

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2004

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

3 **Associate Supervisors Present:** Matt Livengood

4 **Guests Present:** Marty McCombes Sales Representative, Aflac

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

6 **NRCS Staff Present:** None

7 Chairman Max Prinsen called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Prinsen asked if there were any
8 additions to the agenda, and B. Reed said that she had two: a question for the board regarding a
9 change in a non-competitive grant scope of work, and a request from the Tukwila Wildlife Fair.

10 As Marty McCombes from Aflac was in attendance it was decided to move up the 7:15
11 discussion about staff health benefits.

12 The board had suggested previously that the district offer a payment to each employee to allow
13 them to purchase health insurance and that the amount of the payment be determined by a two-
14 tiered system based on the employees' family/marital status. Hamilton Lucas distributed a
15 worksheet showing the effect of implementing a two-tiered system as compared with projected
16 health insurance rate increases. The two-tiered system presented in the worksheet was based on
17 employee status as single vs. family/married. According to this analysis, if the board allowed a
18 single employee \$600 per month and a married employee \$1,000 with the current mix of
19 employees, the District would break even on the cost of health insurance by either 2005 or 2006
20 depending upon the actual rate of insurance rate increases.

21 Prinsen asked Marty McCombes about the details of offering Aflac insurance and setting up a
22 section 125 unreimbursed medical expense plan, which Aflac would do for no extra charge if 3
23 or more employee of the District signed up for Aflac supplemental insurance plans. B. Reed
24 mentioned that after Marty's presentation to the employees, interest in the supplemental plans
25 depended upon how much the board would be allocating to each employee to pay for insurance
26 and other medical expenses. If there was not much extra money over and above the base cost of
27 the PEBB premium, there was little interest in buying supplemental insurance and paying for it
28 out of pocket.

29 Discussion ensued regarding how to provide equity for opposite sex domestic partners, who are
30 not able to purchase health insurance through the PEBB. Prinsen and Livengood said that the
31 board would need to have a discussion about policy and address how the allowance for
32 employees who have domestic partners might be adjusted to provide a benefit dollar level similar
33 to married employees to help domestic partners get coverage outside of the PEBB system.

34 There was discussion about the District setting up its own section 125 plan to implement a two-
35 tired benefit plan in the event there was not a sufficient number of employees interested in
36 purchasing Aflac plans. Marty said that Aflac provides the section 125 plan for a loss leader, and
37 that it would cost some money for the District to set one up and administer it on their own. B.
38 Reed thought this would be a great topic for the finance track at the upcoming Washington
39 Association of Conservation District Employee's training. Involving the Commission in setting
40 up a plan for all districts was discussed as well.

41 G. Reed said that staff would take another look at creating the benefit plan before the next board
42 meeting. The goal is to have a program in place by July of this year.

43 The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and there was one minor change made to
44 the first sentence.

45 **Wallace moved, Sullivan seconded, Passed Unanimously a motion to approve the minutes**
46 **as read, subject to the minor change mentioned above, from the February 2004 King**
47 **Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting.**

48 Hamilton Lucas presented the February financial report. The total expense report was reviewed,
49 and Gelb made the suggestion that detail be provided for the expenses included in the VISA bill
50 payment. After discussion, it was decided to present a copy of the VISA bill for review by the
51 board along with the total expense report.

52 **Wallace moved, Gelb seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve check numbers**
53 **#7729-7776 in the amount of \$ for February 2004 month disbursements.**

54 The budget tracking report and the balance sheet were distributed. Discussion ensued about
55 assessment payments to the district, and Hamilton Lucas said she would follow up on the timing
56 of the county distributions to the District. Other marked items were discussed on the budget
57 tracking report where there was a major deviation from the budgeted amount. 84% of the budget
58 remains at 83% of the year remaining. The unrestricted balance was looked at. The restricted
59 funds amounts are high due to pending non-competitive grant awards.

60 **Wallace moved, Gelb seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to approve check numbers**
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62 G. Reed updated the board on the parcels where the requirement to pay the \$5 per parcel
63 assessment is being contested. These parcels usually are owned by the US Postal service, Forest
64 Service or Indian Tribes. G. Reed said that he had contacted District counsel, Eric Frimodt, to
65 help resolve the issue, and as resolution of the issue is not easy, G. Reed would like to have a
66 letter to send to the organizations to tell them that the District has neither the means or authority
67 to remove the parcels from the assessment tax rolls and that the bills would continue to be sent.
68 Discussion ensued about the effect of exempting parcels from the assessment based upon the
69 benefit the lands may receive due to District activities and non-competitive grants, especially
70 tideland areas owned by the state Department of Natural Resources. Prinsen suggested the
71 District mention the name of the County's legal counsel and ask the parcel owners to contact
72 him.

73 G. Reed said that the issue with assessing tribal lands is more difficult due to the complexity of
74 Indian Tribes legal issues. He hopes that by sending a letter, it will reduce the referral of phone
75 calls from the county to the District on the issue. No action was taken by the board, as it has no
76 authority to exempt parcels from the assessment.

