

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT / KING COUNTY CONSERVATION PANEL AND TASK FORCE

Common Set of Recommendations and Compilation of Primary Work Items

December 2013

Submitted in fulfillment of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the King County Executive and the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Chair on April 1, 2013, and King County Ordinance 17474.

Summary Report prepared and submitted by:
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Conservation District
Agreement Dynamics



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King County

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BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2013, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the King County (KC) Executive and King Conservation District (KCD) agreed on the approach to implementing King County Ordinance 17474 (Ordinance) that provided for the creation of a multi-jurisdictional stakeholder process to:

- Investigate the availability of conservation and natural resource programs and services in King County;
- Identify the needs within the county as a region, both met and unmet for such services and programs; and
- Identify the actual and prospective sources of funding to meet such needs.

The MOU called for a Task Force (TF) comprised of jurisdictions' senior policy staff and rural representatives and a Conservation Panel (CP) of elected officials to perform research and develop consensus support for a final set of recommendations to be compiled in a Final Report.

The Conservation Panel, co-chaired by KC and KCD and comprised of partner jurisdictions' elected officials, was created to review, refine and potentially collaborate to revise the recommendations of the Task Force. Similarly, the Task Force was co-chaired by KC and the KCD and comprised of member jurisdiction staff to research and lay the groundwork for collaborative deliberations with the Conservation Panel. Stakeholders representing rural lands and KC advisory commissions were also represented on the Task Force. The membership list of the CP/TF is provided in Appendix A.

The MOU specified that the Final Report should contain the following:

- "A summary of the research considered and discussions of Task Force and Conservation Panel members, in support of Focused Findings of Fact,
- A common set of policy recommendations arising out of those Findings of Fact,
- If requested by the Facilitator, minority report(s), including any recommendations that are not forwarded and why."

To complete the work within the Ordinance and MOU time frames, KC and the KCD agreed to and incorporated the following objectives into a TF/CP Charter:

1. Identify regional interests for conservation and natural resources.
2. Create an inventory of unmet service needs that achieve these interests and benefits (and develop prioritization criteria).
3. Determine issues of concern related to:
 - decision-making,
 - the Conservation District, County and Cities' authority,
 - the Conservation District, County and Cities' fiduciary responsibility under state law,



- 
- equity across governing bodies and interests,
 - roles and relationships, and
 - other issues as may be identified by the Task Force and Conservation Panel.

4. Identify available funding sources.
5. Explore opportunities for synergy and leveraging of costs.

The MOU specified that by Oct. 15, 2013, or no later than Dec. 31, 2013, the CP/TF forward a common set of recommendations to the KCD Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the KC Council and Executive to inform funding decisions for KCD work programs and budgets. This report is submitted in fulfillment of the MOU, and within the agreed upon time period.

COMPLETION OF THE WORK

From April 8 through October 23, 2013, the Conservation Panel met four times and the Task Force met eight times. Three of the meetings were joint CF/TF and one was solely TF co-chairs and the Conservation Panel. In addition, a Grants Subcommittee met twice to develop a streamlined jurisdictional grant application and process recommendations. During the course of the meetings, the CP/TF met all of the objectives listed in their charter above and reached consensus on four policy recommendations and six program recommendations for consideration by the KCD Board of Supervisors and the KC Executive and Council. There were no minority reports.

Research Summary and Findings of Fact

In the course of their deliberations, the CP/TF researched and evaluated existing conservation services in the region, the natural resource goals addressed, and relevant regulatory drivers. The CP/TF developed a list of concerns, a list of regional natural resource interests, and a list of unmet conservation service needs in the region, including both services that are entirely lacking and services that are available but are not adequate for achieving the region's environmental goals. The CP/TF reviewed the KCD's current programs and services, budgets, service levels, program outcomes, and leveraging of funds. The products of this research are shown in Appendices B through H.

The CP/TF concluded that there are unmet needs for conservation services in the region as well as a number of concerns relating to governance, service availability and equity that the KCD and KC should address. Further, the CP/TF concluded that the services of the KCD are needed to address voluntary stewardship with private citizens. The CP/TF developed a series of recommendations for addressing these policy concerns and unmet service needs, as outlined below.

Policy and Program Recommendations

The CP/TF proposes four courses of action for the KCD to consider in order to address the policy concerns of member jurisdictions and rural stakeholder representatives and improve KCD’s efficacy. These focus on the KCD Advisory Committee, KCD Outreach to Jurisdictions, Election of the KCD Board of Supervisors, and Member Jurisdiction Grants. Proposal details are shown in Appendix J.

The six CP/TF consensus recommendations regarding current and future program opportunities currently un- or under-funded, address:

- Rural Small Lot and Urban Forest Canopy
- Rural Farmer Plans
- Urban Agriculture
- Expanded Landowner Incentive Program
- Shoreline Education
- Regional Food System

The CP/TF considered regional needs, existing KCD programs and capabilities, synergistic opportunities, preliminary cost analysis, equity and social justice implications, and known barriers in selecting these six priority areas for expanded and new natural resource conservation services and programs. With this report, the CP/TF provides preliminary assessments of the potential costs and rate impacts of new and expanded services, but makes no specific recommendations regarding funding sources. Each of these policy and program considerations are treated individually in separate white papers. These white papers are the result of significant collaboration but are considered “seed documents” to be developed more fully in partnership among KCD, KC, and interested cities and under the advice of the KCD Advisory Committee. The white papers are provided in Appendices J and K.

☛ **Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee**

The KCD Board of Supervisors should establish and formally recognize a reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee with membership as outlined below and with an initial straw Charter as shown in the attached Appendix J. Priority work should include completing tasks initiated as a part of the current CP/TF process and a normalization of Advisory Committee business by January 1, 2015. At the first meeting, it is recommended that the Advisory Committee establish operating procedures and protocols.

PROPOSED KCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE	
<p>Membership – elected and/or staff (jurisdiction determines)</p>	<p>Membership – non-jurisdictional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KC Agriculture Commissioner • KC Rural Forest Commissioner • Rural At Large • Urban/Suburban At Large • Environmental





For a more detailed description of this policy recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix J-1.

☛ **Policy Recommendation 2: Perform Outreach to Jurisdictions**

The KCD should systematically and intentionally meet with partner jurisdictions as soon as possible to achieve objectives such as: understanding each city’s programs and strategies for addressing natural resource issues, developing working relationships between KCD and each city’s staff and elected officials, and using information gathered to help shape long term vision and priorities for KCD. The outreach program would be designed to also provide information about KCD operations and governance to member jurisdictions on an ongoing basis.

For a more detailed description of this policy recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix J-2.

☛ **Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections**

The KCD has made progress in its efforts to create a more accessible election process. The KCD should explore additional options to modify King Conservation District Board of Supervisor elections to provide greater awareness, participation, and representation of affected ratepayers in a cost-effective manner. Such recommendations should be developed as a top priority through the reconstituted Advisory Committee process and informed by the work of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Elections Task Force. The WSCC Task Force intends to issue a report on Conservation District elections in the state no later than December 31, 2013. Progress on this issue will be reported to the King County Council and KCD Board of Supervisors by no later than June 1, 2014.

For a more detailed description of this policy recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix J-3.

☛ **Policy Recommendation 4: Develop Streamlined Processes for Member Jurisdiction Grants**

The KCD should adopt the streamlined jurisdictional grant application/process developed by the CP/TF Grants Subcommittee, and endorsed by KCD Board, shown in Appendix K as a pilot program in 2014. The Panel and Task Force support the proposed KCD Pilot, and more broadly the continuation of the Jurisdictional Grants Program along with other non-jurisdictional grant/funding opportunities. As the KCD and the Advisory Committee make modifications to the Grant Program, the KCD should preserve the following principles in its administration of the program:

- Remain a jurisdictional grant program that provides broad benefit within King County.
- Operate within the legal authorities of state law (in this case within the purposes of Chapter 89.08 RCW), or any future changes in state law.
- Provide clear and concise eligibility criteria and application materials that give applicants clear guidance on assembling a successful submittal.

- Be as efficient as possible (as few pages for the submittals as possible and including clear criteria and an associated rubric for eligible projects).
- Share liability for the fund expenditure (with recognition that grantees are liable as in any contract for audit-proof completion of the stated grant purposes).

For a more detailed description of this policy recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix J-4.

☛ **Program Recommendation 1: Expand Rural Small-lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Services**

The KCD should increase its capacity for serving rural small forest and woodlot landowners and urban residents and municipalities. Rural small forest and woodlot owners need training, one-on-one technical assistance, and implementation services to improve land management practices. The KCD should explore the potential for and possibly coordinate a cooperative mill to help small-lot forest property owners sustainably harvest, market, and distribute wood products and by-products.

Urban residents likewise need training, technical assistance, and implementation help to improve urban tree canopy and ecosystem functions. The KCD could also provide arboricultural and urban forestry services to urban jurisdictions on a contract basis. Increased level of service may assist jurisdictions in meeting their municipal NPDES permit requirements.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-1.

☛ **Program Recommendation 2: Rural Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support**

The KCD should expand support to small farmers by increasing its planning capacity, offering more on-the-ground natural resource conservation projects and services, and providing assistance in navigating County, State, and Federal regulations. The KCD should target marketing of services to priority rural and farming sectors and/or resource priority areas. Priority sectors or geographic areas should be identified in consultation with regional plans like those of the Puget Sound Partnership, Regional Food Policy Council, and other relevant bodies.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-2.

☛ **Program Recommendation 3: Urban Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support**

Focus KCD expertise in natural resource stewardship to support expansion of urban farming in sustainable ways within urban boundaries. KCD is interested in promoting and expanding healthy, sustainable farms wherever they make sense and to support the local food economy. For example:

- Address regulatory requirements in ways that work for both the landowners and regulatory agencies to promote and support urban farming.



- 
- Build strategies with cities to increase the number of new farmers entering the field; e.g., land leases, water subsidies, and other low-investment strategies.
 - Provide technical assistance to incorporate natural resource conservation practices into urban farming to build and maintain soil and water sustainability.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-3.

☛ **Program Recommendation 4: Expanded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)**

Increase capacity for financial incentives in the form of landowner cost-share to increase implementation of natural resource management best management practices that protect and enhance water quality, reduce water quantity, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and improve forest health. KCD traditionally works with private property owners in all settings to assist them in implementing improvements that will protect and/or improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, manage storm water runoff, as well as other natural resource management practices. At current levels, LIP funds typically run out in late August/early September, leaving an unmet demand.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-4.

☛ **Program Recommendation 5: Shoreline and Riparian Education and Technical Assistance**

The KCD should increase its capacity to offer workshops, classes, and tours to freshwater and marine shoreline property owners. They also should increase capacity for one-on-one technical assistance and implementation services to property owners on improving the functions and values, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality of marine and freshwater shorelines. Increased level of service may assist jurisdictions in meeting their municipal NPDES permit requirements.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-5.

☛ **Program Recommendation 6: Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture**

The KCD should contribute to enhancing the regional food system through a combination of a regional grant program and finding synergies with existing or expanded KCD services. Regional projects could enhance the food system by addressing drainage problems, marketing and delivery, infrastructure, new farmer education and access to land, soil conservation, yield analysis, or other essential aspects of support to increase productivity and profitability.

The PSRC Regional Food Policy Council has called for a systems change that would increase equitable access to healthy foods in the Puget Sound region and ensure resiliency in the food system during emergencies. They point to the interdependence and linkage between the rural and urban economies as a factor in this system.

For a more detailed description of this program recommendation and the associated analysis please see Appendix K-6.

NEXT STEPS

- 1** In January 2014, convene a reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee to complete the tasks initiated as a part of the 2013 CP/TF process and achieve normalization of Advisory Committee business.
- 2** The KCD Board of Supervisors will pilot the CP/TF recommended grant application in the 2014 Jurisdictional Grants round.
- 3** KCD will conduct annual meetings with the cities in a phased approach, meeting with approximately half of the cities between Fall 2013 through Spring 2014, and the other half over the Spring and Summer of 2014.
- 4** By June 1, 2014, the KCD Advisory Committee shall report further progress on the election policy recommendation No. 3 (Appendix J-3) to the King County Council and KCD Board of Supervisors.
- 5** During 2014, KCD and KC will renegotiate their Interlocal Agreement governing the KCD work program and the rates and charges structure.



APPENDICES

- A. List of Conservation Panel, Task Force and Grants Subcommittee Members**
- B. List of Task Force Interests by Stakeholder Group**
- C. Inventory of Existing Natural Resource Conservation Services and Programs in King County**
- D. Unmet Natural Resource Conservation Needs in King County**
- E. Criteria for Evaluating Whether Program/Need is a Good Fit for KCD**
- F. KCD Budget and Program Overview**
- G. Brainstormed List of Potential KCD programs**
- H. Concerns by Stakeholder Group**
- I. Letter of Intent to the Task Force and Conservation Panel from the KCD Board of Supervisors**
- J. Task Force/Conservation Panel Policy Recommendations White Papers**
 - 1) Advisory Committee
 - 2) Outreach
 - 3) Elections
 - 4) Jurisdictional Grant Program
- K. Task Force/Conservation Panel Programs and Services Recommendations White Papers**
 - 1) Rural Small Lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Services
 - 2) Rural Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance and Regulatory Support
 - 3) Urban Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance and Regulatory Support
 - 4) Expanded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)
 - 5) Shoreline and Riparian Education and Technical Assistance
 - 6) Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture
- L. Map of Current King Conservation District Service Area**

APPENDIX A

List of Conservation Panel, Task Force and Grants Subcommittee Members

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND KING COUNTY
CONSERVATION PANEL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES - 2013**

CONSERVATION PANEL CO-CHAIRS

The Honorable Reagan Dunn, Co-Chair
Councilmember
King County Council

Max Prinsen, Co-Chair
Supervisor, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District

CONSERVATION PANEL MEMBERS

The Honorable Jim Berger
Mayor
City of Carnation

The Honorable Kate Kruller
Councilmember
City of Tukwila

The Honorable Richard Conlin
Councilmember
Seattle City Council

The Honorable Kathy Lambert -
Alternate for R. Dunn
Councilmember
King County Council

The Honorable Don Davidson
Councilmember
Bellevue City Council

Kit Ledbetter
Supervisor, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District

The Honorable Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor
City of Shoreline

The Honorable John Stokes -
Alternate for D. Davidson
Councilmember
Bellevue City Council

Fred Jarrett
Deputy County Executive
King County

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND KING COUNTY
TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES - 2013**

TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS:

Eric Nelson
Supervisor, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District

Christie True
Director
**King County Department of Natural Resources
and Parks**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Alison Bennett
Policy Program Manager, Utilities
City of Bellevue

Scott MacColl
Manager, Intergovernmental Relations Program
City of Shoreline

Deanna Dawson – *Alternate for S. MacColl*
Executive Director
Sound Cities Association

Kathy Minsch
Regional Liaison
Policy, Planning and Regulation
Seattle Public Utilities

Siri Erickson-Brown
Commissioner
King County Agriculture Commission

Joyce Nichols - *Alternate for A. Bennett*
Inter-Government Relations Director
City Manager's Office
City of Bellevue

Sara Hemphill
Executive Director
King Conservation District

Carolyn Robertson
Government Relations Manager
City of Auburn

Michael Huddleston
Municipal Relations Director
King County Council

Dick Ryon
Commissioner
King County Rural Forest Commission

Mark Isaacson – *Alternate for C. True*
Division Director
**King County Department of Natural Resources
and Parks**

Nicole Sanders
Associate Planner
City of Snoqualmie

Bobbi Lindemulder
Rural At-Large

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND KING COUNTY
TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES - 2013**

JURISDICTIONAL GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alison Bennett
City of Bellevue

Max Prinsen
King Conservation District

Shawn Bunney
Agreement Dynamics

Brandy Reed
King Conservation District

Joan Lee
King County

Carolyn Robertson
City of Auburn

Scott Maccoll
City of Shoreline

Jessica Saavedra
King Conservation District

Kathy Minsch
City of Seattle

Nicole Sanders
City of Snoqualmie

Eric Nelson
King Conservation District

John Taylor
King County

Kit Paulsen
City of Bellevue

APPENDIX B

List of Task Force Interests by Stakeholder Group

Interests by Stakeholder Group

BELLEVUE INTERESTS

- Support and enhance quality of life--both environmental and economic
 - Salmon habitat
 - Clean, safe drinking water
 - NPDES Compliance
 - Stormwater water quantity and quality
- Specifically on KCD--drill down into KCD programs, what they do and their alignment with interests in general and Bellevue specifically

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT INTERESTS

The KCD has stated interests in the following categories and the rates and charges reflect these categories:

- Aquatic Habitat
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Farmland
- Forest and upland
- Working Lands
- The following elaborate on the KCD Board's interests:
 - Empowering landowners to steward natural resources in their care
 - Offer assistance and support to private working land owners for stewarding resources for the whole
 - Improving aquatic habitat to meet present and future goals
 - Protect resource lands and keep them productive by providing infrastructure and assistance with water issues;
 - Water issues include flooding, poor drainage delaying planting, low flows in summer and related issues of water rights
 - Recognize shift in agriculture from historic dairy/livestock to new smaller scale operations including horticulture and organic and that the infrastructure enhancements and improvements are needed to help
- Concerned about water resource management: groundwater, surface water, shorelines, water quality & quantity of water
- Changing regulations impacting landowners and cities with obligation to engage landowners
- More cost share for urban and shoreline landowners to bring us all together with same goal
- Water rights- pull all together
- To preserve folks working the farm and make food farming attractive to young people- they need help, including good mentors and people to teach; this is not KCD's role, but the role is needed to ensure we have folks taking care of the land in a self-sustaining way
- Sustainable, vibrant food system
- Support working land managers to take care of our regional public resources- have responsibilities to make available and digestible an understanding of the importance to cities who can in turn convey the importance to their constituents

Interests by Stakeholder Group

KING COUNTY INTERESTS

- Increase local food production, from urban gardeners to full-time agricultural operations. Urban gardens, urban farms and pea patches contribute to local food consumption. Local farms that can meet/exceed their production potential: farmers have access to affordable land, needed infrastructure, well-drained fields and irrigation.
- Food systems and markets are coordinated to keep more local food consumed here.
- Access to healthy, local food for everyone.
- Active stewardship of small private forests and conservation of working forestlands ensure healthy, productive forests
- Land management occurs (public or private) that protects and enhances water quality and habitat while maintaining balance with economic viability for our farmers.

