

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Supervisors Present:** Dick Ryon – Chair, Bill Knutsen – Auditor, Jim Haack, Max Prinsen

**Associate Supervisors Present:**

**Guests Present:**

**Staff Present:** Bea Covington, Ava Souza, Brandy Reed, Josh Monaghan, Deirdre Grace (via phone), Mike Lasecki, Jessica Saavedra, Melissa Tatro, Emily Carlson

**Preliminary Matters:**

Meeting called to order at 5:08 pm by Dick Ryon. All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon asked for additions or corrections to the current agenda.

**Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda as amended (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

**Consent Agenda:**

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

Board Minutes: 12.11.17

KCD LIP Applications – Konrady

1. AI 18-001: LIP APP: Lorrie Joeschke: Forest Health Management

Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications- None.

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

**Public Comment:** Opened at 5:10pm. Closed at 5:12pm.

**Pulled Consent Agenda Items:** None.

**Presentations:**

2017 KCD Seattle Community Partnership Grants – Saavedra

Saavedra reviewed the Seattle Community Partnership Grant program for the Board of Supervisors. The grant review process begins in June. Recommended projects are presented to the Board for approval typically around October. The review process changed for this year's program and that influenced the applications which KCD received. The review criteria included not only KCD's NRIA goals, but the City of Seattle's Equity and Social Justice goals as well. This year, seven projects were funded, meeting both the KCD NRIA goals and the City of Seattle's goals. This approach allows KCD to reach and serve groups that would otherwise be very difficult to access. Saavedra highlighted some of the organizations who received KCD funding this year in her presentation. Many of these organizations are already working within the communities that they serve and have a strong social justice component to their work.

A question was raised about KCD programs which are funded in places of worship and how KCD handles grants to religious organizations. KCD does provide grants to places of worship, but the project must be open to all individuals.

#### Community Agriculture Map, Website Introduction – Tatro

Tatro introduced the new KCD Community Agricultural Map. This project was funded through a grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The URL for this site is: [www.kcdcommunityag.org](http://www.kcdcommunityag.org)

The website has been designed to be mobile friendly and visitors can sort and view gardens based off key features. Each profile contains soil testing stories that encourage landowners to learn more about their urban soils. This soil testing feature allows gardens to track their soil-conservation practices like cover cropping. This also allows gardens to collaborate and communicate with other gardens about the problems that they may be experiencing.

The website also features tag clouds that allow people to search for gardens based off phrases and features that interest them the most. For example, a visitor could look for all the gardens that have pollinator strips installed. The website also features blog posts and the stories of gardeners and gardens.

Gardeners can contact Tatro to make changes to their website page, but the goal is for the community to be able to upload and manage individual input. There is a high amount of need in South King County and therefore the website focuses on that geographic region. This website will encourage soil testing within communities, and encourage communication among local gardeners.

The website has been promoted in KCD's newsletter, at the Flower and Garden Show, and through local blogs and publications. The site is also search-engine optimized and will pop up when people look for these kinds of items.

A question was raised about the water usage in community gardens. Tatro responded that many gardens utilize alternative water sources where possible.

A break was called from 6:04pm to 6:25pm.

**Finance:**

AI 18-002: A motion to approve check numbers 20090 through 20238 for a total of \$617,987.95, non-payroll EFT's totaling \$1,820.21 Bank Fees of \$108.00 and December 2017 payroll for \$196,967.59 - Souza

Souza presented the finance report to the Board of Supervisors. Souza will return in February to present additional materials. The last rates and charges funds were dispersed.

The Board Chair met with the Washington State Auditor this month. Covington distributed the auditor's entrance letter. The auditor will be conducting a finance and accountability audit this for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016. Ryon commended Souza and her staff for their diligence on this project.

**Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-002: A motion to approve check numbers 20090 through 20238 for a total of \$617,987.95, non-payroll EFT's totaling \$1,820.21 Bank Fees of \$108.00 and December 2017 payroll for \$196,967.59 (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

**Unfinished Business:**

Update on Legislative Days – Covington/Grace

Grace reported on the upcoming legislative days, occurring on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There are about 15 meetings scheduled for the first day and a few meetings are scheduled for the second. Coordinating with legislators has been a challenge because of their tight schedules.

Covington added that there is now an opportunity for staff to work with the leadership team to assist with Legislative Days.

Update on Annual Meeting – Covington/Grace

The annual meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Brightwater Education Center from 5pm to 7pm. This is a combination of the Advisory Committee Celebration and the Annual Meeting. International food will be featured as hors d'oeuvres with multiple KCD-funded projects will be on display in poster format. There will be a rolling slideshow displaying some of the work of KCD and the work of the award winners. Grace thanked her team who have worked hard on this event.

