

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

10/14/19

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

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

4 **Guests Present:** Jean Fike - WSCC, Katherine Walton - Futurewise

5 **Staff Present:** Bea Covington, Ava Souza, Lindsey Davidson, Brandy Reed, Deirdre Grace,
6 Jessica Saavedra, Laura Redmond (via Zoom)

7 Meeting called to order at 5:17 p.m. by Burr Mosby. All attendees introduced themselves. Mosby
8 asked for any additions or corrections to the current agenda.

9 Porter requested a discussion about terms of office for WACD officers be covered under New
10 Business.

11 Covington added that the motion to approve Regional Food Systems Grant Applications will be
12 removed from the agenda due to Embleton being absent from the meeting. She stated the item will
13 be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Additionally, Covington wanted to correct that there is no
14 contract modification with Sound Transit, just a project update.

15 **Knutsen moved; Haugen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (5**
16 **ayes, 0 nays)**

17 **Consent Agenda:**

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

19 a) Board Minutes: 8.12.19 BOS Meeting Minutes, 9.9.19 BOS Meeting Minutes
20

21 b) KCD LIP Applications:

22 1) AI 19-090: Joe Haberzette – Riparian Forest Buffer
23

24 c) Member Jurisdiction Grant Applications:

25 1) AI 19-091: City of Kent – Urban Natural Area Management Plan (Phase 1&2)

26 2) AI 19-092: Des Moines Area Food Bank – On-the-Grow Learning Garden Truck
27 2019-20

28 3) AI 19-093: City of Bellevue – Native Discovery Garden Enhancement Project –
29 Phase 2

30 4) AI 19-094: Futurewise – Algona Wetland Education and Enhancement Project
31

32 **Pulled Consent Agenda Items:** 9.9.19 Meeting Minutes, Futurewise -Algona Wetland Education
33 and Enhancement Project Member Jurisdiction application.

34 Haugen requested the 9.9.19 Meeting Minutes be pulled for discussion. Knutsen requested the
35 Futurewise Member Jurisdiction grant application be pulled for discussion.

36 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent agenda**
37 **excluding the 9.9.19 Meeting Minutes and the Futurewise Member Jurisdiction grant**
38 **application (5 ayes, 0 nays).**

39 Haugen requested the minutes be changed on Line 134 to say meetings with county council
40 members as a whole.

41 **Ryon moved; Haugen seconded passed unanimously a motion approving the revision of the**
42 **9.9.19 Meeting Minutes (5 ayes, 0 nays).**

43 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously a motion to adopt the 9.9.19 Meeting**
44 **Minutes as revised (5 ayes, 0 nays).**

45 Knutsen asked Saavedra for clarification on if the work being performed for the Algona Wetland
46 Education and Enhancement project is on private or public property. Katherine Walton, a
47 representative from Futurewise, confirmed it is public property.

48 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously to adopt AI 19-094 Futurewise - Algona**
49 **Wetland Education and Enhancement Project Member Jurisdiction grant application. (5**
50 **ayes, 0 nays)**

51 **Public Comment:**

52 Ryon wished to express thanks to all staff, board members, and the community for support during
53 his recovery.

54 **Finance:**

55 AI 19-095: A motion to approve check numbers 22034 through 22097 for a total of
56 \$279,509.47; non-payroll EFT's totaling \$2,553.33; Bank Fees of \$63.00; and
57 September 2019 payroll for \$228,384.24

58 Souza reviewed the September 2019 financials and register. She stated there was nothing
59 out of the ordinary and we are on track with the budget.

60 Covington and Souza confirmed the packets will be sent to supervisors that are on Zoom.

61 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve AI 19-095: A**
62 **motion to approve check numbers 22034 through 22097 for a total of \$279,509.47; non-**

63 **payroll EFT's totaling \$2,553.33; Bank Fees of \$63.00; and September 2019 payroll for**
64 **\$228,384.24. (5 ayes, 0 nays).**

65 Souza continued that 3rd quarter financials were reviewed at the Financial Sub-Committee. She
66 asked the Board for two motions related to the transferring of funds. The first is authorization for
67 Bill Knutsen to transfer funds spent on Working Lands in the third quarter.