RURAL INTERESTS

- To protect and enhance soils for this and future generations
- Clean, abundant water for all uses (without water, can't grow food)
- Protect or restore areas of highest value for habitat,
- Ensure regulatory requirements for all landowners are economically manageable (distinguish between required and nice to have)
- Look for areas where multiple benefits can be derived simultaneously (wildlife set asides)
- Interested in both existing and potential future programs (particularly given the variety of great Conservation District programs that are in existence in other counties)
- Enhance and expand farmland preservation- look for upland opportunities
- Bring awareness of importance of protecting all natural resources- include what KCD is, who they are, who they partner with what they are offering including urban and suburban as well as rural lands
- Develop programs and partnerships on stormwater LID, pet waste, natural lawn care
- Enhance market opportunities for farmers and market access; food fiber, forest, horticulture, flowers
- Maintain and enhance food production and open space, by limiting loss of our best agricultural lands and looking first to marginal agricultural lands for habitat restoration projects
- Recognition that most timber/forest operations are operating legally under existing law and accepted land use practices; would like to see ongoing support from knowledgeable staff at state, county, and KCD
- Support from state DNR and county for basin wide cooperatives of landowner that can improve profitability for land owners combining harvest cycles and plantation labor forces (Cited Oregon example);
- KCD encouraged to expand interest in providing assistance regarding forest assets of farm landowners so that landowners can receive "one stop" advice
- KC, DNR, KCD work proactively with Tribes on Water Quality safeguards and cultural resources heritage sites that may be impacted
- Work with UW to assist private and public rural forest owners to understand the benefit of landscape forest harvest practices (no sharp edges)

Interests by Stakeholder Group

SEATTLE INTERESTS

- Conservation and enhancement of natural resources, including water quality
- Member jurisdiction grants program
- Provision of local, healthy food (ex farmers markets, other regional ag programs) as part of an integrated, aligned regional system
- Technical assistance to private landowners in urban areas including cost-share, workshops, help w/permits
- Communication/raising awareness about value of KCD services

SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION INTERESTS

- Prioritize and implement critical habitat corridors, water ways; seeking multiple partners and landowners
- Support best management practices (BMPS) for agricultural and forest lands
- Support individuals BMPS, awareness and engagement, assistance; farm tours... things that impact homeowners, from smaller landowners to multiple landowners
- Help achieve regulatory objectives of habitat interests and receive a high return on investment
- Coordinated support for natural systems across geographic boundaries (for example Snoqualmie River goes through multiple jurisdictions)
- Equity is interest
- Food access (that includes ability to access healthy food)
- Think bigger picture, break down silos and look for multiple benefits

APPENDIX C

Inventory of Existing Natural Resource Conservation Services and Programs in King County

INVENTORY OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE NATURAL RESOURCE SERVICES

Services are grouped loosely by the four natural resource-related Interest "clusters" identified at the May 15, 2013 Task Force meeting. The Water Quality and Quantity/Aquatic and Upland Habitat Interest clusters have been combined for the purposes of this list. A separate category of regulatory compliance programs has been added.

Capital projects required for NPDES permits are not included. Routine municipal obligations such as parks, planning, permitting, and utilities are deemphasized.

7/24/2013

Broad Need/Outcome	Line #	Program or Service	Description	Service Providers							Public/Private		Relevant to Regulations			Line #	
				City and/or Tribal government	County government	WRIA Salmon Forums	State government	Federal government	Conservation District	Non-profit organization	Public land or infrastructure	Private land	Local & State Regs (GMA/SMA/CAO/etc.)	CWA (NPDES/TMDL)	ESA Listings		
Regulatory Compliance Broad Need: Landowner Regulatory Compliance Outcome: water quality, viability of farming, control noxious weeds	1	Streamlined permitting and expedited SEPA review	KCD streamlined fish habitat enhancement permitting and expedited SEPA review					X			X					1	
	2	KCD Planning and permitting support for farming infrastructure such as farm pads & structures	Large river capital projects - D10Assist interfacing with KC DPER and DoH on farm projects & compliance proposals for enforcement cases. Help navigating multiple permits, qualifying for reduced stream buffers for agricultural activities, etc..					X			X					2	
	3	King County Livestock BMPs technical assistance and cost share	Uses incentives to enforce King County's 1994 Livestock Management Ordinance to control polluted runoff.								X						3
	4	Countywide Noxious Weed Control Program	King County inspection and enforcement of state noxious weed law, including technical assistance. State requires enforcement.								X						4
	5	NPDES Phase II & I	Municipal stormwater management - Some DOE tools available.								X						5
Water Quality and Quantity/Aquatic and Upland Habitat																	
Broad Need: ESA, Clean Water Act (TMDL, NPDES), GMA, SMA, Comprehensive Plans - local government environmental goals, degraded aquatic and upland habitats, need for reliable native plant sources for restoration projects Outcome: water quality and water quantity, control weeds that displace native vegetation, drainage, wildlife corridors, and fish habitat / passage	6	Salmon recovery plan implementation - Large river capital projects	Restoration of river and floodplain processes; riverine, wetland and marine shoreline habitat restoration projects. May have flood control benefits. WRIAs	X	X			X			X					6	
	7	Salmon recovery plan implementation - Small to medium-scale restoration projects	Stream and wetland restoration, native plantings, fish barrier removal, forest stewardship, etc. WRIAs	X	X			X			X					7	
	8	County and city small habitat restoration projects	Wetland, stream and nearshore marine habitat restoration. Urban & rural. County SHRP designs and installs limited number/year from WRIA list. KC also provides tech assistance to property owners. Some cities and NGOs have programs. Installation and/or technical assistance.	X	X					X						8	
	9	KCD conservation projects implementation	Provide TA, design & implementation assistance to urban and rural land managers on freshwater and marine aquatic area enhancement, storm water runoff management and other water quality protection practices, and soil conservation. Involve volunteers too.							X						9	
	10	Monitoring	Vast & varied. Water quality/plant survival/fish. Small lake WQ monitoring by 13 cities & 3 lake districts. Some also control aquatic weeds. County monitors only Lk Washington, Union & Sammamish.	X	X					X						10	
	11	Invasive Weed Control and Technical Assistance (non-regulatory)	Identification & removal of noxious and invasive weeds. Often done along with wildlife habitat or aquatic habitat enhancement.	X	X					X						11	
	12	Municipal & Tribal native plant salvage and native plant nurseries	Propagate native trees, shrubs, herbs and wetland plants for aquatic and upland habitat enhancement by jurisdictions. Not for retail sale.	X	X					X						12	
	13	Family Forest Fish Passage Program and other fish passage services	TA, design and implementation services to landowners on removing fish passage barriers	X	X					X						13	
	14	Stewardship technical assistance to landowners on creeks and shorelines								X						14	
	15	KCD Wetland Plant Cooperative & Native Plant Holding Facility	Propagates native trees, shrubs, herbs and wetland plants for aquatic and upland habitat enhancement. Used on KCD enhancement projects, provided in trade for volunteer assistance. Annual native plant retail sale is open to all.													15	
	16	KC Flood Control District programs	Riparian restoration and reclamation, farm preparedness	X	X											16	

APPENDIX D

Unmet Natural Resource Conservation Needs in King County

KCD-KC TASK FORCE - LIST OF UNMET PROGRAM OR SERVICE NEEDS

7/24/2013

Broad Need/Outcome	Line #	Program or Service	Description
Water quality and quantity/ Aquatic and upland habitat			
<p>Broad Need: ESA, Clean Water Act (TMDL, NPDES), GMA, SMA, Comprehensive Plans - local government environmental goals, degraded aquatic and upland habitats, need for reliable native plant sources for restoration projects</p> <p>Outcome: water quality and water quantity, control weeds that displace native vegetation, drainage, wildlife corridors, and fish habitat / passage</p>	1	Engineering services related to stormwater or fish habitat.	Survey, design, and engineering assistance in small cities for stormwater, culvert replacement, drainage, and stream enhancement projects.
	2	Native Growth Protection Area Management	Assistance with the management of native vegetation in a critical area.
	3	Meeting NPDES permit requirements, Phase I and II	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education 2. Stormwater engineering 3. Inspection follow-up with Ag businesses
	4	Stormwater Plans on Private Property	Need for capacity to manage these areas in place as mitigation for development.
	5	Planning for climate change response	Respond to winter storms and summer droughts, decreased water supplies for people and fish. Basic research on area impacts of climate change, e.g., which species are dying, which are most resilient. Examine what impacts of climate change will be on vulnerable and already adversely-affected populations.
	6	Capacity to meet Natural Resource Inventory requirement	Staffing to meet federal NRCS requirement to maintain an NRI.
	7	Implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda	Control stormwater runoff, protect and restore habitat, restore and reopen shellfish beds, etc.
	8	Ground water management	30% of of the water used in King County is groundwater. Growth pressures exacerbate water allocation issues. Monitoring of exempt wells and/or metering to track water levels is needed.
	9	Protect and enhance biodiversity	Sphagnum-dominated peat bogs, old-growth forest, and snag-rich areas have declined. Biodiversity is critical to fisheries, forestry, and agriculture.
	10	Lake stewardship and monitoring	Runoff into lakes, noxious weeds, loss of shoreline habitat, and threats to human health. Of 60 small lakes subject to impacts from development, about 25% are currently monitored.
	11	Technical assistance to urban/suburban landowners on creek and marine shorelines	Additional capacity needed for technical assistance to urban/suburban landowners on: a. creek riparian restoration and stewardship; b. shoreline restoration and stewardship.
	12	Water quality monitoring in rivers, streams and marine areas	Increased capacity for water quality monitoring, e.g., flows, toxins, nutrients, bacteria. E.g., source tracking studies to pinpoint sources of fecal coliform.
<p>Broad Need: Forest Health, Urban Forest Canopy, economically viable forest lands</p> <p>Outcome: Storm water, water quality, drainage, air quality, wildlife</p>	13	Urban Forestry	Assist cities meet goals for city-wide tree canopy, tree inventories, upland greenbelt stewardship, street tree programs, tree retention and plantin on private land.
	14	Wildfire safety planning on the urban edge, "Firewise"	Education for urban-wildland interface residents on forest health and protecting property in the event of wildfire in cooperation with Fire Districts.
	15	Increased education, technical assistance, and financial incentives for small-acreage, non-industrial private forest owners and rural properties	Land management and forest restoration for both timber management itself and to protect crop lands downstream. There's a need to incubate a forestry co-op and manage a small rural mill for the co-op.
	16	Farm technical assistance and cost share	Assistance with farm plans, resource conservation plans, and cost share for implementation on agricultural lands.

Broad Need/Outcome	Line #	Program or Service	Description
<p>Broad Need: Storm and surface water runoff, water quality, drainage</p> <p>Outcome: improve water quality, control excess storm and surface runoff, maintain drainage infrastructure, and potentially reduce irrigation demand</p>	17	Increased planning and implementation of Water Quality and Quantity Low Impact Development practices	
	18	Assistance to streamside and shoreline landowners, incl. drainage	Project development and engineering assistance for drainage, habitat, and water quality.
	19	Farm planning, technical assistance, and cost share to address water quantity and quality problems on farms and improve habitat.	E.g., more efficient farm irrigation systems, pumps and out-of-stream water options for livestock.
	20	Increased aquatic area enhancements on private lands	<i>Note: includes streamside and shoreline assistance, but the editor assumes this is broader than 18 & 19.</i>
<p>Broad Need: Habitat enhancement on private properties</p> <p>Outcome: Landowner incentives to implement conservation practices and public benefit</p>	21	Cost share for implementation of stewardship plans	Cost share for farm conservation plans, forest plan, and resource conservation plan implementation
	22	Current Use Taxation and Transfer of Development Rights	Promotion and increased funding for Current Use Taxation and TDR incentive programs
Healthy Agriculture, Regional Food System			
<p>Broad Need: Address barriers to a viable regional food system, grow local food economy</p> <p>Outcome: Food access equity, strong community food systems, economically and environmentally sustainable farms</p>	23	Sustainable Ag programs	1. Markets 2. Distribution 3. A critical need exists to educate, assist, and help finance meaningful soil conservation and remediation to support local ag in the face of climate change as the PNW becomes ever-more important in the larger food system.
	24	Mechanisms and partnerships for expanding market opportunities for local farms.	Incubators for small-farm co-op and rural processing. Also programs such as: Cascade Harvest Coalition, FarmLink, WSU research partnerships, etc. Address barriers to providing healthy food throughout the community, e.g., technology that allows food stamps and WIC use at farmers markets.
	25	Funding to make urban land available to farmers, community gardens, P-patches.	
	26	Farm planning to qualify for regulatory flexibility for building on-farm infrastructure.	E.g. KC regs, CAO, ESA
<p>Broad Need, continued: Address barriers to a viable regional food system, grow local food economy</p>	27	Assistance to farmers to establish off-farm infrastructure.	Off-farm commercial kitchens and livestock slaughter facilities are lacking.
	28	Urban/suburban agricultural technical assistance	Provide technical assistance to urban/suburban landowners on urban agriculture and help organize community gardens.
	29	Create mechanism to better manage the available water rights.	Create water management district or other mechanism to better manage the available water rights.
	30	Technical assistance and cost share to address drainage problems on farms.	Need avenues to address complex, multi-property drainage problems, including coordination among landowners for drain tile replacement, flood gate repair, etc.

