1. Welcome and Roll Call
PIC Chair Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. 23 cities had representation (Attachment A). Guests present included Debi Wagner, Burien City Council; Layne Barnes, Maple Valley City Council; Dawn Dofelmire, Algona City Council; Carolyn Busch, King County; Megan Smith, King County; Diane Carlson, King County; Edie Gilliss, City of Seattle; Sara Hemphill, King Conservation District; Steve DiJulio, Foster Pepper; Stacy Goodman, Issaquah City Council; Kathleen Austad, SCA.

2. Public Comment
Chair Talmas asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Talmas closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the May 14, 2014 Minutes
Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, moved, seconded by Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, to approve the May 14, 2014 meeting minutes.

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, requested a correction to item 10 of the minutes to state that while she personally supports the King Conservation District draft work program, the Council had not yet discussed this issue.

The motion with correction passed unanimously.

4. Chair’s Report
Chair Bernie Talmas reported that at the last SCA Board of Directors meeting, members discussed the PIC debate surrounding the issue of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and its proposed rate increase. During this conversation, Chair Talmas highlighted the minority view of the PIC. While the Board adopted the position as recommended, it also requested a letter to be sent to the PSCAA Board Chair outlining not only the adopted policy position but also the minority view to ensure that all opinions on the issue were voiced.

Chair Talmas reported that the SCA Leadership met with King County Executive earlier in the day, and deferred the comments about this meeting to a later agenda item.

5. Executive Director’s Report
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the pre-PIC workshop included a presentation on community health by the National League of Cities on the Let’s Move! Initiative. Dawson
introduced Kathleen Austad who will be SCA’s intern during summer 2014. Dawson continued that Austad is graduating from Western Washington University and will be working with SCA members on promoting “Let’s Move!” and other healthy community initiatives. Dawson continued that SCA wants to know what cities are doing and what activities are successful. Dawson also mentioned that NLC is going to lend resources to help SCA and cities get involved in the Let’s Move! Initiative.

Dawson reported that at the June 11, 2014 meeting with the SCA Leadership and King County Executive Dow Constantine, a letter from the Executive and Governor Jay Inslee was shared regarding Victoria, BC not treating its wastewater. Dawson continued that members may wish to weigh in on this issue at a future PIC meeting.

Dawson reported that she and Chair Talmas had a meeting earlier in the day and received a briefing on the Public Health Department of Seattle and King County’s budget challenges. Dawson stated that this is new information and an article will be published in the Seattle Times this Friday. Dawson reported that there is a $30M shortfall over the biennium. This may result in closing up to 4 public health centers in King County. Dawson noted that the Health Department plans to work with cities on this issue moving forward.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, inquired if the PIC should start developing criteria to help guide the cuts. Dawson responded that SCA is working to be included in the budget process, and that is part of the reason why this initial briefing took place.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, questioned what shortfall created this situation. Dawson responded that in the briefing they were informed that if is mostly due to federal and state funding cuts that feed into the county budget. Dawson stated that as SCA receives more information, it will be forwarded to members for review and discussion.

Councilmember Andy Rheame, Bothell, inquired on the total biennium budget. Dawson responded the total budget is $368M.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, asked if SCA was going to provided written information that could be distributed to councils. Dawson noted that as soon as SCA has more information, it will be shared with members, and in the meantime, the article slated to be published this Friday will provided some information that can be shared with councils.

Dawson stated that the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is next week and asked for a show of hands for who plans to attend, which was the majority of members present. She mentioned that it would be beneficial to reach out to colleagues in eastern and central Washington and find out how we can work better with peers across the state. Dawson continued that it would be valuable to build connections for the next legislative session and help them understand our challenges and vice versa.

Dawson concluded her report that the King County Council took action on the transit cuts earlier this week and will provide more detail during agenda item 8.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, noted that this item came before the PIC in order to adopt a policy position to provide direction to the SCA caucus of the GMPC. The proposed position brought forward from the last PIC meeting is:

Sound Cities Association supports the countywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets of 25% below 2007 levels by 2020; 50% below 2007 levels by 2030; and 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.

Dawson reported that a revised proposal for GHG emissions reduction targets, EN-17, was submitted to the GMPC at their May 21, 2014 meeting:

Reduce community level sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. For geographic-based emissions, assuming 1% annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) by 2020, 5 MTCO2e by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO2e by 2050.

Dawson reviewed the changes from SCA’s proposed position to the newer version of EN-17. Dawson also discussed the aspirational nature of the targets. She noted that Snoqualmie Mayor Larson wanted to stress that cities can individually decide if they want to set targets and they can map out their own strategies based on community values. Dawson noted staff felt the language in the revised EN-17 in the packet may be better drafted to allow cities to move toward these goals.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, moved, seconded by Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, to recommend to the Board of Directors that SCA support the following version of EN17:

**EN-17** Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. For geographic-based emissions, assuming 1% annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) by 2020, 5 MTCO2e by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO2e by 2050.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona shared his city’s concern that targets can turn into mandates in the future. Hill also shared concerns about the challenge of reducing emissions on SR 167.

Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, Mercer Island, questioned the numbers contained in the targets, as amended. Grausz also stated he did not want to weaken the proposal; he felt that SCA should pass something that says that this issue is important and he strongly believes the language should remain strong and not watered down.

Diane Carlson, King County, in response to Deputy Mayor Grausz’s concern, clarified that when the population increases, the per capita emissions decrease due to the increase in population.

Mayor Jim Berger, Carnation, noted he has the same concerns as Mayor Hill related to potential mandates and state highway emissions. He shared that his small city does not have the resources to support this. Carnation sees these targets as unattainable and the Carnation City Council does not support the proposal.
Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, stated that Burien is supportive of the proposal. She did express concerns about emissions from SeaTac Airport and how they would be addressed. Tosta also had concerns about the value of monitoring emissions rather than ambient air quality. Tosta also noted the countywide nature of the issue but stressed that cities can only address issues within their boundaries. Tosta inquired as to how we will know when changes have occurred as we do not have air boundaries.

Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, agreed with Mayor Hill’s concerns. She stated that residents of Black Diamond have to drive everywhere, mainly on a state highway, and they have no other options for transportation. She further noted that Black Diamond will have an additional 12,000 cars a day on the road when a new master planned development is built. The Black Diamond City Council does not support the proposed policy.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, noted that the costs for policy EN-18A should be discussed as well. ED Dawson noted that we would be discussing that proposed policy later in the agenda.

Councilmember Bob Keller, Sammamish, recognized the concern about targets turning into mandates but noted these are aspirational goals. Keller noted that the there is a tie in between climate change and comprehensive plans and that all cities need to address greenhouse gas emissions in their comprehensive plans.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, felt there was value in looking at aggregate numbers but was concerned about city responsibilities as some cities have more resources to do work than others. Stanford expressed a need for funding, including grants, in order for a GHG reduction program to achieve results. Stanford also noted that two state highways bisected her city and that WSDOT and other entities that manage roads should be accountable as well.

Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, moved, seconded by Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, to amend the main motion by adding the following sentence to the end of the main motion:

*SCA further recognizes that the proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets are aspirational and countywide in nature and that cities are encouraged but not required to individually adopt such targets.*

Deputy Mayor Grausz noted that he fully agrees that each locality needs to do their part. Grausz also expressed concern that the amendment watered down the policy.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, stated that the proposed numbers are meaningless to the cities. Ladenburg noted the focus for cities should be around putting policies in place, for example, policies related to electric car charging stations and requiring new buildings to use building materials with less GHG emissions.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that he opposed the amendment; that the aspirational nature of the policy is understood. Marts noted that while cities are not required to adopt targets, Issaquah has already adopted these targets. Marts further noted the open loop nature of the
proposal, while you cannot measure what comes from a specific city, you can get to a carbon budget and determine the effect of various policies implemented to address GHG reduction.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, understood the issues raised by small cities. Margeson noted this is giving direction to the GMPC. Margeson noted that none of the cities have the resources to tackle GHG emissions reduction alone, and a countywide approach and numerical targets are critical.

Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, did not see the value in having numerical targets, rather than the percentages. He noted the Auburn rail yard has high diesel emissions as do Highways 18 and 167.

Mayor Talmas, Woodinville, supported the amendment and noted his council wants to ensure the policy is aspirational not mandatory.

The amendment to the main motion passed 19-4, to add the following language to the main motion: 

*SCA further recognizes that the proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets are aspirational and countywide in nature and that cities are encouraged but not required to individually adopt such targets.* The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted yes. The cities of Issaquah, Mercer Island, Sammamish, and Shoreline voted no.

Councilmember Shelley Kloba, Kirkland, noted that the air is shared. Some cities may have carbon emissions due to more jobs and industries; other cities for other reasons. The countywide concept balances it out. Kloba stated that Kirkland is in favor of adopting the proposed policy.

Councilmember Erin Weaver, Maple Valley, reported that with limited Metro service, Maple Valley residents depend on cars to get to and from work. Councilmember Weaver questioned the language on “geographic based emissions.” Weaver further noted that the Maple Valley City Council did not have enough data yet to support the proposal.

Councilmember Peloza, Auburn, stated he was concerned with the metric tons language and could not support that language in the policy.

Councilmember Layne Barnes, Maple Valley, SCA’s GMPC caucus chair, also noted he would like the language around the geographic-based emissions struck as it could be more narrowly construed as individual city emissions while the policy is countywide in nature.

Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, moved, seconded by Councilmember Erin Weaver, Maple Valley, to amend the amended main motion by striking the language in the 2nd sentence that reads, “For geographic based emissions.”. The proposed amended policy would read as follows:

**EN-17** Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. Assuming 1% annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) by 2020, 5 MTCO2e by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO2e by 2050. SCA further recognizes that the
proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets are aspirational and countywide in nature and that cities are encouraged but not required to individually adopt such targets.

Councilmember Ladenburg, SeaTac, asked if there was a desire to replace the geographic-based emissions language with a reference to countywide emissions.

