

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

December 12th, 2016

1 **Supervisors Present:** Dick Ryon – Chair, Bill Knutsen – Vice Chair, Max Prinsen – Auditor, Jim
2 Haack, Burr Mosby

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Nancy Tosta (via phone 5:01pm to 8:10)

4 **Guests Present:** Ernie Holt (NRCS), Amy Hendershot (NRCS) Shawn Bunney

5 **Staff Present:** Bea Covington, Ava Souza, Brandy Reed, Josh Monaghan, Deirdre Grace, Emily
6 Carlson, Rachel Konrady, Mark Musick

7 **Preliminary Matters:**

8 Meeting called to order at 5:04 by Dick Ryon. All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon asked
9 for additions or corrections to the current agenda. Hearing none, Ryon added to 16 -096 and 16-
10 097 Unfinished business.

11 **Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda as**
12 **edited (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

13 **Consent Agenda:**

14 Ryon read the consent agenda items aloud and all items were voted on.

15 Board Minutes – 11.14.16

16 KCD LIP Applications:

17 A1 16-093 LIP App: Gordon Weed: Forest Health Management

18 AI 16-094 LIP App: Bill Wheeler: Stream Crossing

19 Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications – None.

20 After Ryon read the consent agenda, Souza reminded the board that the Special Board Meeting
21 minutes will be on the consent agenda in first quarter 2017 after they reviewed and vetted. These
22 minutes will likely be three or four separate items. Knutsen commented that the KCD website had
23 the incorrect date listed announcing the current board meeting. Souza reminded us that the agenda
24 online was correct, even if the date in the headline was listed as November instead of December.

25

26 **Knutesen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**
27 **agenda (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

28 **Public Comment:**

29 None.

30 **Pulled Consent Agenda Items:**

31 None

32 **Presentations:**

33 None.

34 **Finance:**

35 AI 16-095 check numbers 18917 through 19023 for a total of \$335,088.55 non-payroll EFT's
36 totaling \$31,351.78 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and November 2016 payroll for \$146,247.17 – Souza

37 Souza presented the finance report with no extra additions this month. Check register, payroll and
38 financials were all included in the board packets and report.

39 Souza requested second meeting in the month of January to present the final year-end review to
40 the board. This meeting will likely occur on the 4th or 3rd Monday in January for this year-end
41 meeting. After a brief discussion, the meeting was set for January 23rd at regular board meeting
42 time. Tosta remarked that she could make it if the meeting is over by 6pm. Souza indicated that
43 the meeting would take one hour, approximately. This will give the financial overview to the board
44 for the year of 2016.

45 **Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve 16-095 check**
46 **numbers 18917 through 19023 for a total of \$335,088.55 non-payroll EFT's totaling**
47 **\$31,351.78 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and November 2016 payroll for \$146,247.17 (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

48 **New Business**

49 NRCS-EQUIP/RCPP/Financial Updates – Amy Hendershot

50 Hendershot updated the board on NRCS/EQIP/RCPP items. NRCS has had some changes in
51 staffing recently with Rick Noble is retiring in early January. To fill that void, Erine Holt is acting
52 conservationist until approximately mid-February, when permanent conservationist can be found.
53 Another NRCS staff member recently left the Washington area for New Jersey. Her position also
54 be filled soon, but Amy and Rob can be contacted in her stead until that time.

55 Hendershot reminded the board about the regular EQIP deadlines coming up 2/17 and 4/21 in
56 2017.

57 Hendershot also updated the board about the new special funding for livestock producers. This
58 project gives NRCS the ability to work on larger projects. Mosby inquired about the purpose of
59 the funds. Hendershot indicated that it is to fund animal feeding operations (technically defined as
60 an operation that confines animals for 45 days on land that can't grow vegetation). These
61 operations must have a comprehensive nutrient management plan. The CNFP must be enacted in
62 its entirety before these operations can be given any NRCS funds. Having all of these projects at
63 once can be financially overwhelming for landowners, preventing them from working with the
64 programs. This program creates larger pots of money to work with landowners and create funding
65 opportunities. Approximately 2 million from the state budget is divided state wide for these
66 projects. Predominantly, these applications are predicted to come from western Washington. All
67 applications will be ranked on the conservation benefits that they provide. Although this may seem
68 like a very generous sum, the EQIP maximum funding request is \$450,000. If operations request
69 the maximum funds, the reserved funds could only cover four projects. This project is intended to
70 feel out the demand for these services in the region. This project helps people understand what the
71 rules are for applying for this funding. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan can also be
72 funded through cost share. There are two people eligible to write CNP in the state. Operations can
73 receive a CNP and EQIP funding in the same year. This allows for quick turnaround within the
74 community. The goal is to provide a faster timeline to apply for funds and get conservation on the
75 ground as quickly and efficiently as possible.