KCD-KC TASK FORCE - LIST OF UNMET PROGRAM OR SERVICE NEEDS, CONTINUED

7/24/2013

Broad Need/Outcome	Line #	Program or Service	Description
Education, Awareness, New Farming, Private Land Stewardship			
<p>Broad Need: Landowner resource management education, increase awareness of conservation needs, actions and results</p> <p>Outcome: Environmentally sustainable land management, build capacity through trained volunteers, increased public understanding of conservation and impacts of their actions</p>	31	Youth Environmental and Agriculture Education	Agriculture in the classroom in addition to on-site youth education programs, such as: 1. Ag in the Classroom 2. Wheat Week 3. Environmental Education
	32	New Farmer education and business support	Classes to build business expertise for new farmers. New farmer business class e.g., WSU's Cultivating Success.
	33	Small lot forest management training for farmers	Advice on forest lot management activities abutting farmland with hands-on training (classroom & in-field).
	34	Education on shoreline management for private interests	Increased education programming on shoreline protection and enhancement for private landowners, contractors, and real estate agents.
	35	Organize regional forestland owners into forming a Farm/Forest Cooperative.	E.g., small forest tract owners act collectively to provide sufficient product on a sustained basis to warrant locating a small sawmill and possibly a drying kiln inside the Rural Area.
	36	Small business support for farmers	Programs to help new farmers gain access to land until they can build their business enough to get credit. Partnerships to help farmers have good business plans and access to credit. "New Farmer Education, networking, and recognition. Also, social media networking, merit programs, and other promotion opportunities.
	37	Workshops and farm tours to build interest and share information. Education to ensure that farms plans are implemented.	E.g., livestock BMP classes, tours to showcase BMPs, outreach to horse owners.
	38	Classes to promote landscaping with native plants	Backyard habitat enhancement and landscaping with native plants

APPENDIX E

Criteria for Evaluating Whether Program/Need is a Good Fit for KCD

Suggested criteria to determine which projects and service priorities are the best fit for KCD’s support/involvement

Service Need Priority: _____

Question	Answer	Explain
1. Are there aspects of the work required to fulfill the need that are uniquely suited to KCD’s strengths and capabilities? (Private land, efficiency, regional benefit, independent trust relationship with landowners, technical knowledge, etc.)		
2. Does the work assist private landowners addressing natural resource regulatory requirements?		
3. Is there a synergistic opportunity to meet this need where KCD’s involvement could add value?		
4. Would KCD’s involvement increase benefit/services to historically underserved populations?		
5. Others?		

APPENDIX F

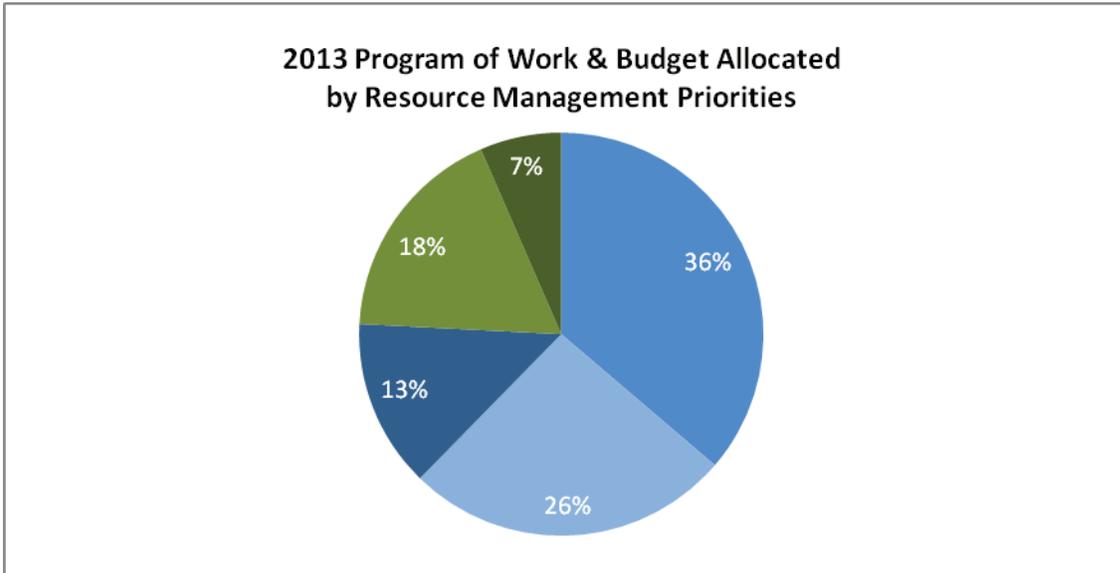
KCD Budget and Program Overview

KCD Budget & Program Overview

Resource Management Priorities

The King Conservation District’s programs and services are organized by the following Resource Management Priorities:

- *Aquatic Habitat (Freshwater & Marine)*
- *Water Quality and Quantity*
- *Forest Health Management & Upland Habitat*
- *Agricultural Lands*
- *Economic Viability of Working Lands*

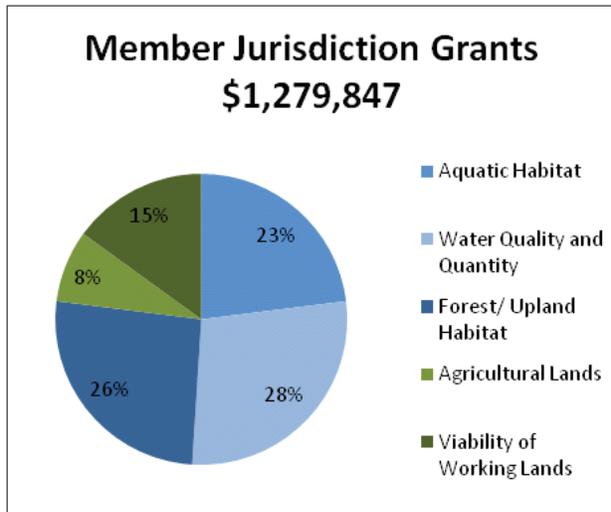


2013 KCD Budget by Resource Management Priority			
Aquatic Habitat		36%	\$ 1,376,391
Water Quality and Quantity		26%	\$ 992,152
Forest/Upland Habitat		13%	\$ 511,203
Agricultural Lands		18%	\$ 671,039
Viability of Working Lands		7%	\$ 248,066

\$ 3,798,851

King Conservation District Grants Program

King Conservation District Support for Natural Resource Stewardship



The King Conservation District assists member jurisdictions with meeting their resource conservation goals by providing grants to enhance natural resources, provide education and outreach, and build capacity for project implementation.

Projects funded through the grants program reflect the District's resource management priorities.

Examples of recent grants include:

- City of Renton knotweed removal project (partnering with the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed to target weed removal efforts on both public and private lands).
- King Conservation District/Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program, providing funding for projects implemented by both city agencies and nonprofit organizations. A total of 31 applications are currently being reviewed for 2013 funding.
- The City of Bellevue is working with citizen volunteers to stencil storm drains, helping neighbors take responsibility for the health of city creeks and ultimately Puget Sound.

Project Spotlight: Restore the Duwamish Shoreline Challenge



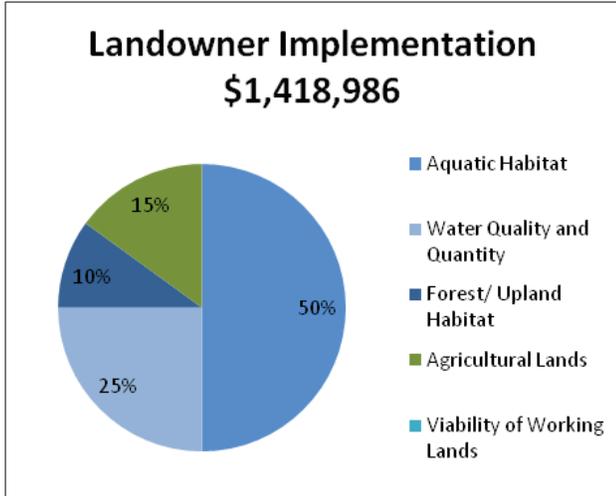
In 2012 KCD provided the City of Tukwila with a \$20,000 grant in support of community-wide efforts to restore Duwamish River. The city is collaborating with BECU and other local businesses, and the nonprofit organization Forterra to restore 150,000 square feet of riverbank along one and a half miles of the river.



Hundreds of volunteers pitched in to kick off the "Challenge" last September, and Forterra is coordinating regular events to achieve the project's ambitious goals. One of the highest priorities is to eradicate invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberries and to replant with natives to re-establish habitat for salmon and other wildlife. The project is also helping the community re-connect with the Duwamish River, which is an important part of Tukwila's heritage.

Landowner Implementation

Empowering Landowners to Steward Natural Resources



The King Conservation District's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides landowners with financial incentives to support implementation of conservation practices. Landowner expenses associated with pre-approved conservation practices are matched with KCD funding at a ratio of 50% to 90% of the total cost of projects.

A total of 14 conservation practices are eligible for funding, including:

- Aquatic Area Buffer Plantings
- Bulkhead Removal
- Buffer Fencing
- Forest Health Management
- Livestock Heavy Use Protection Areas
- Pasture & Hay planting
- Roof Runoff Structures
- Stream Crossings
- Subsurface Drains
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Livestock Waste Storage Facilities

Project Spotlight: Stabilizing Bluffs Overlooking Puget Sound



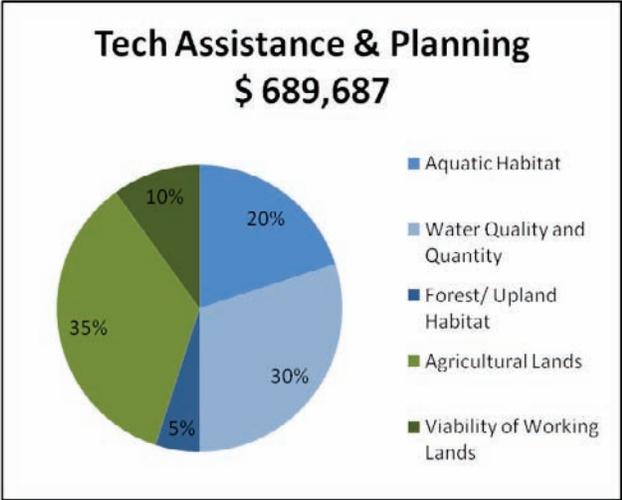
With nearly 2,000 miles of marine and freshwater shorelines in King County, erosion is of major concern to many landowners. For example, Dick Roberts, a Des Moines marine shoreline bluff landowner, became concerned about his home following a recent slide. Dick attended a KCD Shoreline Landowner Workshop where he learned techniques to protect his bluff and enhance the marine shoreline at the same time. He realized, however, that to have a meaningful impact, he and his neighbors would have to work together.



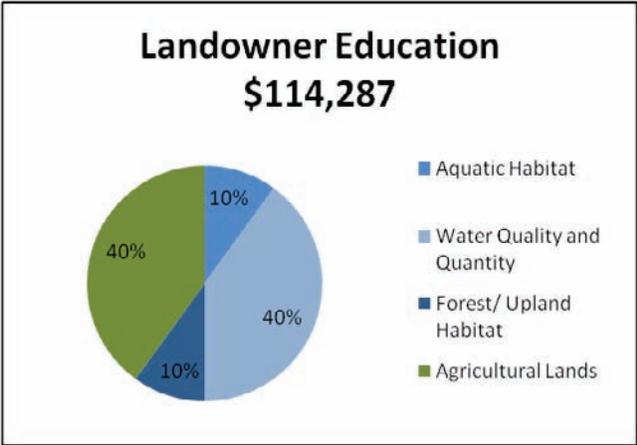
Dick Roberts invited KCD staff to teach a kitchen table workshop for the neighbors on bluff ecology and management. With support from the District, Dick and his neighbors began removing lawn areas and planting more trees and shrubs. If they are able to secure funding, their next phase will be forest health management along the 150 ft slope, controlling invasive weeds and planting native, bluff-stabilizing trees and shrubs.

Conservation Planning & Education

Technical Assistance & Conservation Planning for Private Landowners



The District provides site-specific, whole property natural resource conservation plans for crop and dairy farms and for horse and livestock owners, with particular focus on livestock impacts on water quality and overall streamside habitat improvement. Although referred to as “farm plans,” only 15% of the plans are for commercial farms, while 85% are for non-commercial horse and livestock owners.



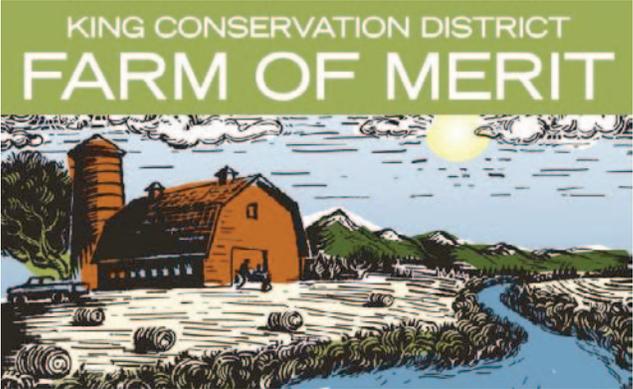
The District sponsors action-oriented workshops, classes, and farm tours, targeting both youth and

adults, focused on planning and implementing resource conservation.

Project Spotlight: Land Stewardship for Horse Owners

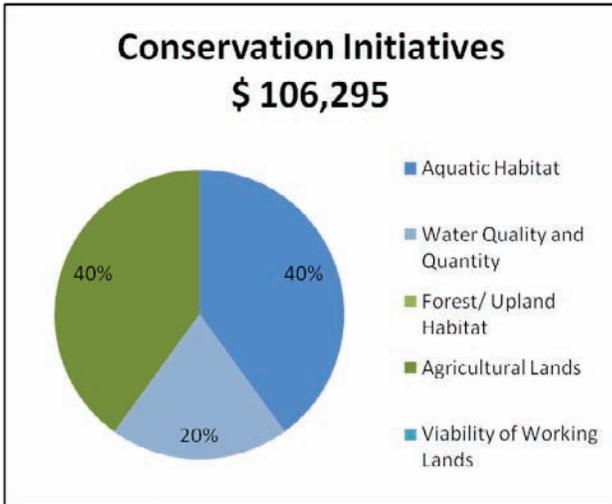


There are an estimated 20,000 horses in King County. Kim and Bob Bright manage a 15-horse training and boarding stable on near Renton. When they bought their 10-acre property a decade ago, they faced several conservation challenges, included slope erosion, mud, drainage, and manure. KCD staff assisted with development of a site specific based on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service standards, and within a couple years, they had made all the recommended improvements.



Following a recent review of Kim & Bob’s farm, KCD recognized their place as a "Conservation Farm of Merit." The couple has now volunteered to host a

Support for Current Research on Conservation Practices



The King Conservation District's programs are based on the latest research and national standards established by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District works closely with local, state and federal agencies and educational institutions to address complex and challenging issues related to soils, wetlands, and habitat preservation.

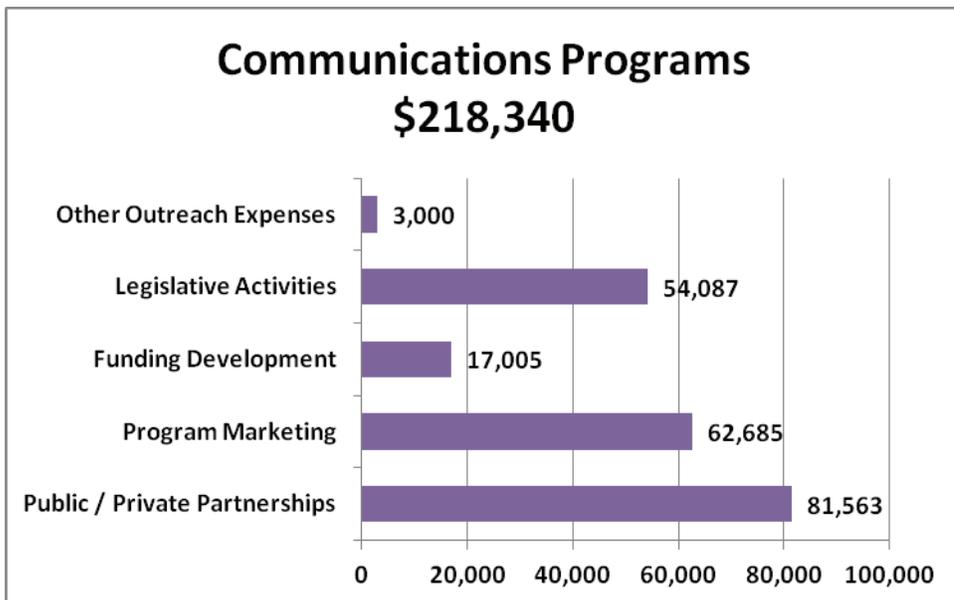
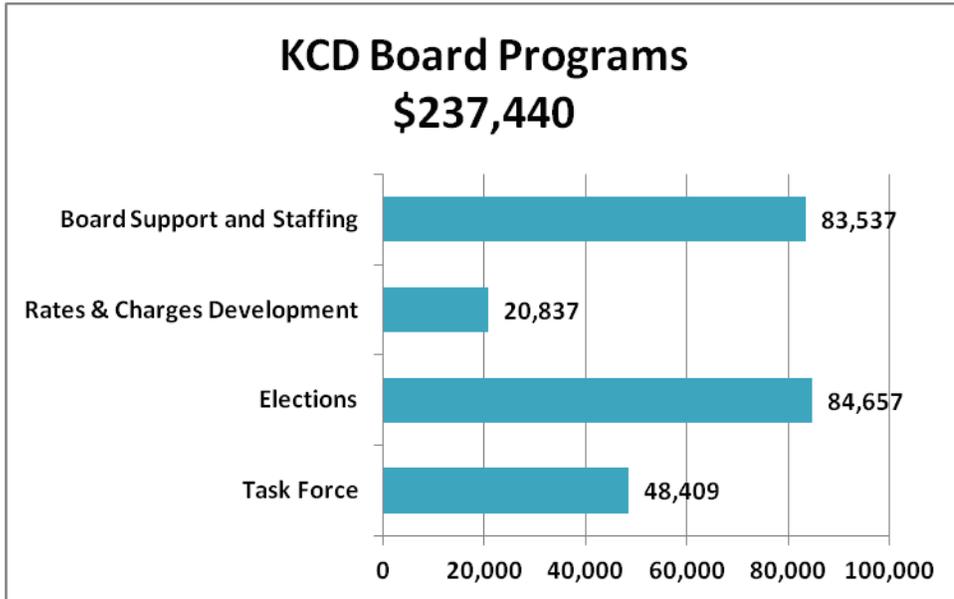
Each year the District budgets for research on issues that impact land owners and land managers in King County.

