



**King County**

**King County Rural Forest Commission  
 Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 8:30 am to 9:30 am**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Present?</b>	<b>Commissioner (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting)</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Monica Paulson Priebe, academic forester (Chair)	✓	Kelsey Ketcheson, WSU Extension	
Amy LaBarge, forest ecologist (Vice-Chair)		Brandy Reed, KCD	✓
Laurie Benson, WA DNR	✓	Martie Schramm, USDA Forest Svc.	
Jeff Boyce, rural cities/professional forester	✓		
Andy Chittick, forest product user/forest landowner			
Wendy Davis, private forest landowner	✓		
Wyatt Golding, non-timber values of forest land			
Daryl Harper, forest landowner			
Steve Horton, forest product user/forest landowner	✓		
Li Hsi, forest landowner	✓		
Bernie McKinney, forest landowner/conservation advocate	✓		
Steven Mullen-Moses, affected Indian tribe	✓		
Grady Steere, large forest landowner	✓		
<b>County Staff Present</b>			
Richard Martin, DNRP			
Wendy Sammarco, DNRP			
Katherine Taylor, DNRP			
Hugo Garcia, DLS			

Motion 01-1019: to revise the letter supporting KCD forest programs and include KCD measured accomplishments; circulate to RFC members for approval and transmit to KC Executive and KC Council. Wendy Davis made the motion, Steve Horton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion 02-1019: to recommend reappointment of Monica Paulson Priebe, Amy LaBarge and Laurie Benson to a second 3-year term on the Commission. Wendy Davis made the motion, Steve Horton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion 03-1019: to recommend John Creighton as a replacement for the RFC seat vacated by Daryl Harper (forest landowner > 20 acres enrolled in Forestland Designation program). Steven Mullen-Moses made the motion, Li Hsi seconded. Motion carried with 8 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

Motion 04-1019: to recommend Mari Knutson as a replacement for the RFC seat vacated by Bernie McKinney (forest landowner <20 acres, advocate for non-timber forest values). Steve Horton made the motion, Jeff Boyce seconded. Motion carried with 7 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

Motion 05-1019: to adjourn the conference call. Wendy Davis made the motion, Grady Steere seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

There were two items on the agenda for discussion and vote: letter in support of KCD forest programs and recommendations for appointments/reappointments to the RFC. There was no recording made of this meeting but notes were taken by Richard Martin and Wendy Sammarco and those notes are archived in the RFC meeting files.

## **RFC letter in support of KCD Forest Programs**

As requested during the September 2019 meeting, Brandy Reed, Jeff Boyce and Monica Paulson Priebe drafted a letter expressing support for KCD forest programs. Steve Horton did not feel that the draft letter was clear in its intended purpose, and recommended edits to convey stronger and clearer support of KCD. Li Hsi echoed Steve's comments and also asked that the letter include a summary of recent KCD accomplishments (e.g., number of people served, number of acres benefited). Jeff commented that he felt the purpose of the letter was to provide an endorsement of KCD forest programs, but that KCD should be responsible for communicating their successes. Wendy Davis felt that an attachment to the letter that provided measures of KCD success would be appropriate. Brandy offered to provide quantified program data that could be integrated into the letter or included as an attachment.

Steve Horton reiterated that the Commission needed to be clear and provide a strong statement in support of KCD at the beginning of the letter. Richard reminded Commission members that the purpose of the letter is to make KC Executive and KC Council aware that RFC supports many of the KCD forest programs because they are deemed valuable to rural forest landowners.

There was a motion to revise the letter and to include a stronger worded objective and measureable KCD accomplishments. Richard Martin will revise the letter and circulate it among RFC members for approval and then transmitted to KC Executive and KC Council. Steven Mullen-Moses made the motion and Li Hsi seconded.

There was a call for discussion before the vote and Katherine Taylor (KC DNRP Government Relations Administrator) provided an update on the KC Executives proposal regarding KCD Initiative. Basically, KC supports the current rates and charges level with a modest increase for inflation (3%) and an opportunity to revisit the rate level during the five-year funding cycle. KCD is requesting an increase in the rates and charges from the current rate of approximately \$10.00 per parcel to approximately \$13.00 per parcel.

The motion was amended slightly to strengthen the letter supporting KCD forest programs and to include KCD accomplishments as an attachment. The letter will be circulated to RFC members and comments will be due by COB October 21. Wendy Davis made the motion to amend and Steve Horton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **RFC Candidates**

Monica Paulson Priebe reviewed the status of the recruitment process.

Three current RFC members agreed to be considered for reappointment to another 3-year term: Monica, Amy LaBarge and Laurie Benson. Steve Horton motioned to recommend reappointment for all three current RFC members and Wendy seconded. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention (Paulson Priebe abstained; Benson had previously left the call and was unavailable to vote).

Monica reviewed a summary of the four candidates who applied to fill the vacancies created by Bernie McKinney and Daryl Harper completing their second full 3-year terms.

### **John Creighton (interviewed October 11, 2019)**

- Residential Forest Landowners >20 Acres Enrolled in Forest Land Designation Program (would potentially backfill for Daryl)
- BA/MA International Relations, Johns Hopkins; JD Columbia University
- Managing Director, Ninth & Lenora Associates
- 11 years on Seattle Port Commission, 12 years on Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board
- Owns and manages 87 acres of forest near Skykomish
- Completed coached planning workshop and working with Wendy Sammarco to implement forest plan
- Grew up exploring forests in the PNW (father was former Weyerhaeuser executive)
- Seattle resident
- Interview pros: detailed responses to most questions; long history of connection with forest industry; working aggressively to restore his forest; provides prospective of forest landowners in the Skykomish area, which is not currently represented on RFC.

- Interview cons: assertive/talkative; not as knowledgeable about forestry issues as expected

**Holly Mouser (interviewed October 14, 2019)**

- Advocate of non-Timber Values of Forest Land, such as Environmental Protection, Recreation and Open Space (would potentially back fill for Bernie)
- BS Environmental Science and Resource Management, UW
- Municipal Land Planner, Puget Sound Energy
- Seattle resident
- Interview pros: Passionate about conservation; likes to find good solutions to difficult problems; interested in forest impacts from climate change (especially wildfire)
- Interview cons: relatively inexperienced (both professionally and academically), no personal forest management experience; no board or commission experience; very reserved

**Mari Knutson (interviewed October 14, 2019)**

- Residential Forest Landowners <20 Acres of Rural Forest Land, Advocate of non-Timber Values of Forest Land (would potentially backfill for Bernie)
- Forest Ecologist, Cedar River Watershed, City of Seattle
- B.S., Forest Resource Management, GRC; B.S., Botany, UW
- Lives on and manages 10-acre forest/wetland complex in Maple Valley
- Board member Forest Preschool and Lake Wilderness
- Maple Valley resident
- Interview pros: grew up on a farm/forest; has owned and managed forestland for many years; interested in opportunities to work with communities to achieve conservation goals; understands the need for greater education and outreach; solid academic background
- Interview cons: not very aware of County-wide forestry issues; oriented toward forest preservation vs. forest management

**Jessica Morse (interviewed October 14, 2019)**

- Residential Forest Landowners <20 Acres of Rural Forest Land, Advocate of non-Timber Values of Forest Land (would potentially backfill for Bernie)
- Education Certification
- Teacher, Muckleshoot Tribal School
- B.A., expeditionary photography, Prescott college
- Enumclaw resident
- Interview pros: Navy veteran; passionate about non-forest values; although she cannot represent the Tribe, she can speak about how forests are integrated into Tribal life
- Interview cons: no formal forestry training/education; recently acquired small forest parcel so direct forestry experience limited

Monica noted that the majority of the Recruitment Committee supported recommending John Creighton and Mari Knutson for the RFC. Bernie McKinney reminded RFC members that all seats did not need to be filled if there was not a strong candidate to do so and there were questions about whether some of the candidates had the skills and experience to contribute immediately. Monica Paulson Priebe noted that she would like to have a full commission because the rewrite of the RFC 10-year plan would benefit from full representation of all forest interests.

There was a motion to recommend John Creighton for appointment to the RFC to represent forest landowners with > 20 acres enrolled in Designated Forestland. Steven Mullen-Moses made the motion and Li Hsi seconded. The motion carried with 7 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention (Horton).

There was a motion to recommend Mari Knutson for appointment to the RFC to represent residential forest land owners with ≤20 acres and also to advocate for non-timber forest values. Steve Horton made the motion and Jeff Boyce seconded. The motion carried with 6 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions (McKinney and Hsi).

Monica Paulson Priebe reminded RFC members that the next meeting is scheduled for November 21, from 9:00-12:00 at Wilderness Lodge in Maple Valley. Monica will be attending with her Green River College Conflict Management class.

Wendy Davis motioned to adjourn and Grady Steere seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 0925.

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