

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2009

**Supervisors Present:** Bill Knutsen, Chair, Bob Vos, Vice Chair, Scott Wallace, Supervisor, David Irons, Supervisor, Preston Drew, Supervisor

**Associate Supervisors Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Jeffrey Possinger, Susan Wermus, Jessica Saavedra, Brandy Reed, Jason Chambers

**Guests Present:** Sara Hemphill, Sustainable Solutions, Brad Gaolach, WSU Extension, Don Fine, Lake Forest Park citizen, Barry Bartlett, The Bartlett Group, Steve Ohlenkamp, The Bartlett Group

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

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. The outstanding Auburn grant amendment, AI 09-075, was requested by Vos to be put on the agenda under Unfinished Business. This amendment will be addressed at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Grants are discussed at the first board meeting of each month.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vos requested that the July 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes be pulled off the consent agenda and put under New Business for discussion. Vos requested that AI 09-120 be pulled off the consent agenda and put under New Business at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Vos requested that a brief description be added to each of the consent agenda items on future agendas.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Brad Gaolach of WSU Extension provided a presentation to the board which focused on the new structure of Extension and the partnership between Extension and KCD. WSU Extension

*“Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources  
through responsible stewardship”*

recently has been rebranded the Center for Applied Research and Extension. These two branches interact closely with each other and work to utilize university resources optimally. One Extension / KCD partnership idea posed was a farming friendly certification as part of a KCD farm plan. The current Extension / KCD programs are Cultivating Success, the Harvest Celebration, the Immigrant Farming Program, and the Extension Watershed Stewards. Gaolach connected each program to KCD strategic goals. A handout was provided. The board asked questions and thanked Gaolach for the helpful presentation.

#### REGULARLY SCHEDULED ITEMS:

All regularly scheduled items were foregone due to the necessity to attend to New Business items as they related to the System of Assessments package.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Don Fine, a citizen of Lake Forest Park, gave his testimony in regards to the proposed KCD System of Assessments package. Mr. Fine is in favor of reauthorization of assessment funding for KCD and he is in favor of the \$5, \$3, \$2 split of the \$10 per parcel assessment fee. He attended the KCD Advisory Committee meeting last Thursday. At the meeting, he found the explanations understandable for the shift in KCD approach to assessment funds, but he still supports the allocation split of funding. His opinion is that the KCD change in approach has confused stakeholders in large part because they do not know any new ground rules. He also believes that clear communication and working closely with the Advisory Committee will alleviate concerns. He thanked the board for their time and the board thanked him as well.

Chair Knutsen left the Public Hearing open at this time in case others arrived throughout the meeting to give testimony.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board and Executive Director entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The session began at 6:45 pm and ended at 7:00 pm.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No items on the agenda.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Vos requested earlier in the meeting that AI 09-075, the City of Auburn Mill Creek grant amendment, be added to New Business items. Vos believes that the potential affects to downstream landowners needs to be more seriously considered in regards to this grant amendment. Vos suggested that a small study be added to the grant requirements to study the potential affects to downstream landowners. Discussion of this grant amendment has been

63 deferred to the next regular board meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Specific grant discussions occur  
64 during the first board meeting of each month.

65 Drew requested that discussion occur sometime in the near future regarding potential flooding  
66 issues within the Snoqualmie Valley as it relates to changes in flow through the Snoqualmie  
67 Dam.