The amendment striking language to the main motion passed 22-1. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted yes. The city of Shoreline voted no.

Chair Talmas read the amended motion.

Deputy Mayor Grausz questioned the per capita language in the policy. Megan Smith, King County, noted that is it translating the aggregate number, assuming population growth, into a per capita number.

Council President Margeson, Redmond, noted this allows us to compare like information.

Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, moved, seconded by Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, to amend the amended main motion by striking the 2nd sentence completely. The proposed amended policy would read as follows:

EN-17 Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. SCA further recognizes that the proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets are aspirational and countywide in nature and that cities are encouraged but not required to individually adopt such targets.

Councilmember Peloza, Auburn felt the most important part of the policy was the targets and that the remainder of the language was ambiguous.

Mayor Hill, Algona, supported the motion to strike the second sentence as the desire is to reduce the aggregate emissions, not per capita emissions. Mayor Hill inquired as to how emissions from other counties are factored in, giving the example of commuters on Highway 167.

Councilmember Marts, Issaquah, opposed the motion. Marts noted that while the numbers themselves may not be well understood, the intent is to have per capita numbers. Marts further noted that the proposed policy was developed by K4C staff and disagreed with the statement that the numbers were meaningless.

Council President Margeson, Redmond, noted that cities need numbers to measure their actions against. Margeson also noted that if the numbers are not attainable, they can be reassessed in the future.

Councilmember Ladenburg, SeaTac, stated that he did not support the amendment as he supported the inclusion of per capita numbers in the policy.
The amendment striking language to the main motion failed 3-20. The cities of Algona, Auburn, and Woodinville voted yes. The cities of Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, and Tukwila voted no.

Chair Talmas called for the vote on the main motion as amended. The revised policy to be forwarded to the Board for support read as follows:

**EN-17 Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. Assuming 1% annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) by 2020, 5 MTCO2e by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO2e by 2050. SCA further recognizes that the proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets are aspirational and countywide in nature and that cities are encouraged but not required to individually adopt such targets.**

The main motion as amended passed 18-5. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Bothell, Burien, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, and Tukwila voted yes. The cities of Black Diamond, Carnation, Maple Valley, North Bend, and Woodinville voted no.

Executive Director Dawson provided background on a new policy proposed to the GMPC, EN-18A. ED Dawson noted this is the first time this policy has been before the PIC. ED Dawson explained this proposal related to GHG monitoring efforts. County staff had acknowledged at the GMPC that this was the sole responsibility of King County.

Councilmember Erin Weaver, Maple Valley, moved, seconded by Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, to bring back to following potential policy position to the next meeting of the PIC: **King County shall assess and report countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident, business, and other local government buildings, on road vehicles and solid waste at least every two years. King County shall also update its comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory that quantifies all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated with local consumption at least every five years.**

Councilmember Loudenback, North Bend, requested information as to which department at King County will do the assessment, the cost of the assessment and the portion of that cost allocable to each city in the county.

The motion passed 22-1. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted yes. The city of North Bend voted no.

**7. Oil Train Safety**
Chair Talmas reported that this issue was raised by Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, at the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) and asked Lyset Cadena, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, to provide any updates to this item.
Cadena reported not much has changed since the item was before the PIC in May. Four items were brought forth as part of an update. Cadena mentioned the policy statement had been formatted to make it easier to read. On May 7th, USDOT issued and emergency order for train cars transporting crude oil requiring railroad carriers to provide notification regarding the expected movement of oil trains thought counties to the State Emergency Response Commission. Tank car designs should also be at the highest level of integrity. On May 23, eight legislators sent a letter to the Dept. of Ecology and the City of Hoquiam asking for the environmental impacts statements for two proposed storage facilities to be expanded to include impacts felt by cities. Cadena also mentioned that AWC created an ad hoc rail committee and will be meeting on June 20th. Councilmembers Peloza and Higgins and Mayor Haggerton have been appointed to the committee.

Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors the following potential policy position:

_In order to address the dramatic increase in the amount of oil being transported through our region by rail and vessel transport through our bodies of water, the potential impacts on public safety and economic disruption from a possible crude oil spill incident, the Sound Cities Association (SCA) asks the Federal Government to implement safety regulations regarding oil transport via rail and urges the Washington State Legislature to adopt legislation promoting rail safety._

_SCX acknowledges there are measures in place to promote the safety of marine transportation and protect state waters from oil spills, but urges the Federal Government and Washington State Legislature to review those measures due to the increased movement of crude oil._

_SCX also urges rail companies to share the following information with local communities so they may be fully informed and plan for the risks posed by the transport of oil by rail: types of petroleum being transported; transportation routes; the frequency and duration of transfers of petroleum; and efforts and actions to ensure the safe transport of such commodities._

_SCX urges the King County Office of Emergency Management to review and update the county’s incident response plans to address the risk from increased transport of petroleum by rail._

Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, stated he is the chair of the National League of Cities (NLC) committee working to on this issue and will bring this issue to the NLC committee in Minnesota the last week of July. This issue needs to be kept on the front burner. Peloza mentioned the South County Area Transportation Board sent a letter to the Governor demonstrating how proactive they are being on the issue.

Councilmember Bob Keller, Sammamish, referring to the staff report, asked about whether rail companies already have to report information and the state has that information and should be sharing with the local jurisdictions.

Deanna Dawson noted that currently, the rail companies are not required to do so. Dawson stated the SCA policy statement encourages rail companies to be forthcoming.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, confirmed BNSF does not have to disclose information.
Peloz agreed and stated that rail companies are not telling communities or the state what is being shipped on the rail lines. Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas mentioned that a rail representative has not presented at the RPC. The item was scheduled for this month, but had to be rescheduled due to BNSF unavailability.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, supports the SCA policy position and believes the rail companies should be reporting what they are carrying, but they are not. We need to make sure we are safe and prepared for an accident. We don’t want to have an accident along the rail lines. The number of oil trains has increased from 0 in 2010 to 117 in 2012. We need to get ahead of this issue and we cannot assume the state will handle it.

Councilmember Shelley Kloba, Kirkland, read a section from a Seattle Times article from June 5th asking rail road companies to disclose information. Rail road companies are trying to get out of disclosing information.

Kenmore Mayor David Baker is supportive of the SCA policy position but questioned whether it was SCA’s role to be involved in matters that are federal and state concerns, rather than local. Baker suggested focusing efforts into directing the county to continue working on updating the county’s incident response plans.

Algona Mayor David Hill mentioned he is the chair of the Valley Regional Fire Authority and rail companies are not disclosing information to fire districts. Hundreds of cars are passing through the Auburn depot and we do not know what those cars are carrying. The rail road companies do not own the rail cars; they are owned by the shippers. Rail cars should be safer and new rail cars that are double hull tankers should be used. Mayor Hill states he is supportive of the SCA policy position but understands others concerns.

Councilmember Bob Keller, Sammamish, agreed that is federal issue and we are going to get nowhere.

Deanna Dawson agreed that true changes must be made at the federal level. Given the public safety issues, this is something many cities have expressed concerns about.

Councilmember Peloza made a clarification stating that the new type of rail cars is not being used. BNSF has issued an RFP for the purchase of 5,000 new rail cars but they will not be ready until sometime next year. Right now 100-120 rail cars move through Auburn, and Auburn could see an increase of 170 rail cars.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Metro Transit Principles**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, introduced the item, noting that staff had worked with the Executive Committee to redraft the principles based on feedback from PIC, and due to the fact that the original principles were drafted very quickly. The revised principles were not a change in substance, but in grammar and clarity.
Dawson noted that SCA Leadership met with the Executive this morning and discussed the principles, including the need for the system to remain regional. SCA leadership stressed that we do not want to see a balkanization of the transit system. Dawson also mentioned several Seattle Times articles and the action from the King County Council on Monday on a motion and ordinance. The ordinance was vetoed shortly after it was passed.

The motion was initially brought forward by Councilmembers Dembowski and Hague. All members of the County Council signed on as co-sponsors of the motion as amended except for Councilmember McDermott.

The motion as amended calls for a review of 3 things:
1. Fare policy at Metro;
2. Costs at Metro; and
3. Fund balance policies at Metro.

More specifically:
1. On fares, the motion calls for a review of policies. It references an option of farebox recovery of 30%. The current policy is 25%. The actual recovery is currently 29%, but is expected to dip to 27.5% based on the low income fare policy. The motion calls for looking at whether fares can or should be raised;
2. On costs, the revised motion acknowledges the work of the Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF) and other reform efforts already done. The maker of the motion noted that Metro is currently at a cost of $.99 per mile, while agency peers are at $.98. The intent is to look at even more reforms ("continuous improvement"). The motion also calls for an independent audit;
3. On fund balance policies, here again the motion acknowledges the work of the RTTF, and also calls for a review of fund balance policies, and an independent review of the fund balance policies.

The motion passed unanimously.

There were two ordinances before the council. The first ordinance would have adopted the first round of cuts and called for an assessment of the other cuts based on budget discussions in November. There was also an amendment to review DART service. This first ordinance had been moved out of the TrEE Committee with a “do pass” recommendation. The second ordinance would have adopted all the cuts at this time. This ordinance was proposed by the Executive. It came out of TrEE with no recommendation.

It was a heated discussion and in the end five members voted in favor of the first ordinance. The Executive shortly thereafter vetoed the ordinance.

SCA Leadership had urged the Executive to work with the Council to find common ground in their meeting earlier in the day.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, moved, seconded by Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors the following potential policy position:

1. *Metro Transit must remain a regional transit system*;
2. *Reforms at Metro Transit need to be fully explored, understood, and clearly communicated*;
3. Any transit tax increase adopted by Seattle (or any other city) to increase transit service in an individual city rather than countywide should be sunsetted after no more than three years, in order to ensure that all cities in King County reengage on a system-wide financial plan;

4. The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) should define a minimum level of service standard for all communities in order to preserve connections and service throughout King County;

5. Metro Transit must provide consistent and transparent reporting on financial and service level data;

6. The productivity model at Metro Transit should be reviewed in order to ensure that travel between centers is evaluated fairly; and

7. We must continue to work in partnership with cities, King County, and other coalition members toward the shared goal of a statewide transportation package to address our critical transportation infrastructure needs.

