

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

January 9th, 2017

1 **Supervisors Present:** Dick Ryon – Chair, Bill Knutsen – Vice Chair, Max Prinsen – Auditor

2 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None.

3 **Guests Present:** Eric Frimodt (Inslee Best)

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

6 **Preliminary Matters:**

7 Meeting called to order at 5:00 by Dick Ryon. All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon asked
8 for additions or corrections to the current agenda. Hearing none, Ryon noted that there is a quorum
9 (three voting members present).

10 **Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (3**
11 **ayes, 0 nays)**

12

13 **Public Hearing Regarding Totem Lake:**

14 Ryon introduced the Totem Lake topic. It has been discussed with the city of Kirkland and Ryon
15 asked if the public would like to comment on this topic at 5:02pm. No members of the public came
16 forward.

17 Frimodt clarified that this is a procedural step to declare surplus property and there is a legal need
18 to notify the public. To comply with state statute, the time and location of this public hearing was
19 advertised in two news outlets – the Seattle Times and Kirkland Reporter. KCD has followed all
20 required legal documentation around this matter to properly inform the public.

21 Frimodt remarked that he would like to discuss some items with the board under executive session;
22 to discuss any potential litigation. The executive session was called for ten minutes, then extended
23 ten more minutes, then extended five more minutes.

24

25 **Executive Session:**

26 Ryon called an executive session beginning at 5:05 until 5:15pm. The executive session was
27 extended ten minutes to 5:25pm. The executive session was extended until 5:30pm.

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

28 Regular session reconvened at 5:31pm.

29 Ryon asked if there were any public comment. Hearing none, the public comment period closed
30 at 5:32pm.

31 KCD staff presented a birthday cake to Max Prinsen. Happy birthday, Max!

32

33 **New Business:**

34 AI 17-004 Totem Lake – Covington

35 Covington reported to the board on this topic during the executive session.

36

37 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-004
38 Resolution No. 17-001 of the board of supervisors of the King Conservation District, King
39 County, Washington, declaring the certain district real property surplus; declaring the
40 district's intent to sell and convey the real property to the city of Kirkland (3 ayes, 0 nays).

41

42 **Consent Agenda:**

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

44 Board Minutes – 12.12.2016

45 KCD LIP Applications:

46 A1 17-001 LIP App 2016: Normandy Park Community Club: Aquatic Area Buffer
47 Planting

48 AI 17-002 LIP App: KCD STAFF: Melissa Tatro: Cross Fence

49 Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications – None.

50 Ryon commented that the rules and regulations clearly state that KCD staff have the ability to
51 apply for LIP funding. All regulations have been met.

52 Prinsen asked about the new LIP cost share available, which was not a round number. Konrady
53 replied that LIP has \$150,000 from urban forestry. Reed clarified that the information on the LIP
54 budget is in the implementation plan. Rural forestry, urban forestry, technical assistance, and other
55 programs were all lumped under the Landowner Incentive Program budget. In reality, not all of

that money is given out through LIP. There are different process for each program. So, although there is not a round number for the LIP budget, this is not due to an error.

Knutsen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent agenda (3 ayes, 0 nays)

Pulled Consent Agenda Items: None.

Presentations: None.

Finance:

AI 17-003 check numbers 19073 through 19141 for a total of \$418,152.24 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$30,484.24 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and December 2016 payroll for \$138,709.18 – Souza

Souza presented the finance report to the board and noted that today the board was presented with just the check register. The second board meeting later this month will cover the year-end financials. This is the normal AP transactions.

Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-003 check numbers 19073 through 19141 for a total of \$418,152.24 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$30,484.24 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and December 2016 payroll for \$138,709.18 (3 ayes, 0 nays)

Finance Reminders - Souza

Souza reminded those gathered about the January 23rd board meeting specifically for finance. At that meeting, there will be year-end financials, the 2017 binder, and a resolution regarding signatures and signing authorities for staff and executive director.

New Business

None.

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

84

85 **Unfinished Business**

86

87 **Committee Update - Covington**

88 Staff members have been polled about committee participation for both internal and external
89 committee participation. Covington will circulate the list by email and board members can confirm
90 the committees they are involved in. At the next board meeting, the board will discuss moving
91 committee assignments. Knutsen commented that KCD was invited to have a chair at the Focus
92 on Farming committee. Covington reaffirmed that this is exactly the kind of information that is so
93 valuable to capture. Knutsen added that there are some potential policy intersections with
94 committees. Reed added that WIRA 9 requested KCD to send a staff member to participate if there
95 is no board member available to sit on that committee. Even if the staff member cannot vote, they
96 can contribute to the conversation. Knutsen suggested that Nancy Tosta might be a good fit for
97 this position. Although she is an associate board member, this is part of her expertise. Ryon also
98 suggested Jason Salvo. The board noted that Jim Haack is also regularly attending WIRA 7
99 meetings.

100 Ryon commented that this time of year is perfect for making changes on committees and getting
101 more synergy of our efforts. As chair, it is great to see other board members interested in
102 participating.

103 **Legislative Session – Covington**

104 Covington reported that there is no schedule from WACD around their full suite of activities this
105 year. Monday, January 13th is the board meeting for WACD and more information will be
106 available after that point. Right now, KCD has several staff and board members going down to
107 this meeting to participate. Grace reminded Prinsen that he is marked as tentative and that he will
108 confirm with Grace and staff about his ability to attend. Ryon asked about the timeline for the
109 meeting. Grace confirmed that the extent of the conference is Sunday through Tuesday. Knutsen
110 confirmed his ability to join this meeting.

