

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

9/23/2019

1 **Supervisors Present:** Dick Ryon – Chair, Burr Mosby – Vice Chair, Bill Knusten – Auditor (via
2 Zoom), Kirstin Haugen - Supervisor

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Chris Porter, Rachel Molloy (via Zoom)

4 **Guests Present:** None

5 **Staff Present:** Bea Covington (via Zoom), Ava Souza, Lindsey Davidson, Brandy Reed

6 Meeting called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Dick Ryon.

7 Ryon requested to add to the record that the Board has decided to add this 2nd meeting of the month
8 to have further discussion on more detailed topics presented to the Board.

9 All attendees introduced themselves. Ryon asked for additions or corrections to the current agenda.

10 **Haugen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (4**
11 **ayes, 0 nays)**

12 **Public Comment:** None

13 **New Business:**

14 **Review of 2020 KCD Election Vendor Selection**

15 Covington stated she recirculated the materials presented at the last meeting for further Board
16 review. She continued that she has been working with KCD legal counsel to build contract
17 templates for Democracy Live and King County Elections. She added the Tusk has confirmed their
18 commitment to the election in 2020 and have sent a letter of intent. Covington stated there has
19 been more discussions on partnership commitments after 2020. She emphasized that the cost for
20 this election is tied to the level of participation.

21 Ryon agreed that we want the largest amount of participation possible and started a discussion if
22 this is the best way. Knutsen asked if we can use just King County Elections, or do we have to do
23 both. Haugen had the same question. Covington stated that what we have on offer is a package
24 deal, Democracy Live is a vendor who is known to and recommended by King County Elections.
25 We could in theory use another vendor to manage ballot distribution and collection, but they would
26 have a similar, if not greater cost, and would not have the benefit of the Tusk Philanthropy grant
27 to offset the costs.

28 Items discussed include use of rates and charges revenue, physical ballot boxes, other available
29 partnerships, English only ballots, and the importance of outreach and visibility. Porter empathized

30 that if we are going to have an election, we have to fully own the process, and believes this is the
31 real cost of that. Covington continued that the cost will be dependent on the level of participation
32 and that we want to set a strong precedent. The importance of outreach and increasing visibility
33 cannot be over stated. She explained that if we don't enter this contract, then the cost might have
34 to come out of rates and charges utilized for programmatic work. Covington summarized that
35 everything around election is currently fluid and there are a lot of unknowns, but certainly the
36 future of KCD relies on the accessibility and credibility of this election.

37 **Haugen moved; Mosby seconded passed a motion to authorize the Board Chair/Executive**
38 **Director to execute final contract with Democracy Live and King County Elections (3 ayes,**
39 **1 nays)**

40 Break was called by Chairman Ryon at 6:12pm. The meeting was reconvened at 6:32pm.

41 Road to 2020 - Update

42 Covington stated we are continuing to work with NWP to engage county council members. The
43 goal is to procure at least three letters of endorsement from partner and constituent organizations
44 from each council district, including at least one city in each district. She continued we are asking
45 people send their letters by the end of this week. and that the next step in the process would be
46 arranging one-on-ones with key council members.

47 Haugen stated for the record that she had concerns about hiring a political consultant without Board
48 approval. She suggested we should have a board process for all contracts, especially for those who
49 are going to be engaging in political work.

50 Knutsen reminded Haugen that we do have processes and that the Executive Director does have
51 authority to approve contracts under \$10,000 and that's the current contract amount with NWP.
52 Knutsen added that he was aware of the work that NWP does and he supported engaging them to
53 work on behalf of KCD

54 The Board discussed further on using a political consultant or a registered lobbyist.

55 Porter asked for clarification on which county council members are meeting with whom within the
56 KCD organization. Covington requested that where possible, people engage elected in teams of 2
57 so that one person can take notes on the exchange, and that if staff are not able to participate that
58 summary notes be provided to the Road to 2020 team so that we can keep track. .

59 Discussion of WACD Attendees and Potential Resolutions

60 Haugen and Reed summarized what was discussed at the last meeting with regards to potential
61 resolutions to be brought forth to the WACD Area Meeting on October 8th. Drafts of the proposed
62 resolutions were circulated and reviewed. Reed stated that Haugen, Knutsen, Reed, and Whatcom
63 CD attended a working sub-committee meeting earlier this afternoon and the result was four
64 resolution proposals. Reed summarized that two are elections-related and two are WACD
65 governance-related.

66 Reed explained each one in more detail. Resolution One is the Elections resolution that was passed
67 at the August 2019 Board meeting which states KCD is committed to working with state legislature
68 to reform conservation district elections to include all registered voters on a general ballot.
69 Resolution Two is a more detailed request to change the Revised Code of Washington regarding
70 the election process. Resolution Three emphasizes the importance of regional resolutions, and that
71 if a resolution is passed unanimously at the area meeting, it can be implemented even if its not
72 passed on state level. Resolution Four outlines Board development and partnering with legislation
73 to advocate that development.

74 Haugen summarized the outcome of the meeting with Whatcom CD.. Reed explained that the
75 Whatcom board is divided between old and new members and want to have more time to review
76 the resolutions. She continued that Whatcom did acknowledge their own negative feedback
77 surrounding elections, so Resolution One may need to be revised to cover a broader scope. Reed
78 predicted that with that revision, Resolution One will most likely pass at the Area Meeting.

79 Reed explained that we need to continue discussions with other board members from other
80 conservation districts to make sure our resolutions are supported and passed at the Area Meeting.

81 Covington and the Board were in agreement.

82 The Board discussed which Resolutions they felt most strongly about.

83 **Mosby moved; Knusten seconded passed unanimously AI 19-085 a motion to move forward**
84 **Resolution One to the Northwest Area Meeting, pending language revision. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

85 The Board discussed Resolution Two and there was no action made.

86 **Knutsen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously AI 19-087 a motion to move forward**
87 **with Resolution Three to the Northwest Area Meeting. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

88 **Haugen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously AI 19-088 a motion to move forward**
89 **with Resolution Four to the Northwest Area Meeting. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

90 Haugen and Reed briefed on a final Resolution presented by Mason Conservation District. The
91 resolution is an amendment to legislation that was unable to be voted on in previous years
92 regarding streamlining permitting through a joint aquatic permit process.

93 **Knusten moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously AI 19-089 a motion to move forward**
94 **with Resolution Three to the Northwest Area Meeting. (4 ayes, 0 nays)**

95 Ryon announced an amendment to the AI 19-084 to include both Associate Board Supervisors
96 Rachel Molloy and Chris Porter to act as a proxy for any board supervisor that will not be present
97 at the Area Meeting.

98 Mosby moved; Knusten seconded passed unanimously a motion to delegate Associate
99 Supervisors Rachel Molloy and Chris Porter as proxies for any Board of Supervisors
100 member not at the annual WACD Area Meeting as amended (4 ayes, 0 nays).

101 There being no more business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

102

103 William M. Knusten _____ 11-25-2019 _____

104 Authorized Signature Date

105

106 Summary of Motions

107 Haugen moved; Mosby seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (4
108 ayes, 0 nays)

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110 Director to execute final contract with Democracy Live and King County Elections (3 ayes,
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