Councilmember Allan Ekberg, Tukwila, mentioned principle #3 limits all cities who wish to look at options for buying back service.

Deanna Dawson stated that the intent of principle #3 was to make clear that any city that goes out on their own needs to consider coming back to the table and looking at a regional system.

Alguna Mayor Dave Hill stated he likes principle #3. Seattle may not be the only city considering going out on their own and it could lead to wealthier cities having bus service and other cities not having any service.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, stated that the Shoreline council is divided on next steps. Some like Councilmember Dembowski’s proposal (the ordinance that was passed, and vetoed) and others support making the four rounds of service cuts at this time. Shoreline will abstain from this vote unless changes are made to principle #3. The point is that all cities should continue to reengage on a system-wide financial plan while looking at others ways to serve their citizens. Shoreline might consider going out for additional service in the future, and may not wish to be limited.

Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas stated that during the discussion with the Executive today the issue of sunsetting was discussed and it is important to keep the language so we avoid further balkanization of the system. This was an important issue for SCA Board leadership.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that the council unanimously supports the principles, but they have not had a chance to talk about minor revisions. We need the ability to go to voters to increase transit service and we also need a county wide viable transportation system. Stanford mentioned she would like to hear any new language from Shoreline and maybe the principle needs to be more specific.

Councilmember Andy Rheame, Bothell, stated that Bothell is divided by two counties. At the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) meeting graphs were handed out depicting the Eastside paying 33% but only receiving 17% of service. There is a problem and maybe we should be looking at subarea equity or a bifurcated countywide system. The system is broken and we will get the same outcome from the voters if we continue to ask them for funding. He questioned whether even the current system was truly “regional.”
Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn moved, seconded by Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, to amend the language in guideline 3. The proposed amendment read as follows:

1. *Metro Transit must remain a regional transit system;*
2. *Reforms at Metro Transit need to be fully explored, understood, and clearly communicated;*
3. *Any transit tax increase adopted by any city to increase service should be sunsetted after three years, in order to ensure that all cities in King County reengage on a system-wide financial plan;*
4. *The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) should define a minimum level of service standard for all communities in order to preserve connections and service throughout King County;*
5. *Metro Transit must provide consistent and transparent reporting on financial and service level data;*
6. *The productivity model at Metro Transit should be reviewed in order to ensure that travel between centers is evaluated fairly; and*
7. *We must continue to work in partnership with cities, King County, and other coalition members toward the shared goal of a statewide transportation package to address our critical transportation infrastructure needs.*

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, stated she agrees with the 3 year sunset language and mentioned the “no more than” language should be included in principle #3.

Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, agreed to the friendly amendment.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, stated that regardless of how it is amended, all cities must continue to engage in the development of a regional system. He understood the intent of the motion to amend, but noted it did not address the issues raised by Shoreline.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, mentioned he is concerned that if cities buy back service they may not have a stable income to fund the entire regional system.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that the Seattle plan would add another department to manage. There is no funding for roads in Seattle’s plan and it is not the most responsible path forward especially on a fiscal perspective.

The amendment to the main motion passed 22-0-1. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted yes. The city of Shoreline abstained.

Chair Talmas read the main motion as amended:

1. *Metro Transit must remain a regional transit system;*
2. *Reforms at Metro Transit need to be fully explored, understood, and clearly communicated;*
3. *Any transit tax increase adopted by any city to increase service should be sunsetted after no more than three years, in order to ensure that all cities in King County reengage on a system-wide financial plan;*
4. *The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) should define a minimum level of service standard for all communities in order to preserve connections and service throughout King County;*
5. **Metro Transit must provide consistent and transparent reporting on financial and service level data**;
6. **The productivity model at Metro Transit should be reviewed in order to ensure that travel between centers is evaluated fairly**; and
7. **We must continue to work in partnership with cities, King County, and other coalition members toward the shared goal of a statewide transportation package to address our critical transportation infrastructure needs.**

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, stated he would like the Executive Board of SCA to ask that the County convene a public transit improvement conference under RCW 36.57A. He noted that some areas of the County were receiving such poor service that it may be time to look at whether it made sense for them to continue participating in the Metro system at all.

Dawson asked if Councilmember Loudenback wished to make a motion to that effect, noting that the SCA Board policies and bylaws would not provide for the Board taking that sort of action unless it was the will of cities as indicated by PIC taking action. Councilmember Loudenback indicated that he understood, and that he would make a request on his own.

Councilmember Shelley Kloba, Kirkland, stated she has been a multi-county commuter and a subarea split would make it more difficult for multi-county transit users. It is important to keep principle #3 as amended. One of the high schools in our area subsidizes bus passes through Metro. We need to make sure we meet the needs of our school children. Kloba also mentioned she likes the 3 year sunset and the regional system emphasis.

Deanna Dawson mentioned that some school districts are working with Metro to buy back service that is proposed to be cut.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated Redmond has been involved with the drafting of these principles. There is a problem with Metro and we cannot continue on the same path. Margeson supports principle #5 and mentioned Metro did not do a good job of telling their story and how the loss of MVET income impacted their funding. If they continue to cut service to our cities, this will end up being a system that only truly serves Seattle.

The motion as amended passed 19-3-1. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, and Woodinville voted yes. The cities of Bothell, North Bend, and Tukwila voted no. The city of Shoreline abstained.

**9. King Conservation District Program of Work**
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, gave an update on this item. She noted that this item had been before the PIC for discussion and feedback previously. She noted that the work plan in the packet had been amended to provide additional detail on programs. The King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee was enthusiastic about the program, and had recommended that the entire program of work be brought forward for consideration, and funding. Dawson turned to Mayor Jim Berger of Carnation, who chairs the SCA caucus of the KCD Advisory Committee and serves as Vice Chair of the Committee.
Mayor Jim Berger, Carnation, moved, seconded by Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, to bring back to the next meeting of the PIC, the following potential policy position:

_Sound Cities Association supports adoption and funding of the 2015 King Conservation District (KCD) Draft Program of Work, as recommended by the KCD Advisory Committee._

Mayor Berger noted that the KCD Advisory Committee did support adoption of the entire program of work, rather than the program and associated funding being adopted incrementally over the course of several years. While this would take the per parcel rates and charges level from just over $5 per parcel to nearly $10 ($5.14 to $9.45) that is a small amount of actual dollars. He referred to the detail on the programs (Attachment B), and noted that this would be money well spent.

Councilmember Bill Peloza noted that Auburn was very supportive, and referenced a pilot project involving the Auburn Farmers Market.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that this was nearly a 100% increase in funding. Redmond is not supportive of any program doubling its level of funding at this time. He asked that cities be provided with additional detail on the budget for each program area, including on how under the rates and charges model each program in the proposed program of work would benefit rural areas, and urban areas.

Berger referred to the level of detail contained in the materials contained in the Program of Work contained in the packet. Dawson noted that attorney Steve DiJulio was present, and that he would be working with the KCD to develop the rates and charges. She asked that DiJulio and KCD Executive Director Sarah Hemphill (also present) provide Margeson with the requested information. Chair Talmas agreed, and noted this matter, if passed, would come back at the next meeting for final action.

The motion passed 22-1. The cities of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, Tukwila and Woodinville voted yes. The city of Redmond voted no.

### 10. School Siting Guidance Policy

Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, provided background on the proposed policy’s genesis. In the summer of 2011, SCA adopted two policies addressing the extension of sewer service to school properties in the rural area. As a result of those policies, a School Siting Task Force was formed. The Task Force report contained a number of recommendations; one of those was to put into a place a collaborative process requiring school districts and cities to work together to address school siting and capacity. Booth further noted that some SCA-appointed staff members to the Interjurisdictional Team (IJT) expressed reservations about a number of issues related to the proposed policy. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted one of the concerns of staff was that this policy would require cities to collaborate but since school districts are not subject to GMA, districts are not similarly required to collaborate.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, stated that Renton currently meets with its three school districts and is doing this work as part of its school impact fee program.
Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, moved, seconded by Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, to bring back to the next meeting of the PIC the following potential policy position: SCA supports adoption of the following policy by the GMPC:

Work cooperatively with public school districts to ensure there is sufficient capacity to accommodate each district’s projected student population and to support school siting consistent with PF-18 and PF-19. To accomplish these goals, all jurisdictions shall:

- Meet annually with each school district located within its boundaries to accomplish the following:
  - Analyze demographic trends, jurisdiccional growth targets and other data and information used to compile student projection numbers;
  - Review the district’s plans for accommodating its projected student population; and
  - Discuss the district’s strategy for addressing any shortfalls, including: temporary or portable classrooms; renovations or conversions of existing schools; and new schools.

With the agreement of all parties, such meetings may be consolidated. After the initial meeting, subsequent annual meetings may be cancelled on a year to year basis if both parties agree it is not needed.

Prepare a plan jointly with each school district to address capacity needs in districts where there is an identified shortfall that cannot be addressed with existing facilities or sites. Innovative strategies for providing adequate capacity should be considered. Examples of such strategies include:

- Shared public facilities such as fields, parking lots, and access;
- School district acquisition or lease of undeveloped or underutilized public properties;
- Land use tools to increase the supply of land available for public schools within the UGA, such as allowing schools in additional zoning classifications, the creation of special district overlays for public purposes, and flexible development standards for school projects; and
- School designs that reduce the need for land such as: smaller building footprints, multistory buildings, reduced parking, and centralized district amenities.

The GMPC shall annually review all joint plans to determine if the goals of this policy are being met. If the goals of this policy are not being met, the GMPC shall consider remedial actions as necessary. Such actions may include but are not limited to: developing new or amended policies, joint legislative strategies, or reconvening the School Siting Task Force or a similar work group.

Mayor Hill, Algona, was concerned with the use of the word shall in the policy and would propose that we should or encourage such meetings, as opposed to requiring them. Hill noted that his city is part of a school district that covers three cities.