Project Spotlight: Waterway Buffer Study



Currently KCD is participating in a collaborative, two-year field study to measure shade and temperature impacts from different buffers along narrow waterways. Project partners include the King County Agriculture Program, Washington State University Extension, and the Whatcom Conservation District. Preliminary results indicate that narrow, dense buffers are as effective as wide buffers at reducing air temperature and creating effective shade for streams and waterways. The object of this study is to assist landowners and land managers with targeting limited funds to effectively reduce temperatures to enhance fish habitat.

Program Areas



ADMINISTRATION

Administration is 12% of the King Conservation District’s budget. This includes Human Resources, Bookkeeping, Finance, Legal, Rent, and Fixed Costs.

Conservation District Staffing

FTE Allocation by Program Group

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Board	1.33	1.30	0.95	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75
Administration	1.52	1.36	1.60	1.70	2.44	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Outreach	1.49	1.36	1.70	1.14	1.04	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.50
Education	0.36	0.52	0.37	0.37	0.88	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Planning	3.97	4.95	4.81	4.81	4.75	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	4.00
Implementation	5.25	4.59	4.96	3.92	4.85	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.50	3.50
Grants	1.62	1.74	2.02	1.94	1.05	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
Initiatives	0.53	0.82	1.03	0.78	0.77	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Total Staffing	16.07	16.63	17.44	15.91	17.03	15.50	16.00	15.50	15.50	12.50	12.00

Performance Measures

King Conservation District Ten Year Report Card 2003-2012

Planning and Technical Assistance (including shorelines)	
Resource management plans & technical assistance	1,636
Acres covered by resource management plans and technical assistance	18,469
Practices implemented	3,283
Farmland acreage served with a Conservation Plan	1 In 5 acres

Grant Implementation	
Total grants awarded	561
Total grant funding awarded	\$35,311,405
\$ Leveraged with grant funds (estimated)	\$127,451,896
Dollars cities leverage for each KCD Grant dollar	\$3.60

Education	
Farm tours, classes, workshops	361
People participating in tours, classes, and workshops	5,077

Project Implementation	
\$ Leveraged in association with practice implementation	\$1,926,569
\$ Leveraged by landowners for each dollar of financial assistance for water quality practices	\$2.78
Miles of shoreline enhanced (fresh and marine)	18
Acres of shoreline enhanced (fresh and marine)	196
Percent of shoreline properties receiving direct buffer project assistance.	1.7% fresh 6.4% marine
Percent of District Cooperators with aquatic areas helped to install buffers	90%
Native plants installed	523,327

Volunteer / Community Building*	
Volunteers	5,651
Volunteer hours	20,610
\$ leveraged in association with volunteer labor	\$311,664

**Volunteer statistics do not capture volunteers, hours, and financial value of volunteers used in member jurisdiction grant projects as KCD has not historically required this information from cities.*

APPENDIX G

Brainstormed List of Potential KCD Programs

Results of Brainstorm of Potential KCD Programs/Services and/or Synergistic Opportunities from July 17, 2013 Task Force Meeting

- Support farmers' markets
- Cooperative Monitoring
- Septic Maintenance Assistance
- LID
- Assistance for private land owners next to lake, creek, shoreline
- Forestry conservation, urban and rural
- Increased cost share
- Funding for urban farming
- Mobile slaughter house idea
- Help farmers drain their field
- Soil literacy program in farmers market
- Old fashioned soil conservation programs
- Eliminate weeds
- Tree planting
- Streamlined water rights
- Plant urban trees
- Regulatory compliance assistance
- Permit assistance
- Youth Education
- Grant writing assistance
- Creative reuse of aging farm infrastructure
- Create farm/forest cooperative
- Rethink KCD programs
- Diversify farm to table approaches (more than just farmers' markets)
- Store winter rainfall for summer irrigation use
- Edible buffers and harvestable buffers
- Technical assistance for urban farmers
- Creative use of food banks
- Technical assistance for rural farmers
- Create gleaning programs
- Support pollinators
- LID code rewrite assistance
- Public education on benefits of natural resources and their importance
- Rain barrels
- Continue farm plans
- Partner private landowners with urban land projects; e.g., 10 landowners surrounding city park
- Farmer to foodie program (adopt a farmer)
- Farmers' market vouchers
- Neighborhood rain gardens
- Urban chickens
- Neighborhood gardens
- Fruit tree stewarding
- Accept food stamps at farmers' markets
- Extended habitat maintenance
- Farmer to Foodie; better connections for health
- Septic maintenance (encourage folks to take care of systems)
- Forestry conservation--urban and rural

Additional brainstorm ideas submitted on 7/18/13

- Small revolving loan fund for Septic-to-sewer conversions
- Joint insurance provision for independent p-patches/community gardens
- LIF project design assistance (Engineer to help design/review/stamp specs)
- Small loans program for various (like in Pierce, for small under \$10 k projects like pervious driveways, neighborhood rain gardens)
- Forest health assessments (comparison of forested-to-invasives levels to direct where to prioritize restoration efforts)

APPENDIX H

Concerns by Stakeholder Group

BELLEVUE CONCERNS

- Concerned about the cost and financial burden on taxpayers
- Concerned about duplication or supplanting of services provided by other governmental or non-governmental organizations
- Lack of meaningful role on an advisory committee
- Lack of transparency and accountability in KCD budget and programs
- KCD Board election issues and representation
- Costs and benefits of KCD programs are not apparent

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONCERNS

- State and federal funding shrinking; state funding impacted by education policy at state; federal farm bill not passed; challenged by regulators, tribes to do more, faster, better; needs exceed resources; lack of awareness of mission, accomplishments as a barrier; work with more landowner than just rural; about 60% of budget goes to water and aquatic habitat; need for more technical assistance for new farmers.
- Cross boundary nature of natural resource work makes coordination challenging
- Disappointed that KCD has missed collaborative opportunities (and 34 cities is a challenging number of entities to work with)
- Contradictory and inflexible regulatory agencies and egos of regulators make it tough for private property owners
- Need to be creative and efficient about how we do our work as we focus more on non-point and behavior management
- Need to have clear understanding of roles and legal responsibilities of all the parties and to design a process that supports the respective responsibilities while meeting (or not undermining) the needs of others.

KING COUNTY CONCERNS

- There has been a lack of consensus based on an informed understanding of the degree to which private land management on agricultural lands, managed forestlands, and wooded uplands, provide benefits to the King County region as a whole.
- The time and energy involved in building support for and then negotiating an interlocal agreement and rates between the County and the KCD every two-to-three years requires large investment of energy and time and takes away from service delivery. Seek agreement and support for purpose, use and allocation of funds to allow a longer term for the interlocal agreement, if appropriate.
- We are still siloed in some of our problem solving e.g. fish/farm/flood. The interests may also be out of balance, both in problem-solving and representation.

RURAL CONCERNS

- Given the level of regulations on large parcels there is a need for public investment to address the public benefit received in excess of the burden imposed on landowners; absent that we create an outlaw class of those who have to take risks to manage their land when the regulations exceed the ability of an individual landowner to comply; the compliance burden seems disproportionate between public benefit and cost to individual property owner
- If we are thinking regionally, problems go across county lines; for example in some cases, Snohomish and King Counties are not coordinated and that has created problems
- The public continues to have limited awareness of what is going on including the definition of a watershed for example
- Increased efficiencies could be achieved if KCD managed all the funding it collected and the money was not split into lots of smaller pots for the cities' allocations
- Through partnering, we can get a lot more done and look beyond just the current model for the conservation district in King County, but look outside of King County to other effective Conservation District models as well

SEATTLE CONCERNS

- Continuation of member jurisdiction grants program (Equity – City of Seattle property owners contribute large percent of budget)
- Election process – needs to change, not visible.
- Transparency – how KCD spends it's money
- Accountability
- Barriers to effective service delivery – conflicting regulations

SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION CONCERNS

- Funds are needed to support small city projects and to support the few small city staff that are available for addressing and representing a wide range of natural resource interests
- More transparency- no taxation without representation- fair; citizens and stakeholders contributing to the district get to weigh in on the funding process;
- Demonstrable value within cities
- Jurisdictional goals are important including paperwork processing (historically it seemed like a lot of process for a few dollars that included reviews by jurisdictions, WRIAs and then KCD)
- Election and selection processes are of concern –SCA uses an appointment process elsewhere where SCA appoints its own representatives to boards and commissions
- Authority and structural aspects
- Transparency over the years, especially administrative and overhead costs as well as determination of direct benefit

APPENDIX I

Letter of Intent to the Task Force and Conservation Panel from the KCD Board of Supervisors



King Conservation District

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ESTABLISHED 1949

Board of Supervisors

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Auditor/Secretary
Max Prinsen

Member
Kit Ledbetter

Member
Eric Nelson

Executive Director

Sara Hemphill

King County/King Conservation District Task Force

August 14, 2013

Dear Task Force Members,

The King Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on August 12th, 2013 to discuss the Objective 3 concerns raised by the Task Force and the Conservation District's recommended approach to resolving each concern raised by Task Force members. We provide this letter to you as a KCD statement of intent and proposed starting point for our discussions of the Objective 3 concerns. We look forward to working with you during the few short weeks we have remaining to either address each concern or develop a recommended approach for addressing it.

Lack of evidence that private land management leads to regional benefit – We at KCD recognize the need to do a better job explaining the regional benefits created by private land stewardship while making the case to both elected officials and citizens that public dollars invested in private land stewardship are good long term investments. The KCD is committed to meeting with the leadership of each and every city in the next year to discuss both how everyone in the region benefits from private land stewardship and what specific stewardship opportunities exist within the boundaries of each jurisdiction.

Too much energy and time in two-year process – The KCD cannot agree more with this concern. The KCD proposes a 5 to 10 year contractual arrangement with the County and participating King County cities that clarifies roles, responsibilities and a common long term vision. We hope the Task Force process is the starting point to developing the long term vision and contractual relationship for moving forward together.

Siloed problem solving / lack of inter-jurisdictional coordination - KCD proposes reconvening an advisory body. Regardless of recollections of past practices, please know every member of the Board of Supervisors feels strongly that the membership of the advisory body be appointed by the group or agency they represent and not the Board. The advisory body would be convened for the following purposes:

1. Review proposed budgets and related decisions and provide suggested recommendations to the Board of Supervisors prior to submission of budget to the King County Council.
2. Assist KCD Board of Supervisors in understanding the inter-jurisdictional perspectives and needs for natural resource conservation within the King County region.
3. Provide opportunity for more transparency and accountability, with substantive input from participating jurisdictions, special interests, and the general public on the programs, revenues, and budgets of the King Conservation District.

Jurisdictional Grant Program – The KCD recognizes the important role the grant program has played in funding city and County natural resource conservation efforts. We also recognize many cities and the County look forward to utilizing these cash investments and partnerships. The Board of Supervisors is willing to support a long term arrangement where the grant program administered by the KCD would continue to exist consistent with state law and recent court decisions.

Need to balance interests – The King Conservation District recognizes there is a broad range of interests to balance with limited resources. We also recognize that because of the Jurisdictional Grant Program and current funding levels, we operate with significantly less revenue per capita than any of the other neighboring conservation districts in urban counties. Revenues have also been strained by footing the costs for defending against recent lawsuits. The point we are trying to make is that we can reprioritize and balance interests, but please recognize the KCD at existing funding levels is a very small pie and cut too many ways will not adequately serve anyone. We propose addressing the funding question as part of the negotiation of a longer term contractual agreement as we also attempt to balance interests and multiple objectives.

Election process – The KCD, along with a few of its fellow conservation districts, has long supported the concept of retooling the Conservation District election process. There is a cadre of legislators and counties in accord with this issue. We look forward to working with legislators, King County, King County cities, the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and other interests in proposing a thoughtful alternative to the way the Conservation District's election and appointment process is currently configured.

Demonstrating KCD value within cities – The KCD wants to work directly with each of the King County cities prior to the next ILA negotiation to better understand the perspectives of the Cities. We think establishing direct working relationships will help the KCD more effectively focus resources and bring direct value to every community in King County. We also want the opportunity to make the case that investments in working lands and other natural resource properties outside cities also benefit all King County citizens.

Duplication or supplanting of services – Through the Task Force process we have identified existing services and unmet needs. These tools reveal where potential duplications may occur. Conservation District dollars are scarce. They are more flexible in that they can be invested on private lands and across jurisdictional boundaries. We agree these dollars need to be targeted where they get the biggest bang for the buck and avoid duplication or supplanting of existing programs.

Shrinking funds – Every jurisdiction and governmental entity is experiencing shrinking funds and increasing costs related to natural resource conservation, especially in the arena of shorelines and clean water. There are potential opportunities using King Conservation District services and programs to provide stewardship and landowner education programs that otherwise would be required by SMA and CWA. There are also opportunities to develop programs across jurisdictional boundaries that are more efficient and offer better economies of scale, especially for small jurisdictions. More work needs to be done to explore cost saving opportunities. We hope the Task Force will recommend further exploration of cost saving opportunities.

Clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the parties. The Board of Supervisors is very supportive of the need for a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities for everyone. Agreement on a process that is inclusive of everyone's interests while clarifying the roles and responsibilities is an essential part of any long term inter-local agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of the KCD recommendations and proposed pathways for moving forward on Objective 3 concerns. We look forward to addressing these concerns to the satisfaction of all parties around the table. We are committed to building the trust relationships needed to move forward together on a long term vision. We hope you will see the wisdom of doing the same.

Sincerely,



Bill Knutsen

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Task Force members

Alison Bennett, City of Bellevue
Siri Erickson-Brown, Local Roots Farm and King County Agriculture Commission
Sara Hemphill, King Conservation District
Michael Huddleston, King County
Bobbi Lindemulder, Rural At-Large
Scott MacColl, City of Shoreline and Sound Cities Association
Kathy Minsch, City of Seattle
Eric Nelson, King Conservation District
Carolyn Robertson, City of Auburn and Sound Cities Association
Dick Ryon, King County Rural Forest Commission
Nicole Sanders, City of Snoqualmie and Sound Cities Association
Christie True, King County

Conservation Panel Members

The Honorable Jim Berger, Mayor, City of Carnation
The Honorable Richard Conlin, Councilmember, City of Seattle
The Honorable Don Davidson, Councilmember, City of Bellevue
The Honorable Reagan Dunn, Metropolitan King County Council
The Honorable Chris Eggen, Deputy Mayor, City of Shoreline
Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive, King County
The Honorable Kate Kruller, Councilmember, City of Tukwila
Kit Ledbetter, King Conservation District
Max Prinsen, King Conservation District

Facilitators

Rhonda Hilyer
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APPENDIX J

Task Force/Conservation Panel Policy Recommendations White Papers

- 1) Advisory Committee
- 2) Outreach
- 3) Elections
- 4) Jurisdictional Grant Program

APPENDIX J-1

☛ Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee

Description: Strong concern was expressed by the stakeholders regarding the past advisory committee composition and empowerment.

