

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2008

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Knutsen, Chair, Bob Vos, Vice Chair, Bobbi Lindemulder, Member,
2 Matt Livengood, Secretary/Auditor, Scott Wallace, Member

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Tony Zgraggen

4 **Guests Present:** Sara Hemphill, Sustainable Solutions, Perry Falcone, WRIA 7, Todd Murray,
5 WSU Extension – Small Farms Team, Larry Nussbaum, Stewardship Partners, Jamie Glasgow,
6 Wild Fish Conservancy, Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy, Preston Drew, Citizens' Alliance
7 for Property Rights

8 **Staff Present:** Jeffrey Possinger, Brandy Reed, Jessica Saavedra, Marla Hamilton-Lucas, Marcie
9 Myers, Susan Wermus, Matt Dunnahoe

10 **NRCS Staff Present:** Clare Flanagan

11 Chair Knutsen called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

12 The agenda was reviewed. There were no changes made to the agenda.

13 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**
14 **meeting agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

15 The agenda moved to Public Comment.

16 Perry Falcone of WRIA 7 updated the Board with the recent goings-on in WRIA 7. The
17 Chinook Bend project has moved into Phase I of implementation after last year's design
18 approval. Phase I includes adding cottonwood bowls to block woody debris and to act as a flood
19 fence. In early 2009, Falcone or another representative from King County will return to discuss
20 the design of the Chinook Bend levee removal project.

21 Chair Knutsen announced that Jamie Glasgow and Micah Wait will have an opportunity to speak
22 under the New Business portion of the agenda.

23 The agenda moved to Consent Agenda.

24 Zgraggen requested a discussion regarding sacrificial areas and that subject matter relates to the
25 LIP applications on today's consent agenda. Chair Knutsen said that Zgraggen could provide his
26 concerns during the Board Member Report portion of Regularly Scheduled Items on the agenda.

27 **Wallace Moved, Vos Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
28 **agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

29 The agenda moved to Presentations.

30 David Burger from Stewardship Partners was unable to attend this meeting and Larry Nussbaum,
31 Program Director, attended in his place. Nussbaum provided an overall picture of Stewardship
32 Partners and its programs while highlighting the partnership with KCD. Stewardship Partners
33 helps private landowners restore and preserve the natural landscapes of Washington State. They
34 accomplish this by promoting and implementing incentive-based programs that encourage
35 landowners to participate in fish and wildlife conservation and restoration activities while
36 simultaneously meeting their economic needs through sustainable land management. The
37 organization supports multiple programs including the Snoqualmie Stewardship Program, the
38 Salmon-Safe Certification Program, the Sustainable Building Program, and the Nisqually Glacier
39 to Sound Stewardship Corridor Program. They utilize various marketing avenues such as radio,
40 bus campaigns, events, presentations, newspapers, and farmers market presence in order to get
41 our their message. Recently, an article about Stewardship Partners highlighting the Salmon-Safe
42 Certification Program was included in *Vanity Fair*. Stewardship Partners has a working
43 relationship with KCD on the Salmon-Safe Certification Program and on the Ames Creek
44 Project.

45 Todd Murray provided the Board with an overview of WSU Extension, Small Farms Program
46 and its connection with KCD. Washington State University Small Farms Team provides
47 research-based information and educational programs for farmers, consumers, decision-makers,
48 and others involved in local food systems. Its goals are to: build public support for agriculture,
49 preserve Washington farmland for food and fiber production, help farmers adopt practices that
50 are sustainable- economically, socially and environmentally, and unify farmers and consumer in
51 developing local markets and community food access. The team is a statewide affiliation of
52 professionals from WSU, state agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The
53 organization's funding is split as follows: 25% King County, 30% Washington State, and 45%
54 from grants. WSU partners with KCD for sponsorship of educational events and funding for
55 specific projects. Some of WSU's programs include: the yearly Small Farm Expo, the Farm to
56 School program, the yearly Harvest Celebration, the Cultivating Success educational course, and
57 the Immigrant Farming Program. WSU partners with KCD currently for the Harvest Celebration
58 event and the Immigrant Farming Program.