76 Musick inquired about KCD staff and who is available to write CNPs. Monaghan replied that they
77 have plans to try to fill this gap, but for now there are no KCD staff members certified to write
78 these plans. He also added that this level of planning takes almost three times the amount of time
79 as a regular farm plan.

80 Ryon indicated that although staffing for NRCS is lower than expected, this was not an intentional
81 downsizing. Hendershot replied that HR processes are handled on a national level and that the
82 national support staff is having trouble keeping up with the demand for new hires. Hendershot
83 reiterated that she is happy to be a resource to KCD and the board as we move forward with this.

84 Hendershot thanked Konrady and Erin Ericson who have helped with this RCPP process and
85 commended them for their hard work on the partnership. The goal of the partnership is to use
86 multiple funding resources to target a small watershed and do a high level of conservation that is
87 measurably effective. This is likely to produce more of a measureable benefit than the "random
88 acts of conservation" approach. The main players in this are KCD and NRCS. Landowners come
89 in the door for EQIP funds from a special pot of money for a given watershed. Last year many
90 problems were worked out and one application was funded. Now, we are moving forward with
91 more projects (seven applicants for waste storage, buffers, fish passage projects, etc). If this is
92 successful, the money will be used and more funding will be requested so that the program can
93 continue.

94 Prinsen inquired about how to create the measurable differences in resource concerns. Hendershot
95 replied that Whatcom is using edge of field monitors that capture nutrient and sediment pollution
96 from farms. The information is shared with NRCS and no one else. The information is very private.
97 Monaghan asked if King CD can fund edge of field monitors. There are a few ideas coming up

98 soon about how to use this technology. There are concerns over NRCS remaining non-regulatory,
99 especially once this data has been captured. Prinsen asked about how to share this information
100 without breaching privacy. Hendershot replied that the farmer would need to release the
101 information for future use. Hendershot remarked that the money and names of recipients are public
102 record, so attempts to remain anonymous are difficult. Prinsen reminded us that this is still a crucial
103 part of planning and monitoring to prove that methods are working.

104 Holt indicated that perhaps it could be used generally, to show change over time rather than
105 specific numbers. For example, the watershed had a certain marked amount of decrease in
106 pollution. However, Prinsen asked about how this relates to the specific practices such as buffer
107 width. Hendershot remarked that this is a way to prove that conservation methods work and are
108 proven science. Ryon remarked that there could be potential legal protections for people who work
109 with the conservation districts. Despite the best efforts of the farmer, sometimes seepage of
110 nutrients can happen and therefore, farmers might be scared to have information like nutrient
111 leakage on record. Ryon remarked that there are usually exceptions for research related activities.
112 Hendershot clarified that the money given out and the person or entity receiving it is public record.
113 Knutsen remarked that with a farm plan and the information that it provides, the property owner
114 can make management decisions based off of the information.

115 Hendershot remarked that the edge of field monitors have been installed along farms that have
116 been under investigation for regulatory problems. This would help prove that the conservation
117 practices that they have implemented are working and functioning.

118 Knutson reminded the Board that Whatcom has made a lot of progress on improving their water
119 quality. Over the past four years, there have been about 15 million dollars put into the watershed
120 to address resource concerns.

121 Musick asked about the high tunnel funding cut off (2/17).

122 Mosby asked about ditch water temperature. Ditches are planted with willow stakes to provide
123 shade and lower water temperature. Maintenance efforts are revolving around the cutting and re-
124 growing of robust species like willows. Material can then be removed and willows will rapidly
125 reestablish, even after heavy cutting. Hendershot reminded the board that NRCS does not get
126 involved in ditch maintenance. Knutsen reminded the board that over the past five years, there was
127 a group of cities and agencies trying to help clear out the ditches, however, the landowner involved
128 changed her mind and then the project was eliminated. If sediment accumulation is a concern, then
129 hand-moving the sediment with potato forks could be effective. Shade is important for ditches, but
130 maintenance of the ditch is also a continuing concern, especially when plantings are involved.
131 Monaghan reminded us that we learned on Friday that there is more money to invest in Agricultural
132 Drainage. Monaghan posed some rhetorical questions - How do we want to spend that money?
133 More of the same? Potentially different opportunities? The ditch program will work to help drain
134 systems from the bottom up.

