

# WASHINGTON STATE BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: December 12, 2007  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: The Longhouse, Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maggie Coon, chair  
Ken Berg  
Bonnie Bunning  
Donna Darm  
Rob Fimbel  
John Marzluff  
Dave Roseleip  
Mark Schaffel  
Ron Shultz  
Kate Stenberg  
David Troutt  
Dick Wallace  
Megan White

The Nature Conservancy  
US Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Natural Resources  
NOAA Fisheries  
Washington State Parks and Recreation  
University of Washington  
Agriculture & Forestry  
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association  
Washington State Conservation Commission  
At-large  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Washington Department of Transportation

## PRESENTERS and GUESTS:

John Mankowski  
Kaleen Cottingham  
Marian Adair  
John Pierce  
Amy Clark Eagle

Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's Office  
Director, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Biodiversity British Columbia  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

## STAFF:

Lynn Helbrecht  
Sarah Gage  
Lori Lawrence  
Rachel Utley

## ACTIONS TAKEN

Item	Action	Reference
Meeting minutes	Approved	Page 2

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Council reviewed the successful release of the strategy at the December 4<sup>th</sup> conference
- John Mankowski reported that the Governor has agreed to sign a new Executive Order, and he gave an overview of its proposed content. Council members offered suggestions for additional input to the executive order.
- Kaleen Cottingham affirmed the RCO's commitment to continued support for the Council.
- Marian Adair, co-chair of Biodiversity B.C., gave a presentation on the developing Biodiversity Action Plan in British Columbia. She and the Council exchanged ideas on trans-boundary issues and opportunities.
- The Council discussed distribution of the strategy.
- Maggie and Lynn will recruit a small group to shepherd the effort until the new council is in place. The next council meeting will probably be in early March.

## HANDOUTS DISTRIBUTED AT MEETING

Meeting Agenda (yellow)

Memo from Maggie (buff)  
Minutes of October Council meeting (white)  
News Release (white)  
Conference Summary/Evaluation (white)  
Budget Request (white)  
Biodiversity Strategy- initial distribution (green)

## **CONVENE and WELCOME**

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

**Introductions, overview, and announcements.** Maggie announced that the governor has agreed to sign an executive order to continue the work of the Biodiversity Council. Discussion of this new executive order will be a major part of the meeting's agenda. She gave a special acknowledgment to John Pierce of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for his many hours of work on the Strategy, especially the Conservation Opportunity Framework.

Lynn announced that the council has been invited to do a briefing for the Senate Natural Resources Committee; it is tentatively scheduled for early January.

Maggie asked council members to think about their interest in continuing to serve on the council and to let staff know by the end of the year.

**Public comment on agenda.** None.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Maggie called for a **MOTION** to approve the October 16 & 17, 2007 meeting minutes. Ron Shultz **MOVED** approval of the corrected minutes. Dave Roseleip **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** by unanimous roll call vote.

### **December Conference Report**

Maggie noted that attendance at the conference was great, despite the previous day's storm. Attendees stayed all day; the speakers were excellent. Maggie's favorite parts were the final words from two students. The first student spoke to the importance of ameliorating global climate change; the second student encouraged the audience to "stop talking and go do it."

Lynn felt that the conference had good energy and created a sense momentum. Lynn thanked everyone for attending and for their work and presentations. She gave special thanks to Lori Lawrence.

Lynn reviewed the Biodiversity Conference Summary, including evaluations, what's next, and budget. The council had \$23,000 allocated to the conference and received \$17,000 in donations. The donations were very helpful and enabled many special touches to the conference. The conference came in under budget.

### **Discussion**

Council members commented on the conference:

- Breakout sessions were really informative and shared good ideas.
- Use the comments from the conference as a springboard; have another conference in two years to report back.
- Ending with Robert Michael Pyle was very good.
- Would like to see more people from eastern Washington, but the audience was still very diverse.
- Strategy and conference materials (including placemats and banners) looked great and very professional. Council members praised the work of the graphic designer, Bonnie Mather.

### ***Council Budget update***

Lynn reviewed the 08-09 supplemental budget request for funding two projects considered critical for the Strategy: regional demonstration projects and development of an accountability scorecard. The budget requests were submitted by the Recreation and Conservation Office and are under review by the Governor's Office.