68 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously AI 19-098 a motion authorizing Bill**
69 **Knutsen, Auditor of the KCD Board of Supervisors, to write a check for \$118,544.52 from**
70 **US Bank Accounting 2328 for 3rd Quarter Working Lands expenses and deposit into Bank**
71 **of America Operating Account 0408. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

72
73 Souza continued that the 2019 Plant Sale is now closed and would like to request another motion
74 authorizing the transfer of plant sale revenue to close out the plant sale in its entirety.

75 **Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously AI 19-099 a motion authorizing the**
76 **Chief Operating Officer, Ava Souza, to transfer plant sale revenue of \$132,013.00 from US**
77 **Bank Account 0152 to Bank of America Operating Account 0408 and close out the 2019 Plant**
78 **Sale in its entirety. (5 ayes, 0 nays)**

79
80 2020 Budget Update

81 Covington circulated a document to review the Road to 2020 work done thus far. She reviewed
82 the four focus areas and the programs that are comprised in each area. She summarized the
83 materials and costs sent to county council. She continued that budget sent to council was balanced.

84 Covington stated the Executive's proposal was received on October 3, 2019. They have proposed
85 a rate structure of \$ 6.7 million. She continued that there will be a review with management staff
86 on what needs to be cut to fit into the Executive's proposal. Covington plans to fit this proposal
87 and then detail what services we can no longer provide based on the cuts. She hopes to have this
88 analysis completed by the end of this week. Covington summarized that the overall budget is
89 decreased by 10 percent in each program except for the Habitat Restoration and Wildfire
90 Preparedness.

91 Ryon asked if there is an opportunity to still negotiate the proposal. Covington confirmed that
92 negotiations and conversations with county council are still ongoing. She continued there are
93 currently fourteen letters that have been sent from cooperators, the community, partners, and
94 landowners advocating for KCD's work and an increased rate structure to support it.

95 Knutsen led a discussion with the Board on the Executive's proposal including how to cover the
96 shortfall in certain program areas, and key points to bring up with council. He stated he was
97 mindful of inflation and the cost of living when looking at the five years, not just in the rate
98 structure, but with our expenses as well.

99 Covington stated that a hearing from the Local Service Community will be held on October 28,
100 2019. She explained the three outcomes that can come out of that hearing. The first outcome would
101 be to forward the Executive's proposal as is to county council. The second outcome would be to
102 amend the Executive's proposal and then send to council. The third outcome would be there is no
103 decision made at that time and another hearing date would be set. Covington added that there has
104 been no announcement regarding the format of the hearing. She is anticipating the earliest the full
105 council will hear the proposal will be December 4th with December 11th as the final Council
106 meeting of the year. Covington stated this should be treated as an opportunity to push our preferred
107 outcome until then.

108 Grace added that Councilmember Lambert is working on setting a Skype session during the
109 hearing so landowners that cannot attend the hearing will still be able to make public comment.

110 Covington added she is working with FCS to create a new rate structure to match the
111 Executive's proposal.

112 Ryon agreed that we should continue to discuss our program of work with county council
113 members.

114 Haugen asked when the Board will be able to discuss the implications of the Executive's proposal
115 in detail. Covington confirmed that once the analysis is done by staff by the end of the week, the
116 Board can review. She suggested at an upcoming working group Board of Supervisors meeting.

117 Mosby and Knutsen agreed on the sentiment that re-prioritization is necessary if nothing is set in
118 stone and to prepare for the worst.

119 Covington empathized that she and Grace are available to go over talking points and how to set
120 meetings with council members.

121 Covington mentioned that Orca Recovery Day is happening this weekend, which will be a great
122 opportunity to speak with the community and council members that attend the event. She said that
123 part of the event is at Longfellow Creek from 10am to 2pm. County council member McDermott
124 and State Representative Fitzgibbon have confirmed their attendance. Another part of the event is
125 at Parr Creek in Bothell from 10am to 2pm.

126 Grace added that there are over eighty projects planned this year for Orca Recovery Day with over
127 forty partners stretching from British Columbia to California, which covers almost the total
128 migration pattern of the orcas.