135 Vets for Farms – Grace/Musik

Ryon introduced Grace and Musick. Grace thanked the board for the opportunity to discuss KCD and the veteran community with those assembled. Mark Musick introduced the Vets on the Farm program, developed by Spokane CD. There is a good web resource for the board to review through Spokane CD's website. There are good opportunities in commercial agriculture for veterans. Spokane CD works with WSU, Spokane CC, internship opportunities on farms, and more. The program is new and Spokane CD is excited about the program and making investments in it.

King CD established a contract with Washington Service Corps working with veterans and Chauncey Foster, the Individual Placement for that position. The Wounded Warrior Project, Mission Continues, and Growing Veterans were cultivated for this program and total of 37 veterans participated in habitat restoration projects in connection with Seattle Tilth and Rainier Urban Farm. The current IP, Jacob DeGousman, hosts a monthly project with one of those three organizations. The organizations will also hold events together. Jacob is establishing directories of contacts at organizations and the names of people who are involved in the efforts. KCD has made it a priority to work with veterans, and to build relationships and open doors for veterans in agriculture and habitat restoration.

Ryon inquired about the Green River College and their potential for scholarships. Grace and Musick remarked that we have a good relationship with Highline Community College and the urban agriculture program there as well as the Seattle Tilth incubator farm in Auburn. Knutsen asked about veterans moving through programs – what is the expectation for veterans? Grace reminded the board that Reed is the supervisor for the AmeriCorps Individual Placements and asked her to elaborate.

Reed remarked that the programs are all very diverse. At KCD we have a veterans placement position through Mount Adams AmeriCorps - recruiting and placing veterans in civilian workforce. When the IP leaves, he wants to become a forester. The new Mt Adams IP will be coming in February. Reed differentiated between the Mt Adams IP position (veteran working at KCD) and the Washington Service Corps IP who works as restoration projects coordinator, frequently including veterans in their work. Jacob DeGousman holds the WSC IP position currently. WSC has a requirement for IPs to work with volunteers on service hours; the restoration opportunities provide work experience for people interested in the field (veterans). After veterans leave a restoration event, we do not track the veterans. There are no performance measures around the number of veterans entering the restoration field. There are targets that reflect the number of hours that veterans donate and volunteer.

Mosby commented that there is a housing program for veterans in Federal Way. These ideas bring farming as a form of therapy for people who have experienced the trauma of war. This helps veterans feel valued and regain a sense of community and support. The Federal Way organization allows people to stay free, and then they begin paying rent after they have worked for a few months.

Musick reminded us that we are establishing a basic relationship. KCD focuses on opening doors, providing hands on experience, and the providing social structures and events to support interpersonal development for veterans. Covington reminded us that there are many worthy causes to support, but we need to look for places where there are logical intersections with veteran

communities while continuing to fulfil the obligations we have committed. If we want to include these more explicitly, then we would reexamine this when we create the work plan for the next cycle. Haack reminded the board that there is a stream of veterans moving through the JBLM area and that there are recruitment opportunities around there.

Reed remarked that the KCD has been instrumental in launching the Veteran's Conservation Corps when it first began. We have good connections with these programs.

Unfinished Business

Totem Lake - Covington

Covington discussed the Totem Lake project. Progress moves forward with the city of Kirkland. The details of the execution of the counteroffer that has been accepted and will be moving forward. There will be public notices that need to be in place before the board can continue on any action. Kirkland will also be notifying the public about this project. Bunney added that there was a special relationship between the previous owners and a contractor through KCD helped clear up the reversions and made things run smoothly.

Hammond - Covington

Covington updated the Board on the Hammond Lawsuit. The settlement has been completed and the judgement was in the favor of KCD. The result is that KCD has 1.65 million to spend over the next three years on the projects that were agreed upon. We have three years to spend the money, or 300,000 per year. Covington reminded KCD that we need to be diligent about how we spend our money and how we can realize synergies. We also need to track everything very carefully so that all costs can be documented. The board commended Shaun Bunney on his work with this topic.

