

December 6, 1993
CLERK:H202000

Introduced by: Larry Phillips

Proposed No.: 93-843

MOTION NO. 9175

A MOTION approving the program plan for Waterways 2000, a pilot project that will protect critical riparian systems in King County.

WHEREAS, King County is committed to preserving its critical waterways in order to preserve these systems for habitat and recreational purposes, and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 1993, the King County Council passed Ordinance 11068 creating a new pilot program called Waterways 2000, and

WHEREAS, the King County Open Space Citizens Oversight Committee in cooperation with the Seattle/King County Land Conservancy has developed an initial program plan upon the request of the council, and

WHEREAS, Waterways 2000 is intended to establish a system of interlocking greenways based on the county's waterways that will:

- A. provide major recreational opportunities;
- B. protect high quality habitat lands;
- C. safeguard critical scenic resources;
- D. preserve properties of cultural and historic importance, and
- E. help preserve our major fish runs;

WHEREAS, participation by property owners whose lands will be acquired or preserved will be done on a strictly voluntary basis regardless of the source of funding for the program, and

WHEREAS, the proposed program plan will implement the county's adopted Countywide Planning Policies pertaining to open space and natural resource enhancement, and

WHEREAS, this effort will build upon the legacy of the Farmlands Preservation effort, and

1 WHEREAS, it is intended that this program will leverage
2 other funds for the preservation of the county's critical
3 waterways, and

4 WHEREAS, the county has committed \$3 million from the
5 unincorporated portion of the 1993 Conservation Futures Bond,
6 \$1.5 million from the Regional Portion of the 1993 Conservation
7 Futures Bond, and \$3 million from the Real Estate Excise Tax
8 bond, and

9 WHEREAS, this program is designed to induce competition by
10 community's for these funds, and

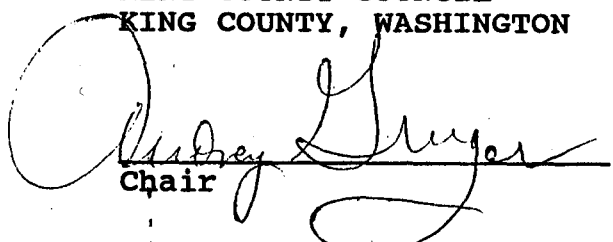
11 WHEREAS, a broad-based community outreach effort is a
12 critical component to the success of Waterways 2000 and
13 therefore extensive public outreach will be undertaken;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
15 The proposed work plan as outlined in attachment A is hereby
16 approved and the executive is requested to begin implementation
17 of the program immediately in order to meet the imposed
18 deadline for the expenditure of the funds.

19 PASSED this 6th day of December, 1993.

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

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24 ATTEST:

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26 Clerk of the Council

27 Attachments: Attachment A

WATERWAYS 2000 -- PROGRAM VISION, OBJECTIVES AND WORKPLAN**A. VISION**

Imagine conserving a system of interlocking greenways along King County's wondrous network of streams and rivers that protects our best habitat lands, provides major recreational opportunities, safeguards critical scenic resources, preserves properties of cultural and historic importance, and helps save our major fish runs. Imagine conserving this system in the most cost-effective manner by carefully identifying which properties warrant protection and determining the optimal, most cost-effective type of protection to extend to such lands. Imagine that as these systems are protected, land owners increase their awareness of the value of these resources and become stewards of their land. Imagine preservation of this system through voluntary agreements with landowners, as was done under the county's successful Farmlands Preservation Program.

Waterways 2000 will employ a comprehensive, integrated approach to the preservation of our aquatic systems in an effort to achieve this vision for our enjoyment and appreciation today and for our children's tomorrow.

B. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

I. Primary Objective. Conserve threatened high quality aquatic biological systems. These systems may also preserve passive-use recreation, urban separators, scenic resources, wildlife conservation, cultural resources, or enhance existing protected resources.

II. Emphasis on Cost-Effective Acquisitions and Leveraging Public Funds. Program acquisitions will encourage acquisition strategies such as conservation easement donations, bargain sales, participation in the open space current use property taxation program and other incentives to encourage owners to participate in resource conservation without King County purchasing their property outright. Participation by property owners whose land will be acquired or preserved will be done on a strictly voluntary basis, regardless of the source of funding for the program.

III. Emphasis on Systems. Potential acquisitions will be evaluated not as isolated pieces but for their value to the conservation of aquatic biological systems.

IV. Emphasis on Environmental Education and Stewardship. The Program will work to educate the community and landowners about the value of stewarding aquatic systems. A collateral benefit will be better land stewardship for lands not acquired under the Program.

V. \$6 million Unincorporated King County Program and \$1.5 million Regional Waterways Program. \$1.5 million of the project funding will be dedicated to regional projects located anywhere in King County and \$6 million is available for projects located in unincorporated King County.

C. WORKPLAN

I. Outreach and comments from other conservation groups.

(November - December 1993)

II. The King County Open Space Citizen Oversight Committee (COC), working with the assistance of a Waterways Advisory Panel (WAP) of prominent natural resource experts, and working closely with King County staff from the Surface Water Management Division, Environmental Division and Parks Division, identifies high value waterway systems and subsystems and develops criteria for evaluating aquatic systems. The COC, working with private non-profit land preservation organizations (land trusts) and County staff, will develop a strategy that allows the County, with broad public input, to learn from landowners and the community about a given system. At the same time, landowners and the community groups will become familiar with the Waterways 2000 Program. Working closely with the community, the COC will begin to identify interested owners and groups within systems. The public outreach strategy may also include a small grants program for local conservation groups to enable them to identify landowners who wish to participate in the program. (February - May 1994)

III. COC reviews and approves criteria and systems for detailed evaluation and informs the Council of their recommendations. The recommendation may include direction to utilize land trusts to negotiate with landowners where the COC finds that the non-governmental status of such groups will be advantageous in the negotiations and that using the land trusts will be more cost-effective than direct negotiation by the County. The recommendation may also suggest that the land trusts own and steward certain of the conservation interests acquired through the Program. (June 1994)

IV. Within approved systems and subsystems, the COC will conduct a detailed assessment of land protection opportunities and identify the probable success of achieving program goals. (June - September 1994)

V. The COC will make a recommendation to the Executive and Council regarding priority preservation systems. The recommendations will include specific parcels or resources to be targeted for acquisition and the extent and type of conservation interests that owners may apply to convey to the county through donation or sale. Systems where owners propose to donate or offer a bargain sale may receive higher priority. The recommendations may also include a requirement that no funds be expended within a system until the County obtains options for easements over certain minimum acreage within a system or for particular key resource lands. (October 1994)

VI. Council and Executive approve program. (December 1994)

VII. Office of Open Space (OOS) shall execute approved transactions within systems and administer easement sale applications. The COC will oversee implementation of approved acquisition programs and report periodically to Council and Executive. OOS works closely with Environmental Division to refer open space current use taxation (PBRs) applications. (December 1994 - December 1995)

D. OUTLINE OF ROLES FOR WATERWAYS 2000

King County Council and Executive shall make final policy decisions, review and approve Program at inception, review and approve the systems to conserve and the goals, funding levels and highest priority lands within the recommended systems, review and approve all Program budgets, and provide policy direction and oversight throughout the Program.

King County Open Space Citizen Oversight Committee ("COC") shall make recommendations regarding policy, selection of systems and design of acquisition strategy, and program implementation to the King County Executive and Council. The COC will oversee implementation of the Program and report to the Council and Executive no less than semi-annually. More specifically, the COC will review and approve the Waterways Advisory Panel's recommendations for systems and criteria; will develop a strategy for educating and approaching landowners and the community about the Program; will recommend to the Council and Executive systems to conserve and the goals, funding levels and highest priority lands within the recommended systems; will conduct informational and application workshops; and will oversee implementation of the Program by the Office of Open Space and other County staff.

Waterways Advisory Panel ("WAP") shall identify high value waterway systems and develop criteria for evaluating properties within the systems. The WAP shall provide technical advice, as needed, throughout implementation of the Program.

King County Parks Division Office of Open Space ("OOS") shall provide staff assistance to the COC and the WAP and coordinate between the COC and WAP, shall be Program lead for King County staff, and shall be responsible for acquisition of property interests under the Program.

King County Surface Water Division ("SWM") shall provide technical assistance to the COC, the WAP and the OOS regarding aquatic biological systems and landowner and community education. SWM will have primary responsibility for staff assistance to the WAP, in coordination with the OOS. SWM will assist throughout the Program but will contribute heavily to the designation and selection of systems and criteria by the WAP and COC, to the development and implementation of a strategy for landowner and community education and in the final Program recommendations.

King County Environmental Division ("ED") shall provide technical assistance to the COC and OOS regarding landowner and community education. ED will assist throughout the Program but will contribute heavily to the identification of important wildlife habitat and development and implementation of a strategy for landowner and community education. ED will also administer applications for open space current use taxation.

Land Trusts shall assist in developing strategies for public outreach and cost-effective and successful acquisition of interests. These groups also may assist in implementing the public outreach strategy and in negotiating the acquisition of particular properties where the group's private status is advantageous.