KCD Response to Task Force (8/14/13 letter): *Siloed problem solving /lack of inter-jurisdictional coordination - KCD proposes reconvening an advisory body. Regardless of recollections of past practices, please know every member of the Board of Supervisors feels strongly that the membership of the advisory body be appointed by the group or agency they represent and not the Board. The advisory body would be convened for the following purposes:*

1. Review proposed budgets and related decisions and provide suggested recommendations to the Board of Supervisors prior to submission of budget to the King County Council.
2. Assist KCD Board of Supervisors in understanding the inter-jurisdictional perspectives and needs for natural resource conservation within the King County region.
3. Provide opportunity for more transparency and accountability, with substantive input from participating jurisdictions, special interests, and the general public on the programs, revenues, and budgets of the King Conservation District.

Potential Advisory Committee Models: Several types of models may be of value in considering the reconstituted Advisory Committee makeup and are described below:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Alternative 1. | Reinvigorated Historic KCD Advisory Committee |
| Alternative 2. | Co-Chaired MOU Task Force/Conservation Panel |
| Alternative 3. | Modified (KCD-Chaired) MOU Task Force |
| Alternative 4. | King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee |
| Alternative 5. | King County Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Forums |

As an aside, the Snohomish Conservation District has a limited advisory committee that meets periodically. According to Ron Schultz of the Washington State Conservation Commission; Several Conservation Districts around the state use their county's agricultural commission as a sounding board; and, the KCD currently briefs and seeks input from the KC Agriculture Commission as well as the KC Rural Forest Commission, upon which it serves as an Ex Officio Member.

Alternative 1: Reinvigorated Historic KCD Advisory Committee: The historic model was comprised of the following representation:

- King County
- Member Jurisdictions
- Other interested parties (Appointed by the Board of Supervisors)

The Advisory Committee was effectively disbanded during 2012 when KCD focus narrowed to creation of a viable rates and charges methodology. However, given the progress made in addressing longstanding issues through the vehicle of the Conservation Panel and Task Force, the historic model could be revisited. The advantage of the historic model is the relatively open membership and the ability of the KCD to add stakeholders to the membership. The relatively large size of a committee with full jurisdictional member participation as well as the cost to KCD of staffing such a committee could be a disadvantage of this approach.

Alternative 2: Co-Chaired MOU Task Force/Conservation Panel: The current representation on the Task Force (Staff) and Conservation Panel (elected) could be continued on into the future with King County and the KCD continuing to co-chair and staff the meetings. The advantage of carrying on the current configuration and even membership would be the ability to build on the investment of information and progress on issues that has begun. However, staffing two bodies would be staff intensive for the long run. This approach might provide a bridge between the conclusion of the current work and the activation of a reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee.

☛ Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee

Alternative 3: Modified (KCD-Chaired) MOU Task Force: Support for the current configuration of the Task Force was voiced by several Task Force members. A potential charter for a reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee using the Task Force Model is provided in Attachment A. The straw charter includes Task Force members' suggestions to add an urban/suburban land holder and an environmental stakeholder to the membership. **(Based on Conservation Panel and Task Force input at the September 10 meeting, a Revised Alternative 3 is proposed beginning in J-4.)**

Alternative 4 King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee: The FCD advisory committee was cited as a potential model by several Task Force members. It is composed of both permanent and rotating (two-year) members. The 10 permanent seats on the committee are held by each mayor, or council member alternate designated by the mayor, of Tukwila, Auburn, Kent, Renton, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Seattle and Bellevue. The King County executive is also a permanent member of the committee.

Four of the rotating seats are held by mayors or city council members as nominated by the Sound Cities Association. One of the two-year seats is held by an individual and is selected by the King County Council (who represents one of King County's Unincorporated Area Councils).

Each committee member is allowed one alternate, who will fill in for the member as needed. If the committee member is an elected official, the alternate must also be an elected official from the same jurisdiction.

The Advisory Committee is charged with providing the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors with expert policy advice on regional flood protection issues, including annual recommendations on the District's work program and budget.

Alternative 5: King County Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Forums: In King County's WRIA Forums for salmon recovery, local jurisdictions have been paying King County as service provider through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) since 2000 to facilitate implementation of the salmon recovery plans. How much each jurisdiction pays is determined by cost share formula based on their assessed value, area and population. The WRIA Forums include elected officials as representatives of jurisdictions that are parties to the ILA as well as a diverse set of stakeholders and agency representatives.

Recognizing the ILA parties' financial investment and oversight role, there are some decisions that only parties to the ILA can vote on. Generally voting is done by consensus, but there are provisions for weighted voting if necessary.

This format has generally served the Forums very well and has been popular with the WRIA jurisdictions. One weakness of this format is difficulty in meeting a quorum at times for decisions. Some of the jurisdictions have not appointed representatives or their representatives do not regularly attend meetings. In WRIA 8 this problem was addressed through defining the quorum as the majority of the party members are present "provided that party positions left vacant on the Council shall not be included in calculating the quorum. In addition, positions will be considered vacant on the third consecutive absence and shall not be included in calculating a quorum until that time in which the party member is present."

☛ **Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee**

Transition

NOTE: The Conservation Panel and Task Force agreed on September 10, 2013, that their meetings would serve the same purpose as a transition team.

Consensus Task Force Recommendation (Modified KCD-Staffed MOU Task Force/Panel Model (Revised Alt. 3):

Formal recognition by the KCD Board of Supervisors, appointment by represented jurisdictions, and implementation of the reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee following the design of Revised Alternative 3 as outlined below and with an initial straw charter as shown in Attachment B. The intent would be to have appointments to the reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee by January 1, 2014 with the priorities to conclude priority work initiated as a part of the current Conservation Panel/Task Force process and a normalization of Advisory Committee business (e.g., focus of meetings on “Ongoing Responsibilities” as described in the Attachment B Charter and with remnant Conservation Panel/Task Force priorities concluded) by January 1, 2015. At the first meeting it is recommended that the Advisory Committee set operating procedures and protocols.

	Revised Alt 3. Modified (KCD-Staffed) MOU Task Force/Panel Model
Membership - Electeds	Jurisdiction determines
Membership - staff	Jurisdiction determines
Membership – non-jurisdictional	Ag Commissioner Rural Forest Commissioner Rural At Large Urban/Suburban At Large Environmental
Voting	All
Additional Cost to Member Jurisdictions	

☛ Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT A
Comparison of Advisory Committee Options

	Alt 1. Reinvigorated Historic KCD Advisory Committee	Alt 2. Co-Chaired Task Force/Conservation Panel	*Revised Alt 3. Modified (KCD-Staffed) MOU Task Force/Panel Model	Alt 4. King County Flood Control District Advisory committee	Alt5. King County Watershed resource inventory Area (WRIA) Forums
Membership - Electeds	Yes	CP- Yes TF- No	Jurisdiction determines	Yes	Yes
Membership - staff	Yes	CP-No TF - Yes	Jurisdiction determines	No	No (only as delegate)
Membership – non-jurisdictional	As determined by KCD	CP – No TF – 3 Rural Land owners: - Ag Commissioner - Rural Forest Commissioner - Rural At Large	Ag Commissioner Rural Forest Commissioner Rural At Large Urban/Suburban At Large Environmental	No	As agreed to by member jurisdictions
Voting	All	All	All	All	On some matters, member jurisdictions only
Additional Cost to Member Jurisdictions	None	None - Cost-of CP/TF split between KCD/KC	TBD	None	ILA cost share

*** Alternative 3 revised based on Conservation Panel and Task Force input at the September 10, 2013 meeting.**

☛ Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT B

Straw Charter for a Reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee Modified MOU Task Force Model

King Conservation District Advisory Committee Charter

Purpose

The King Conservation District Board of Supervisors will convene an Advisory Committee for the following purposes:

1. Review proposed budgets and related decisions and provide suggested recommendations to the Board of Supervisors prior to submission of budget to the King County Council.
2. Assist the Board of Supervisors in understanding the inter-jurisdictional perspectives and needs for natural resource conservation within the King County region.
3. Provide opportunity for more transparency and accountability, with substantive input from participant jurisdictions, special interests and the general public on the programs, revenues and budgets of the King Conservation District.

Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee is a working body of stakeholders. The Committee agrees to work collaboratively to provide advice to the Board of Supervisors representative of their jurisdiction(s) or interest.

Advisory Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors by the chair of the Advisory Committee and will reflect consensus or include reports as necessary to accurately reflect any diversity of perspective.

The Advisory Committee will vote for a chair from among its members and will be staffed by KCD. The agenda for Advisory Committee meetings will be set by the Chair in close conversation with the KCD Executive Director or delegate.

Near Term Deliverables

The Advisory Committee will complete the following specific assignments in 2014:

- By the end of the second meeting of the Advisory Committee, protocols and operating procedures shall be adopted and a chair elected.
- Develop a recommendation on election process enhancements to increase participation without unsustainable cost impacts to the KCD by October 1, 2014

☛ Policy Recommendation 1: Reestablish a KCD Advisory Committee

Ongoing Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee will meet periodically to discuss the following areas of emphasis:

- Performance measures and annual results
- Work program and budget recommendations
- Program adjustments or initiatives
- Grants program review and KCD Grant pursuits

Representation

Advisory Committee members will represent the following jurisdictions or interests:

- Two representatives from King County, one appointed by the Chair of the council and one by the Executive
 - Two members from the King Conservation District
 - One member named by the City of Seattle
 - One member named by the City of Bellevue
 - Three members named by the Sound Cities Association, one from each of the three geographic areas of north, south and east King County
 - Four members representing land owners:
 - One to be a member named by the King County Agriculture Commission;
 - One member named by the King County Rural Forest Commission;
 - One to be an urban land owner appointed by the King Conservation District; and
 - One to be a rural representative at large named by the King Conservation District.
 - One member to be a representative of the environmental community named by the King Conservation District
 - One member of the social justice and equity community to be named by the King County Executive
- These two citizens will both own rural land in King County and also have some familiarity with the natural resources issues that the King Conservation District addresses.

For each seat on the Advisory Committee, the naming entity shall also name an alternate.

APPENDIX J-2

☛ Policy Recommendation 2: Perform Outreach to Jurisdictions

Description: Cities expressed concern over a perceived lack of transparency, lack of accountability for budget and programs, and a sense of demonstrable value of the KCD to cities (beyond the city grants program).

KCD Response to Task Force (8/14/13 letter): *Outreach - The KCD wants to work directly with each of the King County cities prior to the next ILA negotiation to better understand the perspectives of the cities. We think establishing direct working relationships will help the KCD more effectively focus resources and bring direct value to every community in King County. We also want the opportunity to make the case that investments in working lands and other natural resource properties outside cities also benefit all King County citizens.*

KCD Intent: The outreach effort envisioned by KCD would serve the following purposes:

- Develop understanding of the programs and strategies of each city in King County for addressing natural resource issues and hear about on-the-ground programs as well as ideas and concepts for new initiatives;
- Learn about city and unincorporated area projects and potential opportunities for city/KCD partnerships;
- Develop direct working relationships between KCD and staff and elected officials within each King County city;
- Provide information about KCD programs and opportunities for partnerships;
- Exchange ideas with the cities regarding incentive-based programs that promote land stewardship and that complement regulatory constructs;
- Increase dialogue on the value of and potential for investing in working lands and resource conservation outside of jurisdictional boundaries as a regional benefit;
- Use information to help shape content for ILA negotiations and annual KCD (and possibly city) budget(s);
- Use information gathered to help shape long-term vision and priorities for KCD.

Program Recommendations: To achieve those purposes, the KCD intends to:

- Develop brief, concise materials and a rock-solid elevator speech for meetings;
- Gather feedback on the materials produced for continual improvement and relevant content;
- Develop list of staff and elected contacts and schedule meetings;
- Identify the Board Supervisor who will represent KCD at each meeting;
- Conduct annual meetings with the cities in a phase 1 and phase 2 approach where approximately half of the cities will be visited between September 2013 through February 2014 and the other half will be visited between March 2014 through August 2014;
- Ensure meetings are staffed, notes from meeting are preserved, and follow-up actions take place;
- Institute a program for continued follow-up with city staff and elected officials. Could be emails, phone calls, or follow ups on key areas of interest;
- Apply findings to other and ongoing efforts to reach out to land owners, King County and other natural resource interests.

Consensus Task Force Recommendation: KCD should move forward with the above proposal and provide adequate staff support.

APPENDIX J-3

Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections

Description: Strong concern has been expressed among some Task Force members that the KCD Board of Supervisors elections are not well advertised, poorly participated in, and therefore not representative of affected rates payers. Concerns include the lack of specific requirements for predictable election dates; and, the discretion accorded to the Board of Supervisors to determine the number and locations of polling places.

The table below illustrates the election turnout for election of KCD supervisors. The table compares KCD election turnout against registered voter counts for King County primary and general elections; and also shows voter turnout and ballot counts for regular regional elections in contrast to KCD turnout. The table shows that KCD election turnout is less than 1/2 of 1% of registered King County voters since 2005. However, while the percentages remain small, the table also shows a significant increase in voters between 2005 and 2010.



King County Elections Turnout Information vs. KCD Elections

	<u>Active Registered Voters</u>	<u>Turnout</u>	<u>Total Ballots Counted</u>	<u>KCD Election Turnout - 1st Quarter (WAC 135-110-200)</u>	<u>% of Election Participants Voting for Supervisor</u>	<u>% of Total King County Registered Voters</u>
General 2010	1,069,791	71.00%	766,477	2,295	56%	0.215%
Primary 2010	1,074,731	38.00%	406,391	<i>(Elected: Erik K. Nelson)</i>		
General 2009	1,079,842	53.55%	574,298	2,757	49%	0.255%
Primary 2009	1,090,964	31.56%	344,712	<i>(Elected: Preston Drew)</i>		
Primary 2008	1,041,892	34.86%	363,197	196	94%	0.019%
General 2008	1,108,128	83.93%	930,038	<i>(Elected: Bob Vos)</i>		
Primary 2007	999,134	24.92%	248,964	1,095	70%	0.110%
General 2007	994,798	46.84%	465,999	<i>(Elected: Matt Livengood)</i>		
Primary 2006	955,132	35.83%	342,195	834	62%	0.087%
General 2006	974,340	65.25%	635,753	<i>(Elected: Bobbi Lindemulder)</i>		
Primary 2005	1,012,559	29.68%	300,569	481	49%	0.048%
General 2005	1,017,995	53.76%	547,325	<i>(Elected: Richard Gelb)</i>		

☛ Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections

One other key aspect of the Board of Supervisors selection is that two of the five Supervisors are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission; there is concern that the two appointees may not represent rate payers.

KCD Response to Task Force (8/14/13 letter): *“Election process – The KCD, along with a few of its fellow conservation districts, has long supported the concept of retooling the Conservation District election process. There is a cadre of legislators and counties in accord with this issue. We look forward to working with legislators, King County, King County cities, the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and other interests in proposing a thoughtful alternative to the way the Conservation District’s election and appointment process as currently configured.”*

Background: The KCD Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members, three of which are elected and two of which are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. The following information was provided by Janine Joly, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Elections:

- I. “State law requires KCD to conduct its own elections. Chapter 89.08 RCW controls the conservation district elections and directs that they be run by the conservation districts. RCW 89.08.110 states in part:

The [state conservation] commission shall fix the date of the election, designate the polling places, fix the hours for opening and closing the polls, and appoint the election officials. The election shall be conducted, the vote counted and returns canvassed and the results published by the commission.”

This statute relates to the formation of a conservation district, but RCW 89.08.190 makes its provisions applicable to election of district supervisors as well. (“All provisions pertaining to elections on the creation of a district shall govern this election [election of supervisors] so far as applicable.”)

[In the early 2000’s]... the Attorney General opined that conservation district elections should be governed by general election law which is also found in state law, title 29A RCW. (At the time of the Attorney General Opinion the election laws were in title 29 RCW. They were recodified in title 29A RCW.) One year after the Attorney General issued that opinion, the Legislature amended RCW 29A.04.330 to clarify its intent regarding the conduct of conservation district supervisor elections.]

Intent -- 2002 c 43: "The legislature finds that there are conflicting interpretations as to the intent of the legislature in the enactment of chapter 305, Laws of 1999. The purpose of this act is to make statutory changes that further clarify this intent.