Bunney congratulated the board on two projects that were managed well and navigated well. Knutsen reminded us that Bunney was instrumental with this process and the board is glad to see that the package of settlement is great for all parties involved. Written into the agreement is the potential for looking for additional money and partnerships to continue funding these projects, even after the funding expires.

Ryon called for a break at 6:24 to 6:42pm.

Unfinished Business Continued

Executive Director Update – Covington

Covington reminded the board about a few housekeeping items. The first item is an estimation on the remaining expenses for 2016. About a \$378,000 deficit was anticipated; and a \$218,000 deficit expected for 2016. This represents over \$100,000 in savings. This leaves flexibility for other pending charges. There is potential to have the Enduris settlement happen in 2016. Prinsen believes that the cost of Enduris is the best absorbed within the 2016 year.

211 Looking forwards, the subcommittees and committees in 2017 are be important to document. Some
212 factors to record - who is on them, how many are there, are they required. Ann Horner will compile
213 a spreadsheet with the current subcommittees and committees. Internal and external committees
214 should be documented so that we can see what the touch points are in the community. Board
215 members should respond to Souza with information about the committees they participate in and
216 Horner will compile it. Haack reminded us that there is the option to display it as a network map
217 to provide another visual tool.

218 Ryon indicated that there has been confusion over what committees board members are allowed
219 to join, and this information will allow better communication.

220 Covington reminded the board about the advisory board year end celebration Wednesday night.
221 She also reminded them that the NACD conference is in Denver this year, from 1/27 – 2/1. Early
222 registration is accepted by 12/16 or regular registration after 1/13. KCD has reserved three spots
223 for staff and board. Two junior staff will submit requests to attend. The reservations can be moved
224 around after they are reserved.

225 Ryon asked about how the first few weeks are going, and Covington remarked that she is settling
226 in well. Prinsen commended Covington on her excellent communication skills.

227 Operations Update – Souza

228 Souza updated the board on the annual meeting. All board members were sent award categories.
229 There are some nominations to vote on. Reminder, the KCD annual board meeting is on Feb 7th in
230 Renton. The awards, which the board is voting on, are the Service Award, Wildlife Steward of the
231 Year, Conservation Landowner Award, the Best Partnering Organization Award, the Local
232 Government Conservation Award, and the Conservation Leader Award, and the Volunteer of the
233 Year Award. Souza reminded the board that KCD does not have to have a single recipient of the
234 award. If two candidates have made great contributions, then both may be awarded if the board
235 deems it appropriate.

236 The Board is interested in potentially creating a hall of fame for KCD. Souza reminded everyone
237 about the silent auction items and the annual meeting date.

238 Outreach Update – Grace

239 Grace highlighted the work of Melissa Tatro in coordinating the Annual Advisory Committee
240 Meeting. The meeting is a way to thank advisory committee members and have them meet people
241 at KCD. The newsletter is read by 1,500 people each year. There has been good feedback on
242 facebook and newsletter presence. It is becoming a go-to resource for people who are interested in
243 conservation. Twitter is also an area where KCD is engaged. Different demographics can be
244 reached through different methods of outreach. The Annual Advisory Committee event is an open
245 house. Last year they had live music performing. There is free parking at the Renton Community
246 Center.

247 Knutsen asked how close we are to being able to give a presentation to the city of Enumclaw.
248 Knutsen is interested in getting Enumclaw involved with KCD. Grace reminded the board that
249 money spent within a city's limits is always grant money. With a new ED, KCD is very close to
250 being ready. The support needs to get built up before KCD presents their case. Liz Clark is working
251 with a FFA team to present to the city of Enumclaw and advocate for the city to become a KCD
252 member. Knutsen reminded the board that it is always good to have members of the public present
253 on behalf of KCD to show the demand for this work. Enumclaw has never become a member of
254 KCD. Around 12 or 15 years ago, Enumclaw came close to ratifying involvement in KCD.
255 However, due to outside circumstances the program fell through. One driving factor is the regional
256 food grant program. Farmers markets and grants are all available through KCD.

257 Commission Signatures – Reed, AI 16-096 and AI 16-097

258 Reed presented two items to the board. The Washington State Conservation Commission has
259 funding which is available through many grant programs. The funding from the commission comes
260 in a two-year cycle. This creates a "Master Grant" contract that has each individual grant awards.
261 The authorized signatures forms stays on file at the commission so that the commission can check
262 that documents have been signed by the correct staff. This document outlines who has signing
263 authority.

