



Protecting the public, our partners, and our staff are of the utmost importance. Due to health concerns with the novel coronavirus this meeting will be held online. The public is encouraged to participate online and will be given opportunities to comment, as noted below.

Zoom Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aFcotaYYTy22k_oUyt2_w

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 977 1031 6951

Location: RCO will also have a public meeting location for members of the public to listen via phone as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, **unless this requirement is waived by gubernatorial executive order**. In order to enter the building, the public must not exhibit symptoms of the COVID-19 and will be required to comply with current state law around personal protective equipment. RCO staff will meet the public in front of the main entrance to the natural resources building and escort them in.

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a short staff presentation and followed by board discussion. The board only makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda decision item.

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; accommodation requests should be received June 20, 2021 to ensure availability.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD – BOARD RETREAT

8:30 a.m. The Meeting's Goals

With the legislative provisos to guide us, ensure that we understand and are prepared to address RCO's priorities in 2021-'23.

Discuss and define RCO's role in three issues of particular interest to the Board: a) serving underserved communities; b) supporting communities in efforts to address climate impacts; and c) understanding the impacts of the pandemic on recreation and conservation.

Get to know each other and our new director better so that we can build an effective and unified board.

Opening

Welcome, Introductions, and Determination of Quorum
Review Retreat Objectives and Approval of Agenda
Agree on Ground Rules

*Chair Willhite
Director Duffy
Facilitator Jim Reid*

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|-------------------|--|--|
| 9:00 | 1. Board Accomplishments and Policy Priorities for the 2021-2023 Biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review accomplishments from the 2019-2021 Policy Work Plan and agency work.<ul style="list-style-type: none">What is the one thing you are most proud of that the board has accomplished over the past year?New policy priorities/efforts as established by the legislature<ul style="list-style-type: none">Level of effort/approachCapacity to addressPrioritizing remaining policy, procedure, criteria work<ul style="list-style-type: none">From existing list (2019-2021)Additional ideas from board and staff surveysAffirm and understand impact of priorities | <i>Wendy Brown Scott Robinson Board Jim Reid</i> |
| 10:00 | Topic: Climate Change 2. Guest Speaker: Amelia Marchand , Program Director, Colville Confederated Tribes' Environmental Trust Department | <i>Director Duffy will introduce the guest speaker</i> |
| 10:30 | 3. Impact of Climate Change on Our Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">What does the experience of the Colville Tribe teach us about how to approach climate change?How might this impact our work? | <i>Board Members Amelia Marchand Jim Reid</i> |
| 11:00 | BREAK | |
| 11:10 | Topic: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 4. Guest Speaker: De'Sean Quinn , Member, Commission on African-American Affairs and Tukwila City Council member | <i>Director Duffy will introduce the guest speaker</i> |
| 12:00 p.m. | LUNCH | |
| 1:00 | Topic: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 5. Guest Speakers: Leslie Herod , Member, Colorado General Assembly and Sponsor of the Outdoor Equity Grant Program | <i>Director Duffy will introduce the guest speaker</i> |

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|------------------|--|--|
| 2:00 | BREAK | |
| 2:10 | 6. Last November the Board adopted Resolution #2020-35, a DEI Statement. (ATTACHED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of the resolution, and considering what we have learned from our two guest speakers, what does DEI mean to each of us? Based on Board interests and the agency's equity review, what is the collective vision for equity in the Board's future efforts? | <i>Board</i> <i>Director Duffy</i> <i>Jim Reid</i> |
| 2:50 | BREAK | |
| 3:00 | 7. Impacts of the Pandemic on the State's Recreation and Conservation Lands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What have opportunities for recreation and conversation meant to the public during the last fifteen months? What are the challenges and impacts that the COVID pandemic and the recreating public have presented to you as land managers? How might the public's use of public lands and facilities during the pandemic influence your approach to land management and the roles and approaches of your partners? Are there specific changes or outcomes you might expect based upon the lessons you have learned? | <i>Jim Reid</i> <i>Governor's Office</i> <i>DNR</i> <i>WDFW</i> <i>State Parks</i> |
| 4:30 p.m. | 8. Summary and Wrap up | <i>Board</i> <i>Jim Reid</i> |
| 4:45 p.m. | RECESS | |

Next Meeting:

June 30, 2021 - Regular Meeting, Online via Zoom

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: **October 2, 2019**

Title: Climate Change Policy Strategy Final Recommendation

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo serves as a summary to the continued conversation around addressing climate change and proposes a policy statement on climate change. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-29.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Briefing |

Background

In January 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed staff to develop an approach to address climate change in the Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

At the April 2019 meeting, RCO staff updated the board with a potential framework for future work and how it linked to the Board's strategic plan. RCO staff had developed these options with assistance from the working group (RCFB members Ted Willhite, Danica Ready and Kathryn Gardow) and other external advisors. The board shared their desired direction: to develop a policy statement and continue collecting information from applicants using non-scored application questions.

In June 2019, RCO staff presented a draft climate change statement highlighting the board's concern over how climate is likely to impact funded projects. In addition, staff developed a suite of questions that could help gain a better understanding of how applicants are using climate science to inform comprehensive planning and project site location and design. RCO solicited public comment on the statement and proposed revised unscored questions between July 15 and August 12, 2019.

This memo summarizes the public comments received and requests the board to adopt the climate change policy statement and application questions, to be used as part of the 2020 grant cycle.

Summary of Public Comments

RCO received two public comments. Dr. Amy Snover of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group was supportive of the statement and suggested a slight modification to the last sentence of the first paragraph. The suggestion has been added to the final proposed statement. The other comment was from Theodore Holt of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Holt also supports the statement and encourages the board to continue evolving its climate policies and funding strategy as more information and feedback is collected.

