

# KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Board of Supervisors

### Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2003

1 **Supervisors Present:** Bill Niccolls, Chair, Lynn Sullivan, Secretary/ Treasurer, Max Prinsen,  
2 Member (by speakerphone).

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None

4 **Guests Present:** Bobbi Lindemulder, Snohomish Conservation District, Laurie Clinton, King  
5 County, Mark Plunket, City of Seattle Aquarium, Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue, Laurie Devain,  
6 City of Bellevue, Richard Gelb, David Doud.

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

8 **NRCS Staff Present:** Pedro Ramos

9 Meeting called to order at 6: 15 pm by Bill Niccolls, Chair.

10 Agenda was reviewed and B. Reed said she has a contract for review and approval by the board.

11 Introductions were made around the table.

12 Bobbi Lindemulder was introduced as the recently elected board member, replacing Niccolls,  
13 who chose not to run for re-election. Lindemulder will most likely officially join the board in  
14 June, as the election needs to be certified at the next Washington Conservation Commission  
15 meeting in May. As WCC appointed board member Nancy Ahern has decided to leave the board,  
16 a replacement will need to be appointed by the Commission. The position must be filled by  
17 someone from the existing board, and would possibly start serving in June. As a result, a vacant  
18 elected position will need to be filled. There was discussion about bringing on additional  
19 associate supervisors, and Niccolls expressed interest in serving in the capacity of an associate  
20 member.

21 Sullivan introduced Richard Gelb and noted that he has submitted a resume and letter of interest,  
22 which were included in the board meeting packets. Gelb spoke to the meeting regarding his  
23 background and interest in serving on the board. He is currently employed by the City of Seattle,  
24 and is interested in sustainability issues and has worked in emergency management on a county  
25 level. Prinsen asked about the possibility of conflict of interest, as has occurred in the past with  
26 other board members who have held positions with municipalities that receive funds from the  
27 non-competitive grant program funded by the assessment collections. Sullivan suggested that any  
28 conflicts could be handled by the board member in question abstaining from voting on grant  
29 requests that would be going to the municipality that employed the board member. Discussion  
30 ensued regarding conflicts of interest on the board. B. Reed asked if Gelb wanted a packet of  
31 information on the District, and he said he would.

32 Minutes from last month's board meeting were reviewed and no changes were requested.

33 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the March 12,**  
34 **2003 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as read.**

35 Mark Plunket from the City of Seattle Aquarium spoke to the Board about the Beach Naturalist  
36 Program. The program is funded with money from the District's Non-Competitive Grant  
37 program. Funding for the program is also provided by Washington Department of Fish and  
38 Wildlife, Seattle Parks and WRIA 9. The program provides 120 volunteer naturalists on 7  
39 beaches on Puget Sound from Memorial Day through the end of August. The program has  
40 become so popular that volunteer candidates are being turned away. Last year the program made  
41 20,000 contacts with members of the general public. David Doud asked about what is next for  
42 the program and Plunket said Whatcom, Skagit, and Pierce counties have expressed interest. He  
43 also wants to target school groups.

44 Kit Paulsen and Laurie Devain gave a presentation on the Kelsey Creek restoration project.  
45 Paulsen told the board that the reason the project has been going on so long is that there was an  
46 opportunity to obtain funding in addition to the original Non-Competitive grant award to expand  
47 the scope of the project and the area affected. The goal of the project was to remove a sediment  
48 plug that occurred when southern Bellevue was developed in the 50's and 60's. The restoration  
49 cleared a channel and re-established riparian vegetation and 250 Chinook spawners have  
50 returned to the creek. Over 600 volunteers were involved in the project. In addition, a study was  
51 done on survival rates of plantings in reed canary grass versus using large woody debris as nurse  
52 logs for the plantings.

53 Paulsen mentioned that as the additional funding was obtained for the project, due to state law  
54 the project became classified as a public works project and volunteer labor could no longer be  
55 used. She thought that projects costing upwards of \$40,000 to 50,000 came under this rule. A  
56 discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the project.

57 Hamilton Lucas gave the financial report, which consisted of a review of the prior month's  
58 expenditures, as the balance sheet and budget report had not been completed.

59 **Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the list of**  
60 **expense/ assessment distribution and cost share checks for March 2003, check numbers**  
61 **7096-7155 in the amount of \$ 371,890.95.**

62 B. Reed asked the board to approve a budget revision for the Kelsey Creek project as submitted  
63 by the City of Bellevue. The reasons for the revision were: the reclassification of the project to a  
64 public works project and thus was required to contract for services, rather than using volunteer  
65 labor, and the accounting for interest earned on the deposit of the non-competitive grant funds  
66 while waiting for the project to proceed.

67 **Prinsen Moved, Sullivan Seconded; Passed a motion to amend the City of Bellevue Cedar-**  
68 **Lake Washington Watershed Forum Kelsey Creek Fish Passage Improvements Project grant**  
69 **agreement, approving the revised budget as submitted.**

70 B. Reed presented another contract revision request from the City of Carnation that extends the  
71 completion date of the Storm Water Master Plan Project.

