

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2017

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

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:**

4 **Guests Present:**

5 **Staff Present:** Bea Covington, Ava Souza, Brandy Reed, Josh Monaghan, Deirdre Grace, Rachel  
6 Konrady, Emily Carlson, Paul Borne, Alex Martinsons, Mark Musick, Jessica Saavedra, Ben Axt,

7 **Preliminary Matters:**

8 Meeting called to order at 5:08 pm by Dick Ryon. All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon  
9 asked for additions or corrections to the current agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

10 **Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (4**  
11 **aves, 0 nays)**

12

13 **Consent Agenda:**

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

15 Board Minutes: 08.14.2017

16 KCD LIP Applications – Konrady

- 17 1. AI 17-054 LIP App: Leni and Randall Karr: Forest Health Management  
18 2. AI 17-055 LIP App: Jon Matson: Forest Health Management  
19 3. AI 17-056 LIP App: Sherwood Stolt: Forest Health Management  
20 4. AI 17-057 LIP App: Troy and Kathy Wallin: Cover Crops  
21 5. AI 17-058 LIP App: Lisa Nelson: Aquatic Area Enhancement

22 Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications – Saavedra

- 23 1. AI 17-059 Anchor QEA – Seahurst Park Phase 2 Post-Construction Eelgrass  
24 Survey (Burien Member Jurisdiction funds)

25 **Knutsen moved, Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent**  
26 **agenda (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

27 **Public Comment:** Closed at 5:12pm

28 **Pulled Consent Agenda Items:** None.

29 **New Business:**

30 1. AI 17-061 A Farm in the Sammamish Valley Drainage Contract Completion – Axt

31 Axt presented the board with information about the project. This project took place on a teaching  
32 farm and benefited two farms and numerous student farmers. Dry season construction took three  
33 days to complete.

34 Knutsen inquired about native tree planting along the ditch. Axt responded that this is an artificial  
35 channel, so no planting is required due to no documented fish presence. The reed canary grass will  
36 be mowed by the landowners to control this invasive species. No pesticides will be used because  
37 the project took place on an organic farm.

38 Haack inquired about crossing this system with livestock. Axt responded that there are culverts  
39 along the channel that allow livestock passage. The system should last approximately 10 – 15 years  
40 in the higher elevation areas and 3 – 5 years in the lower elevation areas. ADAP corrects  
41 historically neglected drainage systems, but maintenance of those systems is the responsibility of  
42 the landowner. There is no contractual obligation to maintain the system once ADAP enhances it.  
43 However, farmers invest time and resources into the system during the ADAP process and are  
44 motivated to maintain these projects.

45 Ryon commented that it is unusual that the landowner is not required to maintain the project. Reed  
46 clarified that ADAP is not part of KCD's cost-share program, but a separate, grant-funded  
47 program. KCD projects are required to be maintained for the duration of their lifespan.

48 **Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to accept AI 17-061 A Farm**  
49 **in the Sammamish Valley Drainage Contract as complete (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

50 **Presentations:**

51 1. What in the world is C-R-E-P? – Borne

52 Borne introduced himself and CREP, a partnership between USDA, WSCC, and local  
53 Conservation Districts. CREP addresses salmon population reductions by enhancing riparian  
54 habitat. Riparian habitat is critical for aquatic life.

55 Borne showed two examples of properties enhanced with CREP plantings. These plantings are  
56 critical for supporting salmon and provide shade, intercept nutrient run-off, and offer terrestrial  
57 insect food sources for juvenile salmon. CREP pairs farming and riparian habitat.

58 Cooperators work with CREP technicians and their local conservation districts. It is a voluntary  
59 program that addresses resource concerns. The goal is to provide habitat for wildlife, especially

60 salmon, and provide farmers with an incentive to carry out riparian restoration. Annual rental  
61 payments are made for 10 to 15 years to the farmer based off the amount of land they have enrolled  
62 into the CREP program. Interested farmers apply, plan the project, perform a cultural resource  
63 review (necessary because federal and state dollars require this review), and gather field data on  
64 property conditions including soils, current native vegetation, and noxious weeds. Together  
65 landowners and KCD staff determine the buffer width, plant selection, and buffer fencing options  
66 for a project. This program is based on NRCS standards. The plan is then reviewed by the  
67 landowner, NRCS, KCD, and FSA. Independent contractors certified through CREP perform the  
68 planting. CREP projects aim for 80% native vegetation survival rates, so projects are overplanted  
69 by about 20% to maintain this level of survival. Culverts can also be installed in certain situations.  
70 At the end of the project, landowners can reenroll and continue to collect money from the buffer.