Council President Margeson, Redmond, supported a change in language from shall to either should or encourage. Margeson noted communication issues with the Bellevue School District that already exist in Redmond that could make mandatory meetings a challenge.

Councilmember Ladenburg, SeaTac, noted his city already meets with its school district as part of its impact fee program. Ladenburg inquired if SCA should look at encouraging cities to adopt school impact fees.
Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, noted he generally supports Redmond’s proposal. Roberts asked if we need to formally direct staff now to change the language or can staff just clean up the language before next month.

Dawson suggested that if members want staff to bring a revised policy back in July, she would respectfully suggest amending the policy now. Changing the word “shall” to “should,” would represent a substantive change in the policy, not merely a grammatical change. If that is the policy supported by the PIC, then the change should be adopted now.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, moved, seconded by Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, to amend the first occurrence of the word shall to should.

Councilmember Marts, Issaquah, noted Issaquah is very supportive of its school district but cautioned that not only are there a lot of government models for cities, there are also different government models for school boards. Marts said that while you could get city elected officials together with the elected school board, the decision maker might not be at the table. Marts agreed with the proposed amendment.

Council President Margeson, Redmond, noted that the two sentences following the first bulleted list in the policy become moot with the policy language changing from shall to should.

Councilmember Marts, Issaquah, agreed.

Chair Talmas suggested staff bring back further proposed amendments to clean up the language as necessary to reflect the change in policy caused by changing the word shall to should.

The amendment to the main motion passed unanimously.

Chair Talmas called for the vote of the amended main motion. The amended main motion passed unanimously.

11. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Representation
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported on the action of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) in response to action taken by PIC last month. She reminded members that under the current state law, only counties and the largest cities have seats at the Board of the PSCAA. The PSCAA has an Advisory Council. This is more of a technical body. It has one seat for a representative from a suburban city. Dawson noted that there were 3 questions before the PIC:

1. Did it wish to seek representation on the Advisory Council for representatives from cities from each of the 4 counties, rather than just the current 1 representative?
2. If so, for a King County “other city” seat, did SCA wish to have appointing authority?
3. Did it wish to pursue possible changes to state law to allow for suburban representation on the Board itself?

Councilmember Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, moved, seconded by Chris Roberts, Shoreline, to bring back to the next meeting of the PIC the following potential policy position:
The Sound Cities Association (SCA) supports the PSCAA providing seats for other cities in each of the 4 member counties on its Advisory Committee. For the King County seat, SCA should have appointing authority. SCA also supports amending RCW 70.94.100 to provide for representation on the Board of the PSCAA for other cities.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, supported the motion. He noted that the PSCAA has a similar role in the region as the PSRC, and should have a similar governance structure with representation from cities other than just the largest city in each county.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, questioned whether an elected official would be a good representative on the Advisory Council, which was a more technical body. Dawson noted that in the past the one suburban city seat was filled by staff. If the position were adopted, SCA could conceivably appoint either a staffer from a city, or an elected official. SCA does appoint staff members from cities to some committees currently.

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, asked whether other counties wanted seats. Dawson noted that she had spoken to the Presidents of the Snohomish and Pierce County city associations. Both had been similarly concerned about the rate increase, and lack of involvement from other cities. Dawson indicated she would follow up with both.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. Upcoming Events
   a) The next Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM
      Kirkland City Hall

13. For the Good of the Order
Chair Talmas noted that a number of members will be out of town in August and the August PIC meeting may be cancelled.

14. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.
## 2014 Roll Call – Public Issues Committee Meeting
### June 11, 2014

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<th>Alternate</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>Issaquah</td>
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<td>Woodinville</td>
<td>Bernie Talmas</td>
<td>Susan Boundy-Sanders</td>
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<td>Deanna Dawson</td>
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Electeds present are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.
# King Conservation District

## Scoping Document

### Program of Work 2015

### Overview

Throughout the second and third quarters of 2013, KCD co-convened with King County a roundtable of local elected officials, senior staff, and rural landowners to examine the natural resource challenges facing our region and the ways in which the conservation approach could best support our one-of-a-kind regional mix of stakeholder needs and challenges. Named the King Conservation District and King County Conservation Panel and Task Force, the roundtable developed into a uniquely collaborative and productive process, ultimately resulting in a set of recommendations aimed at resolving historical concerns about KCD’s operations and exploring new or expanded programs. KCD’s partners believed would have broad and effective impact on the neighborhoods and communities that fund and use the King Conservation District.

KCD is grateful to the participants of both the Task Force and the Conservation Panel for their dedication and commitment in addressing our region’s most urgent natural resource challenges.

### King Conservation District 2014 Advisory Committee

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<th>King Conservation District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Knutsen</td>
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<td>Chair, Board of Supervisors</td>
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<td>Max Prinsen</td>
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<td>Dick Rynn</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Division Director</td>
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<td>Joan Lee</td>
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<td>Section Manager</td>
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<td>Water &amp; Land Resource Division</td>
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<tr>
<th>Michael Huddleston</th>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Relations Director</td>
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<td>King County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Minsch</td>
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<td>Regional Liaison</td>
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<td>Seattle Public Utilities</td>
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<td>Melissa Lawrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becca Fong</td>
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<td>Director of Environmental Program</td>
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<td>Seattle Tilth</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Stokes</td>
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<td>Councilmember</td>
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<td>Alison Bennett</td>
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<td>Policy Advisor</td>
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<th>Sound Cities Association</th>
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<td>Kate Kruller</td>
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<td>Councilmember, City of Tukwila</td>
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<td>Chris Eggen</td>
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<td>Deputy Mayor, City of Shoreline</td>
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<td>Mary Lou Pauly</td>
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<td>Jim Berger</td>
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<td>Mayor, City of Carnation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jane Goss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor, City of Lake Forest Park</td>
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Components of a Preliminary Scoping Document have been developed by KCD staff with the guidance of KCD’s Advisory Committee. It is hoped that the draft Preliminary Scoping Document captures the direction of the Conservation Panel Task Force and moves the dialogue forward toward a final scoping document to be forwarded by the Advisory Committee to the KCD Board and implementation of priority Opportunities. (See attached Opportunities white papers developed by the 2013 Conservation Panel and Task Force).

Overview of Current Programs

How We Work

The King Conservation District takes an incentive-based approach to stewardship. We provide landowners with technical assistance and incentives to adopt resource conservation practices through a three-pronged approach:

- Education
- Site-specific technical assistance
- Financial incentives, including grants, cost-share, and direct services

Private Lands in King County

There are more than 100,000 parcels in private ownership in King County. The Conservation District’s mission is to partner with private citizenry to engage in incentive-based programs that complement regulatory principles.

Overall, the recommendations focus on two themes:

1. Protect and enhance the local food economy through both infrastructure development and direct assistance, as well as protecting the rural and working lands

2. Recognize the tapestry of natural resources that exist within urban boundaries and how it meshes and overlaps with the whole and identify how KCD programs can best support natural resource stewardship across the county by strengthening KCD’s capacity to support natural resource stewardship across that tapestry

All participants of the roundtable emphatically agreed that local food and healthy rural/working lands directly contribute to the quality of life in their communities and that every community in the District deserves the opportunity to expand access to both healthy local food and natural resources like trees to all their residents. Building upon the recommendations of the roundtable, KCD is working with its Advisory Committee and ad hoc focus groups of elected officials and other interested parties to develop a more refined response to the recommendations and begin building proposals that would address the highest priorities of its partners and constituents.

Tuesday, June 03, 2014

Attachment B to the June 11, 2014 PIC Minutes
**Resource Management Priorities**

This section provides a snapshot of the King Conservation District’s current resource management priorities and associated program of work along with a 10-year scorecard are summarized.

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 Allocated by Resource Management Priorities

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<tr>
<th>Resource Management Priority</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatic Habitat</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>$1,376,391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Quality &amp; Quantity</td>
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<td>Forest /Upland Habitat</td>
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<td>Agricultural Lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viability of Working Lands</td>
<td>7%</td>
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**Total:** $3,798,851
Attachment B to the June 11, 2014 PIC Minutes

The King Conservation District assists member jurisdictions with meeting their resource conservation goals by offering 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 knoxweed removal project (partnering with the Friends of the Cedar Bluff 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 Bellingham’s storm drain stenciling program is working with citizen volunteers to help neighbors take responsibility for the health of city creeks and ultimately Puget Sound.

Landowner Implementation

The King Conservation District plans and implements natural resource management projects in partnership with landowners, neighborhood groups, and public entities. The District also provides financial incentives, such as grants and cost-share, to support self-directed landowners with implementation of Best Management Practices that protect and enhance natural resources on their property. Some examples of natural resource management and conservation practices typically supported by the King Conservation District include:

- Aquatic Area Buffer Plantings
- Bullhead removal
- Buffer Fencing
- Forest Health Management
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Stream Crossings
- Pasture & Hay Harvesting
- Livestock Heavy Use Protection Areas
- Livestock Waste Storage Facilities
- Roof water and surface water quality protection

Resource Planning & Conservation Education for Private Landowners

Member Jurisdiction Funding for Natural Resource Stewardship

Tuesday, June 03, 2014
Attachment B to the June 11, 2014 PIC Minutes

**Background**

The King Conservation District (KCD) is a natural resource conservation organization charged with improving and protecting community sustainability by engaging private landowners to take special care of their land. Like conservation districts across the United States, KCD's formula is a simple one: funds are collected from all property owners within the boundary of the District and, in turn, KCD implements or funds activities that will benefit the people who live in the District. These activities span a broad spectrum of programs and services, but share the common goal of increasing the resilience of our region's natural resources and working lands in the face of population growth, urbanization, and increased pressure from development.

The mandate of conservation districts is to encourage and support land owners and managers to take steps to protect and enhance the health of the natural resources in pursuit of their communities. Conservation districts in Northeastern Washington, for example, serve a distinctly rural and agricultural clientele. Soil health, water conservation, and livestock management rank among the top priorities facing land managers in these districts. Each Conservation District, however, is charged with responding uniquely and effectively to the challenges faced by its own community.

