

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, July 10, 1990

Flag Salute

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Board of Health:
- 1) Discussion - Use of Out-of-County Sludge for Forest Land Application.
 - 2) Skagit County Health Department Workload Concerns:
 - a) Staffing Requests.
 - b) Development of a System for Accepting/Denying Service Requests.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Work Session - Review of Financial and Budget Matters.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bid Opening - Installation of Clear Lake Swimming Park Septic System.
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Discussion - Skagitonians to Preserve Farmlands Request for Grant to Develop Farmland Management Program.
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Department of Planning and Community Development - Scott Kirkpatrick, Director:
- 1) Sphere of Influence Agreements and the Growth Management Act.
 - 2) Staffing Update.
 - 3) Enforcement Update.
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Public Comment Period.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 10, 1990, with Commissioners Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present. Commissioner Rohrer's absence was excused.

BOARD OF HEALTH:

- 1) Discussion - Use of Out-of-County Sludge for Forest Land Application.

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Specialist, stated that representatives of the Solganics Corporation, Harry Tavenner and Roger Hinckey, have asked Skagit County to allow the application of sewage sludge to timberlands owned by the Crown Pacific Corporation in Skagit County. Pursuant to their request, a citizens advisory committee consisting of Don Bockelman and Keith Wiggers, along with Mr. Willis and Mr. Tavenner, made a site visit to the four sites requested for application. Four recommendations were made by Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Wiggers as follows:

- That a public hearing be held to gather public opinion on the matter.
- That horse trails utilized by local horse clubs be addressed.
- That Mr. Willis attempt to locate studies on the effect of sludge application on bee populations.
- That a monitoring plan for ground and surface water and wildlife be established.

Mr. Willis felt that these recommendations were reasonable, and suggested that, if SEPA regulations do not require a public hearing, the Board hold a public meeting regarding the matter. Mr. Willis stated that he attended a public meeting sponsored by a private individual in Birdsvew on the subject of sludge application, and learned that local residents had a number of questions and concerns on the subject.

Mr. Willis stated that he has contacted a number of organizations, among them the Region 10 office of the Environmental Protection Agency, a Professor of Wildlife at the University of Washington, and Pacific Forest Research, a private research company, for studies pertaining to the effects of sludge on bee populations. He was unsuccessful in his attempts, learning that his contacts had done no studies and knew of no studies on bee populations.

Harry Tavenner of Solganics was offered an opportunity to speak. He stated that Solganics is currently working with local municipalities to apply their sludge on agriculture land. Solganics has recently begun working with Crown Pacific Corporation regarding forest land application due to the needs of the City of Mount Vernon for disposal of their sludge. Mr. Tavenner stated that about a year ago selected forest sites were approved for sludge application, but Solganics is now asking to be allowed to apply sludge from Whatcom County, which is currently shipping their sludge to Renton.

Don Bockelman stated that the bee issue is just the "tip of the iceberg". He stated that pathogens present in non-aerosol sludge material are transported by bees, as well as other flying and crawling insects.

Ted Anderson, speaking for a group of Hamilton Cemetery Road residents who live adjacent to one of the selected sites, submitted a petition containing 407 names of individuals opposed to sludge application on forest lands or agricultural lands in their area. Mr. Anderson stated that the neighborhood is very concerned about the possibility of contamination of residential wells and springs which traverse the forest land.

Dr. Susan Cook, owner of a consulting firm, stated that in Whatcom County, where sludge was being applied for agricultural purposes, it was found that metals were migrating into groundwater and springs. Contamination of wells and disbursement of pathogens occurred at the Linda Zander property, near where application was occurring. She stated that if metals contained in sludge could be eliminated and if a holding period could be observed to eliminate pathogens, sludge could be applied with relative safety.

Commissioner Vaux asked at what facility Whatcom County is disposing of their sludge in Renton. Mr. Tavenner replied that Metro Waste Water is located in Renton, where waste water is treated for application to soil.

Lacinda Ethrington stated she felt Whatcom County should dispose of their sludge on their own land. Mr. Tavenner indicated that they had been doing so before Linda Zander contended that she had experienced problems with the application, so it was discontinued.

Debbie Aldrich was concerned with the contamination to mushrooms, which are harvested by many individuals for human consumption. She was also concerned about surface run off.

Bob Parent, 650 Medford Road, was concerned that children in the area who play in the woods nearby will be endangered.

Mr. Willis did not know at what stage in the SEPA review the application is, but Commissioner Vaux stated he was not concerned with whether SEPA requires a public

hearing or not. Commissioner Vaux felt a public hearing should be held, and motioned for the same to be held on Wednesday, August 8, 1990, at 7:00 p.m., at either the Birdview Grange or the Sedro Woolley Community Center, if the grange is unavailable. Chairman Wylie seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered.

