

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2002

1 **Supervisors Present:** Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair, Lynn Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer, Max
2 Prinsen, Member.

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** none

4 **Guests Present:** Elizabeth Weldin, King County, Mark Clark, Washington Conservation
5 Commission, George Jaquish, Farm Service Agency, Sara Hemphill, Natural Resources
6 Consultants.

7 **Staff Present:** Geoff Reed, Brandy Reed, Marla Hamilton Lucas

8 **NRCS Staff Present:** none

9 Meeting called to order at 6:08PM with Scott Wallace, Vice- Chair, presiding. Introductions
10 were made around the table. Agenda was reviewed and it was decided to delay Hemphill's
11 presentation until Ahern arrived.

12 Minutes were reviewed and Sullivan commented that she felt line 30 was incorrect. G. Reed
13 agreed to change it. B. Reed said that line 67 regarding the City of Issaquah restoration grant
14 motion needed to have the correct title on it.

15 **Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**
16 **February 13th minutes subject to the changes as noted.**

17 Hamilton Lucas presented the list of checks for Board review.

18 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the checks**
19 **numbered 6419 to 6457 for a total of \$ 676,064.47.**

20 Sullivan asked about the purchase of District jackets for the staff, so the Board was shown one.

21 Hamilton Lucas presented the Balance Sheet and Income Statement. She noted that with 83% of
22 the year remaining, total budget remaining was 86%.

23 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the financial**
24 **statements.**

25 Hamilton Lucas commented that the District was one of four districts in the Puget Sound area to
26 submit all the reports and paperwork on time to the WCC, and will be eligible to receive Basic
27 Funding as a result. Discussion ensued regarding the reporting deadlines for the Commission.

28 B. Reed started the review of the Green Duwamish Central Puget grant applications questioned
29 at the prior month's board meeting, but board members did not bring their packets, so B. Reed
30 left to copy the applications for the discussion.

"Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship"

G. Reed asked the board to declare two assets surplus. The Chevy truck has become inoperable and the old server has been replaced in the last month. It was estimated that the server has a value of \$100, as it is not a recognized name brand (Nobilius) and is several years old.

Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to declare the Chevy truck and the old Nobilius network server surplus and to dispose of them.

G. Reed reviewed the annual report summary with the Board. Sullivan asked who receives the report and G. Reed responded that there's a list of about 200 "political" people who receive it, and the brochure is used when making contact with other government officials. Sullivan said she liked it. Discussion ensued regarding the photographs in the brochure.

Jaquish presented the FSA report. He said that changes have been made to the EQIP and CREP programs so that land can be enrolled in both to allow landowners the greatest flexibility. King county farmers are eligible for assistance for drought related losses. There are a couple of work/internship programs available for students studying Ag related subjects.

Ahern arrived at this point in the meeting.

Hemphill said that she has been contracted with by the District to act as an advocate for the District's interests and by extension Ag's interests in the AFW process. The process is to determine what best management practices will suffice to meet the requirements of the ESA as far as habitat preservation and restoration.

Hemphill said that the people involved in the process appeared to be mostly state and federal agency employees and that other points of view needed to be presented and taken into account. The issue of "best available science" is a point of contention, as most of the science is taken from forest areas and there is little information that applies to the developed environments in most floodplains. Hemphill said that there is some new research coming up in floodplain areas.

AFW process has reached a point where it is falling apart. The Tribes have officially left the table. The issues are the required buffer width, watercourse classification and use of tide gates. Hemphill felt that ending the AFW process would be bad, but that it could use a "hiatus" to become productive again. Hemphill said that one of the things that will help Ag is to have the agencies realize the value of the farm plan as prepared by the CD rather than strict rules regarding buffer width to prevent habitat degradation in streams on ag land. Her view is that a science-based vegetation buffer could supply the habitat conditions needed for fish survival.

The Growth Management Act provisions tend to be friendlier to ag operations than the Endangered Species Act, as it is intended to preserve farmland and considers the economic impacts of alterations in land use.

There is a body of science regarding waterways and fish, the interpretation is different depending on the point of view. There is some money available to bring some new scientific information to the process. Hemphill felt that the science needed to be vetted through a process and that ag's best allies are the counties and their critical area ordinances. The counties are more empathetic to farmers than the Feds are. Ahern asked if anyone from King County attends the AFW meetings and Hemphill said that Clare Dykeman attends, but has not taken a strong role.

Hemphill stated that depending upon interpretation the GMA requires that habitat does not degrade further and that there is no burden to improve- the courts will have to decide what “protect and enhance” means. Ahern stated that the county worries that if it tries to do something about ag that it will be a party to an ESA lawsuit. Under the GMA, the county responsibility is less and economic effects must be taken into account.

According to Hemphill, the next three weeks will be critical in the AFW process. It was suggested an e-mail list be set up so that the board and staff can be kept informed of the issues.

