

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

December 12, 2011

FINAL

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Knutsen-Chair, Jeanette McKague –Vice Chair, Max Prinsen – Auditor,
2 Preston Drew, Eric Nelson

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None currently on the board.

4 **Staff Present:** Sara Hemphill, Ava Souza - Clerk, Josh Monaghan, Jessica Saavedra, Lou Beck,
5 Amy Franks.

6 **Guests Present:** Scott Reiman-Citizen, Micah Bonowski- City of Issaquah, Judith Noble – City
7 of Seattle, David Graves- Seattle Parks

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

9 Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. The presentation by Brandy Reed was
10 canceled she was out sick. AI 11-144 and AI 11-142 were combined.

11 **Nelson Moved; Drew Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the meeting**
12 **agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

13 CONSENT AGENDA:

14 The following items were requested to be pulled off the consent agenda for further discussion:
15 AI 11-138 and, AI 11-141.

16 **Prinsen Moved; Nelson, Seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
17 **agenda. (5 ayes, 0 nays) Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Amendment AI 11-**
18 **139, Application AI 11-140**

19 PUBLIC COMMENT:

20 Judith Noble – City of Seattle: Made the announcement that she is retiring. Judith thanked the
21 KCD for all of its assistance and said she appreciated the support that the City of Seattle received
22 from the KCD. Judith said that she enjoyed working with Jessica Saavedra and thanked all of the
23 staff at the KCD for being so great to work with also. Bill Knutsen then thanked Judith and said
24 that she was a joy to work with.

25 PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

26 **City of Seattle DOT – Bioretention on 25th Ave SW [AI 11-138]**

27

28 Jessica Saavedra commented that this is an amendment to the grant, revising the scope of work to
29 focus on the south block only and reducing the amount of the grant from \$100,000 to \$50,000.
30 Seattle Department of Transportation determined that the total project as originally proposed was
31 a much higher cost than expected due to a number of factors including the need to purchase
32 temporary construction easements. Conceptual designs and studies determined that because of
33 the high water table, the bioretention cells will have a combination of infiltration and detention
34 functions. Preston Drew asked if this is a CSO project, Jessica stated that it was an infiltration
35 project. Judith Noble provided clarification about the project amendment and answered Drew's
36 question.

37 **Drew Moved; Prinsen Seconded, Passed a motion to approve the grant amendment request**
38 **from the City of Seattle, Department of Transportation for the Bioretention on 25th Ave**
39 **SW project reducing the scope of work and amount of funding requested to \$50,000. (5**
40 **aves, 0 nays) [AI 11-138]**

41 **King County - Snoqualmie Priority Fish Passage Project Design [AI 11-141]**

42 Board stated that the amount of funding requested to design two fish passage barrier removal
43 projects was too much and that there wasn't any on-the-ground work included. Drew stated that it
44 seemed like the problem at the Canyon Creek Weir is elevation and that the actual weir hasn't
45 failed. Drew expressed concern stating that he did not understand why they can't restore the weir
46 which slows the water down. He stated that Fish and Wildlife might not have a problem with that
47 project. In his opinion ninety five thousand dollars is too much. He feels that ninety five thousand
48 to study the project is excessive. Knutsen commented that Wild Fish Conservancy has acted
49 inappropriately and should have handled their interactions with landowners in the valley
50 differently. He stated that their actions are not something the District wants to be associated with
51 or partner to. Knutsen stated that they decided not to work with them on a different project as a
52 result of this Jessica Saavedra commented that although the Wild Fish Conservancy did produce
53 the report, King County would do the work not the Wild Fish Conservancy.

54 **Snoqualmie Watershed Forum grant application for \$95,000 from 2011 Assessments for**
55 **the King County Snoqualmie Priority Fish Passage Project Designs [AI 11-141] Failed Due**
56 **To A Lack of Motion**

57 PRESENTATIONS:

58 **City of Issaquah, Pickering Garden Youth in the Garden [AI 11-142]** Micah Bonkowski from the
59 City of Issaquah Resource Conservation Office gave a presentation on the City's project to
60 engage youth through a contract with the Seattle Tilth at the Pickering Garden. His presentation
61 covered the history of the garden and explained how the goal of the garden meets KCD's goals of
62 connecting residents with the land and building stewards. The city has been working to keep the
63 gardens up to date with help from several grants from KCD. This grant request is about
64 connecting school age kids to the garden and also offering educational classes. The question was
65 raised about the total project cost. Micah explained that there are two components to the budget

