

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2010

APPROVED

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Knutsen, Board of Supervisors Chair, Bob Vos, Board of Supervisors
2 Vice-Chair, Scott Wallace, Supervisor, Max Prinsen, Board of Supervisors Treasurer, Preston
3 Drew, Supervisor

4 **Associate Supervisors Present:** The District currently has no Associate Supervisors serving on
5 the board.

6 **Staff Present:** Brandy Reed, Susan Wermus (Clerk), Marla Hamilton-Lucas, Marcie Myers,
7 Jessica Saavedra, Matt Dunnahoe

8 **Guests Present:** Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission, Larry Nussbaum,
9 Stewardship Partners, David Batker, Earth Economics, John Larson, Washington Association of
10 Conservation Districts, Elizabeth Walker, King CD Advisory Committee, David Brentlinger,
11 King CD Advisory Committee

12 Chair Knutsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present.

13 Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. AI 10-094: Earth Corps Maple Creek
14 Floodplain and Stream Channel Restoration Project Amendment has been moved to the
15 September 13th meeting agenda. Vos requested that the following items be added to New
16 Business: Maple Creek discussion, Lower Green update, and Pinter Point update. Reed and
17 Wermus requested that a discussion regarding new server recommendations be added under New
18 Business.

19 **Prinsen Moved; Wallace Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the meeting**
20 **agenda. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

21 CONSENT AGENDA:

22 Vos requested that the 6-14-10 meeting minutes be pulled for a change.

23 **Prinsen Moved; Wallace Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
24 **agenda. (4 ayes, 0 nays) [Board Minutes 07-12-10, Board Minutes 07-27-10, AI 10-086, AI**
25 **10-087, AI 10-088, AI 10-089, AI 10-090 and AI 10-085: ratification of King Conservation**
26 **District Checks 13176 - 13244 in totaling \$848,445.68.]**

27 PUBLIC COMMENT:

28 None

29 PRESENTATIONS:

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

30 Stu Trefry with the Washington State Conservation Commission officially swore in Max Prinsen
31 as a King CD Supervisor.

32 Larry Nussbaum, Stewardship Partners, provided the board with a presentation on conservation
33 matters in the Snoqualmie Valley. First he provided the board with background on Stewardship
34 Partners including its non-regulatory approach and its focus on working with private landowners
35 on agriculture in the rural landscape and stormwater in the urban landscape. Stewardship
36 Partners manages several programs in partnership with King CD: the Snoqualmie Stewardship
37 Program, the Salmon Safe Certification Program, and the Rain Garden Program. Nussbaum
38 elaborated on its involvement with the Nisqually Watershed Project. Stewardship Partners is
39 working with stakeholders to develop a 50 year plan for the Nisqually watershed. The plan
40 involves watershed-wide coordination of projects, strategy development, community
41 engagement, implementation of conservation goals, development of a local watershed council,
42 and creation of a landowner handbook detailing relevant information and available resources.
43 Pilot projects will also be a part of the Nisqually watershed effort as well as identification of a
44 steering committee, hosting public meetings, and working with King CD on GIS data. The
45 overall goal is to develop a vision, goals, and technical information for the Nisqually watershed
46 plan. This project aligns well with King CD and Nussbaum is hoping that King CD will
47 financially support this effort by granting \$40,000, which would enable Stewardship Partners to
48 receive matching funds. They have received \$20,000 from the Bullitt Foundation, \$20,000 from
49 the Norton Foundation, and \$20,000 from the Raven Foundation already. The project's total
50 cost is estimated at \$100,000. The floor was opened up for questions from the board. Questions
51 related to GIS mapping, duplication of efforts, use of funds for on the ground projects, annual
52 budgeting and concerns about funding studies.

53 David Batker, Earth Economics, provided the board with a presentation on the WRIA 9 Funding
54 Mechanism. Batker started by saying that he is a new Pierce CD supervisor. He also stated that
55 King CD approved two grants to support developing funding mechanisms for WRIA 9 and that
56 Earth Economics provided a benefit analysis for King CD's assessment funding. Batker thought
57 that the project would take six months but due to coordination with numerous entities the project
58 is taking longer than expected. Batker believes that a combination of funding via local residents
59 and visitors such as cruise ship vacationers is a prudent funding avenue because both groups
60 would receive benefits from a restored watershed. Numerous funding options have been distilled
61 down to three options: 1) one cent increase in flood control district taxes, 2) twenty cent levy, or
62 3) creation of a watershed investment district. The floor was opened up for questions from the
63 board. Questions related to concerns that King CD funding could be cut if taxes were increased
64 locally, projected costs for WRIA 7, 8, and 9, economic concerns from elected officials,
65 calculations for ecosystem services, and voting in King County when issues up for a vote affect
66 rural areas.

