

Minutes of 1/15/97 Meeting of the Four Creeks U.A.C.

The meeting began at 7:08 p.m. In attendance, were Members Gordon Christensen, Leonard J. Davidson, Norm Green, Mary Ellen Hamblin, Rich Harris, Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Stan Raby, Bob Rhoades, J. Patrick Spencer, Jack Steidl, Ken Ulrich, Jr., and Everett Wilcock. Also in attendance was Bong Santo Domingo. The meeting was run by Rich Harris until 7:40 p.m., when Everett and Pat arrived.

1. Minutes of Meeting for December 18, 1996. Leonard objected to the inclusion of a statement by him in Section 12; Mary Ellen wanted the reference to legislation in Section 5 to be to state legislation in the upcoming session and the addition of the substance of what Kathryn said in Section 8. With those changes, Bob moved and Gordon seconded a motion to approve the minutes. It passed without dissent.

2. Treasurer's Report and UAC Budget. Mary Ellen reported that the treasury had \$100 as of July 1996, \$40.71 for election costs, collected \$130 at the last meeting, paid Kathryn \$10.31 for copying and mailing in December. bill she had just received leaving a balance of \$177.98. Gordon said he wanted the Council to consider as new business that toner costs \$.02 per page and paper \$.01 per page, and 400 copies of materials were made on his copier for this meeting

3. Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Rick said he sent in a comment letter about the EIS and that he did not have the letter sent on behalf of the Council. Rich said Everett is the only one who has it. He said that three people were involved in writing it, that it was a brief response to the draft EIS, and that the Council asked to be a party. A resident of the area in attendance, Mr. Eggert, said that the smell has been bad in the last couple of months. Gordon said that a couple of sections of the landfill were being filled up. He said the Council commented with questions about four subjects, one of which was odor. Rich said another issue was whether the landfill should remain in use or waste should be shipped elsewhere. The EIS is expected to go to the County Council in the next month or two.

Leonard said Mr. Eggert's concern about the smell was related to maintenance. Rich said Mr. Eggert said whenever Mr. Eggert and others notice a smell, it should be called in. Mr. Eggert said the smell has been noticeable in the last couple of months, that something must have changed, and that it smelled like silage. Gordon wondered if it was composting. Mary Ellen said she lived near the Dairy Queen and smelled it recently for the first time. She volunteered to put a posting at the Hop In Grocery, giving the number to call about odors. Mr. Egg ** '(hat he called Puget Sound Air Quality Control and hung up after he was asked for much information and placed on hold.

4. Issaquah Bypass. Rich said initial comments had been collected and that the draft EIS was expected to be issued in late summer or early fall.

5. Briarwood Incorporation. Norm said King County was to release funds appropriated for a feasibility study.

6. Meeting Day. At the December Meeting, there was a tentative decision to change the Council meeting day to the second Tuesday. That day was okay with Rick and Rod. Leonard noted the traditional places for meeting notices, including newspapers, grocery stores, and schools. Norm moved and Bob seconded a motion to change the meeting day to the second Tuesday. It passed with one dissenting vote. Everett asked for volunteers. Pat volunteered to make 15 signs.

7. Council Communications. Everett announced he was setting up a communication system for the Council, designating some Members to pick up materials from his house for themselves and to deliver to other Members. He said he would have the meeting agenda materials and pre-meeting information available one week before each meeting.

8. Council Committees. Norm said he, Bob, Ray, and Everett met and discussed types of committees. He passed out a three-page document. Gordon moved and Rick seconded a motion to have five standing committees. There was a brief discussion, and the motion passed without dissent.

Toward the end of this Council meeting, discussion of committees resumed. Everett said Article 7 of the Bylaws provided the president or the Council was to delineate the powers and duties of committees. There was discussion of what constituted a committee quorum. Jack made a motion, seconded by Gordon, that a committee would consist of two or more. It passed with three dissenting votes. Everett asked the Members to give him three committee choices, in order of preference. He asked for approval to appoint non-Members to committees.

9. John Lombard of Water and Land Resources. John asked if we wanted a presentation. Everett said it was not needed as so many of the Council Members had been at the meeting on January 14th. Gordon suggested that there be a summary for the benefit of those not present.

John said there were 14 square miles in the May Valley Creek Basin, which ends at the delta. He said the Valley itself has slow drainage, then water shoots down a steep ravine that has erosion problems. He said the delta, where there is a mill, has extra sediment and needs dredging every five years or so. The Plan addresses flooding in the Valley and erosion in the Canyon. He noted there was a natural flood plain which was exacerbated by some development. He said dredging once was not a final solution. They had looked at a very large retention/ detention problem. He said there was no space to hold 400 acre-feet of water. An engineering solution was to pipe water out of the Valley, costing \$20 million, and releasing the water at the Canyon. John said that there is \$600,000 to fix the most severe problems, namely the seven to nine homes in the Valley so, even during 100-year storms, their living rooms are not inundated. This was taken to the Citizens Advisory panel, which said it was unacceptable to spend all of the money to solve the problems of a few people and that it was not wise for the County to pay 100% of the expense because then the residents might not maintain their property to ensure that the solution worked. The panel suggested cost-sharing and use of the remaining funds to assist more people. John said his office essentially agreed with that. He said his office agreed with the appointment of a half-time Basin Steward, to be paid by the County, Renton, and Newcastle. The Steward would work with residents to solve their own problems.

Leonard and Gordon discussed the drainage pattern in the area, current and past, including a natural drainage pond that had existed, and a ditch that farmers used to keep open. Someone said that it used to be A-1 farmland and now was A-1 swampland. John said work was being done on one culvert. Rick asked about a local improvement district. Pat noted water stands between 128th and Highway 900 half of the winter. John said there was no systematic dredging. Gordon noted the budget for May Valley was less than the millions of dollars for elsewhere, and the long term solution was to stop development on the ridges. Everett said the volume of water doubled in the 20 years he has lived here. John noted there has been construction in an area that floods. Leonard said there was a town on 164th at one time that was not flooded, and there is no more rain now than then. Gordon said people bought pasture land that now is flooded. John said the Renton Plateau was built out, and the next development was for the Highlands and Newcastle. He said he was trying to influence Newcastle not to down-zone, a minor victory.

Gordon noted two governmental units owned a quarry and asked why the County and State Governments could not enforce the rules about quarries that are on the books. John said the current Plan had a vague statement that the goal is compliance, and he expected it would have a more specific commitment for quarry regulations before it was presented to the County Council and the cities of Renton and Newcastle.

Norm brought up stricter controls for the storm water drainage standard. John said there were three levels: keep water down at the peak of a storm, space out water release, and keep water without release. He said his office was recommending the second level. He said that Newcastle was going to the third level because most water there goes through Lake Boren.

Norm asked whether the UAC would get the Plan for comments. Everett said he had asked the King County Council to delegate approval authority to the UAC.

Everett said that the Basin was designated a Critical Drainage Basin about three years ago and asked whether that affected development. John said tax incentives for small landowners, not a regulatory approach, would be used to preserve forest land.

Rich said there was nothing in the Plan about mitigation for historic changes. He suggested, for example, a charge of \$500 per year for tree removal, if done to prepare a home site, until replacement occurs--a financial incentive to replace what was destroyed.

John said he would raise additional issues at the January 28th Basin meeting, based on the discussion at this meeting.

10. High Valley Community and Saddle Association. Everett reported about the meeting he and Pat attended that evening at the High Valley Community and Saddle Association and the group's donation to the Council of \$50. A thank-you note is to be sent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Secretary