

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2004

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

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** David Dowd

4 **Guests Present:** Matt Livengood, Richard Gelb, Stu Trefry, WCC, Jean White, Cedar/Lake
5 Washington WRIA 8 Early Action Coordinator, Hans Berg, King County Biologist.

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

7 **NRCS Staff Present:** Paul Rogers, District Conservationist

8 Chairman Max Prinsen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

9 Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. Prinsen said that he wanted to take action
10 on the new supervisor issue, not just review qualifications, B. Reed said that as the non-
11 competitive grant policy was still being finalized, she wished to review rather than approve
12 policy at this time.

13 G. Reed said that the previous meeting minutes copies that were sent out in the board packets
14 were missing some pages due to a copy machine problem and he distributed corrected copies.

15 **Wallace moved, Lindemulder seconded, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve the**
16 **minutes as read from the December 2003 King Conservation District Board of Supervisors**
17 **meeting.**

18 At 6:07, Sullivan and Gelb arrived.

19 Hamilton Lucas distributed the December total monthly expenses for board review.

20 **Wallace moved, Lindemulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve check**
21 **numbers #7599-7670 in the amount of \$923,563.31 for December 2003 month**
22 **disbursements.**

23 The budget tracking report for December was reviewed and several line items were explained in
24 detail. The balance sheet was also distributed. The 2002 State Audit exit interview is still being
25 scheduled at this time.

26 **Wallace moved, Lindemulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the**
27 **finance report for December 2003.**

28 G. Reed said that there were several dairy nutrient plans signed by Prinsen after the last board
29 meeting and before 12/31/03, the deadline. The Board needs to adopt Prinsen's approval of the
30 certification of these plans.

*"Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources
through responsible stewardship"*

31 **Lindemulder moved, Wallace seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to adopt Prinsen's**
32 **signature as board approval to certify the Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for the**
33 **Wallin, Bitney (Plateau farms), Thomasson and Van Weiringen (Boise Creek) dairies.**

34 G. Reed directed the board to a spreadsheet detailing the number of King County dairies
35 certifying their plans. 74% of dairies have been certified, which is slightly lower than the
36 statewide average. Nine hearings with the WCC were scheduled regarding non-certification, and
37 one dairy has refused to do anything. So far, two hearings have been held and the producers were
38 very good at presenting their evidence for extending their deadline for certifying. A couple of
39 dairies are very close to certifying, but may not complete the process for various reasons.

40 Fines for uncertified dairies start immediately and are \$100 per month up to either \$3,000 or
41 \$5,000. There are no provisions for further penalties, but if a dairy has a discharge, there is no
42 protection for them against lawsuits.

43 B. Reed presented the Cedar Lake Washington Watershed Forum non-competitive grant
44 application. Berg answered the board's questions about the salmon carcass study. White said that
45 hatchery fish have been found in the Cedar River, where they were not expected to be (there's no
46 hatchery on the Cedar) so maybe their "natal fidelity" is not as strong as we thought. It maybe
47 possible that the wild and hatchery fish are mixing, but no one knows. More info is needed.
48 Prinsen asked about the calculation of overhead, Lindemulder asked about contractors (Fish and
49 Wildlife, Seattle Public Utilities).

50 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder Seconded; Passed Unanimously a motion to approve the**
51 **Cedar-Lake Washington Watershed Forum non-competitive grant application for \$102,067**
52 **from 2003 Assessments for the 2004 Lake Washington Basin Chinook Redd and Carcass**
53 **Surveys Project.**

54 **Revisions/Agreement Amendments:**

55 **Wallace Moved, Sullivan Seconded; Passed Unanimously a motion to amend the City of**
56 **North Bend Flood Regulations Consistency Project grant agreement, extending the project**
57 **completion date to September 30, 2004.** Prinsen expressed frustration, as this is the third
58 request for an extension of a project that the board had reservations about funding in the first
59 place.