59 Clare Flanagan provided the NRCS FY 2008 Implementation Summary to the Board. The
60 Renton office wrote 4 new EQIP contracts on 895 acres with landowners in King County totaling
61 \$170,299. NRCS processed \$120,496 in cost share payments to King County landowners in
62 2008. The Renton office wrote a task order with Snohomish Conservation District under the
63 WSCC agreement for engineering design services for \$6,795. They contributed \$115,000 from
64 the Farm and Ranch Protection Program for purchasing development rights on 40 acres of
65 agricultural land in Enumclaw with a match from the King County Farm Preservation Program.
66 NRCS terminated 1 EQIP contract and they currently have 5 jobs still under construction to be
67 completed by the end of calendar year 2008. The report also included what NRCS expects in
68 2009. Lastly, Flanagan informed the Board that Roylene Rides at the Door was recently named
69 to the head the USDA's NRCS in Washington and will report to her position in December 2008.

70 The agenda moved to Regularly Scheduled Items.

71 Possinger provided the Executive Director report. King County is expecting revenue forecasts in
72 the next couple weeks and it is less than expected, which could open opportunities for KCD as
73 programs are dropped. In the coming weeks, Possinger will meet with DNRP and DDES
74 officials to discuss how better to work together. Possinger, Knutsen, and Reed attended the
75 Puget Sound Partnership meeting. Rodger Thorson has been nominated for the Wildlife Steward
76 Award. KCD was mentioned on KUOW's Weekday broadcast recently where callers applauded
77 KCD's services. Lease negotiations are continuing and should be wrapped up very soon. The
78 Advisory Committee met recently and a report of that meeting will be provided under
79 Hemphill's Outreach report. The first public disclosure request under Possinger's leadership
80 was recently submitted and is on track for completion this week. The 2009 budget process is
81 making progress.

82 Chair Knutsen informed the Ed Zapel will provide a report at a later date regarding his work
83 pulling out logs and hobos recently. The Ames Basin water quality report should be available
84 soon. Knutsen also spoke of the recent Puget Sound Partnership report.

85 Lindemulder, Livengood, and Vos did not have reports.

86 Zraggen addressed his concerns about sacrificial areas at this point in the agenda. His concerns
87 centered on KCD not using clay liners under manure storage areas. A discussion amongst Board
88 members ensued.

89 Wallace stressed how important he believes it is to measure streams for oxygen and temperature
90 levels.

91 The Budget Subcommittee did not have a report.

92 Hemphill gave the Outreach Subcommittee report. Dig It remains on hold. KCD participated in
93 the County Council Salmon Recovery discussion on 10/27. KCD continues to have discussions
94 with WRIA lead staff to explore the level of interest in a second meeting. The Bartlett Group
95 continues its efforts to set up a focused media campaign. The Bartlett Group is willing to
96 produce a handout supporting the upcoming assessment process. KCD continues to monitor the
97 Puget Sound Partnership activities. Better than half of the Advisory Committee attended the
98 recent meeting on 10/30 and Possinger provided them with a thorough Executive Director's
99 report. The committee's discussion centered on the following questions: What is KCD's vision
100 for the District? What are KCD's priorities for achieving this vision? How, specifically, can the
101 Advisory Committee support the Board? Efforts to set meetings with King County legislators
102 continue. Hemphill is continuing discussions with friends of KCD to develop support and
103 interest in special assessments.

104 Lindemulder and Vos expressed their appreciation to Hemphill for her continued work,
105 attendance at Board meetings, and thorough reporting to the Board. They would like to see the
106 Bartlett Group provide more reporting to the Board.