94

95 Update on Discovery Farms – Covington/Monaghan

96 Discovery Farms is part of the Working Land Initiative. This is a research project that is farmer-  
97 led and allows farmers to answer questions about how farm practices effect water quality and  
98 soil quality. Discovery Farms will focus on agricultural buffers and the measurable benefits that  
99 they provide to natural resource concerns. This project builds off work done in Whatcom  
100 County.

101 A white paper is being developed by KCD staff to explore the current research around  
102 agricultural buffers. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a public meeting to solicit input from partners  
103 and community members. By the February Board Meeting, Monaghan will return with more  
104 information and a budget for the project.

105 Covington added that partnering with WA Ecology will allow an extremely robust scientific  
106 design. Working with WA Ecology, allows the study to stand firmly under scientific scrutiny.  
107 There is also a connection with current voluntary water quality programs at WA Ecology.

108 A question was raised about the timing of these projects and how to maximize potential for  
109 informing each study. Monaghan added that the manual WA Ecology uses is routinely updated  
110 and that if the results of this work cannot be incorporated into practices and regulatory standards  
111 this year, this information will be available for future revisions.

112

113 **New Business:**

114 AI 18-003: Legal Service for KCD – Covington

115 This is a renewal of an existing contract to extend KCD's legal services into 2018. The contract is  
116 relatively unchanged but the rates have increased modestly.

117 **Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously to approve AI 18-003, a motion to**  
118 **authorize the Board Chair to sign the 2018 Legal Services Agreement with Inslee, Best,**  
119 **Doezie & Ryder, P.S. on behalf of the King Conservation District. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

120

121 AI-18-004: Nominations for Annual Award – Grace

122 Covington introduced this item. General staff recommended these nominations and they have  
123 been vetted by senior staff. There is a new award this year for the Best Media Partner. In the  
124 descriptions of the nominations, board members see the nomination text, not the final version of  
125 the awards.



126 It was recommended to award these recognitions to individual staff at organizations rather than  
127 the organization itself.

128 **Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-004 the**  
129 **nominations for the Annual KCD Awards (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

130

131 New Supervisor Discussion

132 Covington discussed a potential candidate for the Associate Board of Supervisors for the King  
133 Conservation District. This candidate has pursued a connection with KCD and expressed a keen  
134 interest in natural resource work. It was suggested that the interested applicant attend more Board  
135 of Supervisors meetings to learn more about KCD's programs and projects. This will allow a  
136 mutual familiarity between the individual and KCD.

137

138 New Building Discussion

139 Ryon explained that the building owner is selling KCD's current offices. Haack commented that  
140 this is a challenging market for land and office space. There is time to be thoughtful and strategic  
141 about the future of the District and how KCD's space needs could be satisfied in a new location.  
142 This offers opportunity to entertain collaborative space ideas, touch-down stations, and other  
143 creative solutions.

144 There is no substantive piece to move forward right now. Key staff will be engaged over the next  
145 few weeks to ensure that this is a collaborative process. Haack recommended that KCD designate  
146 a project-team to avoid process paralysis. Covington and Souza will collect information and ideas  
147 from Board members who are interested in providing feedback.

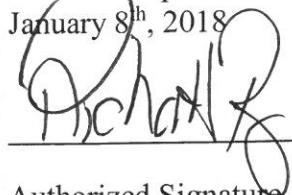
148 A contract of services and tools has been prepared to be utilized. There is a concern about  
149 geography and how staff and partners will meet at the new KCD space. Given that KCD's work is  
150 spread throughout the County, it might be possible to use satellite offices.

151 **Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-005 A**  
152 **motion to authorize the Executive Director to contract with Jim Haack and Momentum**  
153 **Builds to lead the office space search process in accordance with the restrictions outlined in**  
154 **RCW 42.23 (3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained)**

155

156 **Prinsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

157

 KCD CHAIR

2/12/2018

158

159 Authorized Signature

Date

160

Summary of Motions

161 Knutsen moved; Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda as  
162 amended (4 ayes, 0 nays)

163 Knutsen moved, Prinsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent  
164 agenda (4 ayes, 0 nays)

165 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-002: A  
166 motion to approve check numbers 20090 through 20238 for a total of \$617,987.95, non-  
167 payroll EFT's totaling \$1,820.21 Bank Fees of \$108.00 and December 2017 payroll for  
168 \$196,967.59 (4 ayes, 0 nays)

169 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously to approve AI 18-003, a motion to  
170 authorize the Board Chair to sign the 2018 Legal Services Agreement with Inslee, Best,  
171 Doezie & Ryder, P.S. on behalf of the King Conservation District. (4 ayes, 0 nays)

172 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-004 the  
173 nominations for the Annual KCD Awards (4 ayes, 0 nays)

174 Prinsen moved; Knutsen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 18-005 A  
175 motion to authorize the Executive Director to contract with Jim Haack and Momentum  
176 Builds to lead the office space search process in accordance with the restrictions outlined in  
177 RCW 42.23 (3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained)

178 Prinsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm (4 ayes, 0 nays)