



SCA Public Issues Committee Minutes

**August 14, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Renton City Hall Council Chambers
1055 S. Grady Way - Renton, WA 98057**

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Mia Gregerson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Twenty-two cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Bill Knutsen, King Conservation District; Jessica Saavedra, King Conversation District; Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council; Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Puget Sound Regional Council; Alex Saldano, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs.

2. Public Comment

Chair Gregerson asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Chair Gregerson closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the July 10, 2013 Minutes

Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the July 10, 2013 meeting minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Gregerson reported on the Affordable Care Act. One of the preeminent provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the requirement that most individuals in the U.S. must have health coverage beginning January 1, 2014. Individuals may enroll in health insurance plans offered through the [Washington State Health Benefit Exchange](#) beginning October 1, 2013. Chair Gregerson encouraged cities to reach out to the King County Department of Health. A number of cities have already requested presentations to their city councils.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, welcomed new PIC attendee Joe Forkner of Issaquah.

Dawson reported that SCA leadership met earlier in the day with Executive Constantine. One of the topics discussed is the forthcoming update to the King County Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a key tool used to reform county government by focusing on customer service, partnerships and ways to bring down the cost of government. Executive Constantine is seeking input on best ways to engage with city elected officials. Members expressed an

interest in having a pre-PIC workshop on the King County Strategic Plan update, most likely in October.

SCA leadership and Executive Constantine also discussed upcoming ballot measures in 2014. Next year, the County is looking to place a major radio replacement measure on the ballot, plus a possible item on transportation. ED Dawson requested that members send SCA information on what cities are lining up for 2014. SCA will compile this information.

The Executive's office has begun implementing the King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan. SCA leadership and the Executive discussed next steps, and how cities might be able to engage in planning for expansion of Human Services capacity in King County.

ED Dawson reported that there have been discussions about a possible third special session of the legislature called to address transportation funding. The Senate majority coalition is scheduling a "listening tour" across the State, including a meeting scheduled for October 1, 2013 at WSDOT NW Region Office in Seattle.

ED Dawson and SCA leadership recently met with Port Commissioners Albro and Bowman to discuss ways we can be working together to address the economic needs of the region, including transportation. SCA staff is working with Port staff as a follow up.

ED Dawson also recently met with leaders in Snohomish County to discuss common needs between King and Snohomish County on transportation.

The SCA Women's Leadership Group will be meeting the third Thursday of the month beginning on September 19, 2013 at 7:30 AM at the Island Crust Café, 7525 SE 24th St #100 Mercer Island, WA 98040.

The SCA 2014 call for nominations will be coming out soon. There are a number of board and committee vacancies. ED Dawson encouraged members to apply.

ED Dawson also reminded members that the November meeting of the PIC will be held in Kirkland.

6. Water Quality Assessment Scope of Work

Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, reported that this matter initially came to the PIC at the recommendation of the SCA Caucus of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) who asked the PIC to consider adopting a public policy position in support of the current scope of work for the proposed Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study, subject to a number of caveats.

At the July 10, 2013 PIC meeting, the PIC voted unanimously to bring back this public policy position for action at the August meeting. Subsequent to the July PIC meeting, the City of Kirkland proposed an amendment to SCA's proposed position. Kirkland's recommended addition is to add the following:

- *SCA supports the addition of a cost benefit analysis as a separate study to provide data and evaluation of the best investments of \$1 billion to achieve acceptable water quality standards by 2030.*

The Kirkland City Council approved a resolution supporting this position at their August 6, 2013 city council meeting. The City of Kirkland also prepared the attached CSO Interest Paper ([Attachment B](#)). Kirkland's position is that a cost benefit analysis should be completed as a companion product of the Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring study. Pam Bissonnette, Kirkland's interim Public Works Director, reported that the expense of a cost benefit analysis is not included in the current budget. Kirkland is also recommending that an independent financial firm be selected to conduct the study, lending credibility to the process with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The cost benefit analysis would take place following completion of the water quality assessment.

Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, moved, seconded by Amy Walen, Kirkland, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors that: *SCA generally supports the current scope of work for the proposed Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study, but has concerns about the wide range of estimated costs for each element and the high ends of the estimated cost ranges. SCA supports approval of the Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study scope of work with the following caveats:*

- *The primary focus of the scope of work shall be to address items required as part of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) program review, plan update, and program implementation;*
- *Discretionary items including: the "Synthesis Report" (Element 3) and "Scientific and Technical Review Team" (Element 4) should be included in the scope of work if the anticipated outcomes will produce long term cost savings for King County ratepayers;*
- *The need for an Executive Advisory Panel (as set forth in Element 5) has not been clearly established. Until and unless the need for a Panel is clearly demonstrated to RWQC and the County Council, the up to \$450,000 budgeted for this line item should not be expended;*
- *SCA requests that the Wastewater Treatment Division provide an annual report to the RWQC, which shall include detail regarding the costs expended and benefits received as a result of the expenditures.*
- *SCA supports the addition of a cost benefit analysis as a separate study to provide data and evaluation of the best investments of \$1 billion to achieve acceptable water quality standards by 2030.*

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Support for Sound Transit 145th Street Station

ED Dawson reported that this matter was brought to the PIC at the request of the City of Shoreline, and members of the North End Mayors group.

Under Sound Transit's ST2 plan approved by voters in 2008, there were two stations identified north of Northgate in King County – I-5 and NE 145th Street, and I-5 and NE 185th Street. As a part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, Sound Transit (ST) was also asked to look at alternate station locations. ST recently released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lynnwood Link Extension. The draft EIS shows that stations at NE 145th Street and an alternate location at NE 155th Street are comparable based on criteria including ridership, cost, environmental impact and transit oriented development potential.

Shoreline's preferred alternative is a station at NE 145th Street Station. There is no freeway access to a NE 155th Street station. NE 145th Street is also more closely aligned with Shoreline's long term planning goals. A station at NE 155th Street would have a substantial negative impact on Shoreline residents.

Members discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing service streets as opposed to freeway access. Councilmember Eggen noted that NE 155th Street isn't a through street. Freeway access at NE 145th Street would create a more direct connection to neighboring jurisdictions; NE 155th Street is currently a neighborhood arterial. Eggen also noted that both corridors would require significant improvements. Members expressed support for Shoreline, noting that if all criteria are equal, the siting agency should defer to the wishes of the host community particularly where, as here, the city has long term plans for the corridor that will be beneficial to the economic vitality of the city, and the region.

Amy Ockerlander, Duvall stated Duvall is outside of the Sound Transit service area and typically abstains from voting on issues related to Sound Transit.

Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park noted that their council had taken action in support of a station at NE 145th Street.

Dave Hill, Algona, moved, seconded by Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, to bring forward to the next meeting of the PIC the following potential policy position:

The Sound Cities Associations urges the Sound Transit Board to support the City of Shoreline's preferred alternative for Lynnwood Link Extension light rail station locations at NE 145th Street and NE 185th Street. NE 145th street provides better connections throughout the region, is more closely aligned with Shoreline's long term planning goals, and would prevent negative traffic impacts on Shoreline residents.

The Motion passed. 21 ayes; no nays; 1 abstention, Duvall.

8. King Conservation District Update

ED Dawson provided an update on the King Conservation District's efforts since SCA adopted a position regarding the King Conservation District (KCD) in August 2012. Since that time, the County has entered into a new interlocal agreement with the KCD which modified the methodology for funding the KCD, as well as the amount of funding to the KCD. The County and the KCD have also established two advisory groups to review the program of work and

funding for the KCD: the Task Force (comprised of staff) and Conservation Panel (comprised of elected officials). These advisory groups have been meeting on a regular basis since April of 2013. Based on reports from both groups, the process has been a positive one, largely due to the greatly increased transparency about the KCD's program of work.

The attached letter ([Attachment C](#)) was transmitted by the KCD Board to task force members earlier in the day, reaffirming the Board's commitment to addressing the task force's concerns, which are consistent with SCA's adopted policy. The KCD is proposing reconvening an advisory body. This body will review the budget and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, help the KCD better understand inter-jurisdictional perspectives and provide greater transparency.