71 If the property changes hands, the landowner can put the buffer into the sales agreement. If the  
72 landowner does not choose to do this, the landowner must repay the project costs.

73  
74 2. LIP 101 – Konrady

75 Konrady and Martinsons introduced LIP through KCD. LIP is the cost share arm of the district  
76 and is a partnership between landowners and KCD. This is different than KCD partnering with  
77 contractors. The landowner must take on a project and meet KCD project standards. LIP begins  
78 with a site visit between a resource planner and the landowner. A plan is created from the results  
79 of the site visit. From the plan, projects can be prioritized for cost share work. LIP is intended to  
80 support private landowners in enacting conservation best management practices. King County also  
81 has a cost share program, but it is currently in a redesign phase.

82 Any project under \$10,000 is awarded by KCD staff. Anything over \$10,000 must be approved by  
83 the Board.

84 LIP cost shares on 14 different Best Management Practices that focus on enhancing water and soil  
85 quality. Forests, marine and freshwater shorelines, crop farms, and livestock farms all utilize LIP  
86 funds.

87 Education is another important component of LIP visits. KCD staff assists landowners in  
88 improving the health of their properties, livestock, and crops. Projects completed receive signage  
89 that demonstrates the commitment of the landowner to the health of the environment.

90 LIP follows NRCS project standards. Landowners are required to maintain the practice they install  
91 in partnership with KCD for the lifetime on the practice (as dictated by NRCS).

92 Ryon commented that the presentations today were excellent and he expressed his appreciation to  
93 staff for sharing this information with the Board.

94 A break was called from 6:09pm to 6:35pm. Meeting resumed at 6:35pm.



95     **Finance:**

96     AI 17-060 check numbers 19736 through 19830 for a total of \$365,360.89 non-payroll EFT's  
97     totaling \$162.53, Bank Fees of \$33.00 and August 2017 payroll for \$180,835.14 – Souza

98     Souza presented the finance report to the board.

99     The current operating fund is typical for this month.

100    **Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-060 check**  
101    **numbers 19736 through 19830 for a total of \$365,360.89 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$162.53,**  
102    **Bank Fees of \$33.00 and August 2017 payroll for \$180,835.14 (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

103

104    **Unfinished Business:**

105

106    Update on presentation to the Council - Covington

107    Covington updated the board on KCD's meeting with King County Council. The Council  
108    appreciated that KCD projects were highlighted within each legislative district.

109    Covington highlighted some upcoming items for the board to keep in mind.

110    *September 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 8pm* – KCD will cohost a panel with American Farmland Trust,  
111    USDA, WSU, and local farmers highlighting the effects of climate change on farms. Board  
112    members are invited to attend; Covington will communicate with the board about the venue as that  
113    emerges.

114    KCD is sponsoring Focus on Farming this year and stepping up involvement from previous years.  
115    There is an opportunity for a forestry track at the conference and to potentially highlight KCD staff  
116    as presenters.

117    *October 12<sup>th</sup>* – NW area meeting at San Juan Conservation District. If people are interested, we  
118    can arrange collective transportation.

119    *November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>* – Tilth conference in Vancouver, WA.

120    *November 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>* – WACD meeting in Kennewick.

121    *September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>* – Staff teams for the theory of change work will be formed at KCD staff  
122    meeting and Advisory Committee meeting.

123 Axt has held one stakeholder meeting for the Working Lands Initiative but more are scheduled for  
124 fall, once the rainy season begins again. KCD is interested in assisting with coordination of  
125 stakeholders regarding agricultural planning and ensuring collaboration takes place.

126 The Discovery Farms project is continuing to move forward. The next step is a white paper to  
127 summarize Discovery Farm work being done around the country. This will inform a small working  
128 group conversation around buffers. This item is tentatively scheduled to return to the board in  
129 January for a final vote, work plan, and budget.

130 Covington highlighted the great work of Reed and her team in moving the tree canopy conversation  
131 forward through collaborative efforts and meetings.

