

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

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Department of Planning and Community Development - Dave Hough, Director

- 1) Decision - Adoption of the Interim Urban Growth Boundaries.
- 2) Presentation by Douglas A. Bulhuis: Review of Water Quality Data in the Padilla Bay/Bayview Watershed.
- 3) Capital Facilities Program Orientation.
- 4) Code Enforcement Report.
- 5) Miscellaneous.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 1993, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Harvey Wolden and Robby Robinson present.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - DAVE HOUGH, DIRECTOR:

- 1) Decision - Adoption of the Interim Urban Growth Boundaries.

Dave Hough, Director, Planning and Community Development, presented to the Board for their approval a resolution adopting a new chapter to the Skagit County Code establishing interim urban growth areas for cities and towns within Skagit County. He reviewed the map with the Board and advised that the "special study area" concept seems to be working already.

Commissioner Hart said he had one area of concern relative to Big Lake and a couple of other areas. Mr. Hough said that in the case of Big Lake, he would like to see further discussion about what the impact for urban growth areas would be on the sewer outfall line and the Big Lake community. There is some concern about the impact on the Mount Vernon urban growth area.

There was some discussion about the special study areas. Mr. Hough emphasized that just because part of Mount Vernon is in an urban growth area doesn't mean the boundaries have been accepted.

Mr. Hough presented the proposed ordinance to the Board and stressed the need for a more public process. That is why the ordinance states that the County and the cities and towns must work together and provide additional public participation in the development of the proposed final urban growth areas.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

Page #2

Commissioner Robinson emphasized that even though the County and cities are working together to come up with a plan, public input is still a large part of the process.

Chairman Hart expressed concern about the County's commitment to have land use areas relative to residential development in rural areas straightened out by the end of the year. Mr. Hough assured the Board that this would be done by the end of the year although the state requirement for completion is not until July 1994. The Comprehensive Plan development cannot be completed without the final urban growth boundaries.

After further discussion Chairman Hart motioned to approve an ordinance Adopting a New Chapter to the Skagit County Code Establishing Interim Urban Growth Areas for Cities and Towns within Skagit County. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Ordinance #15038)

2) Presentation by Douglas A. Bulthuis: Review of Water Quality Data in the Padilla Bay/Bayview Watershed.

Jim Freeman, Senior Watershed Planner, provided background into the state law. He explained that because of a state requirement to evaluate existing water quality information the beginning of this past year an interagency agreement was entered into with the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to provide this information.

Douglas A. Bulthuis of the Padilla Bay Research Reserve presented a report to the Board on the review of water quality data in the Padilla Bay/Bayview Watershed. He advised that there is not a lot of data and not many measurements made. It is a small watershed. He cited some of the studies that have been done.

Mr. Freeman explained that the role Mr. Bulthuis had in putting the report together was evaluating data and whether or not the methods of evaluation were appropriate and the data usable.

Mr. Bulthuis said Padilla Bay is part of a national reserve research system. It has been set up to preserve estuaries for public information, education and research. Part of the funding comes from the federal government and part from the State. In each state one of the state agencies administers the program. Mr. Bulthuis advised that in Washington State the program is administered by the Department of Ecology, which he is part of.

Mr. Bulthuis reviewed a map with the Board and provided some information about Padilla Bay itself. Comparisons were made with the state water quality standards. In those cases they have tried to make some comparisons with other streams and sloughs in other parts of the state. He described some of the studies and the kind of wild life that

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

Page #3

exists in the bay and the survival rate of organisms. Scattered throughout Padilla Bay there is some low level of toxicity.

Jim Freeman responded to a question from the Board relative to whether septic use has some bearing on the toxicity levels. The water quality study began last summer. There are three stations set up for storm water. There will be information during storm events, hopefully, that will shed some light on that. Also, as part of Tom Nolan's sanitary survey project, Bayview was identified as one of the high risk areas. The kinds of things you would expect to impact the "critters" might be more likely to be heavy metals, etc. Mr. Bulthuis added, even some things that fall from the atmosphere can have some effect in this regard.

Chairman Hart asked if there was any long term information on the area around the landfill. Mr. Bulthuis said there was not.

Mr. Freeman stated that the Department of Ecology hasn't been out there since the early 80's. They are being ranked high priority, middle priority and low priority. That area was ranked as middle or low priority. He added that since that time it was his understanding that the pollutant thresholds have changed.

Mr. Bulthuis said that the Department of Health is, at the present time, measuring bacteria in Padilla Bay. That study is not completed.

Since the bay has been diked, the only things that flow into the bay are some sloughs. Mr. Bulthuis presented the standards that have been established by the state for Class A fresh water and the most recent information regarding oxygen levels, pH, bacteria, turbidity, etc.

Commissioner Hart asked if most of the water quality was coming from cattle and spraying that is done. Mr. Bulthuis replied that there is very little data. He added that there is a lot of fluctuation and variation in sampling.

In conclusion, Mr. Bulthuis said that the temperature in the slough is good, dissolved oxygen is difficult, pH is good, there is difficulty with bacteria, nutrients are too high and toxicants don't seem to be a problem. He added that the problems with the slough could carry over into the bay.

3) Capital Facilities Program Orientation.

Mr. Hough asked that this be carried over to the following week.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

Page #4

4) **Code Enforcement Report.**

Mr. Hough presented the Code Enforcement Report to the Board.

5) **Miscellaneous**

- A) Mr. Hough reviewed several proposed annexations by the City of Burlington with the Board. The Public Works Department agreed with the annexations but would like to make sure that any future annexations to the south will include all of Gardner Road.
- B) A copy of a letter from the City of Burlington was reviewed with the Board. Mr. Hough further reported that he spoke with Margaret Fleek, City of Burlington Planner, and she indicated that she was supporting the proposal for mitigation of the conversion of agricultural land.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, presented two resolutions to the Board for their review and approval.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve a resolution authorizing a Budget Line Item Change from the Current Expense Fund #001 in the amount of \$6,000. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #15040)

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve a resolution authorizing a Call for Public Hearing for the purpose of determining whether a resolution shall be adopted authorizing a supplemental budget for the Convention Center Fund #119 in the amount of \$2,000. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #15039)

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

Page #5

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Robert Hart, Chairman

Robby Robinson

Robby Robinson, Commissioner

Harvey Wolden

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Stephanie Wood for

Jean Copping, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners