

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2006

1 **Supervisors Present:** Matt Livengood, Chair Scott Wallace, Vice Chair, Richard Gelb, District
2 Auditor, Bill Knutsen, Member, Bobbi Lindemulder, Member

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Bob Voss

4 **Guests Present:** Sara Hemphill, District Consultant; Stu Trefry, WSCC; John Larson WACD;
5 Tony Zraggen; Dean Radford, KC Journal; James Pittman, Earth Economics; Tom Benard;
6 District Counsel Eric Frimodt arrived at approximately 8:20 p.m.; two additional Earth
7 Economics staff joined the meeting at 8:20 and departed after another 45 minutes; see Public
8 Hearing sign-in sheet for other attendees present during the public hearing portion of the meeting

9 **Staff Present:** Geoff Reed, Brandy Reed, Roseanne Campagna

10 **NRCS Staff Present:** None

11 Chairman Livengood called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

12 Introductions were made and there were no additions or changes to the proposed agenda.
13 Livengood gave an overview of the assessment proposal that the district will be submitting to the
14 Metropolitan King County Council. After entertaining some general questions regarding the
15 assessment Chair Livengood opened the public hearing regarding the 2007 special assessment
16 proposal at 6:15.

17 Nancy Hutto, representing the King County Agricultural commission presented a letter in support
18 of the assessment proposal. She relayed how important District services are to the agricultural
19 community and spoke in favor of the other district initiatives.

20 Loren Reinhold, representing city of Des Moines expressed concern over reduced funding for
21 WRIA watershed forums and expressed preference for an allocation similar to the 6-2-2 structure
22 of the 2006 assessment.

23 Mayor Joan McGilton of Burien expressed a desire to achieve a 6-2-2 assessment structure.
24 Burien is a supporter of the WRIA watershed forum work and considers it the best use of
25 Burien's contribution to the special assessment.

26 John Larson representing WACD spoke in favor of the District proposal as it is well thought out
27 and organized and should be implemented as proposed by the District Board of Supervisors.

28 Stu Trefry representing the Washington State Conservation Commission spoke to the District's 5
29 strategic plan on which the District has done considerable work, to the considerable work load the

30 District has in the county, and to the assessment proposal's ability to support the District in its
31 work.

32 Claire Dyckman, speaking as a citizen, supported the district receiving 3 of the 10 dollars; spoke
33 to the need for proper oversight of assessment funds to ensure they are directed toward quality
34 projects. She though the District should refrain to using the term "salmon recovery" because it
35 minimizes other aspects of the District's program of work.

36 Bob Vos, speaking as member of the King County Agricultural Commission said the Commission
37 was distressed over the level of controversy surrounding the assessment proposal. He also spoke
38 to the benefits of the Conservation Partnerships Grant Program as part of the proposal.

39 James Pittman from *Earth Economics* presented a preliminary report on the special benefit
40 analysis performed under contract with the District.

41 Yvette Lizee Smith, staff from WRIA 7, read into the record a letter from the WRIA 7 Watershed
42 Forum.

43 Tom Benard spoke to the board regarding how important private property owners are to the
44 salmon recovery effort. He offered some suggestions on improving the fact sheet that the district
45 had made available on its special assessment proposal.

46 Seeing no other persons wishing to comment, Livengood suspended the public hearing to conduct
47 other board business at 7:15 p.m.

48 G. Reed briefed the Board on the annual meeting scheduled August 13, 2006. B. Knutsen
49 reported he has secured Full Circle Farm as a venue for the 2007 annual meeting.

50 M. Livengood asked for reports on public outreach efforts around the special assessment
51 proposal. Reports were given on the WRIA 8 and 9 watershed forum meetings attended by
52 District staff and some board members lasting the past week. Both meetings involved productive
53 discussions around the assessment proposal with various watershed forum stakeholders.

54 S. Hemphill reported she had a recent conversation with Louise Miller. M. Livengood asked
55 Hemphill to work with R. Campagna to draft a letter to member jurisdictions regarding the final
56 assessment proposal as well as to respond various written comments submitted to the District
57 during the public hearing/written comment period. Livengood asked that it be done within a
58 week. Discussion ensued regarding the content of the letter. It was agreed to continue outreach
59 efforts with member jurisdictions and WRIA watershed forums to the extent possible.