It is the intent of the legislature that elections of conservation district supervisors continue to be conducted under procedures in the conservation district statutes, chapter [89.08](#)

☛ Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections

RCW, and that such elections not be conducted under the general election laws contained in Title 29 RCW. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that there be no change made with regard to applicability of the public disclosure act, *chapter 42.17 RCW, to conservation district supervisors from those that existed before the enactment of chapter 305, Laws of 1999." [2002 c 43 § 1.]

Based on the above, unless there is a change in state law, KCD must conduct its own elections.

2. State law sets out the method by which jurisdictions pay for their participation in elections. RCW 29A.04.410 states that, "Every city, town, and district is liable for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections are held in conjunction with other elections . . ." The statute further states, "The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the county is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of any city, town, or district election."

There are specific processes for calculating the "proportionate share of the costs". They are set forth in the state BARS manual at page 443.

(<http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/ElectionCostAllocationandReimbursement.aspx>)

While the county is required to absorb costs for federal and state elections in some years, all costs related to special district elections are to be passed on to the districts with the county paying only its proportionate share if it also has a measure or office in the election.

Janine Joly, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Elections goes on to say, "I believe you would need a change in state law as the law currently requires each jurisdiction to pay its proportionate share and the BARS manual requires that it be applied equally to the jurisdictions participating in the election based on the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction".

Bill Adams, Finance Officer for King County Elections estimated that under current laws, the cost of a general election is in the neighborhood of \$6-7M and the cost is born primarily on the basis of registered voters eligible to vote on a measure or candidate; county-wide measures cost more than city-wide for example. A variety of factors affect the cost of being on a ballot from election to election including turnout, the number of state measures (the state participates in election costs on odd-years), and the number of county-wide issues (the Port of Seattle has a measure on the ballot this year for example. So according to Mr. Adams, the KCD would be billed somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1-1.2M to participate in the November general election; a special election would be on the order of \$2-2.5M.

Existing KCD Election Process and Outreach Efforts: Elections for conservation districts in Washington State are guided by the "Election Manual: Election and Appointment Procedures for Conservation District Supervisors" published by the Washington State Conservation Commission and based on rules adopted by the Commission. (WAC 135-110). The 42 page manual sets out in detail the process to be followed. Under the rule, the elections are to be called and date set through resolution of the Board of Supervisors with the date of election to be held during the first quarter of each year. Notice is to be provided in print media. The manual also provides direction on the selection of polling sites and hours of

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operation, the qualifications of a candidate, filing deadlines, verification process for voters, certification of elections and numerous other specific details on how the conservation districts are to conduct their elections. The manual also provides for remote elections such as mail-in and on-line voting. The Washington State Conservation Commission (WCC) provides oversight of the election process held in each district and certifies district elections.

Every conservation district has three elected supervisors and two supervisors appointed by the WCC. Supervisors serve 3 year terms. The elected supervisors' terms are staggered so that each year one of the elected supervisors is up for election. In other words, each year the KCD must hold a countywide election for one of its three elected supervisor positions.

Beginning in 2009, the KCD initiated the use of an electronic ballot/internet-based election process for its Board elections. And, a more robust electronic ballot/internet-based election process was deployed in 2011. The online election process is conducted by private contractors with expertise in secure online elections. (Election Trust from Bellevue and ScytI USA from Washington DC) To vote online, voters must first complete an eligibility application submitted by email, fax, or US mail. Each eligible voter is then provided a pin number which allows access to the online ballot.

In 2013, the Board used remote electronic voting on the World Wide Web as its exclusive voting method; making computers available at the Conservation District office for people who do not have access to computers (KCD Resolution No. 12-008). The voting period set forth by the Board was two weeks, from February 26, 2013 to March 12, 2013. In addition to the required notice in print media, the KCD posted notice on its web page and issued press releases to provide the public information on its election process.

Other Efforts Underway: Ron Shultz, Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the WCC noted at the August 14, 2013 Joint KC/KCD Task Force (the Task Force) meeting that the WCC is charged with reporting to the legislature by December 31, 2013 concerning recommendations for any legislative action regarding conservation district elections. He provided the following input about that process:

- A work group will be convened in early September comprised of county auditors, conservation districts, League of Women Voters, and other categories of representation
- The work group will consider among other things:
 - A review of the current process
 - Experiences from the brief period when CDs appeared on the general election ballot
 - The effects of different options on candidate filing, broader representation, getting people to serve, awareness of CDs and other ramifications
 - Options for addressing election concerns

Ron noted that the conversation underway at the Task Force is a microcosm of the conversation statewide.

☛ Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections

Alternatives for Addressing Election and Governance Issues at the Local Level:

Although the Task Force recommends that the Legislature should study and correct current constitutional, governance and election deficiencies with appropriate amendments to RCW 89.08, there are a series of potential interim actions that might be considered to improve governance and representation shortcomings:

1. The KCD Board of Supervisors and the WCC could consider dividing the district into three zones, as allowed by RCW 89.08.190¹. Zones could be established to improve geographic representation (i.e.: North, East, South) or demographic factors (i.e.: Seattle, suburban cities, rural areas). One representative would be elected representing each zone created. Because the KCD would continue to run the process, no King County election fees would be incurred.
2. Presently RCW 89.08.200² allows the state conservation commission sole authority to fill vacancies in appointed or vacated supervisor positions. Agreements could be reached with the KCD Board of Supervisors and the WCC to allow for consultation with city and county stakeholders on the two appointed positions to the KCD Board. For example: an agreement might allow the King County Executive, in consultation with the King County Council, to identify one or more candidates for Board of Supervisor positions (either for scheduled appointment or to fill vacancies) for subsequent appointment by the WCC. In turn, the Executive could work with city officials, rural representatives and other key stakeholders to identify the most representative candidates for appointed Supervisor positions. Ron Shultz has committed to exploring this option both in terms of commission interest and the changes to state rules or manuals needed to implement, if any. He also noted that there were requirements of the appointees (technical knowledge and/or ability to express state interest) that might be a condition of commission agreement.

¹ RCW 89.08.190 - Nomination and election of supervisors — Annual meeting of voters, reads, in part: *“...All provisions pertaining to elections on the creation of a district shall govern this election so far as applicable. The names of all nominees shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, together with instructions to vote for three. The three candidates receiving the most votes shall be declared elected supervisors, the one receiving the most being elected for a three-year term, the next for two and the last for one year. An alternate method of dividing the district into three zones may be used when requested by the board of supervisors and approved by the commission. In such case, instructions will be to vote for one in each zone. The candidate receiving the most votes in a zone shall be declared elected.” (Emphasis added).*

²

RCW 89.08.200 -- Supervisors — Term, vacancies, removal, etc. — Compensation.

The term of office of each supervisor shall be three years and until his successor is appointed or elected and qualified, except that the supervisors first appointed shall serve for one and two years respectively from the date of their appointments, as designated in their appointments. In the case of elected supervisors, the term of office of each supervisor shall be three years and until his successor is elected and qualified, except that for the first election, the one receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected for three years; the next largest two years; and the third largest one year. Successors shall be elected for three-year terms. Vacancies in the office of appointed supervisors shall be filled by the state conservation commission. Vacancies in the office of elected supervisors shall be filled by appointment made by the remaining supervisors for the unexpired term. A majority of the supervisors shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of a majority is required for any official action or determination. Supervisors shall serve without compensation, but they shall be entitled to expenses, including traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in discharge of their duties. A supervisor may be removed by the state conservation commission upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason. The governing board shall designate a chairman from time to time.

☛ Policy Recommendation 3: Study Alternatives for Conducting KCD Board of Supervisor Elections

Alternatives for Addressing Election and Governance Concerns at the State Level:

King County, Sound Cities, KCD or others could seek participation in the state work group and:

1. Postpone action until state work group completes its process; then the reconstituted KCD Advisory Committee could take up the conversation based on statewide recommendations
2. King County, Sound Cities, KCD or others could seek participation in the state work group while pressing ahead on local options. This approach would allow Conservation Panel/Task Force recommendations to be worked into the work group recommendations and potentially forward into the 2014 state legislature such as:
 - a. Cost-effective options for Conservation Districts to use the general election ballot
 - b. Consideration of other governance options which resolve both representation and legal issues
3. Develop an interlocal agreement with the KCD and WCC to create a pathway for the King County Executive, to provide recommendations for consideration by the WCC for the two Board of Supervisor appointed positions.

Task Force Recommendation: The KCD has made progress in its attempts to create a more accessible election process. Additional options should be explored in depth to modify King Conservation District Board of Supervisor elections to provide greater awareness, participation and representation of affected ratepayers in a cost-effective manner. Recommendations will be developed as a top priority through the reconstituted Advisory Committee process and informed by the work of the WSCC Elections Task Force and their report to be issued by no later than December 31, 2013. Progress on this issue will be reported to the King County Council and KCD Board of Supervisors by no later than June 1, 2014.

APPENDIX J-4

☛ Policy Recommendation 4: Develop Streamlined Processes for Member Jurisdiction Grants

Description: Cities have raised as a top concern the value of the Jurisdictional Grant Program and the need to preserve it going forward. Their concerns are two-fold. First, cities want assurance that the KCD Board of Supervisors will continue to fund the Grant Program into the future. Second, concerns have been raised that aspects of the program are burdensome, especially for small jurisdictions with few staff who are requesting relatively small amounts of money. KCD is concerned about carrying a disproportionate share of liability related to the grants and fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities.

KCD Response to Task Force (8/14/13 letter): *Jurisdictional Grant Program* – The KCD recognizes the important role the grant program has played in funding city and county natural resource conservation efforts. We also recognize many cities and the County look forward to utilizing these cash investments and partnerships. The Board of Supervisors is willing to support a long term arrangement where the grant program administered by the KCD would continue to exist consistent with state law and recent court decisions.

Background: Recent litigation created sensitivities on the part of the KCD with regard to potential legal exposure regarding the use of Jurisdictional Grant money and the KCD’s risk if a jurisdiction were to misuse or if the entire program is challenged. In the past, remedies for the settlement of lawsuits included reimbursement of funds to rate-payers out of KCD revenues. For a small agency like KCD, this represents a substantial risk.

Some city representatives characterize the Member Jurisdiction Grant Program processes as overly burdensome; especially for smaller amounts of money. Cities cite the Flood Control District Opportunity Grant Process as easier to use. Cities want the KCD to carry balances of funds collected from that city over multiple years in order to accumulate a large enough balance to contribute significantly to larger project implementation. The KCD has allowed multiple cities to carry over those funds for multiple years, even though ILA language authorizes the KCD to make use of those old funds. Cities also question why the money can’t go directly to the cities as an allotment rather than going through a grant process.

KCD and the City of Seattle have worked together to develop a new grant application process that addresses some of the concerns raised by cities. Applications are solicited from nonprofits and city departments, a review committee comprised of city and citizen representatives reviews and recommends applications for funding to the KCD, and a KCD staff member attends the review meetings to answer questions and provide input regarding KCD policies and objectives. This process has attracted multiple unique projects and partnerships while jointly meeting both KCD’s and City’s objectives. Demand for grant revenues received by the City of Seattle is typically three times the available funding. Part of the development of this process involved incorporating the City of Seattle’s race and social justice objectives into the KCD grant funding criteria. In addition, the City and KCD worked to craft an improved grant application for Seattle proposals. This new process attracted interest from other cities.

The KCD grounds its grant approval process in its strategic plan, mission, and goals as well as in the state authorizing legislation (Chapter 89.08 RCW), which outlines the duties of conservation districts in Washington State. The framework for the KCD Member Jurisdiction Grant Program is posted on the KCD web page under Grant program overview, guidelines and policies. The guidelines are intended to “direct District natural resource activities to improve natural resource conditions within the boundary of the district”. Proposals are required to be consistent with one or more of the KCD’s “Natural Resource Improvement Actions”. These include:

- Education and Outreach;
- Capacity Building;
- Pilot or Demonstration Projects;
- Direct Improvement of Natural Resource Conditions.

A KCD Board of Supervisors subcommittee reviews the applications and forwards its recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors which approve applications on a monthly basis between the months of February and

October. Typically the entire process of review, award and payment takes between 3 and 7 months at most to complete. Last year, the grant program changed from a 90/10 percent payment system to a reimbursement payment process based on the completion of proposed deliverables. This change reduces risk to the District and is more in line with how city finance departments operate. Some cities specifically requested that KCD move to a reimbursement payment system.

Grants Program Subcommittee Process: As an outgrowth of the Task Force/Conservation Panel process a group of interested representatives from both bodies met to explore ways to make the KCD jurisdictional grant program more efficient and transparent. Members of the Subcommittee were:

- Eric Nelson, King Conservation District
- Max Prinsen, King Conservation District
- Brandy Reed, King Conservation District
- Jessica Saavedra, King Conservation District
- Carolyn Robertson, City of Auburn
- Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue
- Alison Bennett, City of Bellevue
- Nicole Sanders, City of Snoqualmie
- Scott Maccoll, City of Shoreline
- Kathy Minsch, City of Seattle
- John Taylor, King County
- Joan Lee, King County
- Shawn Bunney, Agreement Dynamics

The Subcommittee met on September 17th and October 10th to explore ways in which the KCD Jurisdictional Grant process and application could be improved. The primary areas of focus for the group were to develop a clear set of application criteria for eligible projects, clearly identify non-eligible grant activities, eliminate duplicative or extraneous questions, and generally improve the grant application process. Over the two meetings, and through intervening phone and e-mail communication, the subcommittee made significant progress in revising the current grant application/process and provided input to the KCD staff and board on changes to their grant program policies. The work of the subcommittee culminated with a revised grant program application (attached). On October 14th the KCD Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to support the use of the application developed by the Subcommittee as a pilot project in their 2014 jurisdictional grant round. The KCD Board of Supervisors has committed to piloting the proposed grant application in the 2014 Jurisdictional Grants round, and will work with the Advisory Committee to fine tune the grant application and process based on feedback from the pilot program and input already received from the Grants.

Consensus Task Force Recommendation:

The Conservation Panel and Task Force support the streamlined grant application/process developed by the Grants Subcommittee, and endorsed by KCD Board, attached hereto as Attachment A. The Task Force and Panel support the proposed KCD Pilot, and more broadly the continuation of the Jurisdictional Grants Program. As the KCD and the Advisory Panel make modifications to the grant program, the Task Force believes that the grant program should preserve the following principles:

- Remain a jurisdictional grant program that provides broad benefit within King County.
- Operate within the legal authorities of state law (in this case within the purposes of Chapter 89.08 RCW), or any future changes in state law.
- Provide clear and concise eligibility criteria and application materials that give applicants clear guidance on assembling a successful submittal.
- Be as efficient as possible (as few pages for the submittals as possible and including clear criteria and an associated rubric for eligible projects).
- Share liability for the fund expenditure (with recognition that grantees are liable as in any contract for audit-proof completion of the stated grant purposes).



Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Pilot Grant Application

Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship

Project Title:	
Applicant:	Contact:
Principal Partners (if any):	Title:
Amount of KCD Funding Requested:	Address:
Total Match (optional):	
Total Project Cost:	
Project Start Date:	Phone:
Project End Date:	Fax:
Project Location: (Address, Parcel #, L&L Points, if site specific)	E-mail:
King County Council District #:	State Legislative District#

Eligible projects:

- Must be within the boundaries of the King Conservation District
- Must be a member jurisdiction of the District
- Must be consistent with purposes and requirements of RCW Chapter 89.08
- Can be used to leverage other funding opportunities

Ineligible projects include:

- Maintenance of existing facilities
- Park or other facility improvements
- Business or market development efforts extending beyond 5 years, ongoing programmatic efforts showing no measurable improvements over a 3-5 year period, and purchase of large equipment.

Application must

- Articulate specific goals and outcomes of the project
- Have an appropriate and reasonable budget meeting state auditor guidelines
- Specify milestones and timelines
- Identify the Project Lead and contact information

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Not for application purposes, this draft to be revised further prior to publication for applicants.

