

# KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Board of Supervisors

### Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2001

1 **Supervisors Present:** Scott Wallace, Vice Chair, Lynn Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer, Nancy  
2 Hansen, Member

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None.

4 **Guests Present:** Megan Smith and Olivia Rugo from King County, George Jaquish from the  
5 Farm Service Agency, and Mark Clark from the Washington Conservation Commission.

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

7 **NRCS Staff Present:** Pedro Ramos, District Conservationist.

8 Meeting called to order at 6:13 with Scott Wallace, Vice Chair presiding.

9 Introductions were made and the meeting agenda was reviewed. Sullivan requested an executive  
10 session regarding Chairman Bill Niccolls request to permanently change the regularly scheduled  
11 board meeting from 6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month to another day to  
12 accommodate a conflict.

13 Minutes from the May 9, 2001 board meeting were reviewed. There were no changes.

14 **H (Hansen), S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the May 9, 2001 minutes as read.**

15 Smith and Rugo made a presentation to the board regarding the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum  
16 projects funded with assessment funds provided by the District to the forum. They said that the  
17 focus for future projects would be fewer studies and more “on the ground projects”. Rugo then  
18 presented the results of the projects that have been funded with 1998 thru 2000 assessment funds.

19 Hansen asked about community groups being able to apply for funds through the forum’s grant  
20 program- Smith said that watershed action grants were the way to allow people to apply for  
21 money. The forum didn’t get a lot of applications from non-profits once the program was set up,  
22 it seems that there is not as much demand as was originally thought. The newly recognized  
23 Snoqualmie Indian Tribe has expressed interest in contracting with the KCD, but there is a  
24 question whether the tribe is a government, which can contract with the District or a non-profit  
25 organization, which cannot.

26 Wallace asked for copies of several reports on projects and habitat assessment. Smith noted that  
27 the focus of projects has begun to be targeted improvements of habitat rather than all-inclusive  
28 plans for the watershed- the Chevy versus the Jaguar. Smith also mentioned that there is a field  
29 trip on July 11 before the next Forum meeting in Carnation. Unfortunately, it conflicts with the  
30 KCD meeting at that same time.

31 Hamilton Lucas presented the Total Month Expenses for May 2001. She also presented and  
32 explained the May Budget Tracking report, which shows that for assessment funds, the district is  
*“Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship”*

currently under budget in most categories. May's balance sheet showed that District equity is increasing and the assessment liability is decreasing somewhat, as jurisdictions are submitting their non- competitive grant applications more timely.

**H (Hansen) S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the May 2001 expenses, check numbers # 5968-6022 for a total of \$ 732,369.32.**

**H (Hansen) S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the May 2001 Financial Reports.**

B. Reed presented a memo about participation in the KCD advisory committee and asked the board for comments. She reviewed the list of possible participants and Hansen asked why there weren't any farmers on it. A discussion ensued regarding the various entities represented in the list and how the purpose of the committee was to get feedback and guidance from the district's "customers". Hansen asked why the committee had not been set up before now and G. Reed said that it slipped and that's why it's being done now. Wallace suggested having someone on the committee from Sammamish. Hansen mentioned Monica Clarke, the Council staff member that worked on getting the assessment passed last year. Wallace stated that Claire Dykeman could carry the banner for farmers. B. Reed asked for any names of farmers that should be on the list. In general, the board agreed that the letter and the list looked fine.

G. Reed began a discussion regarding the hiring of a consultant to help the district with various fish issues. He passed out a statement of qualifications for National Resource Consultants. Due to the amount of frustration with the Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife negotiations, Wallace and G. Reed felt that maybe having the consultant represent the CD at the meetings might help get the process moving and lend credibility to the CD at the table. G. Reed stated that both Claire Dykeman of King County and Joe Henry of EPA (former District Conservationist) are in favor of the idea. Wallace stated that he met one of the NRC staff at the Tri-County negotiations and was impressed with her. A discussion ensued regarding the whole AFW meeting process and why it is not working as intended.

Clark suggested that the District talk to the Conservation Commission regarding the status of AFW before we spend any money on a consultant to the process. There was further discussion of the impasse and the effect on future projects where fish are involved, and that the discussion at AFW is revolving around things that the District and NRCS are already doing in the field. Clark stated that he felt that the result of the whole process is that individual projects would have to be approved and permitted on an individual basis as they are now. Wallace just wanted Ag to be represented. Clark said that forestry science, which tends to be used for the discussions at AFW, is different from ag science.

