

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2002

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Niccolls, Chair, Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair, Lynn Sullivan,
2 Secretary/Treasurer, Nancy Ahern, Member.

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Pat O’Hanley.

4 **Guests Present:** Claire Dyckman, King County and member of KCD Advisory Committee,
5 Mark Clark, Washington Conservation Commission, Jim Ritter, member of KCD Advisory
6 Committee, Stewart Konzen, Lake Washington Youth Soccer, Rick Dill, Lake Washington
7 Youth Soccer, Will Knedlik.

8 **Staff Present:** Geoff Reed, Marla Hamilton Lucas, Brandy Reed.

9 **NRCS Staff Present:** Pedro Ramos

10 Meeting called to order at 6:10PM with Bill Niccolls, Chairman, presiding.

11 Meeting agenda was reviewed and two items were added:

12 Dairy Nutrient Plan board review and approval, and nomination for appointed KCD supervisor
13 position. Move Claire Dyckman’s presentation to the beginning of the meeting so she may leave.

14 Sullivan asked that last meeting minutes line 84-88 be clarified. Ahern asked that line 124 be re-
15 worded as to the relationship of the size of the budgeted line items to the total budget.

16 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P unanimously a motion to approve the December 12th minutes as**
17 **written subject to the above-mentioned changes.**

18 Claire Dyckman of King County made a presentation to the board regarding the strategy for
19 creation of the new agriculture ordinance in King County. She feels that the CD is central to
20 implementation of the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Other ways to implement ESA
21 are the CREP program although response to it in King County has been poor, small farm
22 planning including BMPs, dairy nutrient management and help with agricultural ditch
23 maintenance. The question is, what to do about other agricultural producers besides livestock
24 owners?

25 Dyckman is proposing continuing the current livestock ordinance with three changes in it:

26 Require dairies to exclude livestock from streams. Currently they are exempt from stream
27 fencing requirements. Require landowners in the Snoqualmie Valley to fence animals out of
28 streams. Currently they are not required to do so because of concerns about fences being torn
29 down during floods. It has been determined that electric fencing will work in this area.

30 Stiffer storage requirements regarding the placement and coverage of manure piles.

“Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship”

31 Over the long term, move toward coverage of livestock and crops, anticipating a two year
32 implementation period. Currently crops are not regulated unless they are in the ag production or
33 ag protection districts.

34 Dyckman says the CD's help is needed because we have figured out the regulations and BMPs.
35 It is anticipated that winter cover crops will be required wherever possible, although some
36 farmers may need exemptions. Filter-strips with widths of 15 to 40 feet will be used and can be
37 either natural growth or grass. The filter-strip will be different from a buffer, as with crops
38 standard buffers with trees can throw too much shade and introduce pests to crops.

39 The priority is the 325 miles of river and stream banks in agricultural areas out of a total of 650
40 miles in the county.

41 Dyckman asked if over the next few months we would be able to participate in the creation of the
42 ag crop ordinance. What would the district need and what resources are available in the work
43 plan.

44 The timing is driven by the requirement that critical area use be supported by the best available
45 science by September of 2003.

46 Niccolls asked if there would be a subsidy for compliance by farmers. Dykeman responded that
47 there would be some cost share in the ordinance, but if the costs were significant that would be a
48 problem. Ahern asked about landowner protection from third party lawsuits. Dykeman said that
49 if the feds buy off on the ordinance and the landowner is in compliance then the county would
50 protect them from the third party suit. This doesn't mean the county would be immune from suit,
51 but it would be the county not the landowner in court.

52 Ag ditches are the main issue; something must be done now, as they are an easy target for legal
53 action.

54 One idea is instead of having all landowners get a farm plan, modify the system so that the most
55 important BMP's on a property are addressed. Further discussion ensued regarding livestock,
56 crops and farm plans.

57 Dyckman said that she did not need an answer right now. Niccolls suggested that staff talk about
58 this proposal further.

59 Hamilton Lucas directed the board's attention to the total monthly expenses report that was
60 included in the board packets. Niccolls asked for clarification of the GIS/ArcView expenditure,
61 which Hamilton Lucas provided. The District's new network/system administrator is Bob
62 Benshoof of Packet Drivers.

63 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P unanimously a motion to accept the December expenses as**
64 **presented on the monthly expense report in the amount of \$ 58,730.68 for expenses and \$**
65 **238,916.00 for cost share and assessment distributions for checks numbered 6308-6368.**

66 The balance sheet was distributed and reviewed by the board. The draft projected 5-year income
67 statement has been updated and was distributed for review. The District came in under budget for

68 2001, assessment collections were higher and expenditures were less than expected. The 2002
69 budget was projected to be slightly more than last year. King County has requested additional
70 assistance from District staff and some funding may be available for this purpose.

71 **S (Sullivan) W (Wallace) P a motion to approve the December Financial Report.**

72 B. Reed passed out 2002 workplan and budget packet and described some changes to it since last
73 meeting:

74 Four farm tours instead of one for 2002, expand the District's display materials, add another fact
75 sheet, more public outreach. Niccolls asked what a fact sheet was and B. Reed explained that it is
76 a quick overview of a conservation or farm plan related subject.

77 Ahern asked if we had conducted a survey regarding the District's services. G. Reed responded
78 that the District was conducting such a survey right now and that results would be available in
79 February or March. Niccolls asked about public outreach for the Hedgerow program, G. Reed
80 explained that public outreach consisted of articles in the District's newsletter, meetings and
81 newspaper press releases about the program.

82 Sullivan felt that a board retreat should be added to the work plan and budget. Niccolls felt that
83 the work plan and budget were very comprehensive. B. Reed explained that the District has an
84 advisory committee and that a board member should attend the quarterly meetings. Discussion
85 ensued regarding board member coverage of the advisory committee meetings.