129 Break was called by Mosby at 6:18pm. The meeting was reconvened at 6:40pm.

130 **Unfinished Business:**

131 Sound Transit Project – Update

132 Reed summarized that the Sound Transit Project has been in development for the past year. She
133 wanted to highlight the project for the Board as a potential talking point at their upcoming meetings
134 with county council members. This project is an urban forest health stewardship partnership
135 between KCD, Regional Sound Transit, and the City of Shoreline. This project will be working
136 with landowners to implement more trees and native plants in their urban backyards. She continued
137 this project is a good opportunity to also showcase KCD stewardship and how we can take our
138 rural work into an urban space. Reed added in addition to preserving the tree canopy in the rail
139 corridor, this project would also be saving eleven lower middle-income single-family housing lots
140 from being demolished.

141 Reed stated that KCD is currently working on the outreach and implementation components of the
142 project by reaching out to landowners within the 220-parcel focus area of the corridor and
143 determine which native species can be planted. Reed also mentioned that ECOSS will be
144 partnering with KCD for the outreach piece so that we can ensure that the outreach materials are
145 culturally and linguistically appropriate for the communities.

146 Northwest Area Meeting Update

147 Reed circulated a summary page and copies of the resolutions discussed at the Area Meeting on
148 October 8th, 2019. She reviewed the meeting's schedule and topics addressed. She mentioned that
149 the Commission is working on packages to bring to the legislation for the upcoming Legislative
150 Days in early 2020. Reed also noted that at the meeting, NRCS stated they want to begin attending
151 meetings again to create more partnership projects. Additionally, Tom Salzer was announced as
152 the new WACD Executive Director.

153 Reed stated that all the resolutions KCD presented passed, although some were amended. She
154 emphasized the amount of continuous work that will need to be done in order to have these
155 resolution pass at the state level meeting.

156 Haugen provided update to "Balloting for All" resolution. At the meeting, it was amended to
157 include the option of sending regular ballots to all registered voters. Covington noted that there
158 needs to be a discussion between key districts to ensure it passes at state level.

159 Porter agreed and added that the fear is the cost of that type of election will be prohibiting,
160 especially for smaller districts. Haugen emphasized that if the cost is the biggest concern, then that
161 makes it even more important to change the legislation. Porter added that he was surprised the
162 reception of the resolution.

163 Reed stressed the importance of the work that needs to get done in order to deconstruct the current
164 notions surrounding the election process. She suggested the Board make calls and set meetings
165 with other district supervisors to ensure voting members are thoroughly informed. Reed reminded
166 the Board that there needs to be 25 signatures of 25 voting board members to bring a resolution to
167 the floor to discuss at the Annual Meeting if the resolutions are not recommended out of
168 committee.

169 Covington added that if any KCD Board Supervisors will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting,
170 there needs to be a motion authorizing an Associate Board Supervisor to be a proxy.

171 Reed summarized the “Prioritization of Area Initiatives” resolution. Porter explained that the
172 wording had to be amended to be less directive. Reed added members were confused by the
173 resolution’s language and concluded that other conservation districts felt the resolution would lead
174 to balkanization in the conservation district system. Covington explained this wouldn’t necessarily
175 be true and replayed the example that Molloy gave at the Area Meeting that the west side of the
176 state and the east side of the state have different protocols for tackling climate change. Reed spoke
177 to the history of prioritization at previous Annual Meetings and concluded that consensus between
178 the conservation districts is the most important thing. She continued that we should be recognizing
179 each district has different needs, but we should also be uniting with other districts that have the
180 same issues.

181 Reed reminded the Board that these are the resolutions just from our area, and that there will be
182 many more coming forth at the Annual Meeting.

183 **New Business:**

184 AI 19-096, Resolution 19-012: Elections Resolution

185 Souza summarized the language stated in the resolution.

186 The number of ballot boxes became a point of contention.

187 Knutsen requested the number of ballot boxes available should be lessened, as this will make the
188 election more cost-effective.

189 Ryon maintained that we need to be more visible with this election. He added that it will make the
190 work we do more meaningful to more people.

191 Mosby agreed that he wants there to be a fair, open election; however, because of the current
192 fragility of the 2020 budget, he was also having difficulties with the cost as previously presented.
193 Mosby added that having all the ballot boxes doesn’t necessarily mean there will be more
194 participation. The Board discussed outreach tools.

