

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY
CONSERVATION FUTURES PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD**

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING

5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Location: Zoom Meeting: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: County Council Member **Stephanie Wright**, County Council Member **Sam Low**, County Executive Representative **Ken Klein**, Large City Representative **Kyoko Matsumoto-Wright**, Small City Representative **Carla Nichols**, and Community Representative **Mark Spada**

Members Absent: Community Representative **Mark Craven**

Staff: **Kye Iris**, **Sharon Swan** and **David McConnell**

Guests Present: **Tom Teigen**, Director, Snohomish County Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

A. CALL TO ORDER Chairperson

Board Chair Sam Low called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

B. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS Board

C. PUBLIC COMMENT Board

Board Chair Sam Low asked for public comments. No comments were offered at the meeting.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS Sharon Swan

1. Open a grant round in January 2021?

a. Current Conservation Futures Program Fund Balance Available

Staff Member Sharon Swan updated the Board on the available fund balance. The Board will have approximately \$3.5 million available in 2021 to allocate. There is approximately \$2 million in the fund for new projects combined with \$1 million from the City of Bothell's Shelton View Forest project and \$300,000 from Forterra's Tillman Farm Conservation Easement project. Discussion followed.

b. Grant Round Dates and Timing

Board Chair Sam Low asked Board Staff to summarize the request for an earlier than usual grant round. Board Staff Member Sharon Swan explained that a request had been made to consider funding for one of the project proposals from the previous grant round, which had been raised as a concern due to the listing of the property in question for general sale. Parks Director Tom Teigen and Board Staff Member Kye Iris also provided further information about the

concerns related to the property in question. Discussion followed, including consideration that funding should be only be provided through a competitive process, which would trigger the need for a full grant process.

The Board agreed by consensus that a new grant round should be opened sometime in early/mid-January, after the holidays, and should remain open for 6 – 8 weeks. The Board asked Board Staff to send out a Google Meeting Doodle at the time of grant release to schedule a mid-March meeting to review grant applications. The Board also agreed that Board Staff should work out the details of when an early grant round should open and close and that 2 weeks should be provided for the Board to review grant applications.

In the discussion that followed, the Board discussed but did not decide on the potential of having two grant rounds in the same year due to the fact that many cities and towns had been affected by the pandemic and would potentially not be able to participate in an early grant round. County Parks Director Tom Teigen commended that he would be meeting with all the City Park Directors soon and would inform them of the Board's decision to open an early grant round.

Board Staff Member Sharon Swan asked Board Member Carla Nichols about her request at the previous board meeting that grant presentations be shorter and more meaningful. Discussion followed and the Board agreed by consensus that presentations should be shorter, should only highlight the main aspects of the project proposals, and should be more visual. Applicants should not reiterate their written proposals, but instead highlight key features of their proposals and any new information.

c. Tillman Property Funding

The Board discussed the previous award to Forterra for the Tillman Farm Conservation Easement, which was awarded earlier in 2020. Board Staff Kye Iris reported that the project, as awarded, would not be able to be completed and that Forterra was interested in requesting the Board to reallocate the awarded funds for other purposes related to the larger project. The Board discussed the project and agreed by consensus that Forterra should return the \$300,000 dollars in Conservation Futures program funding and submit a new project proposal in the next grant round.

E. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

Staff/Board

Board Chair Sam Low asked Board Staff to send out a Google Meeting Doodle to schedule an early spring meeting of the board to hear grant presentations approximately 2 weeks after the closing of the grant round.

F. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board

There were no comments from the Board.

G. ADJOURN

Chairperson

Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

WHERE TO GET COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITE ACCESS: Please check www.snohomishcountywa.gov for additional information or the Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation, Reception Desk, 6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish. For more information, call Dave McConnell at 425-388-6627 or by email at david.mccconnell@snoco.org.

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