Members were pleased that the process is moving forward and that the KCD is providing greater transparency. Members expressed support for retooling the Conservation District's election process. Members did not express any interest in increasing the amount of funding to the KCD at this time. Members reaffirmed their commitment to the principles adopted by SCA in 2012. ED Dawson encouraged members to share any additional feedback with SCA King Conservation District Task Force and Conservation Panel Members prior to their September meeting.

9. Food Policy Blueprints

Tukwila City Councilmember De'Sean Quinn and Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin, Chair of the Food Policy Council, presented on the recent work of the PSRC Food Policy Council. Their presentation highlighted how jurisdictions can address the local food economy and food access through policy and planning.

Several members spoke about the benefits Farmers Markets contribute to their communities. Members also highlighted several successful programs including [SNAP Benefits](#), [KABOOM](#), and a neighborhood program that transformed a patch of blackberries into an orchard [featured on King 5 news](#). Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint slides referenced during the presentation ([Attachment D](#)).

10. Informational Items

Chair Gregerson noted there is one informational item this month: SCA 2013 Communications Efforts. ED Dawson encouraged members to read about the many things SCA has accomplished this year.

11. Upcoming Events

- a) Next SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at Renton City Hall
- c) Future SCA Networking Dinners:
 - Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at the TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club, Snoqualmie – SCA will be joined by Attorney General Bob Ferguson

- Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at the Renton Pavilion Event Center – SCA will be joined by Governor Jay Inslee (note: this is also the 2013 SCA Annual Membership Meeting)

12. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Lewis encouraged cities to have their finance directors keep a close eye on the bankruptcy situation in Detroit. [An article in CNBC](#) noted that Detroit is trying to treat GO bonds as unsecured debt in the bankruptcy. If Detroit succeeds, it would be the first occurrence in the \$3.7 trillion muni market, and could bring into question the standing and ratings of some other GO bonds. This could negatively impact other municipalities.

Members expressed their sympathy to the King County Metro bus driver who was shot earlier in the week, his family, and his colleagues. Mayor Lewis noted that the driver's wife is the City of Auburn's Finance Director.

Mayor Baker encouraged members to attend the [2013 Annual National League of Cities Conference](#) being held this November 13– November 16, 2013 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. There will be a special one day rate for nonmembers.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Attachment A to the August 14, 2013 PIC Minutes

**2013 Roll Call – Public Issues Committee Meeting
August 14, 2013**

City	Representative	Alternate	Other	Staff
Algona	Dave Hill	Lynda Osborn		
Auburn	Pete Lewis	Nancy Backus	Bill Peloza	
Beaux Arts	Richard Leider	Tom Stowe		
Black Diamond	Rebecca Olness			
Bothell	Andy Rheaume	Tom Agnew		
Burien	Jerry Robison	Bob Edgar		
Carnation	Jim Berger			
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin		
Covington	Marlla Mhoon	Margaret Harto		
Des Moines	Matt Pina	Melissa Musser		
Duvall	Amy Ockerlander	Will Ibershof		
Enumclaw	Liz Reynolds			
Federal Way	Jeanne Burbidge	Dini Duclos		
Hunts Point	Fred McConkey			
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Paul Winterstein	Joe Fortner	
Kenmore	David Baker			
Kent	Jamie Perry	Dennis Higgins		
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Amy Walen		Pam Bissonnette
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French	Mary Jane Goss	
Maple Valley	Layne Barnes	Erin Weaver		
Mercer Island	Tana Senn	Bruce Bassett		
Milton	Jim Manley	Debra Perry		
Newcastle	Lisa Jensen	Rich Crispo		
Normandy Park	Shawn McEvoy	Susan West		
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing		
Pacific	Leanne Guier	John Jones		
Redmond	Hank Margeson	John Stilin		
Renton	Rich Zwicker	Ed Prince		
Sammamish	Tom Odell	Ramiro Valderrama	Tom Vance	
SeaTac	Mia Gregerson	Barry Ladenburg		
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Chris Eggen		Scott MacColl
Skykomish	Henry Sladek			
Snoqualmie	Kingston Wall	Matt Larson		
Tukwila	Jim Haggerton	Kate Kruller	De'Sean Quinn	
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas	Susan Boundy-Sanders		
SCA				Deanna Dawson Monica Whitman Doreen Booth Kristy Burwell

Electeds present are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.