67 The board thanked all of the evening's presenters.

68 REGULARLY SCHEDULED ITEMS:

69 Hamilton Lucas provided the Finance Manager's report. She handed out the Balance Sheet and
70 Profit and Loss reports. The restricted fund balance is currently at \$6,355,704.29 and the
71 unrestricted fund balance is currently at \$1,468,508.23, which is normal for this time of the year.
72 We have received more than half of the assessment funds for 2010 by now. Grants income is on
73 track. Interest remains very low. Employee expense is on budget now. Travel and fuel costs are
74 close to budget for the year.

75 Reed provided the Implementation Lead's report. She attended the Washington Forest Owners
76 Field Day where she spoke with Dow Constantine and Kathy Lambert about supporting
77 implementing forest stewardship practices. Reed reported that 15 children participated in this
78 year's King CD Youth Volunteer Corps where they contributed 232 hours of volunteer service
79 on four projects. The new fiscal year has begun for Washington State Conservation Commission
80 grants. Prinsen added that he attended the Washington Forest Owners Field Day as well and he
81 heard complimentary comments about Reed's participation on the Rural Forest Commission.

82 Chambers was unable to attend tonight's meeting. No report from the Public Information
83 Officer was provided. Knutsen reported that the Advisory Committee Subcommittees are
84 populated.

85 Knutsen stated that the Administration and Budget Subcommittee will begin meeting this month.

86 Vos and Saavedra provided the Grants Subcommittee report. Questions regarding the
87 cancelation of grants and active sub-contracts have come up in the subcommittee and it plans to
88 bring these questions to the full board for policy discussion. The example Vos cited is the Maple
89 Creek and 44th Avenue project with Seattle Public Utilities. Saavedra added that the Seattle
90 Public Utilities representatives were unable to attend tonight's board meeting and this topic will
91 likely come up at next month's board meeting.

92 The Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee did not have a report.

93 Vos provided the Program Development, Science, and Engineering Subcommittee report. Water
94 quality monitoring has been expanded into the Lower Green. Work continues on ADAP
95 comments. Drew added that he is continuing work on a draft forestry plan after receiving
96 feedback.

97 Knutsen reported that he has an appointment to meet Bob Ferguson's legislative aid on August
98 16th to review the King CD's 2009 Report of Accomplishments and 2011 Program of Work. He
99 spoke with Mr. Boscolo, a Lower Green landowner. Participants at the WRIA 7 meeting were
100 not enthusiastic about the Earth Economics WRIA 9 Funding Mechanism Report.

101 Vos reported the Lower Green Agricultural Commission has been meeting regularly regarding
102 drainage matters. Vos will report on drain tiles later in tonight's agenda.

103 Wallace did not have a report.

104 Drew reported that concerns are ongoing regarding the NRCS planting project and its effects on
105 local Snoqualmie residents.

106 Prinsen did not have a report.

107 Knutsen reported that he submitted a resolution regarding the NRCS project to Snohomish CD
108 for comments. Roylene Rides at the Door, the Washington State Conservationist, has expressed
109 concerns about the NRCS project. Opinions exist as to whether or not a SEPA analysis is
110 required or not.

111 Knutsen called for a break at 7:40 pm and he reconvened the meeting at 7:50 pm.

112 NEW BUSINESS:

113 LIP Policy Revision [AI 10-091]

114 Myers reported that the LIP sign is complete and ready for distribution to participating
115 landowners. The proposed LIP Policy Revision includes: 1) providing authority to the staff
116 review team to approve applications requesting \$10,000 or more and 2) providing authority to
117 the staff review team to approve timeline revisions. Myers added that applications requesting
118 \$10,000 or more are uncommon, the staff review team includes Myers, Reed, Halgren, and
119 Mirro, and the review team meets once per month for about an hour. Knutsen suggested that
120 perhaps applications requesting over \$10,000 could run through the Grants Subcommittee.
121 Board concerns relate to its fiduciary responsibilities. Knutsen requested that the District's
122 attorney, Eric Frimodt, be consulted on whether or not applications requesting \$10,000 or more
123 should be brought in front of the full board.

124 **Wallace Moved; Drew Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to give authority to the**
125 **Landowner Incentive Program staff review team to approve project timeline revisions. (5**
126 **aves, 0 nays) [AI 10-091]**

127 KCD LIP Application: Celigoy, Heavy Use Protection Area [AI 10-092]

128 Myers stated that the application involves changing a confinement area substrate from hog fuel
129 to gravel over 42,000 square feet. King CD staff did advise the landowner regarding the distance
130 from May Creek. Drew recused himself from the vote. Board concerns related to a lack of
131 competitive bidding and the possibility of dishonesty in the application process and the cost per
132 animal unit.

