

## **SCA Board of Directors MINUTES**

September 17, 2014 10:00 AM  
Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center  
1055 S. Grady Way, Renton 98057

### **1. Call to Order**

Matt Larson, SCA Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members present: Nancy Backus, Chris Eggen, Don Gerend, Jim Haggerton, Dennis Higgins, Dave Hill, Matt Larson, Denis Law, John Marchione, Bernie Talmas

Members absent: Bill Allison David Baker, Bob Harrison

Staff present: Deanna Dawson, Kristy Burwell

Guests present: Mary Jane Goss, Jennifer Reed

### **2. Public Comment**

Vice President Larson asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Larson closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Denis Law moved, seconded by Dave Hill, to approve the Consent Agenda. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. President's Report**

Vice President Larson deferred the President's Report until later on the agenda.

### **5. Executive Director's Report**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the King Conservation District (KCD) is presenting SCA with an award for Best Partnering Organization to compliment the work that KCD and SCA has done together.

Dawson reported that on September 24, 2014 the Snoqualmie Valley Government's Association (SVGA) meeting will include a candidate's forum, which she has been asked to moderate.

Dawson reported on a meeting that the SCA Executive Committee had with King County Councilmembers Dembowski, Hague, and Lambert. There was good discussion on how to move past partisanship and they would like to meet more often, ideally on a quarterly basis.

Dawson reported that the SCA Executive Committee is meeting with Seattle Mayor Ed Murray tomorrow, September 18, 2014. Dawson noted that the group will follow up on last week's regional transit summit meeting.

Dawson reported that SCA staff is working on the 2015 SCA draft budget, which will be presented to the Finance Committee at its next meeting.

Next, Dawson reported on the King County budget and its effects on cities. There are major funding issues surrounding public health and transit. Dawson passed around a striking amendment that King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski presented to the council, as well as a comparison chart on the alternative February 2015 service reduction proposal. Dawson noted that SeaTac City Manager Todd Cutts encouraged SCA to form a small group to review and give feedback to King County regarding its budget.

Dawson passed around a flyer for the Youth Action Plan that listed four community conversations that will take place in October at different locations around the county for the Youth Action Plan. She noted that these conversations will highlight the needs of youth in communities and identify where additional services are needed. Dawson reported that she is working on also getting the County to hold a community conversation in the North, likely in Shoreline.

Dawson reported that SCA has opened a new bank account at Sound Credit Union, which has a higher rate of return and is a local bank, two criteria that the Board was seeking in a new financial institution. This new account is in response to the Umpqua Bank and Sterling Bank merger and protecting the organization's funds at the FDIC insured levels.

Dawson provided an update on the health and human services transformation plan and Communities of Opportunity (CoO). She reported that the Seattle Foundation is giving SCA an honorarium of \$3,000 in recognition of the ED's participation in the process.

Denis Law raised an issue about the PSERN radio replacement project, and asked that concerns be raised in the upcoming SCA meeting with mayor Murray.

## **6. PIC Chair's Report**

Bernie Talmas, PIC Chair, reported on the September 10, 2014 meeting of the PIC, where the PIC Nominating Committee made appointment recommendations.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Dave Hill, that the Board appoint Council President Dana Ralph, Kent, to an alternate seat on the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board (TPB); Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to a member seat on the Regional Law, Safety, and Justice (RLSJ) Committee, and Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, to a member seat on the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), as recommended by the PIC on September 10, 2014.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Talmas reported that the PIC gave authorization to the PIC Nominating Committee to make a recommendation directly to the SCA Board for the open seats on the King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Don Gerend, that the Board appoint Councilmember Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah, from alternate to member, and appoint Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, and Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Kent, as alternates on the King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Talmas reported Mayor Marchione had made a suggestion regarding asking for legislation to allow a regional taxing authority, possibly a three or four county area, to address transportation issues.

He also reported that the SCA Leadership met with King County Executive Constantine who provided a highlighted list of changes or no changes in the county 2015/2016 biennial budget.

Chair Talmas also reported on some other items that the PIC discussed including: psychiatric boarding; public health funding and shortfall, which will affect closing four clinics; transit cuts and the work of the SCA transit ad hoc committee; the school siting issue has been delayed; and discussion on the transfer station plan review.

In response to the report about the meeting with Executive Constantine and the budget discussion, Mayor Hill asked a question about funding for Sheriff's services. Dawson noted that the budget had not yet been released and so they would follow up after the details of the budget were released. Mayor Law asked a question about jail bookings. While Constantine had noted there would be no changes in jail booking affecting cities, Mayor Law noted that the contractual cost to cities for jail bookings had decreased.