Lynn reviewed the 2007-09 biennial budget. Phase one covered up to completion of the strategy, , and phase two covers the next 18 months. The carryover from 05-07 was underestimated, so phase two budget has increased \$23,000. Some cost overruns occurred in phase one, including the printing of the strategy. However, some communications materials were not produced, resulting in savings.

The council will need to create a work plan for phase two to decide how the funds will be allocated.

### ***Executive Order Update***

John Mankowski, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's Office, addressed the Council.

- He thanked the council for the conference; he felt it was quite impressive and appreciated the diversity in the audience. Attendance was very strong.
- He congratulated the council on the strategy.
- John shared that the Governor asked her staff to define biodiversity at a recent meeting; not many people had an answer.
- The Governor likes the council's collaborative approach, the involvement of private landowners, and the potential of the maps to help people make better decisions at state and local levels.
- The Governor is interested in continuing the council with a new Executive Order.

John outlined his suggestions for content of the new Executive Order:

1. The importance of biodiversity at the highest levels to our quality of life and economy.
2. The importance of population growth and its effects.
3. The imperative of adapting to climate change.
4. Reinforce that the biodiversity strategy fills the need for a comprehensive guide.
5. Note that the collaborative approach and the creation of the maps are positive, and that the council as a group is more effective in carrying the message than any one person or agency.
6. Set a new deadline to ensure accountability—perhaps the middle or end of 2009 to work with the legislative session of that year.
7. Keep the council largely as constructed, but maybe add other entities (e.g., the Washington State Conservation Commission).

Action items are likely to be:

- Implement the early action steps of strategy.
- Maintain the biodiversity website.
- Provide for ongoing leadership and accountability that builds on existing efforts by Puget Sound Partnership, tribes, and other entities.
- Implement strategy within existing agencies and organizations; include the monitoring piece.
- If sufficient funding for pilot projects, need them to show how strategy can be utilized.
- The council also needs to look for other creative funding besides the budget.

### **Remarks from the Director of the Recreation and Conservation Office**

Kaleen Cottingham affirmed that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is committed to continued support for the Biodiversity Council. She would like to see the council build on connections with RCO's other boards, and to integrate the strategy into other boards' investments and plans. If the supplemental budget request is included in the Governor's budget, then she plans for RCO to advocate for that funding.

### **Discussion**

Council members thanked the Governor for her continued interest and support. Maggie asked for feedback from the council on the proposed content of the new Executive Order.

#### *Conservation opportunity framework (maps) and priorities*

- Future maps should include climate change information. The information is available, but to incorporate it will need serious scientific thought and dedicated resources.
- Agencies (USFWS, DNR, WSDOT) can really benefit by using the maps to guide decisions.
- The maps can be used to guide investments by NGOs, land trusts, and others. These organizations need to be brought along.
- The Executive Order needs to include a sense of priority and investment value—where will the investment get the most result? The council needs to bias investments accordingly, even though that can be tough. Clarity on priorities is very important to WSDOT.
- It's important that the Executive Order specifically mention the conservation opportunity framework.

#### *Composition and effectiveness of Council*

- Suggested additions to Council: Education, CTED (economic development, tourism).
- Several council members agreed that the council structure is effective and that a single entity would not be as successful.
- Concern that the Executive Order not preclude options for structuring new leadership, while recognizing the importance of building on existing efforts.
  - John Mankowski noted that Executive Order text that asks other agencies to pay attention to the council and biodiversity would be useful. He also commented that it is unusual for a governor to continue a previous governor's Executive Order.
- While it may be difficult to direct agencies, a structure that ensures accountability is strong. Biodiversity conservation could become part of accountability measures.
- Agencies and the public may need an incentive to consider biodiversity.
  - John Mankowski agreed that incentive is critical, but that it must be assigned to the correct entity.
- The Governor's office is expecting all entities currently involved to continue.

#### *Inclusion of biodiversity's importance to children*

- Executive Order should explicitly refer to how important nature and biodiversity are to children (e.g., the growing issue of "nature deficit disorder").
- Need a focus on the next generation and the knowledge they will need to make decisions in the future.
- Many children's nature education programs exist—connecting these across the state could be very powerful.

