

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING
SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, April 7, 1992:

Flag Salute.

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Department of Planning and Community Development - Scott Kirkpatrick, Director:
- 1) Source Control Strategies for the Nookachamps Watershed Action Plan - Agricultural Practices.
 - 2) Code Enforcement.
 - 3) Miscellaneous.
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Auditor, Jerry McInturff.
- 1) Presentation - New Precinct Boundary Redistricting.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Facilities Department - Roger Howard, Manager.
- 1) Work Session - New Building Construction.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 1992, with Commissioners Robby Robinson, and Ruth Wylie present. Commissioner Vaux's absence was excused.

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

- 1) Source Control Strategies for the Nookachamps Watershed Action Plan - Agricultural Practices.

Jim Freeman, Senior Watershed Planner, presented the Source Control Strategies for the Nookachamps Watershed Action Plan - Agricultural Practices.

Mr. Freeman briefly reviewed the requirements for agricultural practices which include; a farm plan inventory; provisions for farm operators without farm plans to voluntarily participate in a program to improve agricultural practices; special provisions to address nonpoint pollution from noncommercial farms, such as hobby farms; educational programs; financial and resource incentives for agricultural operators; and a compliance and enforcement element.

Mr. Freeman briefly reviewed the goals and objectives of the Agricultural Practices with the Board. He stated that the committee looked at being sensitive to indirect adverse impacts that the controlling of waste water from agricultural practices impacts in the Nookachamps Watershed, such as with small, non-commercial farms. There are 140 non-commercial farms in the Nookachamps Watershed. Mr. Freeman stated that the Nookachamps Watershed extends from Lake McMurray to the Skagit River, and from Cultas Mountain to Devils Mountain.

Mr. Freeman reviewed the Agricultural Practices Sub-Committee Source Control Strategies Preliminary Draft List with the Board. The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) will inventory commercial and small non-commercial farms in the Watershed every two years to prioritize farms in regards to their impact to water quality. Mr. Freeman stated that the Washington State Department of Fisheries (DOF), Skagit Systems Cooperative (SSC), Skagit Conservation District (SCD) and the Skagit County Department of Planning and Community Development (Planning) are combining to inventory stream corridors in need of limiting livestock access. Funding will be sought to cover the cost of labor for fencing projects which will only take place with the voluntary support of property owners.

Commissioner Wylie asked what the permit requirements are for dairy waste.

Vicki Mesman, SCD, stated that the dairy farmers are required to have dairy waste permits based on their herd size. If the farmer has a conservation plan, the permit fee is waived. Ms. Mesman stated that the plan for dairy waste permitting is in the draft form at present. There will be hearings outlining the permitting requirements, and implementation is projected for this fall.

Mr. Freeman addressed the Board regarding cost assistance and incentives and monitoring for the Agricultural Practices. There have been concerns raised on permitting processes for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to protect and enhance water quality on agricultural lands. It has been agreed between Planning, DOF, and SCD that when applications are received, there will be a coordinated review process with the four groups rather than each group reviewing separately. Mr. Freeman stated that Planning shall develop an Agricultural Preservation Program as part of the Resource Lands element of the Comprehensive Plan. This will be in place mainly as a mechanism to protect property rights. Cost assistance and incentive programs for limiting animal access to stream corridors will be evaluated by Planning. SCD should coordinate with DOF during the design phase of projects involving stream corridor fencing and other restrictions of livestock access to stream corridors.

Mr. Freeman stated that most creeks from the Skagit River North are shoreline creeks, and that shoreline permits take 6 months to process.

Mr. Freeman stated that the monitoring program for the watershed should establish water quality stations upstream and downstream of agricultural lands in the watershed to document improvements in water quality as a result of the implementation of BMPs on farmlands; and identify violations to the Washington State Water Quality Standards for Class A waters.