264 The current signing authority needs to be updated because of our changes to staff and board. The
265 motion authorizes and approves updated signature forms.

266 **Prinsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the items AI 16-**
267 **096 a motion to approve an updated authorized signatures for FY16-17 WSCC Master Grant**
268 **Program (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

269 Reed asked all members to sign the document before they leave.

270 Reed then updated the board members on the next document, which is similar to the first one, but
271 which covers CREP. This move would streamline the cost share management to extend the
272 approval authorities to cover CREP agreements as well. This way, just like staff can sign cost share
273 agreements, staff approve CREP agreements as well.

274 **Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the items AI 16-**
275 **097 a motion to apply signature authorities detailed in the WSCC Authorized Signatures**
276 **form to all KCD cost-share agreements funded with WSCC grant funds, including CREP**
277 **agreements (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

278 For the Good of the Order – Board

279 Ryon asked about anyone who would like to contribute to the good of the order. Knutsen inquired
280 about the state of ILA in the county. Monaghan indicated that we have some of the information
281 that we need but that we don't have all the documents here. Reed and Monaghan indicated that
282 there are good numbers to look at for the end of year report.

283 Prinsen asked about Josh Baldy's new position. Baldy is the head of Water and Land Resources
284 Division for the County. Prinsen speaks highly of him and he has worked with CDs in the past.

285 Mosby inquired about the Herst decision and what the potential effects on the agricultural
286 community. The board discussed the Herst decision.

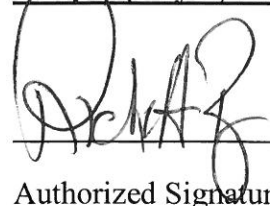
287 Haack reported on the WID team that met and made an assessment. This will fund their operations
288 for a year. SVPA is piloting a distributed monitoring network. This electronics individual created
289 an optical measuring device that helps monitor flood water elevation and levels. This will be used
290 to keep the public informed about flood risks related to storm events. Haack asked about the final
291 draft of the FFF. Monaghan reported that Agricultural Commission is interested in tweaking the
292 language in the front part of the document. Covington remarked that the important thing is the Ag
293 Commission has approved the recommendations to the County.

294 Haack attends the watershed forum. The chair has just stepped down and the vice-chair has stepped
295 up from Carnation (Lee Grummand). Haack commented on a project along Tolt River which has
296 a bad erosion problem. The landowner was not amendable to working with the County. The County
297 cut a deal with the Farm Land Trust (Ted Sullivan) and worked out a deal with the Trust for Public
298 Lands. The landowner felt that the road which would need to be installed in order to facilitate the
299 restoration process would diminish the value of his property. The board discussed the challenges
300 around living and farming remotely. However, there is also the issue of non-farmers living on the
301 property.

302 Ryon asked the staff about a potential development in North Bend where the people involved
303 pushed back against Firewise. Ryon asked if Firewise is known to non-regulatory the public may
304 have the mistaken impression that it is regulatory. Reed remarked that most cities don't encounter
305 Firewise very much because Firewise has been working with rural and suburban landowners, not
306 cities.

307 Covington thanked Knutsen for his generous popcorn gift to KCD.

308 **Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at**
309 **8:10pm (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

310 
311 _____
312 Authorized Signature

11/9/2017

Date

313 **Summary of Motions**

314 **Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda as**
315 **edited (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

316 Knutesen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent
317 agenda (5 ayes, 0 nays)

318 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve 16-095 check
319 numbers 18917 through 19023 for a total of \$335,088.55 non-payroll EFT's totaling
320 \$31,351.78 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and November 2016 payroll for \$146,247.17 (5 ayes, 0 nays)

321 Prinsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the items AI 16-
322 096 a motion to approve an updated authorized signatures for FY16-17 WSCC Master Grant
323 Program (5 ayes, 0 nays)

324 Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the items AI 16-
325 097 a motion to apply signature authorities detailed in the WSCC Authorized Signatures
326 form to all KCD cost-share agreements funded with WSCC grant funds, including CREP
327 agreements (5 ayes, 0 nays)

328 Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at
329 8:10pm (5 ayes, 0 nays)

330