B. Reed distributed a copy of the Annual Report for everyone’s records. She then presented the 4 Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound applications that were not approved at last month’s meeting. The Ecological System Restoration project had two items – will assessment funds be used in non-KCD member jurisdictions, and more information on budget classifications. As it turns out, only 2 projects are in Tukwila, and Tukwila will be joining the district pending a resolution from the board. Discussion ensued regarding funding a project that will last 3 years and have funding from many other sources beside the district.

Ahern moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum Ecological System Restoration non-competitive grant application.

The next project to be reviewed was the Puget Sound near shore restoration project. Board concerns included how the current application relates to the previously funded research. It appears that this application is to fund a gap analysis, collect data and identify projects to be proposed within the King County boundaries. Discussion ensued regarding the area to be covered by the application.

Ahern moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Puget Sound Near shore Restoration project of the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum non-competitive grant application contingent upon further definition of the scope of the project.

The next item was the Middle Green River Salmon Recovery Funding Board Sponsor Match application. This project is for acquisition of property in unincorporated King County (which belongs to the District). Ahern asked if there was some certainty that there were properties available for acquisition.

Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Middle Green River Salmon Recovery Board Sponsor Match non- competitive grant application submitted by the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum.

The final item for the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum was the Green River Natural Area maintenance non-competitive grant application. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of funding maintenance with grant funds. Prinsen expressed concern that with the word “maintenance” in the application, other jurisdictions might get the idea that grant funds could be used for city maintenance projects. G. Reed noted that the word “stewardship” could be used in place of maintenance and would apply more to a natural area. B. Reed said she would ask for the application to use stewardship in place of maintenance.

Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Green River Natural Resource Area non-competitive grant application submitted by the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum subject to the replacement of the word “maintenance” with the word “stewardship”.

The Cedar Lake Washington Forum has not applied for all its money yet, it is expected that applications will be received by the next board meeting.

G. Reed recognized B. Reed for all her hard work on dealing with the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum.

Discussion ensued regarding the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum’s request for assessment collection and distribution for the cities within the Forum boundaries.

B. Reed presented the Clyde Hill non-competitive grant application for a tree-planting event on Arbor Day.

Sullivan moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Clyde Hill non-competitive grant application.

The City of Tukwila has submitted a petition to be annexed into the District. A discussion ensued regarding the procedure for annexation. The Board will need to pass a resolution requesting the Conservation Commission’s approval for the annexation. The assessment will be started once the approval is forwarded to the county assessor, and will probably need to be presented to the County Council before August 1, 2002.

Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve Board Resolution 02-01 to request the Washington Conservation Commission to approve the annexation of the City of Tukwila into the King Conservation District.

Board members then signed the resolution, with the exception of Bill Niccolls who was absent.

G. Reed presented the results from the customer survey he did in December 2001. He said that people liked what we do and there were no negative comments about the staff. There is a desire for more education. Any questions asked by customers on the survey have been followed up. Wallace mentioned that the survey was important and was pleased that it was done.

The District will start soliciting resumes for a Fish Biologist that has knowledge/ experience with Agriculture issues. The salary will be \$ 3,640 per month.

Clark gave the Conservation Commission report. He said that there were 8 dairy plans left to be certified by July 1 in King County, and that 3 of those will not be needed due to dairies going out of business. He thought the District’s progress in this area was outstanding.

\$600,000 is in the state budget for the statewide conservation district engineering program.

Clark anticipated that he would be coming to the district to perform an operations review sometime in June.

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145 There being no further business,

146 **Sullivan moved, Wallace seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at**
147 **8:46pm.**

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150 _____
Authorized Signature

Date

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Summary of Motions

154

155 **Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**
156 **February 13th minutes subject to the changes as noted.**

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158 **numbered 6419 to 6457 for a total of \$ 676,064.47.**

159 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the financial**
160 **statements.**

161 **Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to declare the Chevy**
162 **truck and the old Nobilius network server surplus and to dispose of them.**

163 **Ahern moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Green**
164 **Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum Ecological System Restoration non-competitive**
165 **grant application.**

166 **Ahern moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Puget Sound**
167 **Near shore Restoration project of the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum non-**
168 **competitive grant application contingent upon further definition of the scope of the project.**

169 **Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Middle**
170 **Green River Salmon Recovery Board Sponsor Match non- competitive grant application**
171 **submitted by the Green Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum.**

172 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Green**
173 **River Natural Resource Area non-competitive grant application submitted by the Green**
174 **Duwamish Central Puget Sound Forum subject to the replacement of the word**
175 **“maintenance” with the word “stewardship”.**

176 **Sullivan moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the Clyde Hill**
177 **non-competitive grant application.**

178

179 **Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve Board**
180 **Resolution 02-01 to request the Washington Conservation Commission to approve the**
181 **annexation of the City of Tukwila into the King Conservation District.**

182

183 **Sullivan moved, Wallace seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at**
184 **8:46PM**

185