60 **Lindemulder Moved, Wallace Seconded; Passed Unanimously a motion to amend the King**
61 **County 2001 Staff Support for the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Project grant agreement,**
62 **extending the project completion date to June 30, 2004.**

63 **Lindemulder Moved, Sullivan Seconded; Passed Unanimously a motion to amend the City**
64 **of Woodinville Sammamish ReLeaf 2003 Project grant agreement, approving the revised**
65 **budget as submitted and approving return of the grant funds in the amount of \$5,146.68.**

66 **Lindemulder Moved, Sullivan Seconded; Passed Unanimously a motion to amend the**
67 **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration**
68 **Project Nearshore Ecosystem Workshops grant agreement, extending the project completion**

69 **date to March 31, 2004, Increasing the scope of work as submitted, and revising the budget**
70 **as submitted.**

71 Prinsen said that as the grant revisions come in it is an opportunity for the board to see what
72 grants and jurisdictions may have problems getting projects completed on time.

73 B. Reed asked for input from the board regarding the non-competitive grant policy
74 review/revisions. She said the review of the policies is not yet complete and wondered if the
75 board wanted to take action on them at this meeting or let the subcommittee finish their work.
76 Sullivan and Prinsen agreed that they wanted to finish the policy before they presented it to the
77 board as the subcommittee. Prinsen asked if it was possible to notify forums and jurisdictions
78 when the District makes changes in policy, such as with the overhead policy for grants, for
79 example in a newsletter. B. Reed said that works for some entities, not for others. She suggested
80 e-mail might be more effective.

81 B. Reed presented the Draft Workplan and Budget to the board for their approval. She said there
82 were a few additional items added or changed since the December meeting that she wanted the
83 board to be aware of before they voted to approve the document. She did not include the amount
84 of the ALEA grant pass through, as it's timing appears uncertain. Prinsen asked about changing
85 estimated health care costs to reflect the anticipated policy change by the District, after
86 discussion it was determined to be unnecessary. The board reviewed the 5-year projection of
87 reserves updated for 2003 actual results. G. Reed asked Trefry for information about the status of
88 District elections and wanted to know if the \$50,000 election reserve was adequate. Trefry
89 replied that the election issue is effectively dead as although it is contained in state law that
90 districts will hold elections on the general ballot, there has been a moratorium placed because
91 there is no state money to help districts pay for the elections. Trefry doubts that the issue will
92 come up again soon. In summary the 2004 operating budget represents an 18% increase in
93 expenses over 2003 budget, but the board felt that this was not unreasonable. Prinsen and
94 Wallace complemented District staff on the fine job they've been doing in managing the
95 District's finances.

96 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the 2004**
97 **Workplan as amended in board discussion that revised the Workplan and Budget to**
98 **include a \$730 increase in budget and to reflect the ALEA grant pass through of \$325,000,**
99 **and to approve the included 5 year projected income statement with an increase in the**
100 **operating reserve of \$50,000.**

101 Livengood asked about when work would start for renewing the assessment. There are several
102 factors involved in getting an assessment renewed for 2006, including Tim Eyman's latest
103 initiative that reduces property taxes by 25%, which would make a \$5 assessment \$3.50, and the
104 possibility of getting the Conservation District law changed to allow a higher per parcel
105 assessment amount to be collected.

106 Next on the agenda was the selection of a new board of supervisors member to fill the vacant
107 elected position Wallace nominated Matt Livengood, but Livengood said he wished to decline
108 and he said he would become an associate supervisor instead. He said he might consider running
109 for the board in March of 2004.

110 Sullivan asked the other candidate in attendance, Richard Gelb, what he felt he could bring to the
111 board and Gelb gave a summary of his thoughts about what he thought the board could do to use
112 technology to aid in deciding where to put conservation efforts. Prinsen commented that one way
113 to help the District have more control over the types of projects that are proposed for funding by
114 the watershed forums is to get involved in the forum's processes determining which projects are
115 brought to the District. Discussion ensued about the non-competitive grant funding practices and
116 policies. Prinsen suggested Gelb go to different WRIA's meetings and try to have an influence
117 on the WRIA's priority setting process. The District could use more input at the steering
118 committee levels in the WRIA's. There was more discussion about the operations and purpose of
119 WRIA's.