195 Haugen asked if the contracts have already been signed and if work has already started.

196 Mosby stated that contract was voted on and signed but can still be amended. Covington
197 confirmed.

198 Ryon added that adding more ballot boxes along with an election reform can look good to county
199 council and the public.

200 Haugen agreed with Mosby and Knutsen that the election cost also worried her at first, but after
201 speaking with Julie Wise from King County Elections, she learned that ballot boxes are heavily

202 relied on for a large population of people without access to smart phones, printers, or computers.
203 She advocated for keeping the number of ballot boxes proposed to be more inclusive.

204 Porter mentioned that the biggest question people will be asking is how the election process has
205 changed since last year. He believed that without more ballot boxes, it seems like a minimal
206 change.

207 Mosby empathized again that he believes KCD should be taking a more conservative approach.
208 He agrees with the steps being taken to reform election process, but he's focused on the dollars
209 and what the cost looks like five years from now.

210 Mosby asked Covington if she will be responsible for factoring in election costs while making cuts
211 to fit the Executive's proposal of \$6.7 million if it's signed as is. Covington confirmed yes.

212 Haack added that he agrees with Mosby that the Board needs to keep in mind the five-year
213 projection of our budget. He brought up the possibility that paying for this type of election may
214 not be possible every single year. Haack stated that he believed KCD is taking a big step already
215 with our partnership with Democracy Live and King County Elections. Mosby and Knutsen
216 agreed.

217 Haugen asked if the Board could vote on the resolution terms at another time.

218 Souza confirmed that if voted on tonight, the resolution and its terms would be final. She continued
219 that her understanding is that the resolution is one of the most crucial part of the election process.

220 Covington concurred with Mosby that when the contract with Democracy Live and King County
221 Elections was originally passed, there wasn't a clear forecast now that we have a better
222 understanding of the costs, we might not have the money.


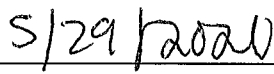
223 Haack asked Knutsen's point again if there could be less ballot boxes. Covington stated that the
224 issue is that if no other items are brought forward for the special election, KCD would have to pay
225 the full cost of having the ballot boxes open. If there are other measures, the cost will be shared
226 and KCD's cost would be less, but we won't know for sure until mid December- so the budget
227 reflects the full total cost burden for having all the boxes open.

228 Haugen added she wants to include a section about postage dates and being explicit on the cut off
229 for valid ballots. She also asked if we can talk to Julie Wise again to clarify the Board's questions
230 on ballot boxes.

231 The Board made no decision or actions at this time.

232 Porter added that he would like to propose another resolution to go to the Annual Meeting about
233 the election of the president and vice president of WACD. It's currently a one-year term but he
234 would like to suggest a two to three-year term. He stated he will work with Reed on writing the
235 resolution.

236 There being no more business before the board, the meeting was adjourned by Mosby at 8:34
237 pm.

238
239  _____  _____

240 Authorized Signature Date

241

242 Summary of Motions

243 Knutsen moved; Haugen seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the agenda (5
244 eyes, 0 nays)

245 Knutsen moved; Ryon seconded passed unanimously a motion to approve the consent agenda
246 excluding the 9.9.19 Meeting Minutes and the Futurewise Member Jurisdiction grant
247 application (5 eyes, 0 nays).

248 Ryon moved; Haugen seconded passed unanimously a motion approving the revision of the
249 9.9.19 Meeting Minutes (5 eyes, 0 nays).

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251 Minutes as revised (5 eyes, 0 nays).

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253 Wetland Education and Enhancement Project Member Jurisdiction grant application. (5
254 eyes, 0 nays)

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256 motion to approve check numbers 22034 through 22097 for a total of \$279,509.47; non-
257 payroll EFT's totaling \$2,553.33; Bank Fees of \$63.00; and September 2019 payroll for
258 \$228,384.24. (5 eyes, 0 nays).

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262 of America Operating Account 0408. (5 eyes, 0 nays)

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264 Chief Operating Officer, Ava Souza, to transfer plant sale revenue of \$132,013.00 from US
265 Bank Account 0152 to Bank of America Operating Account 0408 and close out the 2019 Plant
266 Sale in its entirety. (5 eyes, 0 nays)

267

268