

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

July 10th, 2017

Supervisors Present: Dick Ryon – Chair, Bill Knutsen – Vice Chair, Max Prinsen – Auditor, Jim Haack, Burr Mosby

Associate Supervisors Present: Nancy Tosta

Guests Present: David Bauermeister (Northwest Ag Business Center (NABC), Executive Director, Karen Mauden NABC), Shawna Joy (WACD)

Staff Present: Bea Covington, Ava Souza, Brandy Reed, Josh Monaghan, Deirdre Grace, Jessica Saavedra, Ben Axt, Brett Anderson, Alex Martinsons, Paul Borne, Nikki Wolf, Jacob DeGouzman, Stacie Powers, Emily Carlson

Preliminary Matters:

Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm by Dick Ryon. All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon welcomed the staff. Ryon asked for additions or corrections to the current agenda. Hearing none, the agenda proceeded.

Prinsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (5 ayes, 0 nays)

Consent Agenda:

Ryon read the consent agenda items aloud and all items were voted on.

Board Minutes: 06.05.17, 06.19.17, and 06.26.17

KCD LIP Applications – Reed/Martinsons

1. AI 17-037 LIP App: Tina and Herb Sutter: Waste Storage Facility

Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications – Saavedra

1. AI 17-038 Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust – Rotary Community Park and Little Bear Creek Park Volunteer Restoration (Woodinville Member Jurisdiction Grant)
2. AI 17-039 City of Clyde Hill – 2016 Arbor Day Celebration

Knutsen moved. Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent agenda (5 ayes, 0 nays)

28 **Public Comment:** None. Closed at 5:03pm.

29 **Pulled Consent Agenda Items:** None.

30 **Statewide Sustainable Funding Discussion – Ryon/Covington**

31 Ryon circulated a white paper report developed by staff. The white paper is based on discussions
32 that were held in June. There is also a one-page summary that was developed for the Board by
33 Foster Pepper. The goal of these documents is to help board members communicate around an
34 upcoming meeting in Ellensburg this August. The white paper provides background and history
35 for this discussion, especially regarding funding and how the different bodies function in relation
36 to each other. The document also outlines the beginnings of an articulation of KCD's principles
37 that will inform how KDC engages on discussions related to statewide sustainable funding and
38 other proposals. The third section focuses on questions that will need to be answered at the August
39 All Districts meeting around the current proposal for statewide sustainable funding for all districts.

40 Covington read aloud Section 2, Principles and the board discussed each item.

- 41 1. *Principle 1* - Ryon inquired about the WACD's legislative ideas and if they are compatible
42 with these principles. Covington responded that there may be some areas of contention,
43 although the overarching principles are aligned. Knutsen clarified that the WACD labels
44 this "a tax" and it is not possible for a CD to institute a tax. Prinsen commented that this is
45 one tool that we could use to fund conservation districts; but, perhaps there is another way
46 to fund the conservation work without accessing this tool. Prinsen would remove the "per
47 parcel" language from the principles statement. Principle one may be removed. No
48 objections to removing principle one.
- 49 2. *Principle 2* – Principle 2 was changed to be more inclusive of different funding measures
50 rather than using language that locks into a per-parcel rate. Tosta and Prinsen suggested
51 using the phrase "enhance existing funding sources and explore alternative funding
52 sources". Ryon suggested supporting per-parcel rates and alternative funding measures.
53 Covington will edit the document to remove some specific per parcel language in a way
54 that also makes it clear that KCD needs to retain its current funding rate. Knutsen
55 commented that urban parcels with higher income and values help fund rural community
56 services. Prinsen commented that the assessment of rate allows partners to make additional
57 investments into the conservation districts, above what the WACD considers minimum
58 funding levels.
- 59 3. *Principle 3* - Principle 3 focuses on making sure the commission can provide capacity-
60 related support to districts.
- 61 4. *Principle 4* - Principle 4 focuses on programmatic work and efficiencies of work that can
62 occur through the WSCC. Prinsen commented that fundamentally, the state should take on
63 a certain level of conservation and allow individual counties to add rates and charges to
64 complete additional work in their areas.
- 65 5. *Principle 5* - Principle 5 distinguishes work that the WSCC already completes. Prinsen
66 commented that there are many rules on the books which are nonfunded mandates. How
67 do we assist landowners to meet those nonfunded mandates? Prinsen commented that this

could be a slippery slope where conservation dollars are committed to other areas. Ryon asked the board if they understand how funding for the district is parsed out and how these proposed changes would affect KCD. Prinsen commented that if we were funded only by commission grants, KCD could do much less for our constituents. This \$20 per parcel proposed charge would be broken up outside the county and would not only fund KCD work, but be distributed throughout the state. Prinsen commented that the per parcel funding provides a limited picture of conservation needs and that a per-need and per-resource assessment could be more effective. Ryon commented that by taking on a per-parcel charge, KCD was able to do more for our community and grow as KCD proved the value of the district, based on performance. Because funding is distributed through a formula in this proposal, it has the potential to remove the competitive, entrepreneurial spirit. Ryon commented that the big counties east of the Puget sound would be funding the smaller districts on the east side of the state. Covington commented that increasing a per parcel rate would be good for KCD if the District keeps the funds that it collects for local work. The WSCC would be taking a significant percentage of the collected funds. This might mean KCD losing control over where the money collected within the county is spent.