#### *Climate change, population growth*

- John Mankowski commented that the Governor's office is looking at a number of ways to address climate change; it is not necessarily the council's responsibility to look at this or population growth.
- Mark Schaffel felt that looking at population growth is critical. Perhaps even a population cap is needed. David Troutt noted that everyone laughs at the idea of population caps, but we must get past the laughing and start really looking at this, or everything else we do is moot.

#### *Scorecard*

- A report card approach for agencies' accountability could be useful.
- Report cards would also put something out to the public, and that is key for education and assessment.
  - John Mankowski said the salmon report is a good example of a report card.
- Ron Shultz felt it would be difficult to score agencies unless the Executive Order gave the council authority.
  - John Mankowski said the Executive Order may not include the report card but it is still important work.

## **BREAK**

Maggie and Lynn will recruit a small group to help shepherd the effort until the new council is in place. The next council meeting will probably be in early March.

### ***Introduction to the British Columbia Biodiversity Initiative***

Marian Adair, co-chair of Biodiversity B.C. distributed a handout and discussed their biodiversity action plan using a PowerPoint presentation (attached as pdf).

### ***Discussion on cross border issues and potential future collaboration***

Marian invited the council to attend a Biodiversity B.C. Steering Committee Meeting.

- Council members commented on ongoing cross-border projects and interests (e.g., PSP cosponsors a research conference with Environment Canada; USFWS has common interest in B.C. on prairie/oak woodland species).
- Less attention has been paid to boundary areas in the Okanogan and Canadian Rockies ecoregions.
- Important to consider all of Washington borders: B.C., Oregon, Idaho.
- Some rare species in B.C. are not necessarily rare in Washington; the border should not be so much of a dividing line when looking at species' populations.
- Common terminology and measurements of species of regional importance would be useful, but don't want to focus too much on species and leave behind ecosystems.
- Biodiversity B.C. is just beginning to look at the best way to effectively involve private parties and landowners—as members of the steering committee? Through focus groups?
- Many grassroots groups are already doing some of what the Washington strategy recommends and looking at trans-boundary species (e.g., birds).
- Invasive species initiative in B.C. is not legislated.
- Regulatory differences would be good to add to the cross-boundary conversation (e.g., ballast water regulations).

## **CELEBRATION LUNCH**

### ***Strategy Distribution and Outreach***

Lynn presented this agenda item and handout. The strategy was very expensive to print; it will be available on CD also. She asked council members for their thoughts on distribution.

#### Suggestions:

- Libraries at state and research universities, possibly to community colleges.
- Public schools through PEI. Every school library.
- Break it down by chapter on the website for easier navigation.
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.
- CDs are often appropriate, but to sell the strategy the book needs to be where it will be most seen.
- Have a campaign to get this out in the right hands. Make biggest splash in the first 6 months.
- EPA, NOAA, Federal Caucus, and Puget Sound Partnership.
- E-Newsletter.
- Regional meetings/forums. There are a lot of existing groups where we could play a big role in sharing this. The council could develop something involving media. Who are the priority audiences? Who should we pinpoint?
- Develop outreach plan with Susan Zemek, Doug Zimmer.
- Hand delivery by council members. They should sit down and explain the strategy. If mailed, it doesn't have the same impact.
- Small Farm Forestry groups (Dave Roseleip)
- Shellfish conference in October (Mark Schaffel)

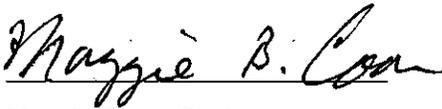
- Eric Johnson, Dave Williams—counties and cities (Kaleen Cottingham)
- Targeted list of legislators.
- Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association, Wheatgrowers—better to meet with personally.
- Conservation Commission (meeting January 16)

**Other media**

- Biodiversity 101 PowerPoint would be useful for council members to introduce Strategy.
- A basic PowerPoint that introduces the strategy could be posted to the web for Council members' use.
- WDFW does monthly video, which is shown on community TV; Biodiversity produce one? Show on TVW?
- Feature stories (newspapers, radio).

**Public comment.** None.

**ADJOURN at 1:00 p.m.**



Maggie Coon, Chair