86 The timing of the next state audit and other miscellaneous matters were discussed.

87 B. Reed said that the 2002 Budget was very similar to what had been presented at the December
88 board meeting. There were a few minor adjustments and the net deficit for 2002 was reduced by
89 \$3,000. Grant income increased due to more accurate information about remaining grant income.

90 The uncertainty regarding the amount of election expenses precludes the District from using its
91 reserves to fund more programs at this time. The District has promoted two of its part time staff
92 to full time so that more projects can be worked on during 2002.

93 **W (Wallace) A (Ahern) P a motion to approve the 2002 Workplan and the 2002 Budget.**

94 G. Reed presented the Magnochi Dairy Nutrient Plan for Board approval. This is a new dairy in
95 the Snoqualmie Valley. Wallace reviewed the plan and it is complete.

96 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the Dairy Nutrient Plan for the Magnochi**
97 **Dairy.**

98 Discussion ensued regarding the number of dairies in King County and how many had farm
99 plans completed and approved. B. Reed said that the status of DNMP's was detailed in the work
100 plan, and that 34 of 41 dairy plans were currently completed.

101 Wallace's three-year term as an appointed supervisor is expiring this year. He stated that he
102 would like to be appointed again. Ahern is also an appointed supervisor and her term is up in

103 2003. For the board to nominate Wallace again, they must do public notices and fill out a
104 recommendation form for the Conservation Commission.

105 **A (Ahern) S (Sullivan) P a motion to recommend that Wallace be appointed to another**
106 **term as a KCD supervisor. Wallace abstained.**

107 A discussion ensued regarding appointed supervisors. Ahern mentioned that her successor at
108 King County Water and Land is interested in being an appointed supervisor for the district. G.
109 Reed said that he is looking for additional associate supervisors and that the Board may vote in
110 an associate supervisor whenever it wishes to.

111 Mark Clark from the Conservation Commission mentioned changes to District legislation that
112 relate to JLARC requirements for grants- that money spent for grants be reported based upon
113 outcomes and targets.

114 The board requested that Josh Monaghan, District Staff come to the next meeting to make a
115 presentation about the Clopyralid and compost issue.

116 G. Reed presented an e-mail from WACD that asked supervisors to do a “straw poll” and vote on
117 4 points regarding board election issues. One of the difficulties in the current proposal for new
118 election rules is that counties are very opposed to allowing districts the ability to self-assess for
119 district elections and funding.

120 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to support the points in the “straw poll”.**

121 Ramos gave the NRCS report. EQIP signup applications will be accepted until February 1. AFW
122 manual has a new timeline. It is expected to be completed in draft form by Feb 28, then reviewed
123 until April 30. Concerns that arise will be addressed and the document reviewed again, hopefully
124 will be complete by Sept 30th.

125 Nutrient planning tools are being revised and the scientific information is being updated. A tool
126 is being added for analysis of application recommendations.

127 Use of a web server to provide farmers with information was mentioned again. It was asked if
128 board members could attend farm tours and G. Reed said that there was an evening one
129 scheduled in May.

130 Discussion ensued regarding the District’s approach to introducing itself to new County Council
131 members.

132 As requested by Sullivan, who was unable to attend the December board meeting, B. Reed
133 revisited the budget adjustment proposal presented by staff at that meeting. This proposal would
134 allow staff authorization to deviate from the approved budget category amounts by 10% of the
135 total district budget amount. Up to \$10,000 could be moved from one line item to another within
136 the budget, and any change to a line item in excess of 50% of the line item total would need
137 board approval. After a brief discussion, it was decided to change the “in excess of 50% change”
138 or “zeroing out” a line item to an informational item rather than requiring board approval.

139 **W(Wallace) A(Ahern) P a motion to approve the procedure presented by District staff for**
140 **authorizing minor budget adjustments.**

141 Sullivan asked about planning a board retreat to discuss items such as Dyckman's proposal
142 presented earlier in the meeting. Niccolls said the retreat should have a good strong agenda.
143 Clark said that long range planning should be a priority of the board and that it would be good
144 for the board members to get away and discuss priorities for the district and assess drift to other
145 priorities. He mentioned that there are tools to enhance the planning process that could be used
146 during the retreat. B. Reed said that staff is in the process of preparing a draft long-range plan so
147 the board can flesh it out. The draft will not be completed until mid-May, as right now is the
148 field season for the District staff.

149 Dyckman will need a decision on what assistance the District will give King County. Wallace
150 suggested a meeting in 60 days to discuss, and having a board retreat in June or July.

151 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to adjourn at 7:50PM**

152

153

154 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

155

156

Summary of Motions

157 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P unanimously a motion to approve the December 12th minutes as**
158 **written subject to the above-mentioned changes.**

159 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P unanimously a motion to accept the December expenses as**
160 **presented on the monthly expense report in the amount of \$ 58,730.68 for expenses and \$**
161 **238,916.00 for cost share and assessment distributions for checks numbered 6308-6368.**

162 **S (Sullivan) W (Wallace) P a motion to approve the December Financial Report.**

163 **W (Wallace) A (Ahern) P a motion to approve the 2002 Workplan and the 2002 Budget.**

164 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the Dairy Nutrient Plan for the Magnochi**
165 **Dairy.**

166 **A (Ahern) S (Sullivan) P a motion to recommend that Wallace be appointed to another**
167 **term as a KCD supervisor. Wallace abstained.**

168 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to support the points in the "straw poll".**

169 **W(Wallace) A(Ahern) P a motion to approve the procedure presented by District staff for**
170 **authorizing minor budget adjustments.**

171 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to adjourn at 7:50PM**