66 the twenty thousand contributed by the City is for maintaining property and the grant request is
67 for the children's program specifically. Max Prinsen asked if the \$20,000 was a match for the
68 grant. Micah responded that it is not really a match. Max Prinsen asked that that amount be
69 stricken from the budget in the application Eric Nelson then asked if the contracted work is with
70 Seattle Tilth. Prinsen asked why there was resistance from the City to sharing the scope of work
71 with Seattle Tilth with the KCD. Micah responded that the City felt they are responsible for the
72 contract with Seattle Tilth and overseeing the contractor and the City should be held responsible
73 for the outcomes of the grant by the District. Preston Drew stated that the terminology about
74 climate change in the application disturbed him. Knutsen stated that he has confidence in the
75 Seattle Tilth and would like to see more interaction with what they are teaching. Prinsen asked
76 for a description of the classes. Micah stated that it will be attached to the application. Micah also
77 stated that the City would be amenable to the District treating this grant as a reimbursable grant
78 and has discussed doing that with Jessica Saavedra.

79 **Nelson Moved; McKague Seconded, Passed a motion to approve the Member Jurisdiction**
80 **grant application for \$19,000 from Issaquah 2007, 2010, and 2011 Assessments for the City**
81 **of Issaquah Pickering Garden Youth in the Garden project (5 ayes, 0 nays) [AI 11-142]**

82 City of Issaquah [AI 11-144]

83 Micah from the City of Issaquah spoke about the City's request to amend the storm drain
84 marking and education grant to run the program for a third year and adopt new methods from
85 lessons learned in the first two years. Bill Knutsen said he likes the idea of marking the storm
86 drains but is worried that if the marking becomes a requirement one day that puts the District in
87 an uncomfortable position because of the mission to be voluntary. Preston Drew commented that
88 he feels there is no conservation value or on the ground benefit in the markers and that surface
89 water management taxes should pay for this, and not the KCD. Hemphill stated that this program
90 has a good partnership possibility with businesses. Micah stated that they distribute fliers with
91 messages about storm water BMPs while marking the drains and door hangers. Nelson stated that
92 this gets a conservation message that people wouldn't otherwise know about. Prinsen stated that
93 he supports the message and that car wash kits and storm drain marking started at KCD. He
94 requested that the intern come to KCD and spend time discussing what messages they could pass
95 on to businesses and that the handouts should include KCD 's logo and intergrate KCD
96 messages. Other ideas about how businesses could pay for the markers were presented by Preston
97 Drew.

98 **Nelson Moved; McKague Seconded Passed a motion to approve the Motion to approve the**
99 **grant amendment request from the City of Issaquah Stormwater Drain marking and**
100 **Education program increasing the scope of work, extending the completion date to**
101 **December 2012, and requesting additional funds in the amount of \$10,000 increasing the**
102 **total award amount to \$39,858.17 (5 ayes, 0 nays) [AI 11-144]**

103 Farm Planning Public Rule Input [AI 11-143]

104 Monaghan briefed board on recent work with King County (DDES & WLRD Ag Program) to
105 revise Critical Areas code. Staff goals are better focus staff time to address natural resource
106 concerns, while seeking opportunities to reduce bureaucracy. Board approved a number of
107 related recommendations, including defining King CD Farm Management Plan to include farm
108 plan LITE option for farms with minimal to no resource concerns, and setting goals for working
109 with King County on other Farm Plan Public Rule code changes.

110 The Board commented that this is a wonderful plan and to go forward full speed. Nelson
111 commented that this is what makes the KCD successful as a resource specialist and this program
112 was very well stated and that he would like Josh to move forward to the get the program credited
113 and acknowledged. Jeanette commented that this an example of work that can provide the data
114 agencies to track the work on properties and that she sees a win- win in working with the AG
115 commission and Snohomish County as well. Overall a very well done presentation.

116 REGULARLY SCHEDULED ITEMS:

117 Knutsen called for a break at 8:10 pm and he reconvened the meeting at 8:20 pm.

118 Advisory Committee Report – None

119 Finance Report – Hemphill / Frank

120 Board stated that Finance looked good and had no questions. Eric Nelson requested that Amy
121 work on providing graphs in the future, Amy said she would work with Board to provide these.

