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King Conservation District Board of Supervisors elects new chairman and vice chairman

RENTON--The King Conservation District (KCD) Board of Supervisors has elected a new chairman and vice-chairman.

Kirkland resident Bill Knutsen was elected chairman of the KCD, one of 47 conservation districts in the state. Appointed to the KCD board of supervisors in 2006 by the Washington State Conservation Commission, Knutsen had previously served as an associate supervisor. A member of a long-time family dairy operation, Bill's Dairy, he was named a commissioner of the newly-formed King County Agriculture Commission in 1998. He has been active in numerous agriculture and environmental recovery initiatives, including WRIA 7 Snohomish salmon recovery efforts.

"The KCD is a tremendous resource for individual property owners seeking assistance in meeting the requirements of increasingly sophisticated environmental standards," said Knutsen, who first worked with the KCD as a "customer" in developing a farm plan for his Carnation operation in 1981. "We offer many resources to landowners who come to us on a voluntary basis."

Enumclaw area resident Bob Vos was elected vice-chair of the KCD's five-member, volunteer board. An engineer at the Boeing Co., he was appointed to the board in 2006 and was elected to the position in a district-wide election earlier this year. He had previously served as an associate board member.

Vos, who first worked with the KCD as a property owner on stream maintenance and tree plantings for his 15-acre beef cattle farm, said the KCD offers numerous volunteer opportunities.

"If someone wants to help with local land and water conservation efforts, KCD offers many opportunities throughout the year. They are a fun and rewarding way to contribute to local stewardship," said Vos.

The five-member board consists of three members elected by district voters while two are appointed by the Washington Conservation Commission. Their responsibility is to ensure that the district meets its legal and public trust obligations. The board conducts regular public meetings to oversee the district's budget and provide guidance and oversight to district staff.

King Conservation District (KCD) is an independent special services district encompassing most of King County. It offers landowners assistance and information on a voluntary, non regulatory basis with conservation and environmental issues. Through its hands-on, results-oriented projects, workshops and events, it supports landowners and municipalities on such issues as water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and farm management.

For more information on KCD programs and services, visit www.kingcd.org.

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