111 Covington reported on the key messages to legislatures. The governor has proposed funding levels
112 significantly less than WSCC has requested. Knutsen reminded KCD that connecting with the
113 public on this matter is key. Covington reported that we have a list of all King County legislators
114 and their participation in committees that may be relevant this topic. KCD will identify what
115 projects KCD has worked on and what landowners we have served within each legislative district.
116 This will inform the conversation with legislators and enable staff to report on the specific people
117 who have benefited from KCD programs.

118 Prinsen asked about any potential solutions if no extra funds are found. Covington remarked that
119 WACD did not have a formal response to that question. WACD is focused on protecting the base
120 level of their funding.

121 Prinsen commented that people will be asking about how these programs get funding if not through
122 the state. However, there are no current plans to make this possible. Knutsen agreed but reminded
123 us that for conservation to be successful, we need buy-in from a diverse group of people, including
124 urban populations. Over the past years, KCD has learned how to address the specific needs of each
125 member jurisdiction and provide tangible benefits to each. However, WACD has not yet achieved
126 this level of articulation. Knutsen hopes that this attitude will rub off on other conservation
127 organizations and help them advocate for their own funding.

128 Prinsen reminded us that the firewise program is a great example of this. For example, many dams
129 are owned outside of King County, and if the dams burn this will have a major effect on King
130 County citizens, even though the dams are outside of King County itself. It is a question of
131 articulating this picture as clearly as possible. These stories can be powerful motivators for positive
132 change.

133 Covington also remarked on the concept of carbon tax to fund the budget. However, there is not
134 much hope for a carbon tax to pass. King county citizens voted in favor of a carbon tax. Therefore,
135 the people here invested in that. Knutsen asked about how jobs would be funded through this
136 money. The governor's budget is dependent on carbon tax. However, WACD still have a deficit
137 even if the carbon tax passes.

138 Prinsen reminded us that we need to keep moving forward, even if there is no carbon tax. Prinsen
139 commented on the challenges faced by rural communities with small numbers of residents but high
140 financial need. Prinsen remarked that it would be great to work with the county on different levels
141 in addition to operating with rates and charges.

142 Covington will continue this work and will bring more information to the board soon.

143

144 NACD – Covington

145 Covington reported on the annual meeting in Denver taking place in January. Erin Ericson and
146 Amy Holmes will be going to the annual meeting in addition to Covington. This is a great
147 opportunity to build connections with similar conservation districts across the USA. Covington is
148 interested in the ability to network, make connections, share information and experiences with
149 other CDs across the nation. The staff especially benefits from this experience and opportunity.

150 Ryon asked about the annual meeting date. Next, the board discussed February board meeting
151 options. The board decided to hold a telephone board meeting at the regular time and date.

152 Because the annual meeting has gotten so large, it is very difficult to coordinate a normal business
153 board meeting during the annual meeting. Instead, the board can meet via telephone to cover a few

regular items. Ryon inquired about the requirement for a public board meeting. Souza responded that there are financial matters and LIP matters that will need to be resolved that month. There are around 80 people registered for the annual meeting, and we expect to see 150 to 200 people. The award recipients want to report on their work. Covington remarked that Dow Constantine can attend.

A telephone meeting was determined to be acceptable. Souza will send out relevant information after the meeting.

Covington inquired about the upcoming meeting in January. The two new staff members would like to meet the board at this meeting. On the 23rd, the staff will come in and introduce themselves to the board. Knutsen remarked that there is a bit of distance between staff and board, and Knutsen would love to get more face time with the staff.

For the Good of the Order - Ryon

Ryon opened up discussion. Knutsen asked about the package in front of him; he opened it to reveal a book. He thanked the gift-giver for their generous gift.

Knutsen remarked that Pierce County is holding an event similar to Focus on Farming. He is interested in seeing KCD supporting and collaborating with them. This is an opportunity for KCD to expand the audience for this conference and bring attention to the agricultural community.

Ryon thanked Tatro for the Advisory Committee Annual Meeting celebration in Renton. The presenters were well prepared. The public was pleased to have worked with KCD and it was great to celebrate a wonderful year of conservation. Ryon remarked that he was pleased to see so many urban citizens excited and motivated to work with KCD. Grace reminded Prinsen that this is another powerful indicator of our collaborative nature and a great way to demonstrate the value of conservation districts to urban and rural communities. Grace commented that this is part of a growing trend in a public concern for fresh, local food.

Ryon inquired about any more information regarding the annual meeting. Souza reported that we are investigating potential key-notes speakers. The organizations who are receiving awards are very interested in participating and giving speeches to report on their projects. Souza gave the flow of the night, including dinner, awards, dessert, more awards, review presentations and projects, close out the silent auction. Souza also has allotted time to socialize and network after the formal agenda ends. Additionally, more details will be coming. Ryon commented that there was a bit of award fatigue because people have to listen to a long list of awards. Souza reminded him that KCD will review the material of each award representative and people will keep it short. Dow will speak at the beginning and kick off the meeting.

Prinsen requested a calendar to be made on 365 of all of the events or meetings.

Covington will be receiving her 90-day review over the next few weeks.

190 Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at
191 6:29 pm (3 ayes, 0 nays)

192  _____
193  _____
194 Authorized Signature Date

195 Summary of Motions

196 Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (3
197 ayes, 0 nays)

198 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-004
199 Resolution No. 17-001 of the board of supervisors of the King Conservation District, King
200 County, Washington, declaring the certain district real property surplus; declaring the
201 district's intent to sell and convey the real property to the city of Kirkland (3 ayes, 0 nays).

202 Knutesen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent
203 agenda (3 ayes, 0 nays)

204 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-003 check
205 numbers 19073 through 19141 for a total of \$418,152.24 non-payroll EFT's totaling
206 \$30,484.24 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and December 2016 payroll for \$138,709.18 (3 ayes, 0 nays)

207 Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at
208 6:29 pm (3 ayes, 0 nays)

