

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2003

1 **Supervisors Present:** Max Prinsen, Chairman, Scott Wallace, Vice Chairman, Lynn Sullivan,  
2 Secretary/Treasurer, Bobbi Lindemulder, Member

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** David Doud

4 **Guests Present:** Laurie Clinton, King County, Richard Gelb (by speakerphone)

5 **Staff Present:** Brandy Reed, Marla Hamilton Lucas, Geoff Reed, Roseanne Campagna, Tim  
6 Wallace, Sherry Swanson, Paul Borne

7 **NRCS Staff Present:** Paul Rodgers, Rick Noble

8 Chairman Max Prinsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

9 The meeting agenda was reviewed and Sullivan asked to move the discussion on the Dairy  
10 Digester contract up so that Gelb could participate by phone, as he has been involved in some of  
11 the work.

12 Prinsen welcomed the new District staff members in attendance at the meeting, and asked them  
13 to tell the Board a little about themselves. Then the rest of the meeting attendees introduced  
14 themselves.

15 August board meeting minutes were reviewed and no changes were made.

16 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the August**  
17 **13, 2003 board meeting minutes as read.**

18 Laurie Clinton of the King County Livestock Program gave a presentation on enforcement of the  
19 provisions of the Livestock Management Ordinance, as per a previous request from the board.

20 The Ordinance was passed in 1993 and allowed landowners 5 years to come into compliance  
21 before enforcement began in 1998. The intent of the enforcement process is to educate and gain  
22 voluntary compliance with the landowners before resorting to more punitive measures. The  
23 system is complaint driven, and when a complaint is called in to DDES, a letter goes out to the  
24 landowner that asks them to contact Clinton so that she can attempt to evaluate the situation and  
25 resolve it without getting code enforcement involved. In many cases, the complaint arises out of  
26 a dispute between neighbors. If the neighbors are on speaking terms, Clinton will send  
27 information out that might help the parties resolve the problem. If the landowner has a farm  
28 management plan, they must comply with the steps noted in the plan. If not, they are encouraged  
29 to contact the District and get a farm plan written.

30 Lindermulder asked how many people responded to the initial letter and called. Clinton said that  
31 the rate of response and voluntary compliance was pretty high, and she thought that was because  
32 the letter tells the landowner if they don't call within 10 days, they will get a visit from code

*“Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources  
through responsible stewardship”*

33 enforcement, and Clinton will provide technical assistance. Lindermulder said that in Snohomish  
34 County when a complaint is made, state DOE is supposed to follow up on it, and usually there  
35 are no significant repercussions for the landowner. Clinton said that there are 7 code enforcement  
36 officers in King County and they each have 300 cases each (including other issues such as  
37 grading and building).

38 Rodgers asked about how the ordinance was written, and Clinton responded that originally the  
39 livestock rules were contained in the Critical Areas Ordinance, and it was a mess.

40 Clinton said she's working on the current revision of the CAO. G. Reed asked about the  
41 cancellation of the scheduled public meetings on the CAO, and Clinton did not know why they  
42 were postponed. Discussion ensued regarding the CAO. It appears that there will be changes in  
43 the manure handling policy that will make the manure share program work better. Clinton said  
44 she would prepare new maps on compliance with the Livestock Management Ordinance.

45 Wallace left the meeting at this time.

46 Richard Gelb joined the meeting by speakerphone. G. Reed gave out a couple of local  
47 newspapers that contained stories about the Dairy Digester project. He expressed frustration that  
48 although the District has provided financial support to the project, it is not getting credit for that  
49 support in the media. He gave the group a little background on the District's involvement with  
50 this County supported project. The consultant determined that the digester was feasible, but one  
51 of the most important factors in determining that feasibility was verifying the market value of the  
52 "peat moss" like solids remaining after the manure digesting process.

53 Thus, King County will hire Parametrix, a consulting firm, to determine the actual value of the  
54 solids and will contribute \$10,000 to cover the cost. The county has asked the District to  
55 contribute \$5,000. G. Reed questioned the need for the additional work, but the County feels it is  
56 necessary. He feels that the District has completed its assignment, to get the dairy farmers in the  
57 area of the proposed digester to support it, and so far 16 have signed on. Discussion ensued  
58 regarding who should be responsible for the additional consulting work. Gelb asked if the subject  
59 of user fees had been addressed, and G. Reed said they had and the farmers would not pay them,  
60 as they were already contributing the manure for free. Gelb thought that once the farmers had a  
61 better idea of how much manure handling was costing them, they might be more accepting of a  
62 fee, but few farmers have the system in place to determine those costs at this time.