KCD is tasked with one of the most interesting, challenging, complex, and multi-faceted opportunities facing any conservation district: To work with landowners in the rural landscape of unincorporated King County and in the backyards and public easements, parks and open spaces that dot the urban landscapes of the 34 cities we serve. We are proud to call our partners. In short, KCD works with landowners to improve soil, water, and habitat conditions wherever it’s needed.

Serving such an urban landscape positions KCD to help leverage limited resources for effective regional impact at a time when the financial resources for conservation are dwindling instead of increasing. Now more than ever, collaboration and coordination across agencies, programs, and individuals is needed to ensure that our region’s natural resources are resilient and healthy enough to support our growing population.
2015 Program Focus Areas — recommended by the 2013 Conservation Panel/Task Force

After reviewing existing natural resource conservation programs and services in the region and identifying gaps that affect landowners and communities within the District, the Conservation Panel/Task Force recommended six priority areas in which they believed the King Conservation District could either expand, current programs and services or develop new programs/services in order to optimally meet the evolving needs and priorities of our stakeholders.

In developing a Preliminary Scoping Document, the King Conservation District proposes to organize its activities to meet the challenges and opportunities recommended by the King Conservation District/King County Conservation Panel and Task Force as follows:

- Rural Small Lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement
- Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture
- Rural Farm Plans, Technical Assistance, and Regulatory Support
- Urban Farm Plans, Technical Assistance and Regulatory Support
- Shoreline and Riparian Education and Technical Assistance
- Expanded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Two additional areas identified as priorities are included as programs in this scoping document:

- Member Jurisdiction Grant Program
- Community Relations and Outreach

The KCD's current one year level of service in each of these priority areas is discussed in detail in the following sections. Budget numbers associated with proposed activities are preliminary and will be refined through discussion with the Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.

1. Rural Small Lot Forestry & Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement — Supporting equity across District communities

Challenge: As climate change and population growth pressures mount, the health of Pacific Northwest forests is increasingly vulnerable.

Need: The demand to train and support owners of small forest properties to safeguard our regional forest resources is immediate and essential. Individual jurisdictions and agencies do not have the resources to adequately protect our forests without mobilizing the private land manager.

Total Proposed Program Budget (new + current) $319,654

A. Rural Small Lot Forestry and Forest Health Management Services

"The combined impacts of increasing wildfire, insect outbreaks, and tree diseases are already causing widespread tree die-off and are virtually certain to cause additional forest mortality by the 2040s and long-term transformation of forest landscapes."

- Climate Change impacts in the United States – Northwest May, 2011

Current Outcomes

- 25-40 forested acres treated annually
- 2,000-3,000 native trees and shrubs planted annually
- $29,906 leveraged annually

Proposed Future Outcomes

New small forest forestry services and programs are expected to increase the number of rural small forest landowners actively managing their forest resources for improved ecosystem services. This work will be supported by funding a minimum of one WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Planning workshop series per year in King County and working with regional forest health management service providers to market KCD services to forest landowners, top prioritize economic development activities that support small non-commercial forest landowners, and develop conservation programs that protect small forest-identified stands through coordinated and targeted fuels reduction efforts. Expected outcomes include the following:
Proposed Additional Programs and Services

Strengthening and expanding the resources available to manage the health of small, non-commercial forest lands in the rural areas has emerged as a high priority regionally. The full range of opportunities identified through a number of stakeholder engagement processes are listed below. With regard to these future additional services and program opportunities, KCD proposes to coordinate with King County to identify the specific programmatic efforts and geographic areas for new and/or expanded investments in unincorporated King County.

The range of opportunities includes:

- Fund the annual offering of WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshops in King County to rural non-commercial small forest landowners.
  - WSU (Grant or Contract)
- Target current and increased technical site assessment and support services to non-commercial rural forest landowners (under 5 acres).
  - KCD Staff
- Target new technical assistance and implementation services to homeowners associations with Native Growth Protection Areas, forest buffers and other open space management areas.
  - KCD Staff
- Conduct outreach to rural non-commercial small forest landowners: directly market the range of forestry services available across agencies in King County.
  - KCD Staff in partnership with WSU, KC and others
- Collaborate with local and regional service providers on enhancing economic development incentives to support small-scale forestry and on conservation programs that help maintain forest health in the urban/rural interface.
  - KCD Staff in partnership with WSU, KC and others
- Collaborate with local and regional service providers on delivering regional fire fuels reduction efforts to small non-commercial forest landowners.
  - KCD Staff in partnership with KC and others
- Reinstate the KCD Opportunity Fund to capitalize on synergistic opportunities on properties with combined farm and woodland land uses (see Regional Food System section of this document).
  - KCD Staff (Grants to landowners or Partners working with landowners - MJ's, NGOs, Agencies)

Background

The King Conservation District’s mission directs it to protect forest resources by reaching out to forest landowners and residents on enhancing ecosystem functions and adding value to forest cover.

As recently as 2009, over 45,000 acres of the nearly 782,000 acres of rural non-commercial forest lands outside the Agriculture Production Districts were held by landowners on parcels of five acres or less in size. These small, non-commercial forest lands exceed the capacity of the King County forestry program for support, yet together they represent a vast resource management priority that contributes to the overall health of our environment and community.

Current Programs and Services

Current KCD rural forest services include technical assistance and limited incentive funding to help rural non-commercial small forest landowners improve the forests on their property by restoring canopy conditions, controlling invasive plant species, improving wildlife habitat conditions and connections, and reducing pollutants to water bodies (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers and sediment from eroded soils). Natural resource management objectives for this work include fish and wildlife habitat improvement, storm water run-off management, water quality protection and enhancement, and carbon sequestration. KCD’s ongoing activities associated with this work include:

- Providing technical site assessment and implementation services to rural small acreage non-commercial forest landowners.
  - KCD Staff
- Providing technical site assessment and implementation services to forest landowners who have completed the Washington State University (WSU) Coached Forest Stewardship Planning training.
  - KCD Staff
B. Urban Upland Habitat Enhancement and Forest Health Management Services

Healthy trees and forests in urban communities are important for everyone. Recent research by King County reveals an alarming drop in urban trees in many King County communities at a time when more, not fewer, trees in these communities are intensely needed. As growth management concentrates development in urban areas and the regional commitment to social justice and equity is institutionalized, management and enhancement of healthy urban forests and tree canopies emerges as a necessity. Urban forestry programs are expanding their focus on aesthetics and the urban heat islands to additionally address functioning wildlife habitats in the cities, stormwater management, water quality protection, pollution abatement and carbon sequestration.

Current Outcomes

- 6 upland acres treated annually
- $14,000 in plants and other project materials provided annually to landowners and neighborhood groups through King County’s urban forest management projects.
- $140,000 leveraged annually in conjunction with urban forest projects supported by the city.

Proposed Future Outcomes

Expanded and new urban upland habitat enhancement and forest health management services are expected to introduce or increase the level of urban community-based forestry and take place in King County jurisdictions. Expanded and new services will be supported by hiring a full-time Urban Forester and AmeriCorps Intern. These staff will collaborate with three member jurisdictions annually to develop local urban forestry conservation initiatives. Activities will include workshops, classes, and tours, and technical support to urban residents on maintaining and restoring urban forest resources on private property and public easements, rights-of-way and open space areas. Measures of resource improvement anticipated in association with this expanded and new level of service are based on current measures of success and include the following:

- Urban forested/ upland acres treated and planted increased from 6 to 14 acres annually.
- Native trees and shrubs planted in urban forest/ upland habitat increased from 14,000 to $4,800 annually
- Private sector funding leveraged on urban forest/ upland habitat management increased from $144,000 to $24,000 annually
- Facilitate roundtable fora in jurisdictions annually to develop/ share urban forest retention and restoration initiatives. In turn, market services and facilitate outreach and networking opportunities to promote the retention and restoration of urban forests and facilitate community forestry activities through technical support.
- Work with 3 new jurisdictions annually in a support role to plan and implement urban forest retention and restoration programs.
- Allocate $150,000 annually ($50,000 per jurisdiction) in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to urban residents and neighborhood and community groups to implement management practices consistent with urban forest initiatives adopted by the respective jurisdictions.

Background

Current Programs and Services

Current KCD urban forest health management services include technical and project implementation services and limited incentive funding to help residential landowners improve the condition of urban forest resources. Resource management objectives associated with this work include upland wildlife habitat enhancement, storm water runoff management, water quality protection and enhancement, and carbon sequestration. Technical site assessment and implementation services on both private parcels and public parcels adopted by neighborhood groups include:

- Addressing the health of individual trees and degraded tree canopy conditions where present.
Attachment B to the June 11, 2014 PIC Minutes

- Improving the cover of native plant species,
- controlling invasive plant species,
- improving upland wildlife habitat conditions on the scale of individual parcels and to some extent the larger landscape, and
- reducing the contribution of pollutants to water bodies.

**Proposed Additional Programs and Services**

Strengthening and expanding the resources available to help residential property owners and public land managers maintain healthy urban trees and forests is a high regional priority. The opportunities identified through valuable engagement are listed below. KCD proposes to coordinate with its member jurisdictions to identify specific synergies, programmatic efforts and geographic areas for new and/or expanded investments in partnership with the jurisdictions.

The range of opportunities includes:

For landowner literacy

- Provide workshops, classes and tours to urban residents on improving forest/ree ecosystem functions and values, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing storm water runoff, and sequestering atmospheric carbon by planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs.

**KLJ Staff**

- Assist urban residents through increased levels of technical support on retaining and restoring their part of the urban forest, improving urban forest ecosystem functions and values, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing storm water runoff, and sequestering atmospheric carbon by planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs.

**KCD Staff**

- Support and/or coordinate public/private partnerships between private parcels and jurisdictions on restoring buffers adjacent to public open spaces and other urban open space areas.

**KLJ Staff in partnership with MJ's**

- Organize and facilitate three round tables for each year to explore the needs, concerns and potential opportunities to partner with jurisdictions on urban forestry initiatives, including monitoring and maintaining healthy tree canopy, developing urban forest retention and restoration strategies, and conducting public tree inventories & canopy assessments.

**KLJ Staff**

- Support jurisdiction efforts to improve urban forests in parks, open space areas, rights of way, and on other public properties.

**KCD Staff in partnership with MJ's**

- Coordinate and/or support jurisdiction applications to Washington Department of Natural Resources/Community and Urban Forestry Grants to develop urban forest strategic plans, public tree inventories, tree canopy assessments, and to fund urban tree planting initiatives.

**KLJ Staff**

- Partner with jurisdictions and local Native American Tribes on a program that promotes landscaping with native plant species and educates on traditional uses of native plants.

**KLJ Staff**

**Table:**

<table>
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<th>Current</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10% FTE Senior Resource Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>5% FTE Resource Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Funding $17,430 plus LIP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Expanded**

| - Create 1 FTE Urban Service Forester |
| - Create 1 FTE Urban Services Forester/Arborist/FHM Specialist |
| - Create 1 AmeriCorps Intern |
| - Increase cost-share to LIP for rural FHM projects, and add cost-share for urban FHM initiatives. |
| - Plan and implement practices on 200 rural acres annually |
| - Support 3 new Member Jurisdiction urban forestry initiatives annually |

**New Funding $302,224**
2. Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture

**Challenge:** Every community in King County deserves a strong, resilient, and equitable local food economy but food deserts and other obstacles persist.

**Need:** With policy development from regional leaders and expertise across a broad diversity of existing grassroots organizations, what is missing is the capacity to track, coordinate, and leverage food system needs and resources efficiently and effectively.

**Total Program Budget (new + current)** $1,086,261

**Current Outcomes -**
- Work regionally to set goals around food and farm marketing and distribution with other regional leaders.
- Auburn International Farmers Market – Development
- Auburn International Farmers Market – Marketing
- Renton Farmers Market – Marketing
- CSA Voucher Program – City of Auburn

**Proposed Future Outcomes**

*Develop a Regional Food System Program* in close collaboration with the KCD Advisory Committees, including setting priorities for district-specific projects and grants; funding priorities and fund $900,000 for local food projects. KCD proposes to work closely with its partners to provide the coordination of physical and economic infrastructure and market development as well as consumer access to locally-produced food. Program outcomes would include supporting the increase of locally-grown food access, increasing equitable access to healthy local food, and strengthening the sustainable profitability of local farming. These partners include, but are certainly not limited to:

- King County
- Member Jurisdictions
- FARM/CITIES Roundtable
- Cascade Harvest Coalition
- Seattle Tilth
- WW Agriculture Business Center
- Pike Place Market
- Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance
- Seattle Farmers Market Association
- Washington Farmers Market Association
- TilthProducers of Washington
- Sno-Yakoll Tilth

King County farmers produced $1.20 million worth of food in 2012, down from $127 million in 2007, ranking 16th of the state’s 39 counties. King County consumer, however, spent $6 billion on food, including $500 million on raw food. Demand for fresh locally-grown food is growing, but social, economic, and infrastructural obstacles stand in the way. Price points for food deliver a living wage to farmers while remaining affordable to a broad consumer base quite elusive in the absence of some market intervention. Processing and storage facilities are few, creating farm-to-market challenges for small farmers.

Institutional buyers such as hospitals and school districts have not yet embraced local suppliers in a meaningful way.

These obstacles suggest a need for public sector innovation. Though local food stories are ubiquitous and celebrated chefs increasingly highlight sustainability and seasonality in their menus and preparation, the fact remains that farmers are, paradoxically, simply not shifting in the same direction. The most recent survey of King County farmers found that increase in the sector is declining.

The King Conservation District is uniquely positioned to coordinate and leverage a range of projects, programs, and services we and our partners are already well-equipped to deploy.

**The Future**

We propose to work with our member jurisdictions, King County, Seattle Tilth, Cascade Harvest Coalition, Pike Place Market, the Puget Sound Regional Food Council, and others across the food system spectrum to reduce obstacles on the farm, during processing and storage, within distribution channels, and at market. We will build on existing success, such as Seattle Tilth’s farm works in Auburn, and work together to innovate new pilot programs to learn from and adapt.

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*By addressing food system issues systematically, the region can protect agricultural land, promote fresh food consumption, and support local food and farm based business to improve the health of the local food economy.*

- Puget Sound Regional Council - VISION 2040

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**Friday, May 23, 2014**
### Current Program Outcomes

- Currently, KCD is involved in a variety of regional soundstudies and policy efforts examining ways to grow and maintain a sustainable agricultural economy.
- KLDU is partnering with the City of Auburn, Auburn International Farmers Market, Seattle Tilth, Auburn Food Bank, and Washington CAN to implement Good Food Bag Market access for low-income shoppers to use at the Farmers Market this summer. This program will expand markets for local farmers by increasing their consumer base and expand access to healthy, locally grown produce to low-income community members.

### Proposed Program Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KCD proposes to develop and administer a robust program of grants and services that address the following regional goals:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Improve food access.</td>
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<td>- Invest in local food system as an economic growth sector.</td>
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<td>- Begin to address storage and processing obstacles.</td>
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<td>- Strengthen direct market connections at farmers markets.</td>
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<td>- Expand CSAs.</td>
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A healthy, local food system means healthier people, healthier farms, and healthier natural resources.

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**BACKGROUND**

The range of opportunities includes proposed text in **blue**:

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Collaborate with local agriculture sector to design a set of economic development solutions and systems for the food producers.  
**KCD Staff**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Support pilot projects to address complex farming challenges, such as new farmer recruitment, technical assistance, etc.  
**MJs/NGOs**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Providing catalyst funding and support to help cities connect to and strengthen regional farm and food economy.  
**MJs/NGOs**

**REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:** Invest in building the capacity of partner public and non-profit organizations that are connecting new farmers to land, providing technical assistance and conducting applied research to strengthen the local farm economy. (Cascade Harvest Coalition, WSU Extension Service, Northwest Agricultural Business Center, Seattle Tilth, and more)  
**Agencies/NGOs**

**REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:** Stabilize (and, if possible, expand) funding for organizations that are demonstrating success in developing farm to institution programs.  
**NGOs**

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**DIRECT MARKETING:** Support market expansion efforts for CSAs with institutional buyers and or through CSA fair to bring in new customers.  
**KCD Staff/NGOs**

**DIRECT MARKETING:** Support efforts to build and reinforce direct market channels including CSA, farmers' markets, neighborhood food coops.  
**MJs/NGOs**

**DIRECT MARKETING:** Support cities, farmers, and market managers to identify and secure capital for infrastructure of farmers' markets to enable them to continue to expand and play a more active role in nutrition education.  
**MJs/NGOs/Agencies**

**EQUITY/ACCESS:** Increase support for strategies to empower low-income families and individuals to have access to healthy local foods.  
**MJs/NGOs/Agencies**

**WHOLESALE:** Work with farmers to identify needs for, plan, and locate infrastructure for aggregation and storage.  
**KCD/KC**

**WHOLESALE:** Support development and/or expansion of local food hubs  
**KCD/KC/MJs/NGOs**

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**Background**

Strengthening the regional food economy was perhaps the most discussed and ultimately the highest priority of the Conservation Panel and Task Force. This focus area addresses enhancing the Regional Food System through a combination of initiatives and synergy with existing or expanded KCD services. These other KCD services are addressed in the Urban and Rural Farmer focus areas which follows this section.

**Current Programs**

The current Conservation Districts Member Jurisdiction Grant Program has funded some local food access-related projects in recent years, such as farmers market support with the City of Auburn. In 2014, KCD has been more actively exploring how cities can use this current Grant program to pilot some small food initiative projects, such as Farmers' Market food stamp program support, CSA access for healthy food access, and farmer's market support. In addition, KCD staff works regionally to support food system initiatives, such as the recent Farm and Food Roundtable project led jointly by Pike Place Market, (Seattle and King County) KCD is also committed to working with member jurisdictions on our shared interests in supporting the regional food system within the current grant program.

"The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Regional Food Policy Council has called for a systems change that will increase equitable access to healthy foods in the Puget Sound region. They point to the..."
3. Rural Farm plans, technical assistance, and regulatory support

**Challenge:** Best Management Practices to reduce non-point impacts from multiple land uses need continuous updates to protect water quality, a shared public resource. A resilient future depends upon farmers stewarding our shared resources in the public benefit while remaining economically healthy themselves.

**Need:** Farmers continue to need help understanding and navigating complex and changing rules, guidelines, and conditions such as salmon recovery, field drainage, water rights, soil health, extreme weather events, and farm development restrictions.

> "While the agriculture sector's technical ability to adapt to changing conditions can offset some adverse impacts of a changing climate, there remain critical concerns for agriculture with respect to costs of adaptation, development of more climate resilient technologies and management, and availability of timing of water."

**Climate Change Impacts in the United States**

| May, 2014 |

**Total Program Budget (new + current)** $725,814

**Current Outcomes**

Current natural resource planning services focus primarily on rural small farm managers. At current program funding, the key outcomes include:

- **Serving 150 farming customers** (90% result in site visits to assess natural resource concerns and solutions)
- **Delivering 67 farm plans for 1000+ acres** (20% regulatory referral; 25% Current Use/PIRS referral; 53% stewardship only)
- **Following up on 160 plans** to document implementation, which includes support navigating County, State, and Federal permitting systems.
Attachment B to the June 11, 2014 PIC Minutes

- Providing technical support to dairy operators and the Washington State Dairy Association (WSDA) is in association with WSDA nutrient management compliance inspections. About 15 inspectors per year.
- Assisting 30 farms with manure spreader loan program annually, promoting the beneficial use of manure as a fertilizer at agronomic rates, minimizing water quality impacts of livestock manure.