Sullivan asked if there was a scope of work for NRC, G. Reed said that it was contained in the statement of qualifications and that the plan was to hire them for a three-month trial. Sullivan asked if Wallace intended to hire NRC even if the AFW negotiations ended. Discussion ensued regarding the District needing to be at the table in the negotiations and that no one from the District had the credentials to be an effective representative in the group. Clark sounded discouraged about the prospects for the AFW process, but applauded the District for trying to help the process along. Ramos said that the NRCS standards are the process; someone needs to push them along. Sullivan asked if NRC could do this and Wallace said they could. G. Reed asked if the District should set up a consortium of other districts to spread the cost, and Wallace

75 felt that KCD should hire NRC on its own. Clark suggested talking to other districts at next  
76 week's WADE conference.

77 Ramos offered to go to AFW meetings if he had District support. Wallace agreed and Hansen  
78 suggested that both Pedro and NRC should be at the meetings. Ramos will say that KCD asked  
79 him to attend and that others could handle the political implications of this.

80 It was agreed to develop a scope of work and a three-month contract with NRC for AFW  
81 representation.

82 B. Reed has negotiated with Renton for a contract project in lieu of assessment fund distribution.  
83 Grant funds will be used as well. A planting plan will be drafted for the Black River heron  
84 colony, the District will implement the plan and Renton will maintain and expand it. Approval  
85 from the board for \$2,000 of assessment funds and \$3,000 from the implementation grant was  
86 requested.

87 **H (Hansen) S (Sullivan) P a motion to approve the contract with City of Renton for**  
88 **planning and implementation of the Black River heron colony planting plan.**

89 Hansen stated that she could not vote on the next item, and a discussion ensued regarding the  
90 legality of passing a measure contingent on phone polling of absent board members. Clark said  
91 the only way a board member could vote over the phone is if they are on the speakerphone and  
92 vote at the same time the other members vote. As Hansen's anticipated abstention caused a lack  
93 of quorum, the vote on the Agriculture Program grant was tabled until next meeting.

94 G. Reed said that for the upcoming board election, numbers needed to be assigned to each elect  
95 able board position. They are Sullivan, position 1, Prinsen, position 2, Niccolls, position 3. The  
96 board agreed with these numbers.

97 Clark said that there are still some official opinions to come from the AG regarding the election  
98 and the Public Disclosure rules for the board election; the district needs to act as if the election is  
99 a certainty and see what happens. G. Reed said he's been in contact with the King County  
100 auditor and will help Sullivan through the filing process.

101 G. Reed distributed information regarding options for paying for the election and the board  
102 discussed them. No one option will pay all the election costs, so a combination will be needed.  
103 The items are: ask the jurisdictions to allow us to keep interest earned on their share of  
104 assessment money, sell the Totem Lake property, ask the jurisdictions to help us pay for the  
105 election with their funds, go to the Council and ask the assesement distribution percentages be  
106 changed, or bill the jurisdictions for election costs when we distribute the assessment funds.

107 G. Reed passed out a draft copy of the new employee manual created with the help of an outside  
108 personnel consultant for the board to review. He wanted to get it finalized and adopted at next  
109 months' board meeting.

110 Jaquish presented information on the Farm Service Agency programs that he's been working on.

Ramos presented the NRCS report. Leonard Jordan, State Conservationist is leaving to be the Georgia State Conservationist as of July 29. It is likely Frank Easter will be the Acting State Conservationist until the position is filled. The Farm Bill is being re-written and possibly has funding for urban work. Ramos will be leaving on a four-week detail in Davis, California starting next week.

The District Treasurer/ Auditor resolution, number 01-01 was presented to the board. This resolution is required due to changes in the RCW and appoints Sullivan as District Auditor and Hamilton Lucas as District Treasurer.

**S (Sullivan) H (Hansen) P a motion to approve Resolution 01-01, appointing Sullivan as District Auditor and Hamilton Lucas as District Treasurer pursuant to RCW 89.08.215.**

After a short discussion regarding the applicability of an Executive Session, it was decided to discuss the request to change the standing board meeting time as requested by Chair Bill Niccolls in regular session. As all the other board members and staff have set aside this time for the meeting, it was decided that changing the meeting time would cause too much hardship for others and the meeting time would remain the same.

Hansen mentioned that she would not be able to attend the July board meeting.

**There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

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Date

#### **Summary of Motions**

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