

**Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 24, 2006 Meeting**  
**Port Townsend, WA**

**Welcome, Introductions, Minutes approval**

Nina Carter welcomed the group and noted the impressive turnout (we had trouble fitting everyone at the table!). **39 people were in attendance and 20 chapters were represented.**

**Attending:**

Ron Sikes, Admiralty AS	Jan McMillan, Grays Harbor AS
Sue Danver, Black Hills AS	Dean Schwickerath, Grays Harbor AS
Tim McGruder, East Lake WA AS	Steve Aslanian, Skagit AS
Richard Anderson, Kitsap AS	Steven Starlund, Tahoma AS
Sandy Bullock, Kitsap AS	Helen Engle, Tahoma AS
Gene Bullock, Kitsap AS	Gretchen Starke, Vancouver AS
Gloria Baldi, Kittitas AS	Sydney Reisbick, Vancouver AS
Jeb Baldi, Kittitas AS	Michelle Ramsden, Vason-Maury Isl AS
Charlotte Reep, Lower Columbia Basin AS	Keith Becker, Whidbey AS
Paul Woodcock, North Cascades AS	Steve Puddicombe, Willapa Hills AS
Jon Soest, North Central WA AS	Charlotte Persons, Willapa Hills AS
Sue Chickman, Olympic Peninsula AS	John Green, Willapa Hills AS
Tom Golding, Olympic Peninsula AS	Leslie Wahl, Yakima Valley AS
Allen Gibbs, Pilchuck AS	Dave Bonfilio, National AS
Sally Van Niel, Pilchuck AS	Heath Packard, Audubon Washington
Jan Van Niel, Pilchuck AS	Nina Packard, Audubon Washington
Merlin Wiese, Rainier AS	Christi Norman, Audubon Washington
Adam Sedgley, Seattle AS	Tim Cullinan, Audubon Washington
Marina Skumanich, Seattle AS	Lisa Remlinger, Audubon Washington
Karen Shea, Seattle AS	

**Executive Director Report:**

Heath Packard noted our significant winnings in the 2006 legislative session (covered in more detail later in the meeting). Nina spoke briefly about the strategic planning process that Audubon Washington is going through to try and find our niche and stay focused.

A comment was made about the resolution process, reminding everyone that resolutions need to be submitted two weeks before the meeting, when the briefing packet is mailed. Members then have enough time to read them and make a decision.

**Minutes:**

Changes were noted from Skagit and Vancouver Audubon.  
Minutes approved

## **Policy Issues and Updates**

### **Audubon's 2006 Session Recap:**

Heath lead the group through the sixth and final issue this session of Bird's Eye View (BEV).

State forest settlement saves Spotted Owl Habitat - Board of Natural Resources unanimously voted to sign a settlement agreement that Audubon filed in 2004. They increase harvest but do it in ways that do not negatively affect owl habitat.

**ACTION: Helen Engle volunteered to write a 'thank you' letter to Doug Sutherland.**

**FOLLOW-UP: This information will be sent out through WA-General.**

We made impressive strides forward helping to:

- Conserve Washington's Forest
- Reduce Toxic Lead Shot
- Promote Watchable Wildlife
- Ensure Surface Mining Reclamation
- Clean up Puget Sound
- Defend Land Use Protections
- Promote Renewable Fuels
- Launch Electronics Waste Recycling
- Eliminate Toxic Flame Retardants

And helped secure funding for:

- Olympic Peninsula Birding Trail
- Invasive Species Council
- Wildlife Habitat Assessments
- Environmental Education Grants

### **Initiative 933 update:**

Congratulations were given to Gene Bullock (Kitsap Audubon) and Jerry Beale (Vancouver Audubon) for both having Letter's to the Editor (LTEs) printed in The Seattle PI and The Columbian.

The legal battle over the initiative's ballot titled ended in a loss for the conservation community. The original judge scheduled to hear the case had to step down because of his membership to Black Hills Audubon Society! We wish he had stayed because the language that is used is almost exactly what the Farm Bureau submitted. See below:

“Statement of the Subject: Initiative Measure 933 concerns government regulation of private property.

Concise Description: This measure would require compensation when government regulation damages the use or value of private property, would forbid regulations that prohibit existing legal uses of private property, and would provide exceptions or payments.”

### **Wind Power Siting Guidelines:**

Last September Tim Cullinan started working with government agencies and others to make revisions on guidelines, which ended up being very time-consuming. Right before the meeting

the Humane Society stepped in and threatened a lawsuit, and the meeting was cancelled. The project is temporarily on hold, but will probably be active next fiscal year.

Conservation groups are continuing to make a hard push to get the research to know what works and what does not. Right now, not much is happening on the state level.