77 Hamilton Lucas provided an update on the Puget Sound Urban Resource Partnership
78 "Questioned Costs" included in the 1999 State Auditor's report. She said that of the two federal
79 agencies that had provided the funding, the Forest Service and the National Resources
80 Conservation Service, the Forest Service had determined that the District had spent the URP
81 program funds correctly and there would be no request for repayment from the District. The
82 Forest Service has closed their audit, however the NRCS has not determined as of yet whether
83 the agency will request repayment for any NRCS funds dispersed through the PSRUP grant
84 program that was administered by the District. The likelihood of a request for repayment is
85 considered low at this time based upon information obtained from the federal auditors.

86 G. Reed updated the board on the discussion held by a subcommittee on the strategic plan. Gelb
87 said that he felt the current format of the plan addressed current district operations rather than
88 what the desired results in the ecosystem would be. He felt that additional information was
89 needed about how the assessments are used, how the District will interact with non-competitive
90 grant applicants to channel the dollars into projects that benefit the entire ecosystem rather than
91 focusing only on endangered fish issues. B. Reed said that she would work up a draft and work
92 on the vision statement. There was discussion about the process of creating the original District
93 vision statement. Gelb compared a vision statement with an operational statement. Sullivan
94 suggested that the board review the original four options for a vision statement. More discussion
95 ensued about the proposed strategic plan. Prinsen said that the strategic plan should probably
96 "cook" some more and suggested that the board work on one section at each upcoming board
97 meeting. Gelb thought that there needed to be a better link between the annual workplan and the
98 overall strategic plan. Wallace said that planning was good, but that there were many factors that
99 the District didn't have control over, such as allowing farmer's markets to increase the viability
100 of farms in the county, so how can we measure our results?

101 More discussion ensued about the District's propensity to incubate ideas and have those ideas
102 implemented by other groups. There was a feeling that the District has difficulty recognizing its
103 accomplishments because it was too busy getting the work done.

104 B. Reed proposed that Initiative 3 be broken into two parts, one addressing the assessment, one
105 covering general public relations and outreach. Wallace asked that the plan not get too exotic- he
106 wondered who was going to be reading the final document. Prinsen said that as demands change,
107 the District needs to respond, that's the goal, but realize that we're doing a great many things
108 already.

109 B. Reed said she would try to rewrite the initiative to deal with the assessment, and how outreach
110 and public relations relates to maintaining the assessment.

111 After more discussion, it was determined that an agenda item should be added for next month to
112 discuss the assessment and determine what the District's role in the new Critical Areas
113 Ordinance will be and how much it will cost. This will have a role in the upcoming assessment
114 approval process with King County Council.

115 B. Reed said that Linda Hanson had called regarding the Burien Seahurst Park non-competitive
116 grant. Hanson had said that the matching funds from the Corps of Engineers had been frozen and
117 that Burien wants to reduce the scope of work for the project. Prinsen asked if Hanson had
118 contacted the Forum to get approval for a reduced scope of work and/or additional funding. It
119 was the opinion of the board that reducing the scope of work while using the same amount of
120 District grant money would render the project unacceptable. B. Reed said she would get
121 additional information and also recommend that the WRIA 9 Watershed Forum review the
122 request before the revision request is presented to the Board for approval.

123 B. Reed said that coordinators of the Tukwila Wildlife Festival had contacted the District about
124 obtaining funding for this year's festival. It seems the Festival is having trouble getting financial
125 support. The festival has been implemented for each year for the past four years and draws a
126 large number of participants from the Seattle metropolitan area. B. Reed and Amy Tippery are
127 working on plans to facilitate a District "Backyard Wildlife Habitat enhancement" workshop
128 curriculum at the Fair. The board wondered if the Tukwila assessment could be used to finance
129 the Fair. B. Reed noted that most of Tukwila's funds have been allocated to the Grandmother's
130 Hill Property Acquisition grant. B. Reed said she would contact the Tukwila mayor to see if they
131 would be willing to allocate future assessment funds to the Fair. The board decided to donate
132 \$1,000 to the Festival. B. Reed noted that the 2004 Work Plan and Budget does not include
133 funding for this purpose, but that adjustments would be made to the budget and five-year project
134 income statement to allocate funding to the project.

135 **Sullivan moved, Gelb seconded, Passed unanimously a motion to donate \$1,000 to the**
136 **Tukwila Wildlife Festival contingent upon it getting other funding for this year to cover it's**
137 **shortfall.**

138 Sullivan asked about what the board was going to do about the strategic plan before the next
139 meeting, and an e-mail chain was suggested.

140 G. Reed said that Wallace and Sullivan would attend the dinner preceding this years
141 Conservation Commission meeting in Puyallup.

142 Sullivan and Livengood have qualified for the Board of Supervisors position election on March
143 23rd.

144 **The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

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148 _____
Authorized Signature

_____ Date

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Summary of Motions

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