



ACOW 2017 Meeting Summary

Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim, WA

ATTENDANCE

Approximately 80 people were in attendance representing 18 of 25 Audubon Chapters in Washington. Guests were in attendance from the National Audubon Climate and Network Offices, the Department of Natural Resources, The Ruckelshaus Center, and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Please contact the [Chapter Conservation Manager](#) if you would like a copy of the attendee list.

MEETING INTRODUCTION

- Ken Wiersema (Olympic Peninsula Audubon) opened up the meeting with a warm welcome to Sequim.
- Doug Santoni (Audubon Washington board chair) offered a formal thank you to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and the local Audubon chapters for hosting the meeting.
- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Council member Kurt Grinnell thanked us for coming and his daughter warmly welcomed us in the native language.
- Darrel Whipple (Willapa Hills Audubon) was awarded the fifth annual Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award by Ken Wiersema – Congratulations Darrel! Chelsea Chandler (Willapa Hills Education Chair) accepted the award on Darrel’s behalf.

CLIMATE ACTION IN WASHINGTON STATE

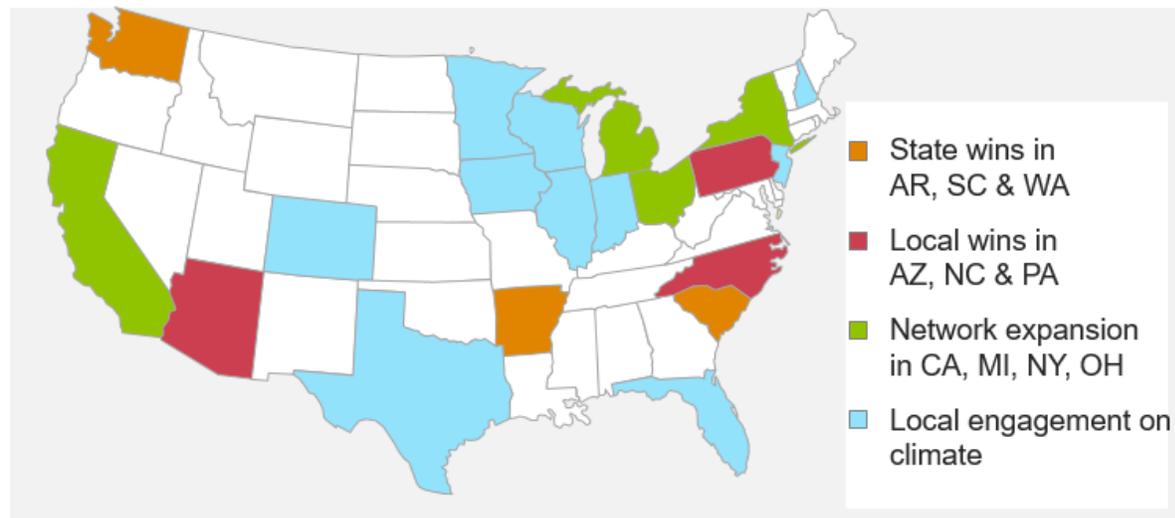
Matt Anderson, VP Climate, National Audubon Society

- Audubon has always been and will continue to be a moderate voice for birds and environmental health. How can we use our centrist legacy to win on climate in the current political arena?
 - Birds are our differentiator and they drive engagement (chapters are taking Republican Congress members out birding).
 - Integrating local, state, and national work on climate solutions.
 - Major policy campaigns are being launched and will depend on building our network and member involvement.
 - National is investing in climate action in 10-12 states over the next 24 months.
- The default needs to be action. Audubon’s 12 month strategy in Washington is to:
 1. Organize in key places
 2. Push for victory in the legislature
 3. Pursue a ballot measure responsibly

The last year in climate



Audubon's climate landscape



KEYNOTE: A NEW VISION FOR WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC LANDS

Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources

Commissioner Franz addressed several issues of concern to Audubon and how the Department of Natural Resources intends to work on them.