122 Implementation Report – None

123 Planning and Initiatives Report- Monaghan

124 Planning -reviewed progress towards work plan goals, including 2011 data, year to date (178
125 cooperators served, 957 acres planned in 2011, reviewed key BMPs implemented), and ten year
126 trends (88% of cooperators take action, 22% of APD farmland served by planning program).

127 Initiatives - briefed board on improvements in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Program
128 lead by Ken Halgren. Staff noted that scoping is underway for stream shade/ temperature
129 monitoring study with WSU, KC, and Whatcom CD.

130 Administration, Budget and Policy Subcommittee Report- None

131 Outreach Subcommittee – Hemphill gave her Executive Director report and said that the
132 Governor’s budget will be amended for CREP staffing which will be a boost for the KCD.
133 Hemphill noted legislative days are up coming and she will be focusing her time there. Also she
134 stated that she is very keen to be involved on the ILA for the next year.

135 Board Chair Report –

136 Bill Knutsen- stated that the WACD Suncadia event was quite good, that he took the resolution
137 by Max which they will digest and parking lot for further discussion.

138 Jeanette McKague- Reported that Puget Sound Partnerships has a document coming out this
139 month or next month. She reported that conservation districts can have a great impact on the
140 Puget Sound Action Agenda by their involvement with agriculture and forestry issues

141 Preston Drew- Larry Springer came out to his property and they talked about timber related
142 problems. He also stated that this was The last meeting he'd be able to attend in person as his
143 schedule is full this winter. He reported that he will not be running for re- election. He stated
144 that he will write a letter to his successor about his last 3 years, including things he liked and
145 things he feels the district needs to work on. He said that working with Josh has been first class.

146 Eric Nelson – Enjoyed WACD conversations and learned quite a bit as well as renewed some
147 old friendships.

148 Max Prinsen – Reported that WACD was a great event and that is was a good opportunity to
149 learn and meet with others.

150 Hemphill reported on the discussions with the King County Assessor's staff regarding the
151 options to correct for the non collection of special assessment on more than 4000 parcels over a
152 period of five years The Board then discussed the pros and cons of having the County collect, or
153 not, all the missed assessment which included challenges with changes in title to parcels,
154 confusion over new, elevated sums with minimal explanation and just the general risk of opening
155 the issue in an assessment negotiation year. Nelson commented that as the error occurred within
156 the assessor's office. It should cover the loss rather than going to the unassessed landowners who
157 had no responsibility here. Prinsen suggested that perhaps the KCD should work out an exchange
158 with the assessor's office by offsetting the assessor's fees for the next 3 years. There was
159 consensus on the Board that Max's suggestion was the best action. Hemphill was instructed to
160 work with Eric Frimodt and let the assessor's office know that the KCD would like the fees for
161 2012-2014 waived.

162 **Nelson Moved; Prinsen Seconded, Passed a motion to approve the request to require the**
163 **assessor's office to waive fees for the next 3 years. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

164 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

165 NEW BUSINESS:

166 2012 Interim Medical & Dental Benefits Policy [AI 11-145]

167 Hemphill reported that she is currently working with the KCD team to review and revamp the
168 current medical and dental program, as well as looking into alternative plans with other carriers
169 to save money and offer better benefits. In the meantime Hemphill requested a one year

170 extension of the current plan to allow time to develop options for the Board to consider. The
171 board agreed, however they stated that Hemphill will need to be ready by March of 2012 to
172 present additional options.

173 **Prinsen Moved; Nelson Seconded, Passed a motion to approve a one year extension to the**
174 **current Medical and Dental plan (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

175 Knutsen adjourned the meeting at 9:55pm and requested an Executive Session regarding
176 discussion of Sara Hemphill's 2011 performance review and compensation package.

177 Chair Knutsen called to order the Executive Session at 10:00 pm for 20 min

178 At 10:20pm Chair Knutsen requested 5 more minutes of Executive Session

179 10:26pm Chair Knutsen adjourned the Executive Session.

180 Board came back into session, took no action and adjourned the Board meeting at 10:28.

181

182 William M. Knutsen 1-23-2012

183 Authorized Signature

Date

184

185

186 **Summary of Motions**

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