107 Reed provided the Grants Subcommittee report. The committee met 10/13, 10/27 and 11/10 to
108 discuss regular Subcommittee business. All grant applications have been brought forward to the
109 Board as of tonight except one. Reed summarized past discussions related to Watershed Forum
110 Opportunity Fund grant applications and associated issues of transferring fiduciary
111 responsibility. These issues have been addressed by no longer accepting grant applications for
112 grant programs independently administered by the WRIA 9 and WRIA 8 Watershed Forums.
113 Current discussions with the Watershed Forums regarding Landowner Incentive Programs are
114 related to the KCD-KC ILA, which directs the KCD and WRIA Watershed Forums to work
115 together to identify, implement and fund landowner incentive programs which are consistent
116 with the WRIA-based Salmon Recovery Plans. Related to this topic is the work of the KCD and
117 the WRIA 7 Watershed Forum on implementing an Opportunity Fund that awards grants to
118 landowners, organizations and entities for natural resource management projects above and
119 beyond the capital projects detailed in that Watershed Forum's Salmon Recovery Plan. Similarly
120 related is the WRIA 9 Watershed Forum's prioritization and utilization of some of the KCD
121 special assessment collections allocated to that Watershed Forum for small grants to landowners.
122 No work has been advanced in this area with the WRIA 8 Watershed Forum. Saavedra provided
123 a Summary of Actions report:

124 Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Items Approved by the Grant Subcommittee:

125 Grant Subcommittee decided not to forward a Member Jurisdiction Application from the City of
126 Seattle for the project titled "Call Me! Interpretive System for Waterfront Restoration Sites" to
127 the Board of Supervisors for their review.

128 Grant Subcommittee amended the *King County Lower Griffin Creek Riparian Restoration*
129 *Project* grant agreement, revising the budget as submitted.

130 Grant Subcommittee amended the *King County Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnection*
131 *Project Design and Permit Phase* grant agreement, extending the completion date to December
132 31, 2008.

133 Grant Subcommittee amended the *King County Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnection*
134 *Project-Construction Phase* grant agreement, extending the completion date to December 31,
135 2010.

136 The Strategic Initiatives, Natural Resource Issues, and Policy Subcommittees did not have
137 reports.

138 Chair Knutsen adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm for a 10 minute break.

139 Hamilton-Lucas provided a financial report. KCD currently has \$1.6 million of unrestricted
140 funds. Four staff positions are still unfilled, which accounts for the main reason why KCD will
141 be under budget for the year. Reed added that the budgeted amount for office renovations may
142 not cover the costs of moving the office since the original intention was to make improvements

143 to the current office space. Possinger added that all tenant improvements for the new office
144 space will be covered by the building owner and five months of free rent was negotiated.

145 There were no other staff reports.

146 There were no Public Hearings.

147 The agenda moved to Unfinished Business.

148 Saavedra informed the Board that the Grants Subcommittee recommended a do-pass on the
149 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum grant application from Wild Fish Conservancy for the
150 Snoqualmie Valley Stream Mapping and Project Identification Project [AI 08-31] as long as
151 landowner permission is obtained before accessing private lands. Falcone, Glasgow, and Wait
152 all provided comments and answered questions relating to their interest in having both grant
153 applications pass. Falcone stressed that AI 08-31 would not infringe on landowner rights and
154 Wild Fish Conservancy would use the existing regulatory framework. They are looking for
155 habitat barriers. Glasgow explained to the Board that Wild Fish Conservancy uses a form letter
156 to communicate with landowners and receive permission to have access to their land for
157 assessment purposes. These form letters are self-addressed and pre-stamped. Zraggen
158 requested a copy of the letter that goes out to landowners to include in the grant file. Glasgow
159 continued to answer questions from the Board.

160 **Linedmulder Moved, Livengood Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Snoqualmie**
161 **Watershed Forum grant application for \$50,000 from 2008 Assessments from Wild Fish**
162 **Conservancy for the Snoqualmie Valley Stream Mapping and Project Identification**
163 **Project. (4 ayes, 1 nay - Vos) [AI 08-31]**

164 Saavedra informed the Board that the Grants Subcommittee recommended a do-pass on the
165 Snoqualmie Watershed Forum grant application for the Wild Fish Conservancy Stillwater
166 Wildlife Area Floodplain Restoration-Design Phase Project [AI 08-87]. Falcone explained to the
167 Board that this project is similar to the Chinook Bend project. This project would be located on
168 Fish and Wildlife Service land and fish and duck habitats are beneficial for each other.