- Marbled Murrelets
 - We are making a decision under the Endangered Species Act. Due to the current administration, we need to be flying under the radar right now.
 - Re: rural communities: 60-80% of their budget for their services came from timber. The quick solution is not there and it won't be for a while. If we are trying to save birds and the environment, they perceive the environment as having turned on them. We are failing Mother Nature and mothers in communities.
 - Created a "solutions table" – HCP under ESA and local communities. If we don't put reality on the table and ask the tough questions, we won't know if we can find the best solutions.
- Water
 - We don't know the sustainability of current use – we need data.
 - "Big believer in public ownership."
- Population Growth – something no other commissioner has talked about
 - 1500 people move to Seattle every week putting massive pressure on our resources.
 - 40% of our population own small forest land and the owners are aging.
 - How can we best use our portfolio of lands? Can we sell idle private lands and use the money to buy larger connective pieces of land?
- Climate change – our biggest challenge, and DNR is on the front lines
 - "Landslides, dust bowls, wildfires" – Washington is in a forest health crisis.
 - 2.7 million acres of Washington forest is in poor health (½ federal, ½ state and tribal).
 - Our forest fires are the 2nd largest carbon emitter in Washington after transportation.
- Ocean Acidification
 - We are one of the world's largest shellfish providers
 - DNR is leading national and international research on ocean acidification, with 3 staff. More resource is needed.
- DNR is pushing on all legislative fronts.
- No fossil fuel export over waterways.
- Wind energy increases the lease value of land.
- Investments in solar power.
- Mapping geothermal across the state.
- Distributed facilities to address future water shortages.
- Mapping future areas for agriculture as the climate warms (i.e. NE counties).
- 20 year plan to remove dead and dying trees on 70,000 acres and turning the harvest into cross laminated timber for schools.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

Michael Kern, Director, and Joseph Tovar, Planner, The Ruckelshaus Center

Please click here to see the [presentation delivered by Michael](#).

Please click here to see the [presentation delivered by Joseph](#).

PLANTS FOR BIRDS

Dr. John Rowden, Director of Community Conservation, National Audubon Society

Please click here to see the [presentation delivered by John](#).

- www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds
- [Plants for Birds group on Audubon Works](#)

Contacts:

John Rowden: jrowdan@audubon.org

Tod Winston: twinston@audubon.org

CLIMATE WATCH

Dr. Brooke Bateman, Climate Watch Program Director, National Audubon Society

Please click here to see the [presentation delivered by Brooke](#).

- www.audubon.org/climatewatch
- [Climate Watch One-page Protocol Overview](#)
- [Climate Watch Survey Manual](#)
- [Results from summer 2017 Climate Watch survey](#)
- [Climate Watch group on Audubon Works](#)

Contacts:

Brooke Bateman: bbateman@audubon.org

climatewatch@audubon.org

TOPICAL MEETINGS

Conservation: Chapter successes and challenges; Navigating membership changes and reporting; Developing digital media and communications; Diversifying your chapter through programs and outreach; State youth bird program pilot. Please contact the [Chapter Conservation Manager](#) to request additional information.

YOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AUDUBON WASHINGTON BOARD

Region	Name	Email
Eastern Washington	Robin Priddy, LCBAS	grania0358@aol.com
King County	Randy Smith, Vashon	cousythecat@centurytel.net
NW I	Allen Gibbs, Pilchuck	agibbspr@gmail.com
NW II	Rick Jahnke, Admiralty	rjahnke@att.net
SW	Lloyd Fetterly, Tahoma	lfetterly_47@hotmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

- **ACOW 2018:** September or October 2018; King County Chapters to host.
- **The Audubon Works community is growing.** Start talking with chapters and staff across the country with this internal Audubon communications platform, built to facilitate collaboration across the entire Audubon network. Visit <https://works.audubon.org/>. The current registration code is *kingfisher*. Learn more at wa.audubon.org/audubon-works
- Are you on the Washington Chapter Network listservs? Join us on **WAGeneral**: a voluntary email discussion list sponsored by Audubon members in Washington state. Or on **WSACC**: a voluntary email discussion list comprised of the conservation chairs and committee members from each chapter in Washington state. Contact the [Chapter Conservation Manager](#) to sign up.

