

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2001

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Niccolls, Chair, and Scott Wallace, Vice Chair, **Max Prinsen**, Member.

2 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None

3 **Guests Present:** Bob Rose, Farming and the Environment Project and Mark Clark, Washington
4 Conservation Commission

5 **Staff Present:** Geoff Reed, Marla Hamilton Lucas, Brandy Reed

6 **NRCS Staff Present:** Pedro Ramos, District Conservationist

7 Meeting called to order at 6:05 with Bill Niccolls, Chair, presiding.

8 Minutes from the January 11, 2001 board meeting were reviewed and one typographical error
9 was noted on line 30. It appears that no was typed instead of now. No other changes were
10 suggested.

11 **W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to approve the January 11, 2001 minutes as read with**
12 **changes as noted above.**

13 Introductions were made.

14 Mark Clark from the Washington Conservation Commission distributed copies of the first
15 installment in a “10 minute” training program for supervisors developed by the Washington
16 Association of Conservation Districts. Each month, information on a topic important to
17 supervisors will be e-mailed to them. This months’ topic is sexual harassment policy. Clark is
18 planning on attending our board meetings once every three months and will answer questions on
19 the prior month’s topics at that time.

20 Geoff Reed gave an update on the board election issue currently being addressed in the State
21 Legislature. Currently there are 2 bills that have been proposed. Senator Rassmusen has
22 proposed Senate Bill 5904, which would change the language regarding who is eligible to vote in
23 supervisor elections back to what it was before the modification that caused general elections to
24 be required for supervisors. Pat McGregor from the WCC wants boards to oppose this bill, as it
25 causes an image problem- makes CD’s look like they don’t want to be accountable to the general
26 electorate. There is a second bill proposed by Representative Chandler, House Bill 1502, that
27 allows CD’s to choose if they wish to be on the ballot, and if they are on the ballot to allow the
28 CD to pass an assessment on property to pay for the election and a program of work without
29 county approval. McGregor from the WCC wanted to get consensus from the boards statewide to
30 support HB 1502 and oppose SB 5904. Bill Niccolls asked about the timing for the board’s
31 response. Scott Wallace said it had to be soon as the legislative session is about halfway finished.
32 There was discussion regarding the effect of HB 1502 on King, as the limit imposed on the
33 assessment by RCW 89.08 is \$5.00 per parcel. If King was to choose to be on the ballot, the
34 assessment could not be increased to cover the costs of the election in King County, currently

35 estimated at \$350,000 per election. This amount is over half of the amount the CD receives from
36 the assessment each year.

37 Discussion ensued regarding which bill to support and how to provide evidence of that support.
38 It was decided to have the minutes reflect the board's position on the two bills discussed. Lynn
39 Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer arrived at this point.

40 W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to support the Chandler bill (HB1502) as it offers local
41 control and flexibility to CD's, and authorized G. Reed to author and send a letter stating support
42 for the bill to the WCC. Sullivan abstained.

43 Bob Rose from Farming and the Environment Project made a presentation to the board regarding
44 research into the shared values of environmentalists and farmers. He said the media tends to view
45 the two sides as confrontational. He went on to present the results of a survey regarding
46 perceptions of agriculture in Washington State. 7 out of 10 voters described farmers as
47 responsible stewards of the environment, 60% understood that adverse economic conditions keep
48 farmers from doing all they can to improve their land, incentives work better than regulations,
49 and that consumers and taxpayers should provide most of the money to achieve the desired
50 environmental benefits.

51 Marla Hamilton Lucas presented the list of checks written during January for board approval. A
52 discussion ensued regarding district audits and other experiences at other CD's and what to
53 expect from state auditors.

54 **P (Prinsen) W (Wallace) P a motion to authorize the January check register for checks**
55 **numbered 5758-5804 for a total amount of \$ 169,594.75.**

56 Hamilton Lucas presented the monthly budget vs actual for the assessment funds and the balance
57 sheet.

58 **W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to approve the January financial statements.**

59 Brandy Reed distributed the 2000 Report of Accomplishments to the board for review. Sullivan
60 commented the report was easy to read, and asked for clarification on the difference between
61 farm conservation projects and conservation projects. B. Reed explained that farm projects are
62 done in conjunction with a farm plan, and that non farm projects are classified as conservation
63 projects. Included are projects done for cities in lieu of receiving their portion of the assessment
64 in cash.

65 G. Reed mentioned that there was a summary version of the Report of Accomplishments that
66 was sent out to 180 elected officials in and around King County. Niccolls asked about the
67 number of farm plans that are required by King County and a discussion ensued regarding farm
68 plans and how many more need to be done in the county.

69 A discussion ensued regarding assessment balances and how much is being distributed to cities.
70 B. Reed brought attention to the list of jurisdictions that received money in 2000 included in the
71 Report of Accomplishments.