Final Proposed Climate Change Statement

This statement will be added to WWRP Manual 10b in Section 2 under the heading, *Environmental Requirements*.

Climate Change

Climate change is expected to profoundly affect Washington's natural and recreation resources in myriad ways. In our region, this will likely include changes to precipitation patterns and the timing of stream flows, reduced snowpack and water supplies, shifts in species ranges and distribution, changes to the timing of events such as flowering and egg laying, sea level rise, increased insect outbreaks, tree mortality and risk of wildfire, and impacts to human health and quality of life. These impacts are expected to accelerate in coming years, and taken together, will fundamentally alter certain ecological processes, challenge the survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems, and pose increasing risks and hazards to human communities.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) invests public funds to acquire the most significant lands in Washington for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop public recreational facilities that meet the needs of present and future generations of all Washingtonians.

With this purpose, the board acknowledges the risks a changing climate pose to their investments to date and the opportunity for their future investments to increase community resiliency; mitigate greenhouse gasses, the primary driver of climate change; and continue to provide Washington residents with a high quality of life. The board encourages project sponsors to consider future climatic impacts to the projects they propose for funding through climate-smart planning and design. Sponsors are also

encouraged to share lessons learned, best practices, and their approaches to addressing climate change with the board, so together, we can build the collective capacity of the State in addressing this global challenge.

Final Proposed Application Questions (Non-Scored)

The following question will replace the current non-scored application question for all projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Habitat Conservation Account.

- How has your organization used or integrated climate change projections, vulnerability assessments, or adaptation plans into your comprehensive planning, project prioritization, and/or project design? Please cite the information you used.
- How could RCO assist you to better address climate-related impacts to your projects, jurisdiction, service area, or organization?

Recommendation

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-29.

Next Steps

Pending board approval, RCO staff will integrate the climate change statement into the Habitat Conservation Account manual (Manual 10B) and work with the PRISM team to modify the application questions in advance of the 2020 grant cycle.

Attachments

Attachment A: Public Comments

Attachment B: Resolution 2019-29

Attachment A: Climate Change Policy Statement – Summary of Public Comments

| Commenter Information | Comment Received | Date Received | Response | Response Date |
|---|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| Amy Snover, PhD Director, Climate Impacts Group University of Washington Box 355674 Seattle, WA 98195 | It's a bit extreme to say that cc impacts will "challenge the survival of vulnerable human communities" -- when referring to near-term challenges for WA. Suggest reworking this sentence to something like, "... taken together, will fundamentally alter ecological processes, challenge the survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems and pose increasing risks and hazards to human communities." | 7/22/2019 | Revised statement to reflect this suggestion. | 8/6/2019 |
| Theodore Hold, Conservation Transactions Director The Nature Conservancy Washington Field Office 74 Wall Street Seattle, WA 98121 Theodore.holt@tnc.org | The Nature Conservancy supports the board's proposed climate change statement and application questions... Our hope is the board's climate change policy will evolve in response to feedback from applicants, and eventually provide financial support of adaptive management strategies and our collective capacity to address a global challenge. | 8/12/2019 | Thank you for your comment. | 8/12/2019 |

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-29
Climate Change Policy Statement**

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed RCO staff to develop an approach to addressing climate change to pilot in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection Categories; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a sub-committee of the board and a climate change policy stakeholder group to assist with policy and strategy development for addressing climate change through funding policies and evaluation criteria changes; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff, assisted by the board sub-committee and the stakeholder group, developed a menu of options for the board to consider to address climate change. The board provided strategic direction at their meeting in April 2019 to develop a climate change policy statement and continue collecting information from applicants on how they are integrating climate change information into their strategic planning and project designs; and

WHEREAS, the RCO staff developed a draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions and the board provided direction at its meeting in June 2019 and asked staff to solicit public to comment; and

WHEREAS, the draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice to over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments and modified the recommendations found in Item 8.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the climate change policy statement as described in Item 8;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is directed to take the necessary steps to implement the non-scored application questions for projects in the Habitat Conservation Account beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to keep the board informed on future climate change issues that intersect with the board’s funding goals and priorities.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded _____

by: Adopted Date: _____

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-35**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board recognizes its obligation to ensure its programs and policies are equitable and inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the board has taken steps to address disparities by pledging in its *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* to distribute funds equitably across the state to diverse communities and to manage grant programs to improve equity in state resources; and

WHEREAS, the board further reduced match for underserved communities to make recreation affordable to more people, and has provided guidance to its grant recipients about how to improve equity through a range of recommendations including building recreation facilities for underserved populations, enhancing safety at recreation sites so all feel welcome, creating new and diverse opportunities, accommodating active seniors, and getting more kids outside; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that society is urgently demanding new attention be brought to the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including undoing systemic racism and ongoing violence against people of color, and that the board has much work to do—work which cannot be done in isolation but needs the full inclusion of its partners, particularly those of differing backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the board understands that embracing diverse perspectives will help it address today's complex challenges; and that the people of Washington State will be stronger and healthier if more of them can enjoy their favorite outdoor pastimes; and

WHEREAS, the board is aware that the issues today demand listening, learning, unlearning, and not shying away from difficult conversations if more equitable and inclusive solutions are to be found; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board will continue to examine its policies and reach out to diverse partners to ensure that Washington's investments are not only for a few but reflect the board's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Milliern

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (underline one)

Date: 11-5-20