

Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Special Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021



Virtual GoToMeeting

Meeting Time: 3:02pm-5:06 pm

Originally scheduled: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Present at Meeting:

TJ Johnson, TCD Board Chair

Ben Cushman, TCD Attorney

Betsie DeWreede, TCD Vice Chair

Sarah Moorehead, TCD Executive Director (ED)

Doug Rushton, TCD Board Supervisor

Leah Kellogg, TCD Staff

Helen Wheatley, TCD Board Supervisor

Susan Shelton, TCD Staff

David Iyall, TCD Board Supervisor

Adam Peterson, TCD Staff

Summary of Action Items

- 1 • **Action Item: TCD Board Chair Johnson and ED Moorehead will draft a resolution, to**
- 2 **send to the Thurston County Commissioners, in support of expanding long-term**
- 3 **agriculture designation.**
- 4 • **Action Item: A standing item, “Policy Update”, will be added to the Monthly Work**
- 5 **Session Topic List.**

Summary of Motions Passed

- 6 • *Supervisor Rushton moved to approve PS Contract 2021-01: Riverbend Ranch ASRP*
- 7 *Project Development. Supervisor DeWreede seconded. Motion passed unanimously,*
- 8 *(4-0).*
- 9 • *Supervisor DeWreede moved to approve PS Contract 2021-02: Independence Valley*
- 10 *ASRP Project Development. Supervisor Rushton seconded. Motion passed*
- 11 *unanimously, (4-0).*

Full Version of the Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

12 At 3:02pm TCD Board Chair Johnson called the May 13, 2021 Special Board Meeting to order via
13 the online forum *GoToMeeting*. Thurston CD Board and Staff were introduced by the Board
14 Chair verbally. Chair Johnson will call out Supervisors by name for each vote and he announced
15 that the meeting is video recorded.
16

Agenda Review

- 17 • A discussion about returning to in-person Board Meetings will be added to the Covid-19
- 18 Update agenda Item.
- 19

20 **Conservation Projects**

- 21 • PS Contract 2021-01: Riverbend Ranch Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Project
22 Development

23 ***Supervisor Rushton moved to approve PS Contract 2021-01: Riverbend Ranch ASRP Project***
24 ***Development. Supervisor DeWreede seconded. Motion passed unanimously, (4-0).***

- 25 • PS Contract 2021-02: Independence Valley ASRP Project Development

26 ***Supervisor DeWreede moved to approve PS Contract 2021-02: Independence Valley ASRP***
27 ***Project Development. Supervisor Rushton seconded. Motion passed unanimously, (4-0).***

28 Supervisor Iyall arrived at this point in the meeting.

29 **Minutes Review & Revision**

- 30 • Edited the April 22, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
31 • Edited the April 8, 2020 Work Session Minutes

32 **Conservation and Education Center (CEC)**

33 **A. Request For Qualification (RFQ) Update**

- 34 • Since the first release of the CEC Feasibility Study RFQ, the Scope of Work (SOW) has
35 changed; and a revised RFQ was submitted. The revised SOW does not include the
36 Economic Planning Study.
37 • The RFQ responses are due May 17, 2021. The CEC subcommittee will meet to
38 evaluate the RFQ responses that week. Feedback from the response evaluation will
39 be submitted to the Board prior to the May Board Meeting.

40 **B. Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) Funding Update**

- 41 • TCD Supervisor Chair Johnson and ED Moorehead met with CERB and learned that
42 TCD's Feasibility Study does not qualify for CERB funding. CERB focuses on private-
43 sector economic development and job creation.
44 • If, as part of the Feasibility Study, economic development opportunities for farmers
45 are identified, TCD can return to CERB for further conversation.

46 **C. Community Needs & Opportunities Discussion**

- 47 • The Board agreed that planning for the CEC should focus on TCD's conservation
48 mission. At the same time, the Board is willing to consider any economic
49 opportunities that arise as part of the Feasibility Study.

50 **Covid-19 Health Update**

51 **A. Thurston County remains in Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan.**

- 52 • Staff will continue to work remotely and to follow the established Covid-19
53 protocols in the office and the field.

54 **B. TCD in-person Board Meeting Discussion**

- 55 • TCD will continue to hosting Board meetings virtually following the Open Public
56 Meeting Act (OPMA) guidance.

57 **Discussion: Expanding Long Term Agriculture (Ag) Designation in Thurston County**

- 58 • Coordinating with the County Ag Advisory Committee, the Thurston County
59 Commissioners have initiated a community-driven review of agriculture in Thurston
60 County.
- 61 • Currently 4% of Thurston County acreage (5,700 acres) has been zoned for long-term
62 agriculture.
- 63 • TCD supports increasing the amount of land zoned as long-term Ag in Thurston County.

64 **Action Item: TCD Board Chair Johnson and ED Moorehead will draft a resolution, to send to**
65 **the Thurston County Commissioners, in support of expanding long-term agriculture**
66 **designation.**

67 **TCD Policy Update Schedule**

- 68 • At the monthly Board Work Sessions, the Board will resume reviewing and updating
69 individual polices from TCD’s Policy and Procedures Manual; changes will be approved
70 at the monthly Board Meetings.
- 71 • TCD Staff will prioritize and schedule the policies for review.

72 **Action Item: A standing item, “Policy Update”, will be added to the Monthly Work Session**
73 **Topic List.**

74 **Other Reports**

75 Board of Supervisors Report

- 76 • Supervisor Johnson met with the Olympia Farmland Preservation Group; ED Moorehead
77 gave a well-received presentation on organizations involved in farmland preservation in
78 Thurston County.

79 Executive Director Update

- 80 • The consultants have started pulling together resources for TCD’s salary study. They will
81 meet with ED Moorehead next week to establish project processes and timelines.
- 82 • Staff has been engaging in community outreach for the Citizens Advisory Committee.
- 83 • Staff is working with the State Auditor’s Office to schedule the next accountability audit
84 that will take place later this year.

85 **Staff Presentation: Soil Health Program, *Adam Peterson***

86 **May 27, 2021 Board Meeting Agenda Development**

- 87 • Agenda Review
- 88 • Consent agenda
 - 89 ○ April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
 - 90 ○ April 2021 Work Session Minutes

- 91 ○ May 2021 Financial Report
- 92 ○ TCD Resolution #2021-03 Long term Agriculture Destination in Thurston County
- 93 ● Covid-19 Update
- 94 ● Executive Session: *Conservation and Education Center*
- 95 ● TCD Conservation and Education Center Award Notification
- 96 ● Executive Session: *performance of the Executive Director.*
- 97 ● 2021 Collective Bargaining Process
- 98 ● TCD Board Officer Elections
- 99 ● June 8, 2021 Special Meeting Agenda
- 100 ● Important Updates: Board & ED

Adjourn 5:06pm

Respectively,

A DocuSign signature block for TJ Johnson. It features a large 'X' on the left, a blue box containing the text 'DocuSigned by:' above a handwritten signature 'TJ Johnson', and a long alphanumeric string '19178BB97FD9411...' below the signature.

TJ Johnson
TCD Board Chair