**FOLLOW-UP: How can we communicate what is going on with windpower, and transfer that to the policy planning process?**

**Initiative 937 (Clean Energy Initiative) – Request for Endorsement:**

Cy Berryman from the ‘Yes on I-937’ campaign made a brief presentation and then asked the conservation committee to endorse the initiative. It was noted that Audubon Washington had already endorsed the initiative and made the same recommendation to the chapters.

Jan moved a motion for WSACC to endorse Initiative 937.

Steve seconded

Motion Approved.

**Washington Wildlife Recreation Grant Program (WWRP) Update:**

Connie Waddington presented. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is a non-profit citizen’s group that leverages public funding for parks, trails, habitat and working farms. Founded and co-chaired by former governor’s Dan Evans and Mike Lowry, the Coalition includes over 140 member organizations including Audubon Washington and many of its Chapters.

WWRP Grants

In 1990 the Coalition persuaded the state legislature to establish the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The WWRP grant program is administered by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and funded in the state’s capital construction budget. Today the Coalition lobbies the state legislature for WWRP funding. The Coalition has helped secure \$453 million for more than 700 WWRP projects around the state.

What You Can Do

Here’s how to help secure funding for WWRP projects in your community:

1. Talk to Your Local Governments TODAY! – May 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline
2. Promote Your Project
3. Lobby Your State Legislators

**Chapter Issues Roundtable, and Resolutions**

**Strategic Policy Planning:**

A survey was passed out in which all chapters were asked to either take back to their conservation committee or fill out this weekend to help guide us in making our policy priorities for the 2007 legislative session.

## **Resolutions:**

During the meeting WSACC passed two resolutions:

1. Opposition to a proposal to construct a Hatchery and Weir on the White River
  - a. Presented by Jon Soest – North Central WA Audubon Washington
2. Endorsement of the WA Fair Trade Coalition
  - a. Presented by Marina Skumanich – Seattle Audubon Society

## **Oil Spill Advisory Council (OSAC):**

OSAC is in the position to influence agency and legislative actions and is quite environmentally friendly. But, public meeting testimony has been dominated by the shipping and oil industries.

Local Audubon chapters are needed to testify at the OSAC meetings and raise local, regional, and global environmental issues and help direct the course of the Council.

Meeting dates include:

- March 16-17, Everett (Pilchuck Audubon)
- May 18-19, Lopez Island (San Juan Audubon)
- June 16, Olympia (Black Hills Audubon)
- July 21, Seattle (Seattle Audubon)
- August 18, Bellingham (North Cascades)

*\*Because we were running short on time, chapters were asked to give either very brief reports, or wait to give their report later in the weekend.*

## **Willapa Hills**

Working to oppose Rep. Baird's Salvage Logging Bill and will have two resolutions presented at the next meeting.

## **Black Hills**

Working on lots of issues. Department of Ecology has right away on water issues. Impervious surface – on 260 acres – wetlands may be in danger.

## **Kitsap**

Senator Bob Oke is dying of cancer.

**ACTION: Kitsap will write an LTE or OP-ED and a framed letter to give to the Senator.**

## **Pilchuck**

The chapter is trying to remove creosote logs, but osprey use them for nesting. They are open to ideas or suggestions. DNR is interested - might also be effecting the Purple Martin.

## **Admiralty**

Having similar problems with removals.

**Yakima Valley**

They have begun the Final round table for CAO's – should be finished in May. Approached by WDFW to take a look at woodpecker habitat worried that Starlings are having a negative impact. Having a problem with people thinking there is unlimited land to dump garbage. Leslie Wahl will be on board for recycling efforts.

**Whidbey Island**

Department of Transportation wants to move the Keystone ferry terminal to put in a bigger ferryboat. The boats they are currently using are old and outdated. The area is environmentally sensitive.

**Lower Columbia Basin**

Go birding in Peru.

**OPAS**

Attend the Olympic Bird Fest. March 31- April 2, 2006.

**Vancouver**

Gretchen was on the working group to look at the habitat ordinance. They were able to come to an agreement on some things. Next step will be for staff to work on it. Two approaches - this is what you are going to do – or make a plan.

**Tahoma**

Tahoma is now involved in Piece Conservation – neighborhood habitat – green partnership. Still working to prevent the cross base highway from going in. Will keep WSACC informed.

**Seattle**

New Conservation Chair – Karen Shea. Exciting sustainable lumber campaign – FSC certified lumber through Dun Lumber and the Environmental Home Center. Go to [www.forestfriendlylumber.com](http://www.forestfriendlylumber.com) for more information.

**Next Meeting Scheduled: Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> Ellensburg.**

4:45 pm meeting adjourned.