Prinsen reminded the board that this discussion is an attempt to identify principles, rather than getting too far into the details. Haack inquired about the total state budget for districts. Prinsen commented that this is a very difficult item to measure, especially because many CDs use grants to supplement their funding. Tosta inquired about the current budget for WSCC. Covington explained that every biennium WSCC competes for funding in the Washington legislature. This is not always a stable way of funding WSCC. This proposal is intended to allow WSCC to have a stable source of funding. However, it might replace KCD's current funding structure. Haack commented that this could double our budget, but it would restrict the funds that are collected. Covington commented that if KCD did double the budget, KCD should have control over that money and should be able to retain the level of funding. If KCD wants to increase the current funding levels, we would need to go through King County channels. Knutsen commented that there is an assumption that WSCC would have control over these funds; however, the legislature could rearrange that money. Covington remarked that this needs to be sustainable funding, outside the reach of the state legislature to make CDs truly sustainable. Previous conversations about per parcel funds emphasized the eventual reduction of per parcel assessments as other funding sources are found.

Covington asked that the board members review the principles outlined here and that board members provide their comments on this document. Is there anything missing? Haack commented that these principles are central to funding and that should be stated explicitly. Prinsen asked for the board to imagine what the perfect funding solution would be and then scale it back into our imperfect reality. How does the conversation make sense for each interest group – urban and rural, east side and west side? Ryon asked for the board and staff to think about these issues and weigh in over the course of the next week. Final notes – combined principle one and 2.

109 A break was called from 5:47 to 6:00 pm.

110 **Presentations**

111 NABC Programs and Services Overview – David Bauermeister, Executive Director

112 KCD funds NABC through the Regional Food Systems Grants mechanism and partners this
113 organization on several programs. NABC is a nonprofit aiding the agricultural industry in
114 launching both new businesses and business expansion. NABC assists farmers in development of
115 value-added innovative agricultural products. NABC operates in six counties in Washington,
116 including King County (added 2015). The organization does not lobby and has no members.
117 NABC provides technical assistance to farmers – individuals, groups, cooperatives, and
118 businesses. This includes businesses planning, product development, access to capital, access to
119 markets (most time and resources spent in market access), food safety, and other services. NABC
120 strives to offer as many services as possible in Spanish to engage the Latino community. Ryon
121 inquired about Hmong farmers and the outreach to those populations. NABC adds value through
122 collaborations and partnerships – WSU, KCD, WSDA and other organizations support this work.
123 NABC is funded through public grants, sponsorships, and private donors. Most of the expenses of
124 the organization come from staff costs.

125 Bauermeister reviewed a few examples of farms which NABC has helped grow their businesses.
126 Bow Hill Blueberries, for example, had value added by processing their blueberries into jam,
127 juices, and even blueberry powder. NABC rents vegetable and meat processing equipment to allow
128 farmers to process their own products. The farmer is charged per day for the rental of the equipment
129 (about 225 birds per day for most poultry processing equipment). Knutsen inquired about the
130 number of staff required for poultry processing – 3 staff are required. NABC also supports the
131 Puget Sound Food Hub which allows over 60 local farmers to distribute local food throughout the
132 region. Customers order online, food is collected from farmers at a central warehouse, then it is
133 delivered to the customers. Farmers are paid weekly for their contributions. Haack inquired if
134 NABC does any quality control on the product. Bauermeister responded that the product is owned
135 by the farmers throughout the whole process and although the institutionally support quality, they
136 do not perform any control. Bauermeister commented that they support value added products and
137 support technical assistance for farmers. This allows NABC to fulfil their goals of developing
138 infrastructure, supporting new farms, increasing local food purchases, supporting emerging
139 markets and customers, and increasing sales/income for local farmers.