Education Workshop 2017 Summary

Friday, October 13, 2017 at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim, WA

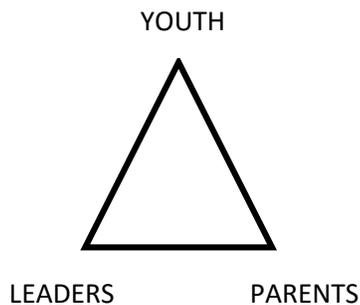
EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION - John Rowden, NAS Community Conservation Director

- Diversity is a measure of comparison. Diversity is not an individual attribute, i.e. there is no such thing as a “diverse person.” Whether an individual contributes to diversity depends on who they are and the specific demographics being measured within that group.
- When talking about diversity, specificity matters. “That’s a diverse group of people...” has little meaning without additional information (race/ethnicity? Religion? Height? Sexual orientation? Political leanings?).
- Best practice #1: Group identities matter
 - Some group identities show up more than others
 - Some group identities have profound impact on behavior
 - Any group will exhibit different levels of diversity
 - The group you belong to can change with context
- Best practice #2: Start with you
 - Don’t be afraid to jump into this arena. You can learn from mistakes made along the way.
 - Identify areas where your organization could benefit from including new and different audiences. Do you know anyone that can introduce you to a new community?
- Best practice #3: Invest time and your ear
 - Efforts toward equity, diversity and inclusion are a long term investment.
- Best practice #4: It’s not about you
 - Talk less and listen more.
- Best practice #5: Be flexible
 - Success is iterative, not linear.
- Case study #1: [Innovative Audubon Program Connects Elders with Alzheimer’s to the Outdoors While Creating Healthy Bird Habitats](#)
- Case study #2: [How Do You Say ‘Great Backyard Bird Count’ in American Sign Language?](#)

STATE YOUTH BIRDING PROGRAM – Calen Randall and Cindy Flanagan, Rainier Audubon

- Calen (18 years old) has been birding since he was 3 years old, but not until recently did he begin to meet people his age interested in birds through programs offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. A youth birding program in Washington state could help connect people like Calen closer to home.
- There are 21 state youth birding programs in the United States from which Washington could draw resource and inspiration. A few examples below:
 - [New Jersey Young Birders Club](#)
 - [New York State Young Birders Club](#)
 - [Ohio Young Birders Club](#)
- [eBird Young Birders Network](#)
 - [How to start a new club](#)

- Support for the program could come from a number of organizations including Audubon chapters and Audubon Washington, Washington State Ornithological Society, nature centers, science centers, and sponsors.
- Several chapters are working with youth in various ways and are interested in bringing these youth together starting with field trips, and possibly leading to a Washington state youth birding program.
- At the meeting, 15 people signed up to be involved with a pilot youth birding program in Washington state. There will be a webinar/conference call scheduled this fall for any/all chapter members interested in getting involved.
- Primary contact: Cindy Flanagan at camcalcin@hotmail.com



WSACC 2015 Meeting Summary

Friday, October 13, 2017 at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim, WA

Chapters in attendance: Admiralty Audubon, Black Hills Audubon, Central Basin Audubon, Eastside Audubon, Kitsap Audubon, Kittitas Audubon, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon, North Cascades Audubon, Olympic Peninsula Audubon, Palouse Audubon, Pilchuck Audubon, Rainier Audubon, Seattle Audubon, Skagit Audubon, Tahoma Audubon, Vashon-Maury Island Audubon, Whidbey Audubon.

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – Gail Gatton, Executive Director, Audubon Washington

- 2018 will be a short legislative session (60 days)
- This November there is a key special election in the 45th legislative district between Manka Dhingra (Democrat) and Rinyoung Englund (Republican). If Manka wins, it will flip the current Senate Republican majority to Democrat.
- If the Senate flips to Democrat, Senator Reuven Carlyle will become the Chair of the Energy, Environment & Telecommunications committee (replacing Senator Doug Erickson).
- The legislature still needs to pass a Capital Budget and needs a 60% vote to pass it.
- The Environmental Priorities Coalition is talking about how to grow engagement and be more effective.
- Audubon priorities in the 2018 legislative session will include:
 1. Securing funding in support of science and mapping needs in Willapa Bay
 2. Carbon pricing legislation