## **7. City Manager's Report**

Deanna Dawson reported that the City Managers and Administrator group has appointed Bob Harrison, Issaquah City Administrator, to the SCA Board of Directors.

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **EDC:**

Deanna Dawson reported that the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County (EDC) has voted to provide a seat for an SCA representative on its Executive Committee. While some SCA members hold seats on the EDC Board, SCA is not represented currently on the Executive Board, where more decisions are made. Members agreed that the new appointee should be an elected official, a member of the SCA Board, and a financial contributor to the EDC.

*President John Marchione arrived.*

Dave Hill moved, seconded by Denis Law, to appoint Nancy Backus to the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County (EDC) Executive Committee.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously

Dawson reported that the EDC had asked if SCA would like to be listed as a partner on a series of upcoming workshops. There would be no cost to SCA, who has a reciprocal partnership with the EDC. The Board agreed to allow the use of SCA's logo.

#### **SCA Board Terms:**

President Marchione reported that in reviewing the SCA Board terms, they started out as staggered terms, but through different situations the rotating terms have been lost. Dawson passed around a handout outlining the current terms of board members. All South members were elected last year. 2 of 4 members should have been elected to unexpired terms, but due to the at-large method of elections, the slots were not designated. The Board agreed that they did not wish to change the method of electing members- they agreed that having at-large elections was better for encouraging participation. They agreed that the best method to address the current situation would be to ask for volunteers or draw straws to determine which Board members would stand for election again this year. Dennis Higgins of Kent volunteered. *(Note- following the Board meeting, Mayor Bill Allison also volunteered to stand for election in 2015.)*

#### **PSCAA:**

Dawson provided an update on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) Advisory Council. The PSCAA is agreeable to adding seats on the Advisory Council for other cities, but has not yet taken action. Dawson has followed up with AWC about making a legislative change to allow for other cities to have Board seats. AWC staff has indicated it would support if there was no opposition from other cities. Dawson is attempting to meet with the Board Chair, who is from Everett. The Board suggested also raising this issue with Mayor Murray.

#### **Area Agency on Aging for Seattle and King County (AAA) Advisory Committee:**

Dawson reported on the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle and King County (AAA) Advisory Committee. There is currently one open seat for an elected official on the Advisory Committee, previously held by Ava Frisinger. Dawson inquired if the Board would like to have SCA appoint a member to fill this vacancy. The Board agreed that it did. There has also been discussion at the AAA about how to get more cities involved, and they have floated the idea of having SCA be a "sponsor." There would be no charge, but sponsoring agencies have 9 seats that they appoint to the Committee. The Board would like more information before proceeding.

#### **Public Health Funding:**

Next, Dawson reported on the public health funding crisis, and the possible closure of 4 clinics. King County is partnering with Seattle and Planned Parenthood to keep the White Center clinic open. They are also talking with federal Way about a similar partnership. Mayor Backus reported that Auburn has had similar conversations, but is unsure whether they could provide the necessary funding. The PIC discussed this matter and had strong concerns about the closure of the clinics. They want SCA to take a position supportive of finding additional funding. The group discussed possible e-cig taxes as a potential source of funding.

Members raised concerns about the closures of clinics affecting the areas of the county that most needed the services. They discussed how poor transit service exacerbated by cuts would compound the situation. Members also raised concerns about individual cities being asked to provide funding for a county service, or risk a lack of services. Questions were raised about the amount of the funding gap, and the amount cities would have to contribute. Nancy Backus shared that it will cost \$400K to break the lease for the Auburn clinic. Members also raised concerns about the financial errors in the health department that may not have caused the lack of funding, but masked the problem such that there was little time to react to the funding crisis.

### **County Budget:**

The Board agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to take a hard look at the County budget, including issues of Metro and public health.

Chris Eggen moved, seconded by Nancy Backus, to charge the Finance Committee to be the SCA budget committee to review the King County budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board suggested that it would be helpful to have someone from the County meet with the committee to review the budget. Dawson agreed to approach the County on this.

### **Transportation:**

President Marchione discussed challenges with getting the State to adopt a statewide transportation bill, and discussed the possibility of seeking authority at a regional level. The Puget Sound region brings in more dollars in gas tax than it receives back for projects. If a Puget Sound region only additional gas tax were implemented, perhaps more Puget Sound projects could be funded with a lower gas tax. The Board was interested in learning more about such a proposal, and encouraged President Marchione to discuss with partners in the legislature. Marchione noted that cities needed to do a better job of making the case for transportation needs. PSRC will also be working on this issue, and putting together a list of projects needed in the region and the amount needed to fund.

Marchione also reported that in a recent conversation with Executive Constantine, he had noted that his biggest priorities for transportation funding were funding of Sound Transit, and Metro.

President Marchione asked about whether the ad hoc committee formed to discuss Metro had a policy statement to bring to PIC. Dennis Higgins reported that they had been looking at a possible statement, but had withdrawn it given the Executive's revised proposal on cuts, which had rendered the position moot. Dawson noted that in their recent meeting with Executive Constantine, he had proposed forming a new Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF). This would be formed at end of 2015 (after budget adoption) or beginning of 2016. The ad hoc committee could help give direction as to what is important to cities in that process. President Marchione noted that the peer review report of Metro was coming out as well. He noted that the existing service model doesn't adequately account for differences between urban, suburban, and rural areas. He noted that the RTTF had done good work and established good priorities (such as social and geographic equity) but the implementation by Metro needed improvement.

Chris Eggen, who had served on the original RTTF, agreed. Dave Hill commented that the productivity measures were not fair to outlying communities. Matt Larson agreed, and noted that his part of the County was putting in far more revenues than they were seeing back in service.

President Marchione sought feedback from the Board on how to involve cities and get more feedback. Jim Haggerton cautioned against forming a new group rather than having existing committees take on work to avoid duplication of efforts. Bernie Talmas thought that having Marchione do additional ground work would be efficient. Nancy Backus agreed that having a definite direction and well-formed options for cities to react to would be helpful.

President Marchione reported that Kim Allen and Redmond staff were working on rewording a possible policy position for the ad hoc committee. Dennis Higgins was supportive. Dave Hill noted that there needed to be a revamped formula for transit productivity. He was supportive of having a meeting of mayors to give feedback on transportation.

Denis Law expressed concerns about the continual failure of the legislature to address the transportation needs of the region. He encouraged President Marchione to get a sense from Rep. Clibborn on progress. He expressed particular concern about funding 520, and 405 and 167. Matt Larson also commented on the need to find funding to finish 520.

Talmas commented on the productivity model at Metro and the need for a restructure. Eggen suggested that the ad hoc committee take this on. Marchione agreed, and suggested that this should be taken on after the peer report is released.

#### 9. **For the good of the order**

Don Gerend commented that coal trains and oil trains serve no benefit to greater Puget Sound. Gerend feels that SCA should take a position opposing the Pacific Gateway Terminal. AWC has a committee that has been talking about this and it might be worth coming together and agreeing on a cohesive statement. Gerend added that we don't want to hinder Amtrak or Sounder. President Marchione stated that it could come through PIC and asked members to volunteer staff to help draft the potential policy statement.

Chris Eggen commented that at PSRC Transportation Policy Board (TPB) last year there was a delay in committing funds and a scramble to make sure the region did not lose money. PSRC will create new, stronger policies to avoid this in the future.

Nancy Backus mentioned the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance, which started as an alliance against coal trains. There is a letter to the governor that is going around regarding oil tankers specifying a date when old oil cars should no longer be allowed.

Don Gerend commented on the request to change the payment due date on the Public Works trust fund loans. This would require cities to give money back ahead of time. Cities can make the decision if they want to make a payment early.

Don Gerend also commented on the state budget and a presentation given by the state budget director, David Shoemaker. Gerend can make the PowerPoint presentation available to members.

Gerend continued that the next biennium is worse than this current one; one time sweeps are no longer available. The question was proposed to do a levy swap to address the issue of McCleary (state for local), but a levy swap wasn't supported. It may hurt Puget Sound schools, while helping eastern WA schools. Gerend stated that there may be a solution if it is grouped with a larger package. Gerend also mentioned that cities want our share of liquor/marijuana sales tax. Dave Hill inquired if there is an estimated tax figure from marijuana sales. Gerend replied that approximately 30 cities in three counties have already banned sale of marijuana.

Jim Haggerton commented on the issues surrounding coal and oil trains and the fact that all groups should be coordinating with each other and not duplicating efforts. By staying united, there is a stronger voice.

Denis Law echoed Haggerton's comment by stating that a united stance is necessary while speaking with Seattle or King County.

President Marchione commented that it would be better for SCA to respond to another entities policy on coal and oil trains, then to use our resources for similar outcome.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.