140

141 KCD Individual Placement Program Overview – Wolf/Covington

142 Wolf introduced the AmeriCorps program and the Individual Placements that support KCD. KCD
143 partners with three different AmeriCorps programs – Washington Conservation Corps, WA
144 Service Corps, and Mt Adams Institute. KCD sponsors two WCC Crews – made up of 10
145 AmeriCorps members and two Department of Ecology staff crew members. WCC also has an IP
146 program, of which Stacie Powers is a part. The Washington Service Corps is the largest

AmeriCorps program in the state. WSC works in all different areas and deals mostly with IPs; these are full year or 6-month placements. Mt Adams engages veterans in environmental agencies in the pacific northwest and the mid-west. The benefits are a small living stipend (IPs are committed to service), education awards for future school or current debt, offers training and experience in their fields of interest. Seven members of KCD staff have AmeriCorps experience.

Brett Anderson presented about his program, the Mt Adams Institute. He is part of the program focused on supporting veterans entering the environmental work force. Members receive skills and trainings in exchange for their service. Anderson works with the forestry program for both urban and rural projects with KCD. Ryon inquired about landowner partnerships among forest managers. Anderson replied that he communicates frequently with neighbors to do outreach about KCD programs.

Stacie Powers introduced herself and her program through WCC. She supports educational work with the District and has educated over 400 individuals this year. She also coordinated the Envirothon this year and revived the program, Carpentry for Critters. Over 30 birdhouses were built by volunteers for the community. Powers also had the opportunity to build educational curriculum about beaver management and will be offering a workshop in the coming months. Powers also received additional training through WCC – HAZWAPER and Grant writing. Powers is interested in job shadowing a beaver-relocation project. Powers is interested in a professional certificate program after her placement is over.

Jacob DeGouzman presented about WSC and his support for the restoration programs through KCD. He works on urban, rural, and marine shorelines. One focus is veteran engagement with Rainier Beach urban farm. He also emphasizes Spanish language events and translates outreach materials into Spanish for KCD. He helps with technical assistance for KCD.

John Rosapepe is here until mid-August through WSC. He was attracted to KCD because of his work in conservation and his biology background. He works with Melissa Tatro on outreach events, especially supporting Hügélkultur promotion. Hügélkultur has been a great launch point for engaging our community. Over 35 people attended a Hügélkultur forum this year that he helped host. He also supports KCD's Stream Stewards program. He has had a great experience working with KCD, and has had an opportunity to attend trainings and improve his skills.

Ryon commended Wolf's efforts to engage with young, up and coming conservationists. Ryon values all the IPs and their contributions to KCD. He expresses his appreciation and thanks to current and past AmeriCorps participants.

Finance:

AI 17-040 check numbers 19547 through 19650 for a total of \$371,611.48 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$2,177.12 Bank Fees of \$63.20 and June 2017 payroll for \$168,989.19 – Souza

Souza presented the finance report for the month of June. The cash breakout sheet shows the reserve accounts, operating funds, and other typical funds. The Working Lands Initiative has been moved into a Working Lands Breakout that summarizes the four program areas which will be used to track expenditures. Currently, there is no activity. As the programs use funds, the board will see the accounts spend it down.

Souza passed a report summary for the month of June to the board. \$425,665 was received in the month of June. Total expenses are \$3.809 million received, \$1.995million spent so far. The board commended Souza on the way the financial information was presented. Prinsen inquired about upcoming expenses where the additional funds will be spent. Covington commented that that staff will be hired, incurring more expenses. August will produce a more detailed report that itemizes current work against five year goals and annual reporting.

Mosby moved: Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-040 check numbers 19547 through 19650 for a total of \$371,611.48 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$2,177.12 Bank Fees of \$63.20 and June 2017 payroll for \$168,989.19 (5 ayes, 0 nays)

Unfinished Business:

Chairman Comments - Ryon

Ryon commented that Emmett Wild was recognized as employee of the year at WADE. Ryon has had an opportunity to get to know Wilde about his passion for poultry showing. Ryon commended KCD for their great work in developing staff and for their passion for commitment.

Ryon also commended Emily Carlson for her excellent presentation on communicating about climate change at WADE.

Ryon commended Ava Souza on her tireless commitment to KCD's programs and congratulated her on her recent attainment of her Certified Public Manager (CPM) certificate. She has graduated as a member of an elite cadre. Souza continues to grow in her position and Ryon commends the entire management team on their excellent work with internal staff and finance reporting.

ED Updates - Covington

Covington reported that there is no new news regarding Totem Lake. Covington continues to move forward on hiring and staffing to fill open roles. KCD continues to engage with community members of the Puget Sound Conservation District Caucus. There is another task force around water quality (similar to Farm Fish Flood) that we will be nominating Josh Monaghan to participate in. The working Lands initiative is also moving forward in the near term, especially regarding the agricultural drainage component. Next week, Covington and KCD begin work on the theory of change programs. The annual reporting requirement to the Transportation, Economy and

218 Environment Committee of the County Council is coming up- August 15, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. KCD
219 is working with Christine Jensen, Principle Legislative Analyst to the Council on the content.