68 Chair Knutsen provided the group with a break at 7:06 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:14 pm.

69 Possinger provided the board with a presentation of the proposed System of Assessments  
70 package and related resolutions. The deadline for submission of the System of Assessments is  
71 this Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>. In the presentation, Possinger detailed the basic components of the package  
72 and historical content from previous years' authorization. The drivers for a change in approach  
73 to the assessment, away from the \$5, \$3, \$2 split, are the economic downturn, policy changes at  
74 federal and state levels, the financial realities of KCD operations and the 2010 budget, as well as  
75 legal concerns with the current assessment parameters. The changes in approach include:  
76 bringing the assessment in line with KCD mission, vision and strategic goals, developing an  
77 assessment that incorporates a whole budget approach to KCD budgeting and finances and more  
78 stakeholder input. The development of the new assessment proposal included strategic goal  
79 setting (08 – present), 6 public hearings, a draft Assessment Appropriation Plan, engagement  
80 with the Advisory Committee and other stakeholders, and public hearings at regular board  
81 meetings. The key changes in the assessment proposal include: document naming, proposed  
82 engagement with King County, mission, vision and strategic goals focus, three focused funding  
83 priorities, a whole budget presentation of programs, no fixed allocations for programs, and a  
84 more detailed breakdown of budgeting. Possinger pointed out the current Program of Work as a  
85 way to better understand where KCD has been in the past as we move forward into the future.  
86 Summarized feedback / concerns from stakeholders was also presented to the board and included  
87 the level of detail for specific programs, the level of committed funding for various programs,  
88 input from stakeholders, and banked funding use for 2010. Proposed changes to the Assessment  
89 Appropriation Plan include addressing the concerns of stakeholders and remaining true to KCD  
90 needs. Possinger provided the board with a memo comprised of recommended changes for the  
91 proposed assessment renewal. The System of Assessments package includes the following  
92 items: System of Assessments Resolution, Assessment Appropriation Plan Resolution, a  
93 resolution detailing Board Policy for the 2010 Annual Work Plan and Budget, the transmittal  
94 letter / policy memo, and the policy and communications for the Annual Work Plan and Budget  
95 process.

96 Discussion opened up to the board. The board decided to discuss each resolution and have one  
97 vote for all resolutions on the agenda at the end of discussion.

98 All supervisors voiced their support of Resolution 09-005, Adoption of the System of  
99 Assessments.

Discussion of Resolution 09-006, the Assessment Appropriation Plan, began. Possinger brought up this electronic document for all in the room to see and for edits to be made while discussion occurred. Vos inquired about the joint endeavor with WRIA 9. He was informed that this is a potential future project and is one example of KCD's goal to be transparent and future-looking. Possinger led the board through each of the changes in the proposed Assessment Appropriation Plan draft document while providing explanations for each change. He also reviewed monetary changes in budget calculations. Vos brought up his concern that readers may have some confusion about the terminology of "community based stewardship of lands." All supervisors voiced their support of Resolution 09-006, Adoption of the Assessment Appropriation Plan.

Discussion of Resolution 09-007, the 2010 Budget Policy proposal, began. The discussion centered on whether or not to keep the status quo of the \$5, \$3, \$2 split for another year to alleviate stakeholder concerns. Knutsen offered that over the next three months or so KCD work cooperatively with the member jurisdictions and WRIAs. Irons likes this philosophy but is wondering how we practically make this happen. Vos believes that we need to move away from allocation based budgeting and utilize 2010 as a year of transition while working with stakeholders. Possinger made edits to the documentation as the board made comments and changes.

Chair Knutsen provided the group with a break at 9:40 pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:52 pm.

Edits were completed Resolution 09-007.

Discussion of Resolution 09-008, the 2010 – 2014 Strategic Goals, began. Vos requested that an additional goal be added to the list: commitment to fiscal responsibility of taxpayer funds. All other supervisors are in support of this concept but feel that an amendment to include this goal could be made at a later date.

**Drew Moved, Irons Seconded, Passed a motion to adopt Resolutions 09-005 – 09-008. (4 ayes, 1 nay)**

Chair Knutsen declared the Public Hearing period closed at 10:43 pm.

Discussion moved toward comments on the minutes from the July 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Vos did not feel that statements in the minutes on lines 117, 124, 162, and 195 were accurately representative. Further discussion of the minutes was carried over to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Board Officers were selected. Bill Knutsen will continue as Board Chair. Bob Vos will continue as Board Vice Chair. Irons will continue formally as Secretary / Treasurer.

Comments were made around the table as to how tonight's meeting went and all thought the meeting was very positive.

**Vos Moved, Irons Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

135 Chair Knutsen adjourned the meeting at 11:00 pm.

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137 \_\_\_\_\_

138 Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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141 **Summary of Motions**

142 **Irons Moved; Wallace Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the meeting**  
143 **agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

144 **Vos Moved, Irons Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent agenda.**  
145 **(5 ayes, 0 nays)**

146 **Drew Moved, Irons Seconded, Passed a motion to adopt Resolutions 09-005 – 09-008. (4**  
147 **ayes, 1 nay)**

148 **Vos Moved, Irons Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting. (5 ayes,**  
149 **0 nays)**