Mr. Freeman stated that a study is being conducted to evaluate the stability of different crop covers to remove nitrates from soils by WSU/Skagit County Cooperative Extension (WSU/Coop) and WSU Agricultural Research and Extension Unit. A part of this study will involve nitrate sampling from ground and surface waters in different areas of Skagit County. It is recommended that this program include sampling in the Nookachamps Watershed.

Mr. Freeman recommended that sediment samples should be collected and tested every five years for EPA's priority pollutant list to examine for the presence of pesticides in the watershed.

Kristi Carpenter addressed the Board regarding public involvement and education. The following items were discussed:

- * It is recommended that 5 days of WSU/Coop staff time be allocated per month for a Livestock/Water Quality Field Agent to be responsible for continuing the Volunteer Small Farm water Quality Advisor Program and for coordinating workshops to educate homeowners on ways to improve water quality. This position would also be responsible for coordinating public involvement activities for volunteers who complete the Advisor Program. Currently there is a person from WSU/Coop that allots one day a month to work with small non-commercial farm operators and local residents in the watershed.
- * A mailing list on land owners zoned for "Agricultural" and Agricultural Reserve" in the watershed should be developed. This list would be used for workshop announcements and the distribution of educational materials on cost assistance programs; technical assistance and support; descriptions of major local, state, and federal laws and regulations which apply to the impact of agricultural practices on water quality, BMPs; Skagit County's Right to Farm Ordinance; and Resource Lands element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- * The Skagit County Health Department should distribute nitrate test kits to local residents using groundwater wells for drinking water to test for nitrate contamination, which would include educational materials providing accurate information on nitrates and explaining what process to follow should a potential problem be identified.
- * The SCD, DOF, and WSU/Coop, should sponsor workshops on alternatives for limiting animal access to stream corridors, including, but not limited to, controlled grazing techniques, fencing with streambank vegetation, and stock watering alternatives.

Mr. Freeman stated that the project staff will be reviewing the pros and cons of the recommendations and will be redrafting, and adding cost figures. This item will be readdressed with the Board after May 7, 1992.

2) Code Enforcement.

The Code Enforcement Report was presented to the Board.

3) Miscellaneous.

A) Oscar Graham, Senior Planner, addressed the Board regarding extending the Moratorium on shoreline permit applications for fish net pen facilities. Mr. Graham stated that the Moratorium ends on April 30, 1992, and that the Skagit County Shoreline Management Master Program's Section on Aquaculture is projected to be completed beyond the moratorium extension. Mr. Graham requested the Board to call for a public hearing to receive public testimony on the consideration of another extension.

Commissioner Wylie motioned to call for a public hearing to consider extending the moratorium on applications for fish net pen facilities in Skagit County. Chairman Robinson seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered.

B) Craig Olasen, Assistant Director, reviewed with the Board an issue regarding the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation District. Mr. Olasen stated that the County is required to develop a protection plan for the Department of Natural Resources owned land, dealing with local and state-wide issues. Mr. Olasen has received the State guidelines on conservation districts, but it does not deal with how the County can work with State owned land. It appears that the County is required to protect the state land, but is not responsible for it. Mr. Olasen stated that there will be a review of the draft by the Conservation District this evening. Mr. Olasen will keep the Board informed of the progress of the protection plan development.

AUDITOR, JERRY MCINTURFF.

1) Presentation - New Precinct Boundary Redistricting.

Jerry McInturff, County Auditor, Agnes Cheek, Election Supervisor, and Krista Johnsen, Election Technician, presented draft maps to the Board showing the 40th and 10th Legislative boundary redistricting. This resulted in legislative boundaries dividing some of the Skagit County election precincts. This required modification of Skagit County election precinct boundaries, as a precinct must be contained in one Legislative district.

The Board reviewed the maps and suggestions for precinct modifications and renaming, where necessary. Mr. McInturff stated that the final maps are to be done by June, 1992.

ADJOURNMENT

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


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Robby Robinson, Chairman


Ruth Wylie, Commissioner


W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Connie Carter, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners