



King County Advisory Committee Meeting Approved

August 17, 2023

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Chair, Dana Ralph, Mayor, City of Kent
Vice-Chair, Rob McFarland, City of North Bend
Mayor Carol Benson, SCA, City of Black Diamond
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Executive, King County
Mayor Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila
Councilmember Karen Howe, SCA, City of Sammamish
Councilmember Sarah Moore, SCA, City of Burien
Councilmember Alex Pedersen, City of Seattle
Mayor Katherine Ross, City of Snoqualmie
Henry Sladek, SCA, Mayor Town of Skykomish

Alternates:

Councilmember Toni Troutner, Alternate, City of Kent
Mayor Leanne Guier, City of Pacific

Staff

Executive Director Michelle Clark; Cyndee Joie Navarro, Supervisor Von Reichbauer staff; Steve Bleifuhs, King County RFMS; Kazia Memel, SCA; Mike Mactutis, City of Kent; Steve Klusman, King County; Ron Straka, Renton Public Works; Elsa Brown, City of Seattle.

Facilitator

Kjristine Lund, Lund Consulting, Inc.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Mayor Rob McFarland called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Facilitator Kjristine Lund called roll.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of the Meeting Summary from July 27, 2023

Councilmember Karen Howe moved to approve the meeting summary, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Leanne Guier. The motion to approve the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Michelle Clark reported that the Executive Committee met on August 18 and moved to recommend the WRIA Grant distributions to the full board meeting that will be held on September 12. Their recommendation approved the grants as submitted by the WRIA's with no changes. She urged all members to attend the meeting virtually. She reported that the Flood Reduction Grant review committee is scheduled to meet on August 29. Executive Director Clark said that the number of candidates for the position of Deputy Director has been narrowed down to four and that final interviews will be held in the next couple of weeks.

2024 Operating Budget Recommendations

Facilitator Kjristine Lund began by asking if the members were ready to make a recommendation on the Operating Budget, which has not changed from what was previously presented. This was included in the meeting packet. Vice-Chair Mayor Rob McFarland suggested that the Committee complete the conversations on the overall District financial position before proceeding with a vote on the Operating and Capital Budgets.

2024-2029 Capital Budget Recommendations

Executive Director Michelle Clark started the conversation by stating the Budget is still in draft form and that she is still receiving information. She requested that she be informed if there are any projects for which the budget needs to be adjusted. Executive Director Clark shared a power point presentation that addressed questions she received from the Chair and Vice Chair regarding the District's mission and focus. The slides are part of the meeting record. There was some discussion and questions from the members regarding the grant funded programs and whether the District increased revenue to fund those programs when they were created. Executive Clark said the District increased the levy when they began funding the WRIA's but not when they created a flood risk reduction grant program.

Financial Plan Options for Revenue and Expenses

Executive Director Michelle Clark started the conversation by saying that she did not want the Committee to be so bogged down by "pennies" that the bigger policy is being missed. She summarized what she believes the Committee is saying: that we are approaching a point where there is increasing need and decreasing fund balance—what can be done? She said that the Committee should focus on the long-term, instead of the short-term. Steve Klusman gave a preface to the information that was given in the handout, and the graphs which were sent later. There was continued discussion on the needs and the plans to pay for these needs.

Key Points for Budget Recommendation Letter

Vice-Chair Mayor Rob McFarland started a discussion to merge the financial plan options for revenue along with the approval of the Capital and Operating Budgets to form the key points for the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The Committee members discussed the need for flood risk management projects and that reducing investment was not a viable option. If reductions were to be necessary, members expressed interest in participation in the prioritization

of the investments. The members discussed bonding and concerns about current high interest rates on debt service and questions about which projects were suitable for debt financing.

Vice-Chair Mayor McFarland put forward that the Committee recommend the Operating Budget as presented and the Capital Budget as presented, with the caveat that if the levy is not raised, the Capital Budget will need to be adjusted.

Councilmember Karen Howe moved to approve the Operating Budget as presented, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Benson. The motion to approve the Operating Budget as presented passed unanimously.

Mayor Carol Benson moved to approve the 2024 Capital Budget and 6-year CIP as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karen Howe. The motion to approve the 2024 Capital Budget and 6-year CIP as presented passed unanimously.

Facilitator Lund went over the initial draft letter to be sure that nothing was missed. The Committee discussed next steps. Facilitator Lund will distribute a draft letter to members of the Advisory Committee in advance of the meeting on August 24 for their input.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.