132 Ryon invited senior management staff to comment on any of their interesting projects or programs  
133 that they want to highlight. Ryon also expressed concern over the issue of office space.

134 Reed reported on her four program groups that she supervises. Reed highlighted the Puget Sound  
135 Conservation District Caucus and the Working Lands Initiative as items where her time is spent.  
136 Reed has nine people reporting to her including a mix of staff, individual AmeriCorps placements,  
137 and contractors.

138 Monaghan reported on his program work. The team is also developing template updates to share  
139 with other CD's. There is also a staff field day coming up which educates KCD staff on topical  
140 issues.

141 Souza reported on her team. Elections planning is a current priority. KCD is moving away from  
142 electronic ballots and towards ClearBallot, now a standard throughout the county. Space and space  
143 options are critical and these conversations will help inform work flow and budget. In November,  
144 the auditor will be coming to KCD.

145 Grace reported on her team and their accomplishments. Grace has been working with the executive  
146 director to enhance or solidify partnerships and programs. Grace's team supports the organization  
147 and individual projects as needed. Hugelkulture has been incredibly popular and engaging for  
148 KCD's audience. Grace's team is currently managing the urban farming program as an  
149 engagement program to help people learn about the organization and identify partners for projects.  
150 Equity and the social justice working group has been very important and will be taking off soon.  
151 Member jurisdiction grants are now under the engagement team. This is a great vehicle to  
152 showcase partnerships.

153 The board commended senior staff on their hard work and the high level of sophistication in  
154 programs and projects. Haack inquired about any potential efficiencies and how to make projects  
155 smoother. Senior management commented that capacity is often a limiting factor to KCD's  
156 excellent work.

157 Ryon inquired about the potential for growth in the current space or expansion into different  
158 spaces. There's also a possibility to share space. This is a long-term conversation that could also

take place on a Monday strategy session. There are still questions over buying a property compared to leasing a property. The Washington State Conservation Commission is working on a report around the difference between purchasing and leasing land and space.

Update on Ellensburg Meeting – Covington

Covington updated the board on the meeting in Ellensburg. The original proposal is off the table, which opened the door to a rich conversation. This will help all conservation districts determine a sustainable funding solution. There will be a committee formed to discuss and investigate this issue. This will determine the legalities, costs, and processes of different options. This will likely require a campaign plan to move through the legislature.

AI 17-062 Update on Finance Committee review (and recommendations) & Finance Committee Recommendation to authorize 2 new administrative support positions in 2017 – Covington

Covington introduced this topic. KCD will be closing out 2018 with additional funds. KCD will build the budgets to the full amounts authorized in the five-year plan. There are two positions KCD is looking to fill before the end of 2018 through the Operations team.

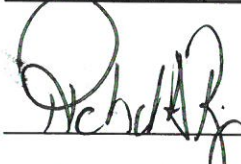
Souza is looking to build out and hire two new positions. This is a reallocation of the 2017 budget. The cumulative impact of both positions is estimated to be about \$35,000 this year.

**Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-062 Update on Finance Committee review (and recommendations) & Finance Committee Recommendation to authorize 2 new administrative support positions in 2017 (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

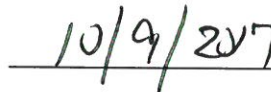
Chairman Comments – Ryon

No comments were made.

**Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm (4 ayes, 0 nays)**



Authorized Signature



Date

**Summary of Motions**

- 188 Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (4  
189 aves, 0 nays)
- 190 Knutsen moved, Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent  
191 agenda (4 ayes, 0 nays)
- 192 Knutsen moved, Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-061 A  
193 Farm in the Sammamish Valley Drainage Contract Completion (4 ayes, 0 nays)
- 194 Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-060 check  
195 numbers 19736 through 19830 for a total of \$365,360.89 non-payroll EFT's totaling \$162.53,  
196 Bank Fees of \$33.00 and August 2017 payroll for \$180,835.14 (4 ayes, 0 nays)
- 197 Knutsen moved; Haack seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 17-062 Update  
198 on Finance Committee review (and recommendations) & Finance Committee  
199 Recommendation to authorize 2 new administrative support positions in 2017 (4 ayes, 0 nays)
- 200 Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to adjourn the meeting at  
201 8:11pm (4 ayes, 0 nays)