CLIMATE ACTION IN WASHINGTON STATE – Matt Anderson, VP Climate, National Audubon Society

- 1.2 million Audubon members are the voice for change. We can make a difference if we are contacting our decision makers before and after they vote.
- National Audubon membership identifies as 52% progressive and 48% moderate/conservative. This is unique. We do our best work when we put birds above politics. Chapters are taking Republican Congress people birding. More and more Republicans are joining the [Climate Solutions Caucus](#).
- Washington’s work on I-732 was little-D democracy at its best – you debated together and made a decision. Your process became a model for the network. Ultimately, 1.2 million voters said they would pay more on their electric bill to decrease carbon emissions – this is significant.
- In 2018, we are looking for a strategic, tangible solution. Washington can be the next state to take a stand on climate. Audubon Washington is in talks with potential partners to make sure there will be opportunities for climate action in 2018 in the legislature and/or on the ballot.
- Our biggest mistake is waiting for perfect solutions. It is our job to advocate for solutions (advocate = add voice).
- Our current path forward:
 1. On the ground organizing in specific districts that make a difference in Olympia; we will need chapter support in these districts.
 2. Pass a bill to price carbon in the 2018 legislative session.

3. A 2018 ballot measure (either an initiative from the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy or an alternative proposal that has been polled).

2017 WSACC RESOLUTION

WSACC passed one new resolution as linked to below.

1) [Resolution to Cease Permitting Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture in Washington's Marine Waters](#)

- Bob Phreaner (OPAS President) presented the resolution.
- Questions were raised about land-based aquaculture. OPAS noted there has been land-based fish culture in British Columbia for several years and that such systems provide a good source of protein for the world. kuterra.com and sustainableblue.com are examples of trend setting land based closed containment systems for growing Atlantic salmon.
- Admiralty Audubon and Whidbey Island Audubon noted that they were able to keep net pens out of their waters using the shoreline management act/planning. Whidbey also recommended the resolution be specific about non-native Atlantic salmon (as opposed to all fin fish).
- There is a state law which says that the state "must expand and support aquaculture."
- The DNR leases submerged aquatic lands; WDFW licenses aquatic farms; DOE does the water quality monitoring.
- The consensus is to take action through the legislature first, and approach the agencies second.

With some minor amendments, all chapters in attendance agreed to pass the resolution. Kitsap Audubon Society abstained from voting as they were not able to discuss it prior to the meeting.

PAST WSACC RESOLUTION UPDATES

Seattle Audubon considers **Marbled Murrelet** conservation a legacy issue and will continue to coordinate efforts with chapters that are interested. Contact Connie Sidles for more information (constancesidles@gmail.com). Members that have been attending Board of Natural Resource meetings reported that the DNR is very close to adopting a preferred protection option, and that Hilary Franz, the Commissioner of Public Lands, is holding weekly meetings.

Grays Harbor Audubon continues to work on **fossil fuel issues in Grays Harbor** with the [Stand Up to Oil](#) campaign. At this point, all coal and crude oil export proposals are off the table. Up next: a potash shipping terminal is being proposed for construction adjacent to the Grays Harbor NWR. See the ["President's Perch" article](#) for more information.

NEXT STEPS

Mark Johnston (North Central WA Audubon) was nominated by Dan Streiffert to the WSACC steering committee. Mark accepted the nomination after the meeting. Connie Sidles (Seattle Audubon) offered to sit on the WSACC steering committee. Dan Streiffert (Rainier Audubon) offered to sit on the WSACC steering committee. They join Allen Gibbs (Pilchuck), Sam Merrill (Black Hills), Tim Manns (Skagit), and Bruce Hoeft (Tahoma) on the WSACC steering committee. Four of five chapter regions are now represented on the committee: Southwest, King County, NW I, and Eastern Washington.

Dan Streiffert indicated he would like to join the ad hoc state climate committee (meets as needed). If anyone else would like to sit on this committee, please let Gail Gatton know at ggatton@audubon.org.

NEXT MEETING

The next WSACC meeting will be a conference call held in December to get an update on the 2018 legislative session.