

# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

Revised January 2022. Approved March 2022.

## **Seattle Audubon for Everyone**

Seattle Audubon will truly be for everyone when it is led, staffed, and supported by people of many different backgrounds and perspectives. We celebrate and value people of every age, race, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, class, ability or disability, sexual orientation, and political or religious belief. We also acknowledge that these categories, and especially their intersections, play a significant role in how power and resources have been inequitably distributed historically and today. We are committed to using our position and influence to challenge the systems of oppression that have created and uphold these inequities.

## **Conservation Committee Functions**

The Conservation Committee's functions are established in Article IX, Section 2.A. of Seattle Audubon Bylaws approved July 2, 2020:

1. To keep informed on local, regional, state, and national legislative and governmental administrative matters and on private actions affecting the conservation of wildlife, plants and their habitats.
2. Advise the Board of Directors and Seattle Audubon members of its findings and/or act for the Board and members in presenting the views of Seattle Audubon to agencies, individuals, and the public on such matters.
3. Identify potential organizational partners, including Audubon Washington and National Audubon committee.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Committee Chair**

In addition to responsibilities for members outlined below, the chair also:

- Meets with conservation staff at least once per month to share information and set committee agendas
- Facilitates conservation committee meetings
- Monitors and responds to emails from Conservation Committee email list and emails from individual committee members.
- Prepares reports and updates to the board of directors.
- Helps recruit and onboard new committee members.

### **Committee Vice-chair**

In addition to responsibilities for members outlined below, the vice-chair also:

- Stands in for committee chair to set agendas, facilitate meetings, and/or prepare reports/updates when chair is unavailable.

### **Committee members**

- Regularly attend and actively participate in Conservation Committee meetings.
- Research and report to the committee on local, regional, and national conservation issues.
- Draft advocacy letters on public policy and/or private actions that impact birds and their habitats for consideration by the committee
- Present or table at community events to raise awareness of issues with conservation implications for birds and habitats.
- Provide testimony on behalf of birds, nature, and Seattle Audubon at public meetings, community and city councils, other legislative bodies and other occasions as determined by the committee.
- Organize and lead issue-specific working groups as determined necessary by the committee.
- Represent Seattle Audubon on coalitions, caucuses, or other outside working groups, as directed by conservation staff.
- Assist with the planning and implementation of strategic conservation campaigns.
- Assist with preparation of reports, recommendations, or other materials as needed to update the board of directors.
- Assist Seattle Audubon staff in prioritizing and selecting science-based conservation projects for funding and support.
- Advise conservation staff on aspects of ongoing work.

### **Meeting Regularity**

The Conservation Committee meets virtually each month for 90 minutes or when necessary at the call of the committee chair.

### **Structure**

The Conservation Committee will be comprised of the Urban Conservation Manager, a chair, a vice-chair, and at least 8 other members. New members shall be considered by the committee on a rolling basis. Terms shall be for three years, with the option to serve a maximum of two terms (six years total).

## New Members

Prospective members will be invited to speak with the Chair and Conservation Staff, and if all three agree, will be invited to attend a committee meeting as a guest. If after attending the meeting as a guest the prospective member is still interested in joining, committee members will vote to onboard the new member.

## Conservation Committee Roster

As of January 2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title &amp; Affiliation</b>	<b>Status; Role</b>	<b>Term</b>
Deb Heiden	Retired, Seattle Public Utilities	Active; chair	2020-2023
Stuart Niven	Arborist, PanorArbor	Active; member	2020-2023
Emily Knudsen	Climate Policy Specialist	Active; member	2020-2023
Katie Remine	Conservation Coordinator, WPZ	Active; member	2020-2023
Kersti Muul	Naturalist and Conservation Specialist	Active; member	2020-2023
Christian Runge	Landscape Architect, Mithun	Hiatus; member	2021-2024
Jean Trent	Retired, Seattle Public Schools	Active; member	2020-2023
Constance Sidles	Author and Conservationist	Active; member	2020-2023
Martha Baskin	Freelance journalist	Active; member	2020-2023
Kim McCormick	Co-Founder, Seattle Merlin Project	Active; member	2022-2025

### Past Members

- Dr. Bruce Kochis
- Dr. John Farnsworth (past Chair)
- Lizzy Zemke
- John Lombard