

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-005**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE 2019 WORK PLAN FOR THE WORKING LANDS INITIATIVES.

**SUBJECT: KCD Working Lands Initiatives- 2019 Work Plan**

In December 2016, King Conservation District, King County, and the King County Class entered into a settlement agreement to implement certain conservation programs for the benefit of the King County Class. The programs are Agricultural Drainage Assistance, Discovery Farms Demonstration Project on working buffers, Small Lot Forest Management and Fire Protection, and King County Agriculture Strategic Plan.

Staff have worked with stakeholders in each program area to develop this work plan and funding plan. As part of the 2019 operating budget the board approved continued work on Working Lands initiatives. The attached scopes of work provide further detail on the 2019 work plans for those 4 initiatives.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

These activities are a core part of the goals of the King Conservation District 2019 work goals. The District has established the Work Lands Initiative Fund to accomplish these projects. This action maps out the detailed scopes of work associated with the previously approved 2019 budget.

**STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS**

Parties to the Settlement, KCD Stakeholders, farmers, forest land managers, researchers, agencies and NGOs focused on agricultural development, agricultural buffer work, agricultural drainage, and forest health management.

## BACKGROUND

Starting in 2017, the King Conservation District began expanding programs and services for rural landowners, including enhanced agricultural drainage and forest management services, “Discovery Farms” citizen science research, and development of a King County agriculture strategic plan.

Funding for these expanded services came as a result of a settlement associated with a 2011 lawsuit that prompted KCD to adopt a rates and charges approach for funding the organization. In a final court hearing on December 9, 2016, all parties in the suit agreed to amend the agreement to allocate settlement funds to implement four conservation programs to benefit rural landowners and working lands in King County.

Below is a brief description for each of the programs:

**R91. King County Agricultural Strategic Plan.** Providing \$200,000 to develop an Agriculture Strategic Plan to improve the long-term productivity of farmland, bring more acres into food production, and increase opportunities for farmers to develop the necessary infrastructure to support or increase their farm business.

**R92. Agricultural Drainage Assistance.** Under this program, KCD is investing an additional \$500,000 for the KCD Agricultural Drainage Program to support ongoing services of the King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP). This project will tackle gaps and needs of agricultural drainage in King County, with a focus on addressing long term impacts, including supporting regulatory process improvements and investing in drainage improvement projects that tackle more complex drainage problems.

**R93. Discovery Farms Demonstration Project.** Providing \$200,000 to establish and maintain an on-farm research site for demonstrations, data collection, and peer-reviewed research on agricultural buffer planting strategies for protecting the environment while increasing farm production.

**R94. Small Forest Management and Fire Protection.** Providing \$500,000 to develop small lot forest land investment package to assist small lot forest land owners with planning and implementing forest health and wildfire resiliency practices that promote healthy, fire resilient forested stands and to protect property structures and develop a cooperative approach for small forest land owners in King County to work together and take advantage of economies of scale in management and harvest efforts.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2019

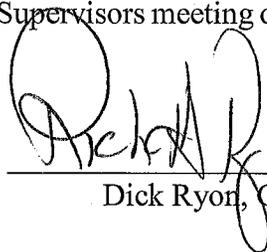
**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board approve the proposed Working Lands Initiative 2019 Program of Work. As part of the 2019 operating budget the board approved continued work on Working Lands initiatives. The attached scopes of work provide further detail on the 2019 work plans for those 4 initiatives.

**MOTION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved, \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded; a motion to approve the KCD Working Lands Initiative 2019 Program of Work.

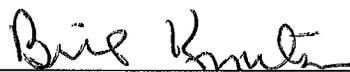
ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors at Board of Supervisors meeting open to the public held on June 17, 2019



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dick Ryon, Chair

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Bill Knutsen, Secretary of the Board of Supervisors, King County, Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 19-005 of such Board, duly adopted at Board meeting thereof held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019 by the members of such Board in attendance at such meeting and attested by myself in authentication of such adoption.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Knutsen, Secretary/Auditor