

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, April 25, 1990

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Wednesday, April 25, 1990, with Commissioners Ruth Wylie, W. W. Vaux and Dave Rohrer present. Chairman Wylie called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present to represent their respective cities and towns were Mayor Bud Moore, Town of LaConner; Mayor Spud Walley, City of Sedro Woolley; Mayor Ray Reep, City of Mount Vernon; Mayor Dave Pocock, City of Burlington; Mayor Dale Woodruff, Town of Concrete; and Mayor Tim Bates, Town of Hamilton.

Mark Spahr, Director of the Public Works Department, summarized the information given at the Board's meeting of Monday, April 23, 1990. He stated that the Agreement in Principle signed by the Board and Wright Schuchart Harbor (WSH) in February for ongoing operation and construction claims for Skagit County's Resource Recovery Facility calls for the subsequent ratification of a final settlement. As a prerequisite to signing the final settlement next week, a decision must be made as to who will perform operation of the plant from this point on.

Mr. Spahr explained that legal counsel and staff have reviewed the two options available to the County; operation of the facility as a public concern utilizing County forces, or through a contractual agreement with a third party who would be chosen through a competitive bidding process.

Mr. Spahr stated that the concern over continuity of operations, as well as other factors, has led staff to recommend that the County assume operation of the plant, designating it a public concern. He explained that, if the County assumes operation of the plant, current operations employees would be given the opportunity to become temporary County employees, and would operate the plant until such time as permanent employees could be hired through the County's posting and hiring policy.

Mayor Rice remarked that it is difficult to administer a private operations contract. He and Mayor Walley agreed that the County should operate the plant.

Answering a question from Mayor Bates, Chairman Wylie indicated that the County's expense for incinerator employees will increase, but overall tipping fees will not increase.

While on the subject of incineration, Mayor Rice voiced his opinion that instead of curbside recycling, separation of recyclables should occur at the incinerator.

Further discussion ensued, and it was pointed out by the mayors that whether the plant is operated privately or publicly, problems will undoubtedly occur. With the County maintaining operation of the plant, it will be less difficult to solve these problems, and to have access to the source of the problems.

Mr. Spahr further pointed out that with the County as the operator, it will be possible to increase electrical sales by making improvements to the quality of the fuel.

Mayor Reep stated that he agreed that the County should assume operation of the plant. He also supported recyclable separation at the incinerator.

Bill Fredrick of Energy Resource Recovery, the current plant operator, reported that a "picking" plant would cost approximately \$1.2 million, and would recover 45% to 50% of the recyclables from trash.

Commissioner Vaux commended Mr. Fredricks and Energy Resource Recovery for stepping in to run the incinerator during the difficult period following Wright

Schuchart Harbor's purchase by a New Zealand Company. He suggested that a phasing out period of at least 30 days be established during which ERR could relinquish operation of the plant.

Mr. Spahr pointed out that the operator has agreed that no notice is necessary to cancel the operations contract, and Mr. Fredricks agreed that he would prefer that the County cancel all contracts at one time, rather than suffer the additional difficulties that a double transfer of operation would entail.

A consensus was reached among the mayors that the County should take over operation of the incinerator.

Mayor Pocock requested a copy of the Department of Ecology permit for industrial discharge from the incinerator to the Burlington Waste Water Treatment Plant, which Mr. Spahr will provide.

ADJOURNMENT:

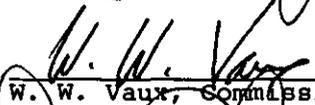
Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON





Ruth Kyle, Chairman



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners