

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

Wednesday, June 10, 1992

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Discussion - Use of Timber Mitigation Funds.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 10, 1992, with Commissioners Robby Robinson, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

DISCUSSION - USE OF TIMBER MITIGATION FUNDS.

Mike Woodmansee led the discussion by reading from a memorandum from himself to the Board of Commissioners discussing the allocating of timber mitigation funds to the upriver community. These funds were awarded by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and, although starting out at \$32,500, were later increased to a total of \$57,500. Mr. Woodmansee reported that he spoke with Greg Dohrn of the DSHS, who informed him that to access the mitigation funds, the Board of Commissioners must first send a two to three page letter outlining how the funding will be used. After reviewing the letter, DSHS will then send a contract for the Board to sign, and once the contract is returned to DSHS, the funding begins. Funding will be in four to six installments, and periodic status reports will be required of Skagit County.

Mr. Woodmansee explained that in April, Concrete community members held a meeting to discuss how they wished to suggest the funds be allocated. Four proposals were received as follows:

Upriver Community Meeting Proposals

Western Washington Resource Council	\$44,246 to fund a 3/4 time coordinator position to seek grants, direct services and oversee the functioning of this consortium of entities.
Community Action Agency	\$13,504 for direct services to indigent clients in the form of rent food, and other necessary expenses.
Upper Valley Youth Association	\$35,000 to add services to assist in keeping young people out of trouble.
Upper Valley Awareness Task Force	\$ 2,005 to provide substance abuse workshops for school children.

The upriver community members who met made the following recommendations for awards:

Recommendations

Western Washington Resource Council	\$41,500
Community Action Agency	\$10,000
Upper Valley Youth Association	\$5,000
Upper Valley Awareness Task Force	\$1,000

Mr. Woodmansee stated that he reviewed all of the materials provided by Kay Haaland, who served as moderator for the upriver community meeting, and offers the following counter-proposal. He stated that the Upriver Services Office was created in 1990. It, along with Skagit Community Action Agency, which provides social services, have in place, and with directors employed by Skagit County, administrative structures. Mr. Woodmansee suggested that to award the bulk of the mitigation funds to the WWRC would duplicate these administrative functions, as virtually all of the funds requested by the WWRC will be allocated to fund a coordinator position and to rent and set up an office for the position. While the WWRC already has a coordinator funded with FERN funds from DSHS, it is not yet a private, non-profit organization. Mr.

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Woodmansee suggested that instead of duplicating services, \$17,000 be used to fund a half time coordinator position in the Upriver Services Office under the direction of USO Coordinator Cheri Cook. As with other positions the Board has funded, the possibility of the position remaining funded even after the grant monies are gone is a possibility.

Mr. Woodmansee suggested that since Skagit Community Action Agency is the single agency providing direct services to clients, their entire request should be funded at \$13,500. The Upper Valley Awareness Task Force should be funded at \$2,000, and the remaining \$25,000 should be set aside for a youth services center as a capital investment.

The Board then questioned Mr. Woodmansee. Commissioner Wylie asked if there would be any additional costs to house another employee in the Upriver Services Office, to which Cheri Cook responded that the cost would be minimal.

At Commissioner Vaux's request, Mr. Woodmansee ready the WWRC proposal. Mr. Woodmansee explained that under his proposal, those tasks performed by the WWRC coordinator could be done by the half-time County employee.

Teresa Deschene, a WWRC member and supporter, explained that the WWRC was formed about three years ago by individuals concerned about timber cutbacks. Representatives from many State and County agencies also attend WWRC meetings. The WWRC focuses on three main objectives; worker and training programs, social services to families, and services to businesses. Ms. Deschene gave a description of services that the WWRC performs. She stated that the WWRC proposal shows the total, unassisted costs to fund the coordinator position. Some costs may be trimmed from the budget due to the potential to received donated space and equipment. She argued to keep the funds requested to fund the coordinator and against the use of the funds for childrens' services, as those services are already available elsewhere. She attributed many accomplishments to the WWRC, and read the job description of the coordinator. Ms. Deschene stated that if the Board was considering denying the WWRC funding application, there should be another community meeting to discuss it.

Commissioner Vaux listed the positions Skagit County funds on behalf of other agencies such as the Historical Society Director, Emergency Services Director, Skagit Community Action Agency Director, and Board of Equalization Staff Assistant. These are all non-County positions, directed by Boards of volunteers or other persons. He stated that the Board adopts the policy of funding these positions because it allows the entities they direct to concentrate funds and efforts on programs and projects rather than on ways to fund their positions.

Teresa Deschene responded that she then wished to be involved in directing the coordinator position and to have major involvement in hiring for the position.

Commissioner Vaux indicated that he would not object to having an advisory board for the coordinator to rely upon.

An unidentified woman testified that it was the consensus of those present at the community meeting that the WWRC coordinator position was needed. She gave a testimonial for Peggy Wilson, the current coordinator.

Mike Jarboe, Superintendent of Concrete Schools, stated that we need to separate what a good person has done (Peggy Wilson) and what is best for the community to extend funds. He stated that he takes mild exception to Ms. Deschene's comments regarding childrens' services. Dr. Jarboe stated that he feels it

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would be an advantage to the upper valley to have the Board of Commissioners' support for the position, as well as the position's accountability to County staff. He stated that he is reluctant to approve of WWRC incorporating and becoming a bureaucracy, stating that it is more of a forum to discuss ideas than a formal agency.

An unidentified man stated that he feels denying the WWRC funding request would effectively "wash out" the WWRC, losing all of the good it has done and the experience it has. If the present coordinator, Peggy Wilson, were to leave, the man felt the WWRC would cease to exist.

Peggy Wilson stated that she feels having the coordinator position answer to the County is desirable.

Ms. Deschene again asked that the WWRC have a say in the hiring of the coordinator, and Chairman Robinson agreed to consider the request.

Commissioner Wylie suggested that the WWRC draft a mission statement for the organization, and that a statement of understanding be drawn up between the County and the WWRC to formalize the coordinator's role in the WWRC.

Mike Woodmansee was directed to set up a meeting between himself, Cheri Cook, Chairman Robinson, and members of the WWRC to discuss the arrangement.

ADJOURNMENT:


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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON





Robby Robinson, Chairman

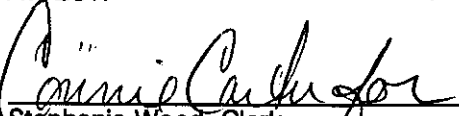


Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners