

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2003

1 **Supervisors Present:** Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair; Max Prinsen, Member; Nancy Ahern, Member
2 (arrived 6:25 pm)

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Pat O'Hanley

4 **Guests Present:** George Jaquish, Farm Service Agency, Linda Hansen, WRIA 9 project
5 coordinator, Paul Rogers, District Conservationist, King, Pierce, Thurston County area. Sara
6 Hemphill, Consultant, arrived later in the meeting.

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

8 **NRCS Staff Present:** Pedro Ramos

9 Meeting called to order at 6: 03 pm by Scott Wallace, Vice Chairman.

10 Agenda was reviewed and as a quorum had not yet been achieved, it was decided to cover items
11 that did not require a quorum for action first.

12 Jaquish gave the Farm Service report. Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications for
13 2003 will be accepted until February 14th, 2003. Applications are available at any USDA Service
14 Center. Farm owners have until April 1, 2003 to chose base options and the deadline for 2002
15 and 2003 is June 1, 2003. The agency office would like producers to make appointments with the
16 county office. Milk income loss contract program payments will be made to producers for
17 January production.

18 Ramos gave the NRCS report. As of the 15th of December, the Confined Animal feeding rules
19 are final; they cover operations with 1-1000 cows. A 35 foot managed buffer is contained in the
20 400-page rule. Dairies will fall into the medium category, if there is surface water pollution, the
21 operation will required to get permits. The Department of Ecology is better off if there are fewer
22 permits required. The State will follow the DOE rules.

23 WHIP applications will be accepted until April 24th. The KCD can assist NRCS is getting the
24 applications in. The local workgroup will review applications, currently there are 31 applications
25 from King County and it is expected that there will be 8 more. Wallace asked how
26 landowners/producers are being made aware of the program; Ramos said that information is
27 being put in trade publications.

28 Rogers gave a short overview of his background and discussed some of the changes in the EQIP
29 program allowing new farmers and limited resource producers (gross under \$100,000) to get a
30 larger percentage of cost share (90% vs. 50%). This probably will not be implemented in 2003.
31 Any application over \$450,000 will require approval of the regional conservationalist.
32 Discussion ensued regarding the various rules of the program.

33 The Conservation Security Act may be applying to producers here; there are three levels of
34 reimbursement possible. Ramos said that dairies her would be in a high reimbursement category.
35 This could result in significant income for the producers.

36 Nancy Ahern arrived at this time.

37 Wallace asked the quorum to review and approve the January meeting minutes.

38 **Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the minutes of**
39 **the January 8th, 2003 board meeting.**

40 Hamilton Lucas presented the financial report for January. Total equity for the district is now
41 \$1.2 million, plant sale and ALEA grant are key for this month. The list of total monthly
42 expenses was distributed for board review.

43 **Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the list of**
44 **expense checks for January 2003, check numbers 6981-7037 in the amount of \$ 94,685.96.**

45 **Prinsen moved, Ahern seconded, Passed a motion to accept and approve the January 2003**
46 **financial report.**

47 B. Reed presented non-competitive grant applications for approval by the board.

48 **Green-Duwamish-CPS Watershed Forum Grant Application Packet:**

49 **Ahern Moved, Prinsen Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
50 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$248,841 from 2002 Assessments**
51 **for the King County Green-Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project.**

52 **Ahern Moved, Prinsen Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
53 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$83,000 from 2002 Assessments**
54 **for the King County 2003 Juvenile Salmonid Survival Project.**

55 **Prinsen Moved, Ahern Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
56 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$60,400 from 2002 Assessments**
57 **for the King County Stewardship & Naturalist Community Involvement for Salmon Recovery**
58 **Project.**

59 **Prinsen Moved, Ahern Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
60 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$10,000 from 2002 Assessments**
61 **for the King County Green River Natural Area Restoration Sites Maintenance Project.**

62 **Ahern Moved, Prinsen Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
63 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$15,000 from 2002 Assessments**
64 **for the City of Seattle Aquarium 2003 Beach Naturalist Project.**

65 **Ahern Moved, Prinsen Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the Green-Duwamish-CPS**
66 **Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$100,000 from 2000 Green-**

67 **Duwamish Forum and 2000 CPS Forum Assessments for the City of Burien Bransen**
68 **Property Acquisition Project.**

69 **City of Carnation Grant Application Packet:**

70 _____ Moved, _____ Seconded; Passed a motion to approve the City of Carnation non-
71 competitive grant application for \$3,500 from 1994 through 2002 Assessments for the *City of*
72 *Carnation Farmers Market Project.* **Item tabled due to board questions about using grant**
73 **funds to support farmers market.**

74 Discussion ensued regarding the District's strategic initiative to support agriculture's economic
75 development. Prinsen wants to see how KCD can capitalize on using technical assistance to
76 expand into the crop growing audience. Ahern though the District would need a broader
77 perspective if it was to considering funding activities such as farmers markets. Wallace was
78 concerned about over saturation of markets in the farming area. B. Reed said that she would
79 research how the Carnation Farmers Market works with other existing markets as suggested by
80 Wallace.

81 The Board does support the idea of farmer's markets, and B. Reed will get the application
82 resubmitted with more details.

83 A discussion ensued regarding the use of KCD non-competitive grant funds for a study of the
84 Green River using other river systems as data points. This use of funds may be inconsistent with
85 the usage criteria for grant funds, that the grant funds are being used outside of the area of the
86 requesting jurisdiction. B. Reed will check on this and put an item for discussion of this issue on
87 next meeting's agenda.

88 Hansen stated that the people in charge of grant funded projects in WRIA 9 were being
89 encouraged to get their projects completed in a timely manner.

90 B. Reed doesn't have the City of Kent contract for signature at this meeting. The contract is with
91 Cooke Scientific to write a monitoring report. The cost of the report will be deducted from the
92 City of Kent assessment balance. B. Reed said she would bring the contract to the next board
93 meeting, but she would like the Board to approve the contract so the report can be completed.

94 **Ahern moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed a motion to approve contract with Cooke**
95 **Scientific for a monitoring report for the City of Kent.**

96 G. Reed said that the District is working with Sara Hemphill to produce a comment letter for
97 King County on the revisions to the Critical Areas Ordinance. The end of the comment period is
98 February 28th. Hemphill stated that Daryl Grigsby at the county is counting on us for good input
99 on the ordinance from the viewpoint of farmers and landowners, as there is anger and anxiety on
100 the part of landowners regarding the changes to the ordinance.

101 Hemphill talked about the response to the ordinance, and mentioned that the builder community
102 is angered and plans to protest some of the provisions in the ordinance, most notably the
103 provisions for parcel coverage. She said that National Marine Fisheries Service had done
104 economic analysis as proscribed by the Endangered Species Act, but that it was done without any

105 external participation. She said that it is very important to get a comment into the response
106 regarding the context (upland forest areas versus lowland agricultural areas) for the science being
107 used to come up with land use regulations, that science that is not relevant to the situation is not
108 Best Available Science as required by law.

109 Another concern is the administrative latitude given to the county; an example is the definition of
110 continuous agricultural use. Also, the expanded control given to the Department of Development
111 and Land Use.

112 It was noted that King County has shifted to talking about the needs of agriculture, even though
113 they didn't want to at first.

114 Hemphill said that the approach to take would be to ask what functions are needed and then
115 come up with ways to provide them on a voluntary basis, not proscribing a mandated buffer
116 width. Ahern mentioned the difficulty of enforcing such provisions, and that many farmers don't
117 want a farm plan, and how will NMFS tell if the practices are being done? Hemphill said that the
118 farm plan has rigorous review and is a contract with the landowner. If the approach is just to use
119 BMP's, it may not be enough.

120 Hemphill felt that if agriculture can agree to maintained filter strips and a measurable standard,
121 then the county can back off on other standards for ag land use.

122 Prinsen commented that there was very positive work being done in drafting the ordinance.
123 Hemphill's general comment was that it was too vague and contained too much administrative
124 prerogative, to the point of being unenforceable. Prinsen said he had the same concerns and felt
125 that the coverage requirements need to be on a watershed basis rather than a parcel basis.

126 Hemphill said her comments on the CAO talk to the spirit of what is desired, using science in
127 context and site specific. She said that farmers will need the ability to expand and the concerns of
128 ag should be concerns of rural area landowners as well.

129 Hemphill mentioned that the City of Everett just submitted its shoreline plan and is trying to
130 have a science in context and transparent process for getting approval for it's provisions.

131 Ahern said she would like to see a draft of the comments from Hemphill on the CAO. She and
132 Prinsen said they agreed with the main ideas that Hemphill is presenting.

133 Hemphill said she would have a draft by next Tuesday for board review.

134 G. Reed said that Jeremy Bell is leaving the District and wanted to advise the Board on
135 contemplated personnel changes. It was decided that the District would replace Bell, hire a
136 Project Assistant (the District has already received 50 resumes for the position) and hire and
137 Administrative Assistant to help with the grant program and routine accounting tasks. There was
138 a short discussion and the Board expressed support for the plan.

139 G. Reed distributed a letter to the Legislature asking for retaining the Washington Conservation
140 Commission as a separate entity rather than folding it into the Department of Agriculture.

141 Supervisor elections are coming up, Board President Bill Niccolls has not yet submitted his
142 petition to run for the board, Bobbi Lindermulder has submitted her petition for the position.

143 G. Reed distributed notes from a meeting with Jagoda Perrich-Anderson regarding District
144 Strategic Planning. He felt that there were more concrete ideas coming out of this meeting.

145 Ahern mentioned support of farmers' market initiative by the District. Wallace said there might
146 be a saturation of farmers markets in the county and he doesn't want to take over the County's
147 obligations for funding in this area.

148 Prinsen mentioned that it makes more sense for the farmers to go to the city to sell their produce,
149 that a farmers market in Carnation would just be selling to other farmers in the area.

150

151 There being no further business before the board,

152 **The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

153

154

155 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

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157

Summary of Motions

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159 **the January 8th, 2003 board meeting.**

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