63 Currently the cost of the digester is estimated at 7 million and there are some interested private  
64 investors, but no proposals yet. There is also interest on the part of the Digester project partners  
65 to involve the Muckleshoot tribe.

66 Sullivan suggested that the District take over administering the valuation contract. Discussion  
67 ensued, one of the main issues being the recognition by the project partners of the Districts'  
68 financial and other contributions to the project.

69 **Sullivan moved, Lindermulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to authorize the**  
70 **payment of \$5,000 to King County for partial funding of the Parametrix consulting**  
71 **contract to determine the market value of the Dairy Digester solid by-product.**

72 G. Reed asked Lindermulder about the progress of the proposed digester in Snohomish County,  
73 she said it is moving forward. Sullivan asked if this type of digester was new. G. Reed said that  
74 digesters are common, but they are used on individual farms. This project is the first where many  
75 farmers would use it, and the digester uses a different process to decompose the manure. Sullivan  
76 said that as there are more dairies in Whatcom county, why the push in King to have the  
77 digester? G. Reed said the reason is that on the Enumclaw plateau, there is a high concentration  
78 of farms, and they are running out of room to spread manure from larger herds. Gelb expressed  
79 concern about effluent in streams. A discussion ensued regarding dairy business issues.

80 Hamilton Lucas reported that the State Auditor has completed his fieldwork and will be issuing  
81 his report shortly. The list of checks written during August was distributed and reviewed by the  
82 Board.

83 **Sullivan moved, Lindermulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**  
84 **checks numbered 7385 thru 7434 for a total amount of \$120,556.49.**

85 The Board reviewed the balance sheet and budget tracking report. Wages are on track and other  
86 budget items were detailed for the Board. With 33% of the year remaining, 52% of the budget  
87 remains.

88 **Sullivan moved, Lindermulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**  
89 **August financial report.**

90 The Ritter Dairy Nutrient Management Plan was presented to the Board for certification.

91 **Lindermulder moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to certify the Ritter**  
92 **Dairy Nutrient Management Plan.**

93 A discussion ensued regarding manure storage capacity and alternative fuels.

94 District staff asked the board to provide some information about their current benefit plans at  
95 their places of employment and to discuss their ideas about benefit policy. The staff will be  
96 reviewing salary levels and District benefits in advance of the 2004 budget process. The salary  
97 schedule has not been adjusted for inflation for three years, and because health care costs are  
98 increasing the District is paying more for full coverage for its employees and dependents.  
99 Prinsen wanted to know what organizations like the District are paying for salaries and benefits.  
100 A discussion ensued regarding the different benefit plans at different workplaces. B. Reed  
101 distributed handouts detailing the various salary options and their effects on the 5- year plan.

102 The Board requested that District staff do a comparison study of the other Puget Sound CD's and  
103 county and city governments to determine a salary/benefit policy to recommend to the Board.

104 Sullivan updated the Board on the WACD task forces that she and Lindermulder are working  
105 with. The task forces will be writing decision papers supporting requests for funding in the 2005  
106 state budget. A discussion ensued.

107 Rick Noble gave the NRCS report. He described the new structure of the agency in the Puget  
108 Sound area. There will be upcoming training sessions for NRCS employees to help them  
109 improve their service to the CD's.

110 The NRCS will be filling the vacant Resource Conservationist position in this office shortly.  
111 This position is somewhat different than the District Conservationist position, as Rodgers is now  
112 the DC for three CD's in the Puget Sound Region.

113 The Technical Service Provider agreement from the KCD was submitted to Spokane along with  
114 other District agreements. KCD's request of \$6K was in the range of the other submissions. The  
115 agreements need to be signed by October 1. Prinsen said he could get it done. The funding must  
116 be used by districts for farm bill related activities.

117 B. Reed asked about farm planner certification training for District employees. A discussion  
118 ensued about job approval and training needs of employees.

119 **The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.**

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Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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125 **Summary of Motions**

126 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the August**  
127 **13, 2003 board meeting minutes as read.**

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