120 Prinsen and Wallace said that the main role of the District is to act as a liaison between
121 landowners and governments in conservation/land use issues. They emphasized that although the
122 District is open to change, it does have a core responsibility to landowners and cannot change
123 that role. Discussion ensued about strategic planning, and Geoff said the plan that came out of
124 work with Triangle associates is currently in internal review.

125 **Sullivan moved, Wallace seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to appoint Richard Gelb**
126 **to the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors.**

127 Discussion ensued about WRIA meeting scheduling and where Gelb could fit meetings into his
128 schedule.

129 G. Reed welcomed Gelb to the board and said he had some paperwork for Gelb to fill out. G.
130 Reed mentioned that there is an election coming up in March for Sullivan's position and that
131 anyone who wishes to run must get their petition with 25 signatures submitted by the end of
132 February.

133 **Wallace Moved, Lindemulder seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to appoint Matt**
134 **Livengood as an Associate Supervisor to the King Conservation District Board of**
135 **Supervisors.**

136 The District now has four Associate Supervisors: Matt Livengood, David Dowd, Bill Niccolls
137 and Pat O'Hanley (currently on leave).

138 G. Reed said that he wanted the board to approve admin leave of 8 hours for the District staff as
139 a result of last week's snowstorm and related commuting difficulties.

140 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve the granting**
141 **of 8 hours of administrative leave to District staff divided between Tuesday January 6,**
142 **2004 and Wednesday January 7, 2004.**

143 B. Reed presented the board with a memo regarding the situation with the production of the
144 proposed hedgerow poster. She had been trying to raise funds for the poster from other districts
145 but hadn't made much progress. She outlined for the board three choices for continuing with the
146 project-no action, limited contribution (which would get the poster printed, but not allow the
147 District any control over how it was used or allow the District to make much use of it), and the
148 most expensive option of contributing \$16,000 more (\$8,000 contributed originally) which

149 would allow the District to license the artwork, use it on the website and be permanently
150 identified with the poster. Discussion ensued about funding for the project; including getting a
151 grant, selling the posters at a profit and having the WCC contribute funds (Trefry said he would
152 propose it to the Commission).

153 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to contribute \$20,000**
154 **more to the hedgerow poster project undertaken by the District and Good Nature**
155 **Publishing.**

156 More discussion ensued about how to market the posters.

157 Trefry gave the WCC report. The Commission is meeting tomorrow, and is trying to get a
158 supplemental budget to cover maintenance on existing CREP contracts. The program has
159 become very popular, and maintenance is more expensive than originally anticipated. The
160 original \$20 million for the program is almost gone. The new EPA regulations on animal feeding
161 operations will affect all livestock, not just dairy. The Commission is requesting \$500,000 to
162 provide education on the new rules statewide. Lindemulder is meeting with legislators on Feb 11
163 & 12 to talk about different programs. Trefry said that the WCC legislative liaison was
164 complementary about the effort districts are making to contact legislators and make them aware
165 of district issues. Trefry felt the top issues for the legislature would be CREP funding and in
166 stream flows, flood management and aquifer recharge. Trefry mentioned that there would be
167 supervisor training available and Gelb expressed interest in getting training as soon as possible.
168 It was decided to hold a training session for the Board on February 4th from 4-6 pm.

169 Rogers gave the NRCS report. He talked about the Conservation Security Program passed by
170 Congress, and described it as "selling conservation benefits" in a way that rewards producers and
171 doesn't raise trade issues with the WTO. He discussed how the rating would be done and that it
172 was different from the EQIP rating process. EQIP funding budget is not certain at this time. B.
173 Reed asked if the district should still plan for EQIP, and Rodgers said yes. Rodgers talked about
174 the third party service providers agreement with KCD and that reviews on CREP projects are
175 being done. The NRCS staff position opening in the Renton office has been delayed again due to
176 budget uncertainties.

177 Other items: the District is hosting a regional Envirothon in April or May at Lake Wilderness. G.
178 Reed is going to the NACD meeting in Hawaii in February.

179 **The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.**

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182

183 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

184

185 Summary of Motions

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