72 **Prinsen Moved, Sullivan Seconded; Passed a motion to amend the City of Carnation**  
73 **Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Storm Water Master Plan Project grant agreement, extending**  
74 **the project completion date to August 31, 2003.**

75 B. Reed started to present contract revisions for various King County non-competitive grant  
76 agreements, but she wanted to discuss with the board what the policy would be about revising  
77 agreements to reflect the required overhead rates for King County. The revised rates ranged from  
78 40% to 80 % of salary and benefits expense and are intended to cover expenses for King County  
79 administration. After discussion about the appropriateness of non-competitive grant funds being  
80 used to fund King County administrative activities, and what would be a reasonable overhead  
81 percentage, it was decided to table the contract revisions until the board could approve a policy  
82 regarding the amount of overhead allowed on non-competitive grants. Prinsen suggested that the  
83 board could deny the contract changes because the contracts were approved with a much lower  
84 overhead percentage and contract revisions are approved at the option of the board.

85 B. Reed presented the contract with Good Nature Publishing for the development of a new poster  
86 on Pacific Northwest hedgerows. The District would contribute \$8,000 and Good Nature would  
87 contribute an amount up to \$22,000 to produce 5,000 posters. The District would receive a  
88 proportion of the total posters produced. Other districts have expressed interest in being involved  
89 in the project. Prinsen asked if the contract contained a stipulation that if adequate funding was  
90 not raised that our money would not be spent. B. Reed said that the company has a good track  
91 record and that to get the project started (hiring the artist) the District needed to provide funds up  
92 front.

93 If the District wished to have unlimited use of the poster and the KCD logo on it as well, the  
94 District would have to contribute 75% of the total cost. The contract could be amended to do  
95 this. Sullivan requested to see the poster before the board made a decision on having the logo  
96 included. Discussion ensued regarding raising money and the consequences of failing.  
97 Lindermulder mentioned that if other districts wanted to be involved, they could allocate money  
98 from their Puget Sound grant applications to the poster as an educational materials expense.

99 **Prinsen moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed a motion to approve the contract with Good**  
100 **Nature Publishing and approve the amendments to the standard non-engineering services**  
101 **contract allowing the District to contribute pay \$8,000 up front to get the project started.**

102 Ramos gave the NRCS report. EQIP cost share money has yet to be released by the feds. EQIP  
103 applications will be re-ranked because there were some data comparison issues between  
104 counties. A local workgroup meeting will be set up, and Ramos will let the District know when  
105 it is. Ramos will be relocating to Monterey County, California and will be a District  
106 Conservationist for the NRCS there.

107 B. Reed gave an update on the proposed revisions to the King County Critical Areas Ordinance  
108 (CAO).

109 The feedback King County received as a result of the public comment period earlier this year  
110 was that the proposed changes would stymie agriculture in King County. Thus the county is  
111 trying to make the proposal friendlier to agriculture. One proposal is to set up the requirements  
112 similar to the current Livestock Management Ordinance (LMO). Under the LMO, landowners

113 have the option of a fixed buffer width without a farm plan, or narrower buffers if a farm plan is  
114 in place. The county is suggesting that agriculture be given the option to have a site plan to  
115 reduce buffer width, and that the District supply the site plans, similar to the District providing a  
116 farm plan under the LMO.

117 There are several issues of concern for the District regarding this proposal. The first is making  
118 the District a major player in the implementation of land use regulations, and possibly changing  
119 the image of the District as providing non-regulatory assistance to landowners. The increased  
120 workload could change the focus of the District's proposed activities as developed in the  
121 strategic planning process. Finally, there is the issue of obtaining funding to pay for the new  
122 services to be performed. Discussion ensued regarding these issues.

123 Using permit fees to pay for services was discussed, but permitting is so expensive now that  
124 some landowners are doing work without them. Prinsen suggested that there might be a way to  
125 provide a web-based self directed site planning process that would help most landowners and  
126 have the District review and certify the plan for a minimal fee. Charging a fee for District  
127 services was rejected and maybe the Department of Development and Environmental Services  
128 could charge the fee and give it to the District. More discussion ensued about what would happen  
129 to landowners if the District declined to participate in site planning.

130 Originally the timeline for a draft CAO did not allow time for the board to discuss the issue at a  
131 subsequent board meeting, but Clinton said that the draft would be in the review process all  
132 summer, and available for Council action after September 15. It was also agreed that the County  
133 needed to find a way to fund any District activities connected with the CAO, the most likely of  
134 the options would be a re-allocation of the split of assessment funds between the District,  
135 watershed forums, and municipalities.

136 B. Reed and G. Reed propose contacting King County and stating that the District did not have a  
137 problem with King County's proposal in principle, but that it needed time to evaluate the effects  
138 of the proposal.

139 B. Reed notified board members about a campaign fundraiser for Cynthia Sullivan (King County  
140 Council Member) tomorrow.

141 **Sullivan moved, Prinsen seconded, Passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.**

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Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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**Summary of Motions**

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