133 **Wallace Moved; Drew Seconded, Passed a motion approve the King Conservation District**
134 **Landowner Incentive Program cost-share application for \$22,750 from the 2010 budget for**
135 **the Mary Celigoy, HUA contract number 2010-08 (Celigoy, M). (3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain =**
136 **Vos, 1 recused = Drew) [AI 10-092]**

137 KCD LIP Application: Gonzales, Forest Health Management [AI 10-093]

138 Prinsen recused himself from the vote and left the room. Myers and Reed have walked the
139 project area and the site preparation plan and proposed plants are appropriate. The project area
140 is in local proximity to Shadow Lake Bog. Drew stated that he will abstain from the vote
141 because he believes a conflict of interest exists between the property and sitting supervisor
142 Prinsen. Trefry added that it is acceptable for sitting supervisors to receive District services.
143 Vos has similar concerns as Drew. Vos and Knutsen requested that the vote be postponed until
144 later in the meeting.

145 Revision to MJWRIA Grant Application

146 Saavedra started by stating that this item is a discussion item and no vote is proposed for
147 tonight's meeting. Knutsen explained that by requesting applicants to include an additional
148 column of financial information, we have changed the application without reaching out to
149 stakeholders and taking formal board action. Vos believes that requesting the additional
150 financial information is vital to making sound decisions and for project accountability. Knutsen
151 deferred this topic to the Grants Subcommittee and the Administration and Budget
152 Subcommittee.

153 Lower Green

154 Vos reported that at the next board meeting the board should see a cost share application for
155 project in the Lower Green. Knutsen and Vos participated in a recent meeting regarding this
156 project. A large drain tile in the Lower Green is shared by five property owners and the drain
157 tile has failed. Vos believes this to be an appropriate pilot project for King CD. He researched
158 costs and believes that it would cost \$5 – 10,000 and believes the work needs to be done before
159 the rainy season starts this year. Knutsen added that the next step is a meeting with the
160 landowners.

161 Piner Point

162 Vos stated that the approved Piner Point grant is contingent upon King County officials
163 providing an explanation on how they make decisions for using in-house expertise versus
164 sending a project out for competitive bid. Vos explained that he is disappointed in the County's
165 response revision to the grant application and believes that the county should provide a more
166 detailed response before the grant moves forward. Drew believes the project to be overpriced.
167 Prinsen suggested the District's attorney, Eric Frimodt, contact the County's attorney, Joe
168 Rochelle. Vos suggested that one or two board member be involved in any discussions.
169 Knutsen sent this topic to the Grants Subcommittee.

170 Reed requested that the Server Recommendations topic be postponed until a later meeting.

171 Knutsen called for a break at 9:17 pm and he reconvened the meeting at 9:26 pm.

172 Reopened: KCD LIP Application: Gonzales, Forest Health Management [AI 10-093]

173 Vos stated that he is reluctant to vote for or against this application and that he has decided to
174 abstain from the vote due to the conflict of interest with Shadow even though approval of the
175 application would be legal. Drew added that he will abstain from the vote as well. Larson added
176 that applications such as this one are not unusual. Wallace added that there were no problems in
177 the past with approving applications for the Knutsen or Lindemulder projects. Trefry added that
178 out of this process, the board may decide to develop a policy regarding situations such as this
179 one.

180 **Vos Moved; Knutsen Seconded, Failed a motion to approve the King Conservation District**
181 **Landowner Incentive Program cost-share application for \$10,125 from the 2010 budget for**
182 **the Mikhaila Gonzales, Forest Health Management contract number 2010-06 (Gonzales,**
183 **M). (2 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstain = Vos and Drew, 1 recused = Prinsen) [AI 10-091]**

184 Knutsen called Executive Session to order at 9:45 pm to discuss District legal matters.
185 Executive Session was complete at 10:10 pm.

186 Knutsen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 pm.

187

188

189

190 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

191

192

193

Summary of Motions

194 **Prinsen Moved; Wallace Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the meeting**
195 **agenda. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

196 **Prinsen Moved; Wallace Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
197 **agenda. (4 ayes, 0 nays) [Board Minutes 07-12-10, Board Minutes 07-27-10, AI 10-086, AI**
198 **10-087, AI 10-088, AI 10-089, AI 10-090 and AI 10-085: ratification of King Conservation**
199 **District Checks 13176 - 13244 in totaling \$848,445.68.]**

200 **Wallace Moved; Drew Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to give authority to the**
201 **Landowner Incentive Program staff review team to approve project timeline revisions. (5**
202 **ayes, 0 nays) [AI 10-091]**

203 **Wallace Moved; Drew Seconded, Passed a motion approve the King Conservation District**
204 **Landowner Incentive Program cost-share application for \$22,750 from the 2010 budget for**
205 **the Mary Celigoy, HUA contract number 2010-08 (Celigoy, M). (3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain =**
206 **Vos, 1 recused = Drew) [AI 10-092]**

207 **Vos Moved; Knutsen Seconded, Failed a motion to approve the King Conservation District**
208 **Landowner Incentive Program cost-share application for \$10,125 from the 2010 budget for**
209 **the Mikhaila Gonzales, Forest Health Management contract number 2010-06 (Gonzales,**
210 **M). (2 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstain = Vos and Drew, 1 recused = Prinsen) [AI 10-091]**

211