220 Covington will have met with all but one of the Councilmembers before that KCC meeting. The
221 program of work is approximately one fifth of the five-year plan and allows board members and
222 community members to look at the current work of the district. Ryon suggested that board
223 members read the packet and distribute it to partners so that they can also understand KCD's work.

224 Knutsen inquired about a Farm Fish Flood agreement happening in the Green River Basin and if
225 KCD is involved. Monaghan commented that there are some conversations happening regarding
226 that issue. However, KCD has not been invited to that table yet.

227 **Knutsen moved, Haack seconded, passed unanimously a motion to approve the KCD annual**
228 **report and KCD 2018 program of work (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

229 Grace commented that this is not the final version of the report, there will be about two weeks
230 before it is publicly available.

231

232 **New Business:**

233 AI 17-041 Review/Approve Competitive Bid for Farm Drainage Project - Axt

234 Axt reminded the board that this is an extension of the previous board meeting item. Four bids
235 were made for the drainage on the site. The ditch's length is why this is such an expensive contract.
236 Most drainage projects are small, but this one engages multiple landowners. This ditch empties
237 into the Sammamish River.

238 Mosby inquired about the project specifics. Axt responded that the drainage ditch will be about 15
239 feet wide and about 5 feet deep. The ditch will drain over 30 acres of farmland. A permit was not
240 required for the work on this project because the ditch is not a fish-bearing stream.

241 **Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-041**
242 **Review/Approve Competitive Bid for Farm Drainage Project (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

243

244 AI 17-042 LIP APP: Paul Fantello: Stream Crossing: Policy Exception of Three Open Contracts -
245 Reed

246 Axt reviewed this project. It is an LIP application to replace and upgrade a culvert. This is the third
247 LIP contract on this site. This landowner also had a manure storage facility and heavy use area.
248 This needs to happen now so that KCD can plant with a timely manner, before the landowner's
249 grant expires. If KCD does not do this work now, KCD will end up trampling the plants which are
250 installed by this grant.

251 **Prinsen moved. Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-042 LIP**
252 **APP: Paul Fantello: Stream Crossing: Policy Exception of Three Open Contracts (5 ayes. 0**
253 **nays)**

254

255 BOS Officer Elections - Ryon

256 Ryon commented that there are three positions open for election – President, Vice-President, and
257 Auditor Secretary. Knutsen nominated Ryon for a third term, Haack seconded that motion. Ryon
258 accepted that nomination. No other nominations were made for chair of the board.

259 **Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to accept Ryon as Chair of**
260 **the King Conservation District Board (4 ayes, 0 nays, one abstention)**

261 Knutsen nominated Mosby for vice-chair and Mosby accepted. Haack seconded Mosby's
262 nomination.

263 **Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to accept Mosby as Vice-**
264 **Chair of the King Conservation District Board (4 ayes, 0 nays, one abstention)**

265 Haack nominated Knutsen for secretary-auditor. Mosby seconded. Prinsen nominated himself for
266 secretary-auditor. Two candidates were nominated. Knutsen was voted into the position of
267 secretary with three votes.

268 **Haack moved; Mosby seconded passed a motion to accept Knutsen as Auditor Secretary of**
269 **the King Conservation District Board (3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions)**

270 Ryon – chair

271 Mosby – Vice-chair

272 Knutsen – Auditor Secretary

273

274 **Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at**
275 **7:30 pm (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

276

277

278

Authorized Signature

Date

279

Summary of Motions

- 280 Prinsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (5
281 aves, 0 nays)
- 282 Knutsen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent
283 agenda (5 ayes, 0 nays)
- 284 Mosby moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-040 check
285 numbers 19547 through 19650 for a total of \$371,611.48 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$2,177.12
286 Bank Fees of \$63.20 and June 2017 payroll for \$168,989.19 (5 ayes, 0 nays)
- 287 Knutsen moved, Haack seconded, passed unanimously a motion to approve the KCD annual
288 report and KCD 2018 program of work (5 ayes, 0 nays)
- 289 Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-041
290 Review/Approve Competitive Bid for Farm Drainage Project (5 ayes, 0 nays)
- 291 Prinsen moved, Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-042 LIP
292 APP: Paul Fantello: Stream Crossing: Policy Exception of Three Open Contracts (5 ayes, 0
293 nays)
- 294 Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to accept Ryon as Chair of
295 the King Conservation District Board (4 ayes, 0 nays, one abstention)
- 296 Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to accept Mosby as Vice-
297 Chair of the King Conservation District Board (4 ayes, 0 nays, one abstention)
- 298 Haack moved; Mosby seconded passed a motion to accept Knutsen as Auditor Secretary of
299 the King Conservation District Board 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions)
- 300 Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at
301 7:30 pm (5 ayes, 0 nays)