60 James Pittman from *Earth Economics* was asked to further brief the Board on the special benefit
61 analysis he completed. He will be taking comments in the next few days before finalizing the
62 document. J. Pittman discussed the methodology used to assign an economic value to ecosystem

services associated with the District program of work, and indicated a cost benefit analysis was conducted to compare dollars spent to benefits received.

Livengood reconvened the public hearing and asked for any additional comments regarding the special assessment proposal and as no further comments were offered, he closed the public hearing at 8:05. Livengood reconvened the regular board meeting at 8:20 after a short break and relocation to the District office at 935 Powell Avenue SW Suite D. Discussion resumed briefly on the special benefit analysis. Livengood asked for board member reactions to all the public comment both written and oral received to date. Board members considered the comments useful and helpful to considering and crafting a special assessment proposal.

B. Reed and R. Gelb briefed the board on the development of guidelines to ensure congruency between member jurisdiction grants and WRIA watershed forum salmon recovery plans. S. Wallace asked about the timeline with this effort and asked if the effort made issue related to the special assessment proposal too confusing at this time. Discussion ensued on policies/guidelines to ensure congruency.

R. Gelb spoke to an "opt out" clause for member jurisdictions where they could apply their full member jurisdiction allocation to the WRIA watershed forum salmon recovery capital projects should they so desire. Discussion shifted to a final draft of the special assessment proposal. No changes were proposed to the preliminary assessment proposal structure. Some additional language was added to the *2007 Program of Work* to further define and clarify the various initiatives. Additional discussion surrounding revisions to the *2007 Program of Work* ensued. B Reed was directed to complete the revisions as discussed to finalize the document.

The complete special assessment package for transmittal to the King County Council was distributed including a cover letter, 2 resolutions, a proposed ILA, the *2007 Program of Work*, and the Special Benefit Analysis. E. Frimodt recommended a number of minor changes to the resolutions. Discussion ensued over some additional changes offered by R. Gelb.

BK Moved, SW Second, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve KCD Resolution 2006-02 proposing a system of special assessments. Richard Geld recused himself from the vote.

BL Moved, SW Seconded, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve KCD Resolution 2006-03 adopting the 2007 Program of Work, as revised during session. R. Gelb recused himself from the vote.

M. Livengood distributed a memo from NRCS notifying conservation districts that those conservation district staff members co-housed in NRCS facilities must undergo a federal background and security check. This effort is part of a federal nationwide order. The issue will be taken up at the August board meeting.

M. Livengood introduced a Phase 2 Gallatin Group contract proposal. Discussion ensued on the proposed scope of work and associated costs. It was decided to not proceed with Phase 2 and G. Reed was directed to ensure Phase I tasks were completed before closing the current contract.

R. Gelb distributed a resignation letter and announced he was resigning from the Board effective immediately. Due to his recent acceptance of a position with King County DNRP, he felt it best for all parties if he were to resign. He expressed his pleasure in working with the District Board and staff, found his time at the District rewarding, and wished the Board good luck on its current and future work. The board and staff thanked him for his service and considerable contributions to the District.

G. Reed asked the board to concur with his decision to charge Josh Monaghan and Jay Mirro (District staff) to replace him and B. Reed King/Pierce/Thurston Local Working Group that meets to develop funding criteria for Federal Farm Bill cost share programs. The Board concurred to have them serve on the Local Working Group.

B. Knutsen briefed the board on a mediation project he is working on with some landowners on Soos Creek.

B Reed presented a District contract for conservation services to the City of Mercer Island to improve shoreline habitat at Luther Burbank Park.

S. Wallace Moved, B. Knutsen Seconded, passed Unanimously a motion to approve the agreement for performance of conservation services for the Luther Burbank Shoreline Enhancement Project.

There being no more business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15pm.

Authorized Signature

Date

Summary of Motions

BK Moved, SW Second, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve KCD Resolution 2006-02 proposing a system of special assessments. Richard Geld recused himself from the vote.

126 **BL Moved, SW Seconded, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve KCD Resolution 2006-**
127 **03 adopting the 2007 Program of Work, as revised during session. R. Gelb recused himself**
128 **from the vote.**

129 **S. Wallace Moved, B. Knutsen Seconded, passed Unanimously a motion to approve the**
130 **agreement for performance of conservation services for the Luther Burbank Shoreline**
131 **Enhancement Project.**

132 **There being no more business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm.**