1. Criteria Checklist

Please check all boxes next to criteria below that your project addresses	
Natural Resource Improvement Action: Education and Outreach – to raise awareness, deepen knowledge, and change behaviors <i>(examples include fulfillment of municipal NPDES MS4 permit requirements; education about value of shorelines, salmon habitat, forests and other ecosystems)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resource Improvement Action: Capacity Building – to enhance the ability of organizations, agencies, residents, landowners and other land managers to implement best management practices and deliver natural resource management actions on the ground <i>(examples include urban or rural agricultural site management, rural or urban forest management, riparian restoration, stewardship on private and public lands)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resource Improvement Action: Pilot and Demonstration Projects – to test and/or improve concepts and/or approaches in natural resource management that can be replicated by others <i>(examples include LID demonstration projects, development of best management practices, distribution of farm products, urban agriculture)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resource Improvement Action: Direct Improvement of Natural Resource Conditions – to improve landscape and natural resource conditions as a result of direct action <i>(examples include urban agriculture development, help private property owners with land stewardship, water quality and aquatic and wildlife habitat resources, assistance to private property owners addressing challenging regulatory situations, removal of invasive weeds, stewardship on public land)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Project Description – provide a brief description of the project that summarizes what you will do, how you will do it, and why you will do it. Describe target audience, outcomes, objectives and timelines.

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- 3. Project Activities and Measurable Results** – using the table below, list specific project activities to be completed, the timetable for the activities, and the deliverables associated with those activities. Consider the following in your answer to this question: *What actions, interventions, programs, services will be deployed?* **NOTE:** *If you want to attach Item 3 as a separate page, feel free to do so.*

	Activity Description	Outcomes/Deliverables/Measurable Results (tangible and intangible)	Timeline
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

- 4. Project Budget & Expenses** (Use attached worksheet)

- 5. KCD Acknowledgement** – By signing below, the applicant agrees to acknowledge King Conservation District funding by placing the KCD logo on signs, materials, and documents produced as part of the above proposal. In addition, the applicant will notify KCD of public events and activities funded by the KCD.

Authorized Signature

Date

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Not for application purposes, this draft to be revised further prior to publication for applicants.



Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Grant Application

Project Budget Form

Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through

Project Name				
Applicant				
Contact				
Mailing Address				
E-mail			Project Start Date:	
Phone			Project End Date:	
Budget Item	KCD Funds	Other Funds	Other Funds	Total
		<i>(specify source here)</i>	<i>(specify source here)</i>	
SALARIES & BENEFITS				\$0
TRAVEL/ MEALS/ MILEAGE				\$0
OFFICE SUPPLIES				\$0
FIELD SUPPLIES				\$0
CONTRACTED/ PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				\$0
LAND ACQUISITION				\$0
PERMITS				\$0
Other: <i>(specify)</i>				\$0
Other: <i>(specify)</i>				\$0
Other: <i>(specify)</i>				\$0
Other: <i>(specify)</i>				\$0
Other: <i>(specify)</i>				\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Project Cost	\$0
Total Match	\$0
Amount of KCD Funding Requested	\$0
Match Percentage	-

*If your KCD Member Jurisdiction Grant Project is approved as a part of this process, this spreadsheet will also be used for project tracking. **Please don't forget to attach this tab to your application.** There are four Expense & Project Report forms in the following tabs that will automatically load your KCD project information and budgeted line items, as well as a blank form that can be copied for additional submissions. There is a Reimbursement Request form that will also load KCD budgeted line items, and a Budget Revision Request form **should it be needed**; additional reimbursement request forms are also provided to track your work in one project packet. We hope this eases future project tracking.*

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APPENDIX K

A. Task Force/Conservation Panel Programs and Services Recommendations White Papers

- 1) Rural Small Lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Services
- 2) Rural Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance and Regulatory Support
- 3) Urban Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance and Regulatory Support
- 4) Expanded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)
- 5) Shoreline and Riparian Education and Technical Assistance
- 6) Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture

APPENDIX K-1

☛ Program Recommendation 1: Expand Rural Small-lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Services

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet A (Includes Previous Sheet B)

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Rural Small-lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement Services

Brief Description: Increase capacity for workshops to rural small forest/woodlot landowners. Increase capacity for one-on-one technical assistance and implementation services to rural small forest/woodlot landowners and urban residents on improving the ecosystem functions and values, wildlife habitat, storm water attenuation and carbon sequestration of non-industrial private forest lands and urban tree canopy. Explore the potential for and possibly coordinate a cooperative mill to help small-lot forest property owners sustainably harvest, market, and distribute wood products and by-products. Add workshops and classes for urban residents on improving the ecosystem functions and values, wildlife habitat, storm water attenuation and carbon sequestration of urban tree canopy. Develop an urban forestry program that would provide arboricultural and urban forestry services to small and medium size jurisdictions with the objective of increasing, monitoring and maintaining healthy tree canopy in urban communities.

Background: Rural - While multiple programs and services are in place to serve larger non-industrial private (NIP) forest landowners in the rural landscape, smaller NIP forest/woodlot landowners (between 1 and 5 acres of forest canopy), who collectively own over 30,000 forested acres in unincorporated King County, represent a largely unfunded forest health management (FHM) workload. Working closely with small forest/woodlot landowners is an essential component of restoring the health of Puget Sound, improving wildlife habitat for a multitude of species, reducing the quantity and improving the quality of storm water runoff, and sequestering carbon.

Urban - As climate change brings more extreme weather year-round and the need for social justice and equity across our region becomes better institutionalized, development of healthy urban forest canopies have been a priority in many urban communities for years. In recent years, healthy urban forest canopy issues have expanded from aesthetic and urban heat island concerns to also address extreme weather events and the need for better institutionalized social justice and equity across our region. KCD's legacy of working with organizations and individuals to promote sustainable land management practices and its cultural and legal capacity for relationship-building with private landowners positions KCD to provide planting, monitoring, and maintenance services to jurisdictions, and education and technical assistance to private landowners within urban boundaries.

KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: Current KCD forest health management services (FHM) and upland wildlife habitat management services (UWHM) include technical services and limited incentive funding to help landowners address FHM and UWHM concerns and meet forest/tree canopy resource management objectives associated with water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration.

KCD technical assistance services to smaller non-industrial private (NIP) forest/woodlot landowners focus on natural resource management concerns specific to individual land management scenarios. Typically, these services identify actions to address degraded forest canopy conditions, control invasive/weed species, improve upland wildlife habitat connectivity and conditions, and reduce the contribution of pollutants to water bodies (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers and sediment from eroded soils).

KCD technical assistance services to urban residents focus on upland wildlife habitat concerns specific to individual parcels and the larger landscape. Typically, these services identify actions to address the health of individual trees and degraded tree canopy conditions where present, improve the cover of native plant species, control invasive/weed species, improve upland wildlife habitat conditions and to

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet A (Includes Previous Sheet B)

some extent habitat connectivity, and reduce the contribution of pollutants to water bodies (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers and sediment from eroded soils).

KCD incentive funding is available in limited quantities to support landowner implementation of FHM and UWHM projects that are identified through personalized site-visits, address critical forest/tree canopy concerns, and meet priority natural resource management objectives.

Synergistic Opportunities: KCD forest health management services (FHM) and upland wildlife habitat management services (UWHM) are coordinated with jurisdictional efforts to improve forest stand and tree canopy in parks and on other public properties. These efforts, which are currently offered as a contracted service, could be increased. These efforts also could be augmented by targeting landowner education and technical assistance services to adjacent property owners, thus protecting and expanding jurisdictional investments.

Adding capacity for jurisdictional FHM and UWHM services would leverage existing KCD services and expertise, including our ongoing work with smaller rural non-industrial private (NIP) forest/woodlot landowners and urban residents. Increased capacity in this topical area would require both forest management and arboricultural expertise. Housing this expertise within KCD would provide a ready resource to small and medium size cities without the administrative burden of supporting a full or part-time position. Funding for such a position could involve a joint effort that employs existing KCD jurisdictional resources and/or new grant funding in partnership.

A forest management and arboricultural position could support urban forestry/arborist services on public rights-of-way, in parks and in other public open space areas. The position also could support technical assistance and education to enhance tree canopy on urban private properties. A project focused on urban private properties would address a number of problems associated with loss of urban tree canopy: KCD landowner outreach, education and technical services that incent behavior change in retention and enhancement for tree canopy influence both the quantity and quality of storm water runoff, which can assist jurisdictions in meeting their municipal NPDES permit requirements. And, Forestry and urban arboriculture programs, which typically provide training on proper planting techniques, species selection, basic pruning, etc. can counter property owner tendencies to not replace trees that die or are removed.

If the KCD's regional Opportunity Grant Fund were to be reinstated (see proposal G - Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture), grants could offer synergistic opportunities on properties with combined farm and woodlot land uses as well as assisting forest landowners. Opportunity Grants could support training (e.g., WSU Extension Coached Forest Stewardship Planning), wood product marketing such as Cascade Harvest Coalition's Puget Sound Grown Program, etc.

Preliminary Cost Analysis: KCD currently provides Forest Health Management (FHM) services to rural NIP forest/woodlot landowners and Upland Wildlife Habitat Enhancement services to urban landowners with in-house staff. Increased staffing at KCD could be directed to help jurisdictions meet their tree canopy protection and enhancement objectives. An additional FTE technical staff member for workshops and site visits is estimated at \$96,500 per year (approximately \$0.06 to \$0.08 per parcel per year). This position could be split, dedicating a portion of the FTE to small non-industrial private forest/woodlot FHM and a portion of the FTE to urban canopy enhancement, maintenance and monitoring. Alternatively, KCD could explore purchasing additional FHM expertise on a contract basis. Additionally, KCD would collaborate with jurisdictional and other partners to determine the amount of time that should be dedicated to rural versus urban forestry needs.

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet A (Includes Previous Sheet B)

Equity & Social Justice Implications: Such a program could provide assistance in communities that are currently underserved or that are disproportionately affected by deforestation and its affects (e.g. urban heat island, degraded air quality, increased storm water runoff). Urban forest canopy is a strong indicator of quality of life. Increasing and maintaining urban forest canopy in low-income communities is a key component of the following Equity & Social Justice principles: 1) Access to parks and natural resources; 2) Healthy built and natural environments; and 3) Strong, vibrant neighborhoods.

Known Barriers to Implementation: KCD does not have the capacity within its existing budget to add this position.

Next Steps: KCD will work with interested participants to explore how forestry may be incorporated programmatically, such as exploring grant opportunities and other potential partnerships.

APPENDIX K-2

Program Recommendation 2: Rural Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet C

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Rural Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support
Brief Description: Expand KCD support of small farmers with increased planning capacity, more on-the-ground natural resource conservation projects, and assistance in navigating County, State, and Federal regulations by targeted marketing of services to priority farming sectors and/ or resource priority areas. Priority sectors or geographic areas would be identified by factors such as regional plans such as Puget Sound Partnership, Regional Food Policy Council, and other relevant bodies.
Background: Until recently, KCD relied on word of mouth and partner referrals for marketing its programs, which has generated a full staff workload at current the funding level. Therefore, the District has not pursued additional or more pro-active, targeted marketing to rural farmer services. Over the last 10 years, the KCD has seen a steady increase in farm services requests. During this same period, the number of staff for such services has decreased as the result of increasing costs and fixed revenues. The KCD has been able to meet the growing demand without decreasing the quality of service by staff development, work flow improvements, and streamlining interagency collaboration efforts.
KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: Although handled separately in our workplan and budget, farm planning and best management practice/habitat enhancement implementation are closely coordinated and executed. KCD's principle strategy is to work primarily with landowners who are ready to act. Therefore, a high percentage of the farmers with whom our planners interact go on to request a natural resource conservation plan. In turn, about half of the landowners who develop farm plans seek additional technical and/or financial assistance to implement priority natural resource stewardship actions.
Synergistic Opportunities: Expanded capacity to support small farmers would improve the KCD's ability to assist landowners to balance regulatory compliance with cost-effective land management practices. As regulatory requirements change and increase, more landowners are referred to KCD for assistance in coming into compliance with Federal, State and local regulations. In unincorporated King County the KCD works closely with County staff to coordinate outcomes and help private landowners steward their property in the public interest. Part of the planning process is addressing regulatory requirements in ways that work for both the landowner and regulatory agencies. KCD uses staff and a dedicated Washington Conservation Corp crew to ensure efficient implementation of best practices on private lands.
Preliminary Cost Analysis: This effort could be scaled based on funding.

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet C

Low level expansion = 1 one FTE of Resource Specialist I (\$80,000-\$100,000 per year), 0.5 FTE project assistant (\$40,000), \$50,000 in additional cost share funding through the LIP program, and \$20,000 for two aquatic buffer projects (2 at \$10,000)

With this approach, KCD would target a sub-area/ priority group and seek to reach 95% of members through outreach, then provide 35-40 site visit technical assists, leading to 15-20 plans, 10 cost shared natural resource practices, and 2 aquatic habitat projects per year.

Rate impact: 32 cents

Known Barriers to Implementation: KCD is at staff capacity for planning and implementation services, with a two-month waiting list for natural resource plans and a wait for technical assistance. KCD cost-share funds that support on-the-ground best management projects will run out in September and will not be able to fulfill additional requests until 2014.

Equity and Social Justice: KCD could work with partners to develop criteria for priority funding, including some measure of means testing.

Next Steps: KCD could work with partners to examine strategies for service delivery that go beyond a first-come, first-served approach to satisfy multiple benefit goals.

APPENDIX K-3

☛ Program Recommendation 3: Urban Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet D

<p>Brief Description: Focus KCD expertise in natural resource stewardship to support expansion of urban farming in sustainable ways within urban boundaries.</p>
<p>Background: Task Force participants have suggested KCD’s existing programs and services for small farmers be more aggressively implemented within urban boundaries.</p>
<p>KCD’s Existing Programs and Capabilities: KCD currently works with landowners in all settings. While it is not KCD’s mission to help farmers farm, KCD is interested in promoting and expanding healthy, sustainable farms wherever they make sense and to support the local food economy in any way possible. Understanding that only economically viable farmers can properly care for their land, KCD could provide education, technical assistance, and institutional support to municipalities, landowners, and managers to ensure urban farms are sustainable and operated in the public benefit.</p>
<p>Synergistic Opportunities: KCD has experience working with landowners that have been referred by regulatory agencies. Part of the planning process is addressing regulatory requirements in ways that work for both the landowner and the regulatory agencies. With that coordination established, KCD is well-positioned to develop similar relationships with municipalities interested in promoting and supporting urban farming.</p> <p>KCD is currently engaged in a Farm-Cities/Cities-Farm Roundtable subcommittee focused on building strategies that increase the number of new farmers entering the field – much of that work is focused on developing policies that will enable and encourage urban farming. Cities could support this goal through land leases, water subsidies, and other mechanisms, and other low-investment strategies. At the same time, KCD could work with municipalities and landowners to incorporate natural resource conservation practices into urban farming to build and maintain soil and water sustainability. WSU Extension could also partner in this effort as they bring the “how to” to the urban farming equation. Note that funding a WSU agriculture agent (see Regional Food System, Appendix K-6) could greatly enhance the technical support available to beginning urban farmers.</p>
<p>Preliminary Cost Analysis: Policy and coordination support for urban farming is being absorbed at current staffing levels. Beyond that, KCD would likely coordinate and need to provide support for FarmLink, WSU Extension, and similar programs that connect aspiring farmers to land and provide other assistance.</p> <p>Such support would likely be coordinated with/part of that outlined in the Regional Food Systems white paper, which proposes:</p> <p>Additional 0.35 FTE for grant administration and program marketing - \$35,000</p> <p>Grant Fund high = \$600,000 (rate impact \$1)</p>