2) Skaqit County Health Department Workload Concerns:

- a) Staffing Requests.
- b) Development of a System for Accepting/Denying Service Requests.

Carolyn Milat, Health Department Director, made the following requests:

- 1) In addition to the alternative flex-time work schedule granted for public health nurses earlier this year, allow nurses to increase their work week from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week. This would compensate them for the many extra hours they are putting in every week to complete their workloads.
- 2) To help keep workloads at a level commensurate with the number of staff, give direction on the development of a policy for accepting and denying service requests when the workload limit has been reached.

Answering questions from the Board, Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer, stated that the nurses had been allowed to work 70 hours in 9 working day periods instead of 10 working days.

Chairman Wylie and Commissioner Vaux agreed that it had been the Board's intent to allow the nurses a 40 hour work week, and a memorandum was promised to clarify the matter. Mr. Taylor was directed to look into compensation for the nurses' donated time.

Regarding Ms. Milat's second request, Commissioner Vaux remarked that Ms. Milat cannot expect her staff to continue to donate their time. He felt that the Board should adopt the policy that no new budget requests can be made after the budget is adopted each year, so no new services can be added to burden the staff.

Mr. Taylor pointed out that Ms. Milat is referring to a policy to deny additional requests for services within existing programs, rather than implementation of new programs.

Chairman Wylie felt that Ms. Milat should form plans for the service levels possible for 1991 within her budget and submit it to the Board. She should not ask the Board to make decisions on the capabilities of her staff to provide services.

Discussion continued, and the Board agreed that at times it is appropriate to refuse services requests.

John Thayer, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented a list of Environmental Health programs that he had ranked according to priority for the Board's information and use.

Barb Meier, Public Health Nurse, reminded the Board that some programs that were previously supported by the County are now reimbursed by other sources.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board directed Ms. Milat to include in her 1991 budget requests a plan showing what service levels can be met in the coming year.

BID OPENING - INSTALLATION OF CLEAR LAKE SWIMMING PARK SEPTIC SYSTEM.

Chairman Wylie waived the reading of the notice of call for bids, as published in The Skagit Argus.

No bids were received.

After discussion, the Board directed Mr. Aarstad to submit another call for bids in September.

DISCUSSION - SKAGITONIANS TO PRESERVE FARMLANDS REQUEST FOR GRANT TO DEVELOP FARMLAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Lisa Neilsen, Skagitonians Executive Director, updated the Board on their request. She stated that the group received a grant in the amount of \$10,360 from the Bullit Foundation, which is a trust that allots monies to programs mainly dealing with conservation, the arts, and cultural projects. There are no requirements other than grant accounting. An application to the Foster Foundation of Seattle, a similar family trust, has not yet been answered. Ms. Neilsen stated that the American Farm Foundation, a national organization, is acting as a conduit for Skagitonian's grants until Skagitonians' 5031-C status can be established.

Commissioner Vaux asked for Planning Director Scott Kirkpatrick's opinion of the proposal.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the Planning Department does not want a product that is simply an inventory of the possible options for farmland management. The product of the program should be a recommendation for an action, along with a commitment to follow through with the action. Examples of an action he gave were a bond issue or identification of funding sources for farmland preservation programs. He stated that Skagitonians has the expertise to produce this kind of document, if they are willing to commit to it. Their correspondence, he stated, does not seem to indicate that kind of commitment.

Discussion ensued, during which it was suggested that a Planning Department staff member could act as contract manager and advisor to the Skagitonians. The Planning Commission could become involved by holding public hearings to consider the implementation of the program. Brian McGinnis of SICBA questioned the criteria for membership in Skagitonians, and Ms. Neilsen explained.

No decision was made, and the Board rescheduled the topic for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, 1990, at which time Commissioner Rohrer will be present.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - SCOTT KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR:

1) Sphere of Influence Agreements and the Growth Management Act.

Mr. Kirkpatrick provided the Board with copies of the draft ESHB 2929. He discussed its implications, as well as compared it to Initiative 547. He gave detailed information on the bill, and indicated that his presentation will continue on this topic at his session scheduled for two weeks hence.

2) Staffing Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick informed the Board that Don Lehl, Building Inspector, is resigning effective in September.

3) Enforcement Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick presented to the Board his regular enforcement status report.

4) Miscellaneous.


A. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing a budget line item change from the environmental impact statements line item to the office supplies line item of the Planning Department in the amount of \$5,000 to outfit new staff members with office supplies. Chairman Wylie seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12564)

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Chairman Wylie seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON





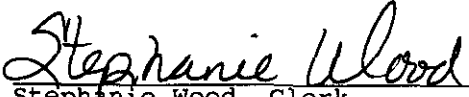
Ruth Wylie, Chairman



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners