  - These seem parallel to the Partnership’s goals, objectives and targets. Synonymous language would be helpful.
  - John Mankowski emphasized “knitting together.” Do we want to be just one more plan or do we want to take the role of connecting all of the plans? The Governor will be looking for what we will be *getting done*.

**Marc D.: General agreement that this is working as a bridge from vision to the more specific. Need to look at how to knit this together with other groups.**

- Ken Berg: The determination of significant progress is really a policy decision. Our role is to frame the debate for the public. We can tee up that discussion with a report card.
- David: Is that consistent with executive order? Our role is to make some of those policy calls.
- Donna: We only have twelve months left. We can spend the next 4 months talking about goals and objectives, but it would be much more useful say “here are the five most important things to do and here is what they will cost.” If you want significant progress here is what you can do.
- Josh: Approves this proposal.
  - It captures the Council’s proper role, especially considering current public dialogue.
  - This is the right document at the right time considering who we are and where we are in this process.
- Wade: Is this framework creating a path for us to go down?
- Donna: It’s a hierarchy: Desired States—Benchmarks—Metrics. The metrics are the most important for the Council to focus on.
- Maggie: We have spent a lot of time on this goals piece. There is a gap between the mission and vision on the one hand, and specific actions on the other. That gap is what we are trying to fill with the Desired States. Need to come to consensus so we can move on. This piece will not be the highlight of the Strategy. People will want to know what the action is.

**Marc D.: What needs to be clearer? What is missing?**

- Naki: What about dates? They are key to accountability. A report card needs dates.
- Lynn: This was not designed as an action plan. It was designed to clarify how to measure progress towards a goal.
- Brad: It is interesting that we do not have an action plan, yet this is supposed to explain what we want to achieve. Ultimately it will have to look like a broad action plan.

**Marc D.: Does the framework work for achieving what you want? Are Desired State #1 and Benchmarks A–E okay?**

- Dave Brittell: Maggie’s comments have helped him understand how this discussion fits in.
  - Benchmarks for #3 are more specific; like how they are statements. Benchmarks for #1 and #2 are not as specific; not comfortable with the term significant progress in #1 and #2.
- Brad: Climate element is not clear in #1; species and ecosystems very affected by climate. It is mentioned in #2, but only in reference to carbon storage. #2 is about quality of human life and climate should be included there. We need to stabilize climate and we should mention that.

- Donna: Should a *state* biodiversity strategy address global climate change?
- Brad: Don't want to ignore it. If don't address global climate change, we can't restore other things.

**At Maggie's request, Brad agreed to work on language to weave climate change into the Desired State statements.**

- David Troutt: What is the thinking about restoring species and ecosystems (#1 E)
- Rob: Certain species could be reintroduced to the state even though they have been extirpated.
  - Using the term "present at statehood" (1889) clarifies which we mean.
- Megan: Not sure that E should be on the same level as the other ones.
- Ken Berg: Do Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife already have strategies for extirpated species? Response: WDFW: yes; DNR: yes and no (extirpated plant species don't have a high priority compared with globally at-risk species).
- Megan: Language of the report needs to be more public-friendly, more accessible.
- Dave Brittell: Suggest triage. Desired State #1, Benchmarks B, D, and E need some qualification (limitations or conditional language).

**Marc D. summarized discussion on Desired Statement #1: language could be better; ordering them as A through E implies priorities, which could be good or bad; questions about whether E is appropriate on this list; Brad will address the climate issue**

Desired Statement #2 (connects human welfare with healthy ecosystems)

- Brad: B needs more work; needs to include more about clean water, clean air. C needs to address storm water, not just water retention.
- Wade: Agree that in B, carbon storage capacity is just one aspect of clean air (what about acid rain, forest fires?). Write B more like C.
- Donna: The question in B is what will biodiversity do for clean air? Not the other way around.
- Brad: Put air, water, climate into #1. Desired State #1 should be "What we need for good ecosystems" and #2 should be "What good ecosystems provide to us."
- Dave Brittell: Struggling with the language. We need to articulate how the importance of biodiversity affects the needs of humans. Suggests reversing the language in #2; lead with our mandate.

Desired State #3 (institutional framework)

- Naki: In Desired State #3, would like to make changes to all but B. Need to incorporate accountability: "...ensuring that our institutional framework enables, fully supports, and is accountable for biodiversity conservation."
  - A: Add accountability systems; C: Add development regulations; D: Add citizens; E: Add that public can choose more behaviors that protect biodiversity; F: Add accountability, keeping track of progress, and adaptive management.
- Josh: Would like to change B and C
  - B should also reflect what conservation-interested agencies are doing; B: change *participation to use of* voluntary conservation of resources on private lands; C: Not sure about regulations in a benchmark. Not the purpose of this council.
- Ken Berg: The "R" word is not in there.
- David Troutt: There needs to be regulatory consistency.
- Naki: It makes sense to have regulations in there if this is to reflect the current system.

**At Maggie's request, Naki and Josh agreed to work together on benchmarks for #3.**

- Dick: Suggest we get bold. Strike significant progress, support public choices. Will send language.
  - E: make public engagement first on the list; E: citizens not only understand but are engaged in the context of communities and ecoregions; A: governance should broaden to policy making forums; it's more than agencies. It's a two-way street, for example interaction between Puget Sound Partnership and Biodiversity Council. The Council's Strategy informs these forums.

- Ken Risenhoover: Language of the benchmarks is fine. Would like to see more metrics that acknowledge private landowners, other than in an incentive-based government program.
- Wade: We talked about educating the public about wilderness areas and healthy ecosystems. But are healthy lands contributing to biodiversity for the educational outreach?
- Maggie: It is alluded to but can be filled in more later.
- Mark S.: A healthy economy needs to be redefined so that we know population and growth and development are not necessarily separate.

**Maggie: Suggested that Mark S. come up with that wording.**

- Dave Brittell would like to reword #1 and #2 to be more like #3.

**Marc D.: Desired States and the Benchmarks need to be adopted at the next meeting.**

#### Next Steps

- Maggie: By the end of the February meeting we should be done with the benchmarks.
  - Reverse Desired Statement #2 before the February meeting.
  - Benchmark language also needs some altering; it could be looked at in February.
  - Science Committee to work on #1 & #2. Council members send language changes.

#### **WORKING LUNCH:**

Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance – Council Pilot Project. PowerPoint available on website.

#### **STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT, cont'd**

Marc D.: The green PowerPoint notes incorporate the changes from the September meeting. The electronic version will be sent out to the Council. He asked Council members to comment so changes can be incorporated before the next meeting.

Lynn handed out the Strategy Development Timeline and noted:

- Closure on benchmarks at the February meeting.
- Goal is to have a draft final strategy completed by June.
- June-December 2007 is the time to talk about legislative issues to get Strategy adopted.

#### Targets and metrics.

Marc D.: More discussion needed on targets: how to define, whether they will be local or ecoregional.

- Rob: Where do we want to go with the metrics?
  - Do we want to give examples of a few good metrics? Or
  - Do we want to flesh out metrics for each benchmark? That would take time and stakeholder involvement.
- David Troutt: We need metrics at higher levels. Accumulation of all these goals equals the target.
- Maggie: Would like a smaller suite of targets at a higher level.

**Marc D.: We may need two types of targets. One type that is a process and one that is specific.**

- Dave Brittell: I like the approach of examples for targets/metrics because that would help sell it. Then spend the rest of the time on the policy dialogue
- Maggie: There is a marketing element to the metrics.
- Brad: I don't know if we can decide today. Clear and unambiguous targets are worth arguing for. Puget Sound Partnership couldn't reach agreement

**Maggie: Sounds like the group is agreeing on high level, powerful, easy-to-understand targets.**

- Dick: Need to be selective, strategic about how we pick those examples.
- David Troutt: I want a tool that is helpful in local efforts.

## **PROPOSED NEW WORKING GROUPS – ROLE AND STRUCTURE**

Lynn discussed the following proposed new working groups.

1. Incentives. Working Lands and Development
2. Information Needs and Conservation Priorities
3. Education and Public Engagement
4. Governance-including State Government Institutional Framework

She noted that people have been assigned to groups, but people can change if they want. The purpose of the working groups is to provide a vehicle for targeted Council feedback on key issues between meetings.

Marc D. explained that the idea is to bring stakeholder feedback back to the working groups so that they can assist with narrowing the options. The refined list will then be brought to the full Council. Unless the Council is willing to spend more time in day-long meetings, there isn't time to do otherwise.

Maggie noted that the options are already quite broad. We need to start shaping and narrowing.

## **REVISED POLICY OPTIONS**

Marc D. reviewed the 26-page document, Biodiversity Strategy Development: Revised Draft Policy Options. He explained the wording changes made following the Council's September input.

He asked the working groups to address two areas:

- Do any big changes need to be made before this goes out to the stakeholders? (red flags, substantive revision)
- Review the proposed list of stakeholders distributed at the meeting (gray sheet). Who should we talk to in the first round? In the second? Who should be added to the list? Taken off?

David Troutt noticed that not many tribal groups are represented in the stakeholder list. He asked each group to consider that when they meet.

Working groups met for 45 minutes.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

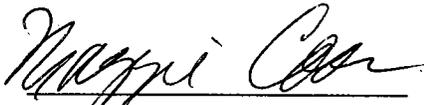
Maggie reconvened the group. She closed the meeting by reviewing the aspirations of the Council.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.



Maggie Coon, Chair