169 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded; Passed unanimously an amended motion to**
170 **approve the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum grant application for \$50,000 from 2008**
171 **Assessment for the Wild Fish Conservancy Stillwater Wildlife Area Floodplain**
172 **Restoration-Design Phase Project 1) After the final design is complete and before project**
173 **permits are applied for, King Conservation District will be allowed to: a) Review and**
174 **comment on the proposed design of the project as to the ongoing impact on the hydrology**
175 **of the Snoqualmie River, and b) King Conservation District and Wild Fish Conservancy**
176 **will conduct appropriate outreach to any affected downstream landowners and interested**
177 **valley residents so that they are fully advised about the proposed project and its potential**
178 **impacts. (5 ayes, 0 nays) [AI 08-87]**

179 The agenda moved to New Business.

180 Reed presented [AI 08-107], a 2009 contract for work crew services with Earth Corps, to the
181 Board. Reed explained that she cannot get work crews on the schedule for 2009 until a contract
182 is in place with Earth Corps.

183 **Livengood Moved, Wallace Seconded; Passed unanimously a motion to approve a contract**
184 **with Earth Corps in the amount of \$55,655.40 for work crew services during calendar year**
185 **2009. (5 ayes, 0 nays) [AI 08-107]**

186 Possinger prompted the Board to discuss and brainstorm possible direction for the Advisory
187 Committee. Possinger provided a list of possible items for the Advisory Committee to work on
188 in order to get the discussion started: 1) Special Assessment 2) ILA Review 3) District Elections
189 and Rule Changes 4) Engagement on Work Plan and Budget 5) Best Available Science Update
190 6) Disclosure of Entire \$10 Use of Assessment 7) Future of Regulation and Permits and 8) Grant
191 Policy Changes. There was considerable Board discussion and the Board put the list to a matrix
192 vote. The top three areas of direction for the Advisory Committee from the Board of Supervisors
193 are 1) Special Assessment 2) District Elections and Rule Changes and 3) Grant Policy Changes.

194 Possinger provided the Board with a progress report on the 2008 Work Plan. He passed around a
195 color-coded marked copy of the 2008 Work Plan to highlight to the Board what projects were
196 complete, in progress, or on hold.

197 Possinger continued the discussion of Strategic Goal Development with the Board by providing
198 a list of strategic goals and prompting discussion of these goals: 1) Significantly increase the
199 number of landowners empowered to sustainably manage the natural resources on their property
200 and to implement best management practices 2) Implement on-the-ground conservation 3)
201 Improve the sustainability of local agriculture with the District 4) Build organizational capacity
202 of the King CD 5) Extend the mission of the King CD through effective partnerships and 6)
203 Establish secure and sustainable funding to accomplish the King CD mission. Most items on the
204 list are measurable. The Board discussed the difference between “empower” and “engage” as it
205 pertains to the first goal. The Board expressed a possible interest in expanding the third goal
206 relating to local agriculture to include forestry, fisheries, etc.

207 Possinger prompted a discussion regarding the Grants Program Review. Saavedra provided
208 some background information to the Board pertaining to how capacity building projects are
209 approved and funded through KCD and some examples of such approved projects. Reed added
210 that we use the state’s definition of capacity building to guide our decisions and we can also
211 qualify any funding criteria if we so choose. Lindemulder suggested that the Advisory
212 Committee be utilized for vetting grant applications. The Board concluded that they would like
213 to focus the definition of capacity building and asked for staff members to work on some specific
214 proposals to further define capacity building.

215 The remainder of agenda items were postponed to the next meeting: Dig It Update, 2009 Draft
216 Work Plan and Budget, and Associate Supervisor Policy and Appointment Process. Possinger
217 did hand out the draft Associate Supervisor Policy and Appointment Process documents for the
218 Board to review.

219 Knutsen adjourned the meeting at 11:15 pm.

220 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion for adjournment.**
221 **(5 ayes, 0 nays)**

222

223 _____

224 Authorized Signature

Date

225

226

227

Summary of Motions

228 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**
229 **meeting agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

230 **Wallace Moved, Vos Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
231 **agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

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249 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion for adjournment.**
250 **(5 ayes, 0 nays)**