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Urban Farmer Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support
Brief Description: Focus KCD expertise in natural resource stewardship to support expansion of urban farming in sustainable ways within urban boundaries.
Background: Task Force participants have suggested KCD's existing programs and services for small farmers be more aggressively implemented within urban boundaries.
KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: KCD currently works with landowners in all settings. While it is not KCD's mission to help farmers farm, KCD is interested in promoting and expanding healthy, sustainable farms wherever they make sense and to support the local food economy in any way possible. Understanding that only economically viable farmers can properly care for their land, KCD could provide education, technical assistance, and institutional support to municipalities, landowners, and managers to ensure urban farms are sustainable and operated in the public benefit.
Synergistic Opportunities: KCD has experience working with landowners that have been referred by regulatory agencies. Part of the planning process is addressing regulatory requirements in ways that work for both the landowner and the regulatory agencies. With that coordination established, KCD is well-positioned to develop similar relationships with municipalities interested in promoting and supporting urban farming. KCD is currently engaged in a Farm-Cities/Cities-Farm Roundtable subcommittee focused on building strategies that increase the number of new farmers entering the field – much of that work is focused on developing policies that will enable and encourage urban farming. Cities could support this goal through land leases, water subsidies, and other mechanisms, and other low-investment strategies. At the same time, KCD could work with municipalities and landowners to incorporate natural resource conservation practices into urban farming to build and maintain soil and water sustainability. WSU Extension could also partner in this effort as they bring the “how to” to the urban farming equation. Note that funding a WSU agriculture agent (see Regional Food System, Appendix K-6) could greatly enhance the technical support available to beginning urban farmers.
Preliminary Cost Analysis: Policy and coordination support for urban farming is being absorbed at current staffing levels. Beyond that, KCD would likely coordinate and need to provide support for FarmLink, WSU Extension, and similar programs that connect aspiring farmers to land and provide other assistance. Such support would likely be coordinated with/part of that outlined in the Regional Food Systems white paper, which proposes: Additional 0.35 FTE for grant administration and program marketing - \$35,000 Grant Fund high = \$600,000 (rate impact \$1)

APPENDIX K-4

☛ Program Recommendation 4: Expanded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet E

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Expanded Landowner Incentive (LIP) Program
Brief Description: Increase capacity for financial incentives in the form of landowner cost-share to increase implementation of natural resource management best management practices that protect and enhance water quality, reduce water quantity, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and improve forest health.
Background: KCD traditionally works with private property owners in all settings to assist them in implementing improvements that will protect and/or improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, manage storm water runoff, as well as other natural resource management practices. At current levels, LIP funds typically run out in late August/early September, leaving an unmet demand.
KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: The King Conservation District Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) promotes stewardship of natural resources on private property by providing cost-share funding to assist landowner implementation of natural resource management practices. The LIP funds agricultural and non-agricultural natural resource management practices planned in association with District technical service programs. Fourteen individual practices are eligible for funding. Examples include <i>Livestock Winter Confinement Area, Aquatic Area Buffer Enhancement Planting, Bulkhead Removal (Freshwater/Marine), Animal Waste Composting Structure, Forest Health Management and Upland Wildlife Habitat Enhancement.</i> Cost-share reimbursement rates for approved projects range from 50% to 90% depending on the natural resource management practice. The District reimburses project costs at the cost-share reimbursement rate in combination with established cost-share limits. There is no lifetime maximum on the amount of cost-share funding a landowner can receive through the LIP. However, awarded practices must be implemented and cost-share contracts closed in good standing before applications for additional practices will be considered. The KCD budget for landowner cost-share in calendar year 2013 is \$200,000.
Synergistic Opportunities: KCD is well-positioned to work with more urban and suburban property owners to implement LIP projects on private properties. Such projects can leverage local governments' efforts on public properties, such as working with creekside property owners adjacent to parks, to remove invasive plant species and replace with native species. KCD can provide education, technical assistance, and monitoring to assist landowners to plan and design their LIP cost share grant.
Preliminary Cost Analysis: KCD currently provides the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) with in-house staff and a cost-share budget of \$200,000 per year. Additional cost-share capacity in the amount of \$100,000 per year for a total of \$300,000 per year would increase implementation of natural resource management practices without the need for additional staff (approximately \$0.06 - .08 per parcel per year).
Equity and Social Justice: Extend services to underserved urban areas. Expanded LIP cost-share could provide implementation assistance in urban areas or communities that are currently underserved or that are disproportionately affected by water pollution, including toxics and sedimentation, or habitat degradation.

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet E

Known Barriers to Implementation: Additional funds would be needed to increase cost-share for additional implementation of natural resource management and protection practices.

Next Steps:

APPENDIX K-5

☛ Program Recommendation 5: Shoreline and Riparian Education and Technical Assistance

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet F

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Shoreline and Riparian Education & Technical Assistance

Brief Description: Increase capacity for workshops, classes, and tours to freshwater and marine shoreline property owners; and increase capacity for one-on-one technical assistance and implementation services to property owners on improving the functions and values, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality of marine and freshwater shorelines.
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Background: Two-thirds of all shoreline properties (marine and freshwater) are held in private hands. Working closely with private property owners whose lands abut freshwater and marine aquatic systems (e.g., creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, marine bluffs and beaches) is an essential component of restoring the health of Puget Sound, improving fish and wildlife habitat for a multitude of species, improving the quantity and reducing the quality of storm water runoff, and sequestering carbon.
--

KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: Over the past decade, the King Conservation District has provided direct assistance on enhancing over 8% of King County's shorelines. In recent years, capacity to keep pace with historic levels of service has diminished due to funding constraints.
--

Current KCD aquatic area protection and enhancement services include educational opportunities, technical services and limited incentive funding to help landowners address aquatic resource concerns and meet natural resource management objectives associated with freshwater and Puget Sound marine shorelines.

KCD shoreline education programming provide an overview of how landowners can promote stable natural shorelines that protect water quality, provide high value fish and wildlife habitat, reduce storm water runoff, and sequester carbon. Specifically, freshwater shoreline protection and enhancement workshops, classes and tours focus on the functions and values of freshwater aquatic systems, practices to protect and enhance those functions and values, as well as practices to reduce erosion and improve other water quality parameters; and marine shoreline protection and enhancement workshops, classes and tours focus on the ecology of the Puget Sound marine riparian and near-shore environments, coastal geological processes, vegetation management practices as well as practices to reduce erosion and improve other water quality parameters.

KCD technical assistance services to freshwater and marine shoreline landowners focus on natural resource management concerns specific to individual land management scenarios. Typically, these services identify actions to address degraded riparian buffer conditions, control invasive/weed species, improve fish and wildlife habitat connectivity and conditions, and reduce the contribution of pollutants to water bodies (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, nutrients from animal waste, and sediment from eroded soils).

KCD incentive funding is available in limited quantities to support landowner implementation of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement projects that are identified through personalized site-visits and that address critical aquatic resource concerns and meet priority natural resource management objectives.

For the past two years the KCD has been unable to provide workshops to marine shoreline landowners, and has reduced its technical support to marine shoreline landowners from approximately 40 to approximately 12 landowners per year. With one additional technical FTE, education and

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet F

technical services to marine shoreline landowners would be restored to previous levels of activity.

Synergistic Opportunities: KCD aquatic area protection and enhancement services are coordinated with jurisdictional efforts to improve freshwater and marine shoreline habitat in parks and on other public properties. These efforts, which are currently offered as a contracted service, could be increased. These efforts also could be augmented by targeting landowner education and technical assistance services to adjacent property owners, thus protecting and expanding jurisdictional investments.

Related, KCD has become the sponsor of a 1-year Individual Placement AmeriCorps position that will focus on meeting current education programming objectives. By doing so, the capacity of technical staff to provide targeted landowner education and technical services in partnership with jurisdictional efforts may be increased. However, since this position is a 1-year appointment that expires on September 30, 2014, any increased capacity would be lost in the absence of replacement funding.

Additionally, because landowner, homeowner and business efforts to enhance shoreline buffers and reduce polluted runoff influence both the quantity and quality of storm water runoff, KCD landowner outreach, education and technical services that incent behavior change in these areas can assist jurisdictions in meeting their municipal NPDES permit requirements.

Preliminary Cost Analysis: KCD currently provides aquatic area protection and enhancement services with in-house staff and a dedicated Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) work crew. With an additional WCC work crew and increased staffing KCD could help jurisdictions meet their shoreline landowner education and assistance objective. An additional WCC work crew would cost approximately \$150,000 per year, and additional program staff for workshops and site visits is estimated at \$96,500 per year (approximately \$0.06 to \$0.08 per parcel per year).

Equity & Social Justice Implications: Such a program could provide assistance in communities that are currently underserved or that are disproportionately affected by pollution, including toxics and sedimentation, or habitat degradation.

Known Barriers to Implementation: Current WCC crew is fully utilized. Additional funds would be needed to dedicate a second crew and additional KCD technical expertise to increased services.

Next Steps: KCD and jurisdictions could explore options to restore and/or expand capacity through grants, pilot projects, contracted services or other programmatic solutions

APPENDIX K-6

☛ Program Recommendation 6: Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture

Opportunity Evaluation Sheet G

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture
Brief Description: Enhance the Regional Food System through a combination of a regional grant program and synergy with existing or expanded KCD services. Provide grants to address regional issues and complex problems like drainage that cross property boundaries and affect resource land productivity. Regional projects could enhance the food system with marketing and delivery, infrastructure (e.g., slaughterhouse), new farmer education and access to land, soil conservation, yield analysis, or other essential aspects of support to increase productivity and profitability. In addition, expand KCD's ability to support small farmers through technical assistance, cost share, implementation of on-the-ground natural resource conservation projects, and assistance in navigating County, State, and Federal regulations.
Background: The PSRC Regional Food Policy Council has called for a systems change that would increase equitable access to healthy foods in the Puget Sound region. They point to the interdependence and linkage between the rural and urban economies as a factor in this system. The Council identifies challenges to local communities such as access to healthy food, preserving agricultural resources, and ensuring resiliency in the food system during emergencies. King County FARMS Report states that viable local agriculture needs regional funding support.
KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities: This proposal would revive the KCD's Opportunity Grant Fund, which ended after 2012. This KCD currently provides the technical assistance, planning, cost share, and other services that help farmers profitably and sustainably, while addressing regional needs for resource conservation.
Synergistic Opportunities: 1. Reinstated Opportunity Grant Fund could support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSU Extension services such as training for new farmers, agricultural extension agent, , and farm tours and other opportunities for urban residents to experience local farms and rural enterprises.• Cascade Harvest Coalition, which offers marketing programs such as Puget Sound Fresh, and similar organizations.• Support special projects to address complex farm drainage issues, establish new farmers markets, pilot innovative projects to improve food access, etc.• Implementation of farm-related economic development in cities, such as markets and processing facilities. 2. Partnering opportunities with city, county, state and federal programs and initiatives.

KCD OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION SHEET

TITLE: Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture

Brief Description:

Enhance the Regional Food System through a combination of a regional grant program and synergy with existing or expanded KCD services.

Provide grants to address regional issues and complex problems like drainage that cross property boundaries and affect resource land productivity. Regional projects could enhance the food system with marketing and delivery, infrastructure (e.g., slaughterhouse), new farmer education and access to land, soil conservation, yield analysis, or other essential aspects of support to increase productivity and profitability.

In addition, expand KCD's ability to support small farmers through technical assistance, cost share, implementation of on-the-ground natural resource conservation projects, and assistance in navigating County, State, and Federal regulations.

Background:

The PSRC Regional Food Policy Council has called for a systems change that would increase equitable access to healthy foods in the Puget Sound region. They point to the interdependence and linkage between the rural and urban economies as a factor in this system. The Council identifies challenges to local communities such as access to healthy food, preserving agricultural resources, and ensuring resiliency in the food system during emergencies. King County FARMS Report states that viable local agriculture needs regional funding support.

KCD's Existing Programs and Capabilities:

This proposal would revive the KCD's Opportunity Grant Fund, which ended after 2012.

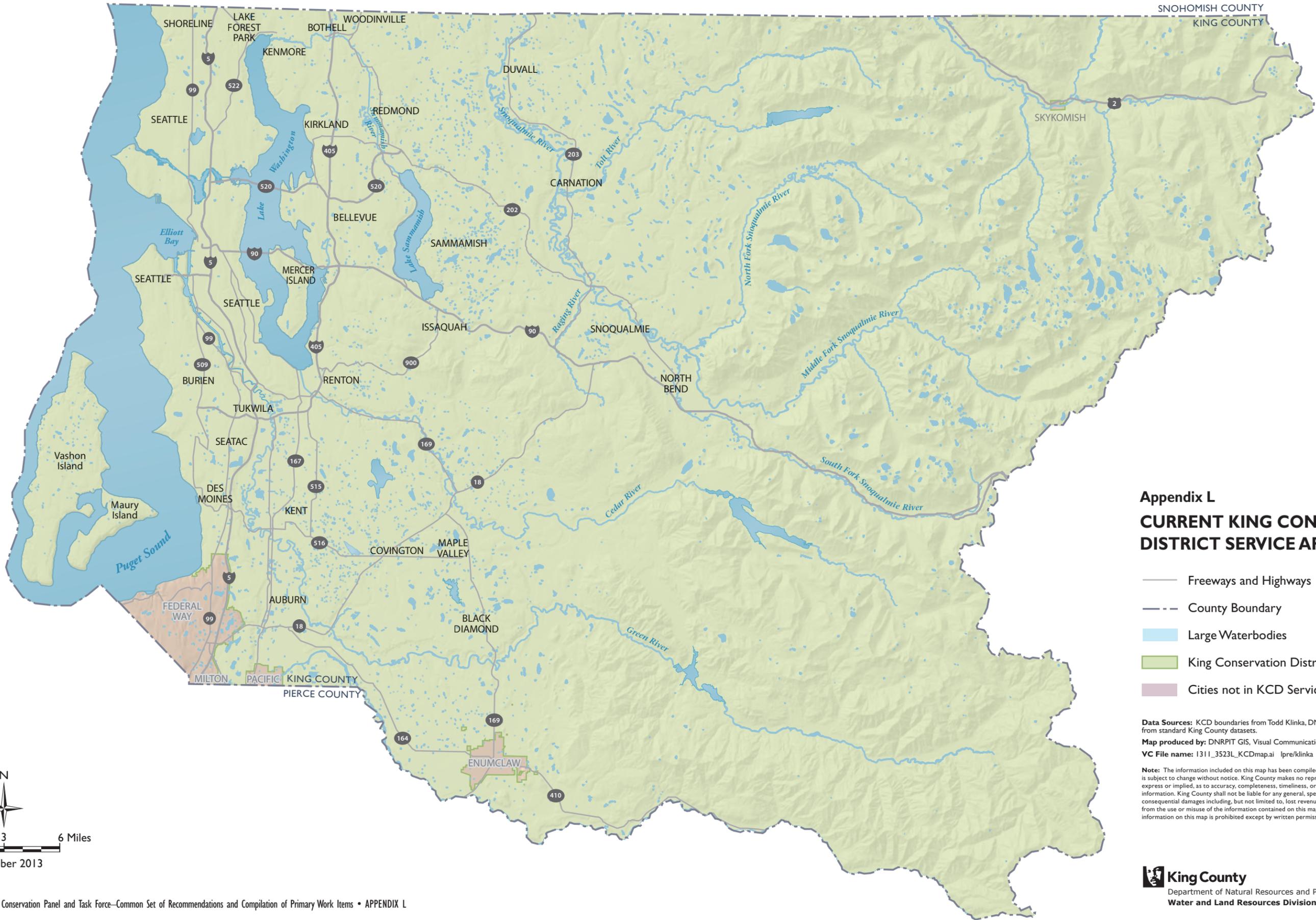
This KCD currently provides the technical assistance, planning, cost share, and other services that help farmers profitably and sustainably, while addressing regional needs for resource conservation.

Synergistic Opportunities:

1. Reinstated Opportunity Grant Fund could support:
 - WSU Extension services such as training for new farmers, agricultural extension agent, , and farm tours and other opportunities for urban residents to experience local farms and rural enterprises.
 - Cascade Harvest Coalition, which offers marketing programs such as Puget Sound Fresh, and similar organizations.
 - Support special projects to address complex farm drainage issues, establish new farmers markets, pilot innovative projects to improve food access, etc.
 - Implementation of farm-related economic development in cities, such as markets and processing facilities.
2. Partnering opportunities with city, county, state and federal programs and initiatives.

APPENDIX L

Map of Current King Conservation District Service Area

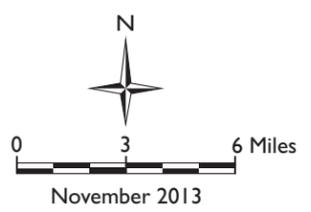


**Appendix L
CURRENT KING CONSERVATION
DISTRICT SERVICE AREA (12/5/13)**

-  Freeways and Highways
-  County Boundary
-  Large Waterbodies
-  King Conservation District Service Area
-  Cities not in KCD Service Area

Data Sources: KCD boundaries from Todd Klinka, DNR/PIT GIS. All other layers from standard King County datasets.
Map produced by: DNR/PIT GIS, Visual Communications & Web Unit
VC File name: 1311_3523L_KCDmap.ai lpre/klinka

Note: The information included on this map has been compiled from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.





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