

King Conservation District Board Retreat

April 9 2015

9:10...Board retreat called to order by Chairman Bill Knutson

9:15...Introductions

- Attending: Jim Haack, Jason Salvo, Bill Knutsen, Dick Ryan, Sara Hemphill (KCD)
- Hemphill reported that Max Prinsen had been called out of town on business
- Bruce Lachney, Shirley Bishop (501 Commons)

9:20-12:00...Discussion by Bruce Lachney MPA, 501 Commons Consultant

- A fresh look at a 5 year strategic plan following the 2 year round table discussions with KCD's stakeholders
- SWOT Exercise: the District's:
 - Successes: experienced Board members; 5 year funding source; Turnover on Board; A respected Board; KCD has strong brand equity staff; Elected board; County Council improving relationships; Staff strong
 - Weaknesses: Board member turnover; uneven Board member availability and commitment; role of Board member unclear; lack of diversity – on Board and staff; organizational challenges to scale; no commercial Ag voice on County Council; KCD has chosen to work with an Advisory Committee which is perceived by some to be a surrendering of Board authority
 - Opportunities: more political/social capital; creation of an ongoing collaborating forum with AC ensures efficient and effective partnering with stakeholders; looking to local funding for programs & projects mitigates dependency on competitive grants and shrinking state funding pools ; strengthen /clarify the election process; expand the vision of what the organization can be; create broader memberships and partnerships – BIZ; create more farm/forest lands and stewards and private sector commitment to stewardship
 - Threats/risks: mandate to focus on urban areas (mission creep?); politics; need to discuss growth/changes; holding the line for rural land against – sprawl, salmon habitat; disappearing farmer

- Board Strategic Direction:

- Implementation Plan:

NOTE: The District has focused for the past two + years on working with its stakeholders to build consensus for a set of goals for this highly urbanized CD. That consensus is captured in the 2014 Implementation Plan which was recommended to, and embraced by, the District Board and the King County Council and which serves as guidance for the bulk of the District's focus over the next five years. Consequently, the IP goals and projections will become the core of the District's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. There are six areas of focus identified in the IP:

- *Regional Food System that supports local food production and access to all*
 - *Focus on private sector urban populations engagement in stewardship that benefits all through urban Ag programs*
- *Robust urban and rural forests on both private and public lands*
- *Sustainability of a robust, viable local farming and forestry industry*
 - *Raising the awareness in multiple venues of agriculture's critical role in protecting Puget Sound by protecting our core natural resources: soil, water, tree canopy, carbon sequestration, climate control and fish and wildlife*
- *Protection and enhancement of the Region's water quantity and quality through stewardship of private shorelines, riparian areas and wetlands*
- *Through education, social media, community building, direct and indirect outreach, partnering, coaching mentoring expand the commitment of District stakeholders embrace the conservation of our natural resources.*
 - *The District is committed to serving underserved communities both within the District and around Puget Sound where and when working with its Puget Sound CD partners will support and enhance the quality of life of all in the region.*

12:00-12:30...Break for Lunch

Strategic discussion continued:

Additional comments for emphasis and to augment the IP components as required

- Advocate for productive Farm/forest preservation (education)
- Protection / of farm and forest land for its stewardship of all natural resources (water)
- CD provides admin services, including grant writing, to fellow CDs and to stakeholder groups/communities to ensure all interests are represented and heard.
- Long-term Board and staff professional development

1:00-3:00...Briefing and Discussion by Shirley Bishop, 501 Commons Consultant

- **Board Development:** there was discussion of several issues ranging from Board training, ethics, politics, separation of Board and staff, oversight of ED, oversight of financial matters, sub committees
- **Secession Planning;** Critical for ED and Board officer positions – want institutional memory, but also built in opportunities for each Board member to try out officer roles. Also, cross training of staff to address absences and departures

3:00...The first session of the Board Retreat was adjourned. The Board asked Hemphill & Lachney to work with the senior staff to flesh out the Board priorities & to get back to the Board, so it can review a draft 5 year Plan.

_____

Authorized Signature

5/11/15

Date