72 *Action Item: Send cities information on their remaining assessment balances.*

73 Another discussion regarding an independent audit of district finances occurred. Niccolls said he
74 would have a contact call Hamilton Lucas regarding finding a firm to conduct the audit. Sullivan
75 mentioned that she went to a seminar put on by an accounting firm that did a lot of not-for-profit
76 work that might be a good contact.

77 B. Reed presented the 2001 work plan and showed how program areas and projects are arranged
78 in it. Niccolls asked if there were some urban projects included in the plan, as a larger number of
79 voters reside in urban areas. B. Reed said that we have 6 projects that might be urban planned for
80 2001. She also stated that the Wetland Plant Cooperative is a great way to intersect with urban
81 groups, as urban projects tend to be more engineering and restoration oriented. Niccolls
82 commented that the work plan was well organized.

83 **W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to approve the 2001 workplan and attached budget**
84 **(the 2001 budget was approved separately at the January board meeting).**

85 B. Reed presented the North Bend- Snoqualmie Watershed Forum grant application for approval.
86 This application has been presented to the board before and as there were questions regarding it
87 meeting the requirements for assessment funding, a presentation was made by officials from
88 North Bend at a prior board meeting and additional information regarding the project and its
89 intended on the ground results was sent to the board for consideration.

90 Discussion ensued regarding how flood analysis will lead to on the ground projects and what the
91 time frame will be for those on the ground projects to be identified after completion of the flood
92 hazard analysis to be funded by the grant. Prinsen requested a report on what projects would be
93 proposed as a result of the analysis.

94 **W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to approve the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/ City of**
95 **North Bend grant application.**

96 G. Reed presented information regarding King County's Fish and Ditch program. Aaron Burt of
97 Water and Land Resources met with G. Reed and Wallace to discuss a possible partnership role
98 for the District in the revised program. The County would like the District to help landowners
99 and the KCD would receive approx \$75,000 to provide this help. There was concern about the
100 District becoming involved in a county regulatory role and possibly being linked to the failure of
101 an extremely difficult program. Wallace wanted the procedures involved in ditch cleaning to be
102 boilerplate so consistency in application is achieved, and that the result is professional and
103 successful. Wallace said he would talk to Nancy Hansen at WLRD about this before the next
104 board meeting. Other board members asked if the District should pursue a partnership with the
105 County for this program, and Wallace said that the District must be involved, as farmers are in a
106 bad position not being able to clean out the drainage ditches due to the inability to get permits to
107 do so.

108 Sullivan brought up the issue of layoffs at King County. G. Reed said that it was his
109 understanding that vital programs and federal grant programs would be exempt from layoffs.

110 Returning to the Fish and Ditch issue, G. Reed and Wallace will pursue agreement with the
111 county per the recommendation of the board. Prinsen asked when the decision needed to be
112 made. G.Reed said that we won't be approving ditch projects, we are not enforcers, we will be
113 playing an advisory role in the process.

114 Hamilton Lucas presented a draft of a letter to be sent to the cities regarding the interest on
115 assessment balances. After discussion, the Board authorized Prinsen and Hamilton Lucas to draft
116 another letter for the cities.

117 *Action Item: Prinsen and Hamilton Lucas to revise letter for jurisdictions regarding interest*
118 *balances.*

119 B. Reed passed out a list of recently surplused equipment, mostly broken tools. Niccolls asked if
120 they could be given to another group that could use them, but B.Reed said that the tools were not
121 repairable.

122 **W (Wallace) S (Sullivan) P a motion to declare the items detailed in the attached memo**
123 **surplus.**

124 B. Reed discussed an accounting class that she had attended last month and said that she felt
125 there was some good information presented in the class. She discussed the possibility of having
126 the instructor give a class to the board and staff regarding accounting and finance concepts, and
127 that if there was interest, a class could be scheduled for Saturday, March 10 for a half day or full
128 day depending upon the needs of the group. The instructor would already be in the area, so travel
129 costs would be less than if we had to fly him here from Colorado. Feedback from the board was
130 positive so it was decided to go ahead and plan the class. B. Reed said she would get a quote for
131 the instructor's services and pass that information along to the board before signing a contract
132 with the instructor, and would work with Hamilton Lucas to further refine the curriculum.

133 Pedro Ramos gave the NRCS report to the board. He said that 47 acres near Redmond were
134 enrolled in a federal Farmland Protection Program, where the government buys the development
135 rights to farmland. A discussion ensued regarding the program. He gave the final results from the
136 recent Urban Resources Partnership program audits. It was found that although the results from
137 the Seattle area program were not good, they were much better than the rest of the cities in the
138 program. The URP is no longer being funded.

139 **W (Wallace) P (Prinsen) P a motion to adjourn at 8:25.**

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143 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

144

Summary of Motions

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153 **North Bend grant application.**

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157

158

159 There being no more business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

160 *Action Item*

161 *Action Item: Send cities information on their remaining assessment balances.*

162 *Action Item: Prinsen and Hamilton Lucas to revise letter for jurisdictions regarding interest*
163 *balances.*

164