**Proposed Future Outcomes**

Develop a multi-year plan to deploy targeted farm planning services approach county wide to key targeted natural resource concern areas. For example, high priority locations with significant commercial farming land use (5-10 acres) identified by the landscape. In early 2014 KCD approved financial assistance for one dairy to construct infrastructure improvements that will keep dairy cattle dry and productive in the wet winter months and prevent water quality in the Snoqualmie Valley.

**KCD Staff**

- **Targeting 1 natural resource concern area for outreach each 2 years, ensuring a comprehensive approach to conservation.**

- **Serving 30 farming customers in targeted natural resource areas**.

- **Developing 20 farm plans in targeted natural resource areas**.

**Background**

**Current Programs**

In addition to stewarding many of the public’s water resources, farmers are emerging as critical roles in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Climate change studies point to the importance of soils as a key bank for carbon, which can mitigate some of the projected impacts of climate change projections. This focus on soil health and farm soils builds on nearly a century of soil conservation focus in the US, so visibly brought to mind with images of the dust bowl in the past and the tragic land slide at Oso only months ago.

The King Conservation District Planning staff engages farmers, landowners, and others to promote and support implementation of conservation practices and plans that address natural resource concerns.

**Proposed Additional Programs**

The 2013 Task Force and Conservation Panel identified the need to 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 marketing services to priority farming sectors and/or resource priority areas. Priority sectors or geographic areas could be identified using regional planning groups such as Puget Sound Partnership, Regional Food Policy Council, Department of Ecology TMDL, and other relevant policies. The selection of priority areas would be coordinated with input from the KCD Advisory Committee.

Over the past 10 years, KCD has seen a steady level of farm services requests, even without active marketing for these services. Expanded capacity to support small farmers would improve 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, 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.

**Current**

- 0.77 FTE Senior Program Manager
- 0.93 FTE Senior Resource Specialist
- 1.50 FTE Resource Specialist II
- 1.36 Program Assistant
- 0.7X FTE Corps Intern (Education)

**Current Funding $571,885**

**Expanded**

- Add 1 new FTE Outreach Specialist (Rural Farm Planning)
- Add 0.5 FTE Outreach Specialist

**New Funding $153,929**
4. Urban farm plans, technical assistance, and regulatory support

**Challenge:** An equitable local food economy includes urban food production, both commercial and personal. Urban farmers and gardeners have unique needs for land stewardship guidance to ensure a viable, diverse local food system that cares for our soils and waters for future generations.

**Need:** Existing urban agricultural organizations are under-funded to meet the demand to develop sustainable urban small-scale food production and provide training and support for low-income and immigrant populations, who would benefit most from expanded urban agricultural opportunities.

- **Total Program Budget (new + current)**: $191,800

**Current Outcomes**

Interest in small-scale food production is growing within the urban boundaries of the district. In such close quarters, the need for good planning and management is clear. King Conservation District planning staff services have been limited in serving urban farming. Current services are focused on water quality impact from small-scale livestock management and also associated with soil testing support to farmers and gardeners.

- "1 in 5 children in King County is food insecure." - Communities Count, 2012

**Proposed Future Outcomes**

- **Assess regional need for urban farming-related natural resource planning support** through coordination with member jurisdictions and the KCD Advisory Committee - KCD Staff

- **Continue to market and expand soil fertility services** to promote responsible fertilizer practices (increase grower involvement by at least 100 more new gardeners annually) - KCD Staff

**Background**

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. They provide optimal stewardship of soil, water, and habitat while also supporting the local food economy in any way possible. 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, including promoting water quality BMPs and building soil health/carbon sequestration.

KCD has experience working with landowners, including many 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 with area cities in several, regional food system initiatives focused on building strategies that increase the number of new farmers entering the field, both in cities and rural areas. This includes the efforts of a number of cities to adopt policies that enable and encourage urban farming.

Cities are also considering supporting this effort 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.
5. Shoreline and Riparian Habitat (Freshwater & Marine) — Support for shoreline landowners in protecting Puget Sound

**Challenge:** Efforts to restore the health of Puget Sound need the participation of private landowners who collectively own 2/3 of the shorelines. Landowner driven protection of our region’s streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and marine shorelines will contribute to salmon runs and the overall health of Puget Sound.

**Need:** Individual jurisdictions and agencies do not have the resources to recover the health of aquatic systems without mobilizing private land managers. The demand for workshops, classes, tours, train-the-trainer, and one-on-one assistance is immediate and essential.

**Total Program Budget (new + current)** $1,278,586

**Current Outcomes**
- 1.82 miles of shoreline replanted and enhanced annually.
- 23.5 acres of riparian corridor replanted and enhanced annually.
- 5,738 native trees and shrubs planted annually.
- 526 landowners, neighborhood groups and jurisdictions utilizing KCD technical service programs annually for implementation of aquatic area planting and enhancement practices.
- 1 KCD LIP cost-share contract awarded annually to landowners, neighborhood groups and jurisdictions for implementation of aquatic area planting and enhancement practices.

**Proposed Future Outcomes**
- Expanded and new shoreline and riparian habitat services are expected to significantly increase the current level of technical services and community engagement in support of freshwater and marine shoreline protection and enhancement objectives along creeks, streams, and other aquatic areas.

“Support efforts to expand urban food production on privately owned land, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.”

- Seattle Food Action Plan, 2008

**Current**
- 0.5 FTE Program Assistant
- $10,000 Soil Testing Expenses
- Current Funding $13,871

**Expanded**
- Add 1 new FTE Resource Specialist (rural farm planner)
- Add 1 Outreach Specialist
- New Funding $177,925

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nr. lakes and Puget Sound, and wetlands and estuaries, expanded and new services will be supported by coordinating workshops and other educational opportunities to engage landowners in restoration activities; conduct site visits; prepare and implement enhancement/restoration plans for rural and urban shoreline landowners, community/neighborhood groups adopting publicly owned shoreline areas and groups working to protect and restore basin level functions and values. Expanded and new ser vices will be targeted and coordinated in partners' to with members jurisdictions to address individual member jurisdictions priority geographic areas. Resource improvements anticipated in association with expanded and new service are based on current measures of success (10 year score card) and include the following outcomes:

- 2.6 miles of shoreline replanted and enhanced annually.
- 47 acres of riparian corridor replanted and enhanced annually.
- 115,100 native trees and shrubs planted annually.

A minimum of 220 freshwater aquatic area landowners engaged annually in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area replanting and enhancement practices. Aquatic area landowners will be engaged by dlat tours at the start of workshops on protecting and enhancing freshwater aquatic resources. Of these 2 workshops will be attended regionally to urban KC residents OSE, NW, SE and SW King County and workshops will be facilitated twice per year in each geographic region.

A minimum of 150 marine shoreline aquatic area landowners engaged annually in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area replanting and enhancement practices. Marine shoreline landowners will be engaged by dlat tours at the start of workshops on protecting marine aquatic resources. The workshops will be directly marketed to marine shoreline landowners through targeted outreach, facilitative in locations accessible to Vashon, NW King and SW King residents.

Increase from 10 to 20 the number of freshwater aquatic area planting and enhancement projects planned and implemented by KCD, thereby restoring a minimum of 5 acres and 1.8 miles per year in a combination of urban and rural residential lands. In association with this work, leverage additional Washington State Conservation Commission funding for project implementation.

Increase from 4 to 8 the number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects planned and implemented per year, thereby restoring a minimum of 6 acres and 1.5 miles per year on agricultural lands. In association with this work, leverage additional Washington State Conservation Commission funding for project implementation.

Commission funding and USDA Farm Service Agency funding for project implementation.

- Allocate $112,330 annually in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to freshwater and marine aquatic area landowners to implement freshwater and marine shoreline plant and enhancement practices in urban and rural areas (an increase from 10 to 16 contracts, and $11,283 to $112,330).

**Background**

King Conservation District engaged roundtable participants in an exploration of the challenges facing aquatic habitats in the District. King County’s landscape is a diverse mosaic of mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, and marine habitats. The District’s service area includes approximately 2,100 square miles of land, plus nearly 2,000 miles of freshwater and marine shorelines. Major watersheds include Cedar River/Lake Washington, Green-Duwamish, Sammamish, Snoqualmie-Skykomish, White River, and Central Puget Sound, including Vashon-Maury Island.

A century of intensive logging, agriculture and urban development has degraded aquatic habitats throughout King County, with more than 2/3 of the shoreline properties held in private ownership. In 1999, Chinook salmon were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act prompting concerted efforts to restore and protect lakes, rivers and streams. Concern for the health of Puget Sound has focused increased attention on shoreline and nearshore habitats. Working closely with private property owners whose lands border freshwater and marine aquatic systems is an essential component of recovering the health of these systems. Support for increased educational assistance and -building among shoreline property owners was recommended by the roundtable.

**Current Programs and Services**

KCD currently supports shoreline property owners in implementing enhancement and restoration activities through targeted education, direct technical assistance, and financial incentives in the form of direct project planning and implementation services. In addition, KCD provides grants to private property owners to engage in on-farm conservation practices.

The goal of KCD shoreline and riparian habitat support services is to improve the condition of freshwater and marine aquatic resources. This objective is met by engaging landowners and land managers in improving the health of native plant species, controlling invasive plant species, improving riparian and wetland conditions on the scale of individual parcels and to some extent the larger landscape, and reducing the...
contribution of pollutants to water bodies (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, nutrients, bacteria, etc). Resource management objectives associated with this work include fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, water quality protection and enhancement, and carbon sequestration. In addition, shoreline property owners need assistance in navigating regulations, understanding the ways in which their actions impact our shared aquatic resources, and paths they can take to improve the sustainability of our waters and related aquatic habitats. KCD’s ongoing activities associated with this work include:

- **Conducting shoreline education programming** to promote stable natural shorelines that protect water quality, provide high-value fish and wildlife habitat, reduce storm water runoff, and sequester carbon.

  **KCD Staff**

- **Providing technical site assessment and enhancement/restoration project implementation services to residential property owners.** Typical implementation services in a rural context include supporting on-site planning and implementing riparian corridor enhancement projects consistent with MKCC Code and in an urban context include supporting and/or planning and implementing riparian corridor enhancement to whatever extent is practicable. In cases where funding is available, services include improvement of in-stream habitat conditions.

  **KCD Staff**

- **Providing technical site assessment and implementation services to neighborhood groups adopting aquatic areas on public properties.** Typical services to neighborhood groups include actions to address degraded riparian 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). In cases where funding is available, in-stream habitat conditions are improved.

  **KCD Staff**

- **Providing technical site assessment and implementation services to member jurisdictions.** Technical services are made available to and coordinated with member jurisdictions to improve freshwater and marine shoreline habitat in parks and on other public properties. These efforts are implemented in the form of contracted service.

  **KCD Staff**

**Proposed Additional Programs and Services**

In response to the priorities identified by our partners, KCD proposes to strengthen its existing shoreline and riparian habitat programs by increasing capacity for workshops, classes, and tours to freshwater and marine shoreline property owners; increasing capacity for on-site technical assistance and implementation services to property owners on improving the functions and values of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality of marine and freshwater shorelines; increasing capacity to respond to member jurisdiction requests for support on improving the functions and values of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality of marine and freshwater shorelines on public lands. With regard to the future additional services and program opportunities listed below, KCD proposes to coordinate with its member jurisdictions to identify specific synergies, programmatic effort and geographic areas for new and/or expanded investments in partnership with the jurisdictions.

The range of opportunities includes:

**For landowner literacy**

- Provide assistance to landowners and residents in communities that are currently undeserved or are disproportionately affected by pollution, including toxics and sedimentation, or habitat degradation.

  **KCD in Partnership with MJs/NGOs**

**For jurisdiction**

- Increase capacity to help jurisdictions meet their aquatic resource protection and enhancement objectives through education, technical support and implementation services to landowners and neighborhood/community groups. Efforts in this area could include any combination of outreach, education and technical services targeted by priority geographic areas ranging from individual landowners in proximity to public properties to priority watersheds or sub-basins. The range of services to jurisdictions could include community organizing, project planning, and implementation services.

  **KLU in Partnership with MJs/NGOs**

- Support jurisdiction efforts to improve freshwater and marine shoreline habitat in parks and on other public properties. These efforts, currently offered as a contracted service, could be increased. Jurisdiction investments could be augmented by working with landowners of adjacent private holdings.

  **KCD in Partnership with MJs/NGOs**
Support jurisdiction efforts in targeted shoreline outreach, education and technical services that promote and support enhanced shoreline buffers and reduced pollutants in surface water runoff.

### Expanded Landowner Incentive Program – Cost-share to meet natural resource management priorities in our region

This section represents the portion of implementation services associated with the other five opportunity areas that is financed through cost-share contracts with landowners.

**Challenge:** Private landowners own nearly 50% of the land within the boundary of the King Conservation District. Engaging the private landowners in natural resource protection and enhancement is critical to supporting an economically and environmentally sustainable region.

**Need:** Private landowners need support to meet the region’s expectation that common resources on private property, such as water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, be protected and enhanced for public benefit.

**Total Program Budget (new + current)** $837,182

### Current Outcomes

- 1.8 miles of shoreline enhanced since inception.
- 11.5 acres of riparian corridor enhanced since inception.
- 141.5 acres of forest in active forest health management since inception.
- 100 landowners engaged in stewardship practice implementation since inception.

### New Funding $603,992

### Proposed Future Outcomes

- Allocate $150,000 annually in KCD LIP forest health management cost-share funding for contracts awarded to small acreage non-industrial private forest landowners to implement forest health management practices (an increase from 3 to 10 contracts, and $60,000 to $150,000).
- Allocate $150,000 annually ($50,000 per jurisdiction) in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to urban residents and neighborhood and community groups to implement management practices consistent with urban forest initiatives adopted by the respective jurisdictions (an increase from 1 to 15 contracts, and $11,740 to $150,000).
• Allocate $112,500 annually in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to freshwater and marine aquatic area landowners to implement freshwater and marine shoreline planting and enhancement practices in urban and rural areas, an increase from 1 to 10 contracts, and $112,500 to $112,500.

• Allocate $52,500 annually in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to agricultural landowners to implement agricultural-related water quality protection and enhancement practices, including land drainage ditch maintenance practices, water conserving irrigation practices, and other practices that improve resource management and protections on agricultural lands, an increase from 24 to 40 contracts and from $150,000 to $250,000.

Background
The King Conservation District traditionally works with private property owners in all settings to assist them in protecting, conserving, and enhancing natural resources. The KCD Landowner Incentive Program promotes stewardship of natural resources by providing funding in the form of cost-share awards to support landowners' implementation of natural resource management practices. Cost-share awards are a proven financial incentive tool utilized by property owners seeking to promote behavior change through the adoption of emerging and/or current priority management practices. Examples include the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Bi-County Conservation Service Plan, which provides conservation programs and technical assistance to property owners in the county. Cost-share awards through these programs are contractual arrangements between the funding entity and recipient landowners. Such contracts typically specify an approved activity with implementation criteria, a reimbursement amount or rate, and in some cases, performance measures.

Current Programs
The KCD Landowner Incentive Program funds natural resource management practices planned in association with KCD technical service programs such as the Farm Planning Program and the Aquatic Area Enhancement Program. Under the practices funded through the LIP are planned by the KCD, the recipient landowner is responsible for ensuring the practice is implemented consistent with planned standards. Currently, fourteen individual practices are eligible for funding to address a range of resource management priorities, including: 1) aquatic habitat protection and enhancement (Aquatic Area Buffer Planting, Stream Bank Stabilization); 2) upland forest enhancement (Forest Health Management, Large Wildlife Habitat Enhancement); 3) surface and groundwater quality protection and soil conservation on agricultural lands (Livestock Heavy Use Protection Area, Livestock Waste Storage Facility, Livestock Stream Crossing); 4) the KCD Landowner Incentive Program cost-share reimbursement rates range from 50% to 95% of the project cost, depending on the natural resource management practice and within the established limit for the practice. KCD’s ongoing activities associated with the Landowner Incentive Program include:

• Award cost-share funding to promote implementation of eligible practices planned through a KCD technical service program.

• Administer open cost-share contracts.

• Monitor maintenance of funded practices for the lifetime of the practice.

Future Additional Programs
In response to the priorities identified by our partners, KCD proposes to strengthen its existing cost-share program by increasing implementation of natural resource management practices that protect and enhance water quality, improve water use efficiency, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and improve forest health. The KCD is well-positioned to work with more property owners across the urban and rural landscape of King County to implement conservation projects on their properties. Such projects can leverage local government efforts on public properties, such as working with county and city land use decision-making processes to maintain and protect habitat. KCD can provide education, technical assistance, and monitoring to assist landowners with planning and designing their cost-share project in response to the priorities identified by our partners. In addition to the traditional cost-share program, KCD proposes to coordinate in partnership with its member jurisdictions to identify specific programmatic efforts and geographic areas of need and/or expanded investment. Opportunities shared by stakeholders include:

• Increase funding to support implementation of Forest Health Management practices in rural areas.
8. Advisory Committee, Communication, Outreach

While not a new opportunity identified by the Conservation Panel/Task Force, Outreach was identified as an inadequately funded element in KCD's work plan. KCD committed to re-organizing its 2014 programmatic funding to provide resources to support:

- An expanded and intensive Advisory Committee process,
- Outreach to our city partners, organizational marketing, and
- Other activities to strengthen our partnerships and raise regional literacy about KCD's impact on natural resource conservation.

As KCD develops its 2015 Program of Work with the Advisory Committee over the coming months, the work plan of this section will be developed.

King Conservation District Funding Structure

KCD receives funding from two primary sources, Rates & Charges and Grants. Rates & Charges are collected using a PER PARCEL mechanism from each tax parcel in the District (currently approximately $6.14, with a legislated cap of $10 PER PARCEL). To meet the requirements of this funding, the King Conservation District must demonstrate both indirect and direct benefit to its ratepayers. KCD's programs are required to impact the following natural resource priorities in the public benefit:

- Aquatic Habitat
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Agricultural and Farmlands
- Forest Lands and Upland Habitat
- Economic Support for Working Lands

Next Steps

KCD is working closely with its Advisory Committee to build a Program of Work that reflects the needs and priorities of its constituents for submission to King County August 1, 2014.
### Conservation Task Force Members

- Alison Bennett, Policy Program Manager
  - City of Bellevue Utilities
- Deanna Lutson, Executive Director
  - Cowles Cities Association
- Sue Erickson-Brown, Farmer
  - Local Roots Farm
- King County Agriculture Commission Member
- Mark Isakson, Division Director
  - King County Dept of Natural Resources & Parks
- Bobbi Lindemulder
  - RSU 4A
- Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations
  - City of Shoreline
- Kathy Minsch, Regional Liaison
  - Seattle Public Utilities
- Eric Nelson, Supervisor
  - King Conservation District
- Mike Reed, Legislative Lead Analyst
  - King County Council
- Carolyn Robertson, Gov Relations Manager
  - City of Auburn
- Dick Ryan, Commissioner
  - King County Rural Forest Commission
- Nicole Sanders, Associate Planner
  - City of Snoqualmie
- Christine Terje, Director
  - King County Dept of Natural Resources & Parks

### Conservation Panel Members

- Jim Berges, Mayor
  - City of Carnation
- Richard Canin
  - Seattle City Councilmember
- Don Davidson
  - Bellevue City Councilmember
- Reagan Dunn
  - King County Councilmember
- Chris Egen, Deputy Mayor
  - City of Shoreline
- Fred Isett, Deputy Mayor
  - King County
- Kate Kuller
  - City of Turwela Councilmember
- Kathy Lambert
  - King County Council Councilmember
- Kit LaBonte, Supervisor
  - King Conservation District
- Max Fristner, Supervisor
  - King Conservation District
- Joan Stokes
  - Bellevue City Councilmember