

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, February 17, 1998

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
*T 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Cooperative Extension Programs Update.
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Public Comment Period.
	CONSENT AGENDA. MISCELLANEOUS.
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Public Hearing – Consideration of Amendments to Ordinance No. 16785 Creating Skagit County Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake.
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Ted W. Anderson, and Harvey Wolden present.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS UPDATE.

Mike Hackett, Cooperative Extension Director, indicated that in August/September the Department moved to its downtown location on First Street, and that walk-in traffic has been increased by 30-50% from the old location. He noted that the WSU Cougar window displays have helped in this regard.

Mr. Hackett reported on various workshops and conferences held in Skagit Valley regarding various subjects including Jonagold Apples, Crop Alternatives, and Master Gardeners. He noted that attendance has been very high at these events. He further discussed other associated programs run in conjunction with Cooperative Extension Programs.

Mr. Hackett advised that much time has been spent getting the office set up at the new location, building on existing programs, and implementing further advantages of the computer system.

The importance of partnering with other agencies and groups was briefly discussed.

Mr. Hackett then explained The Learning Center concept from Washington State University, an area learning center which would involve University funding but would come from the Higher Education Board through WSU to this area. He stated that County funding may be required in cooperation to get the Learning Center up and running. Mr. Hackett stated that WSU would like to use Cooperative Extension as the catalyst to get this ambitious project going. He explained that the idea is to have universities without walls.

Commissioner Anderson commented on the far-reaching programs offered by the Cooperative Extension Department, and much of the behind-the-scenes work that goes on.

Pat Cunningham, 4-H Program Assistant, gave a brief update on the various activities of the 4-H program in Skagit County. She noted that there are between 600 – 635 children involved in 4-H in Skagit County.

The 4-H Foundation was briefly discussed.

Joannie Poot, Office Manager, discussed with the Board some personnel issues. She stated that an increase in hours for the receptionist was requested during the budget process, but was denied. Ms. Poot explained that support staff has been overwhelmed with increased workload and walk-in clientele. She stated that the request was for an increase from 17-1/2 hours to 28 hours per week, and can be done within the existing departmental budget. Commissioner Wolden noted that he would make the employee an 80% employee and that,

subsequently, additional benefits would also be required to accomplish the increase. Ms. Poot stated that she has been working with Alicia Huschka, Budget Manager, and that enough funds are available to accommodate this increase within the existing departmental budget.

Commissioner Anderson stated that as long as there is enough monies available in the departmental budget, he did not have a problem with the increase. However, he stated no additional funds could be promised to the department if they run short of funds.

Chairman Hart suggested that it would be necessary to go through the proper process for authorizing this increase both with the Personnel Director and Ms. Huschka.

Mr. Hackett stated that in the 1998 budget, there was \$13,000+ earmarked for the hiring of a faculty member for 4-H in partnership with WSU. He stated that he has heard that WSU may not want to fund their part of this position, and he is concerned that additional help is needed in regard to 4-H programs. He stated that he would like to use this money to increase the Program Assistant's hours and hire a professional at half-time. Mr. Hackett stated that they could use the balance of the funds to pay for a Personal Services Agreement to cover some additional tasks, particularly in regards to participation in the Best SELF program.

Chairman Hart stated that he is not willing to give up on the possibility of WSU funding their portion of an assistant agent at this time, and expressed his reluctance in using these designated funds for other uses.

Mr. Hackett stated that he still needs to find a way to boost the hours of the Program Assistant for 4-H.

Ms. Poot asked if perhaps they could increase the Program Assistant's hours to 35 hours per week temporarily until WSU makes a commitment to the hiring of an assistant agent.

Commissioner Wolden reiterated that the County does not have any extra discretionary dollars to spend. He expressed the difficulty in making decisions during the budget process last fall and continuing in 1998 as County revenues are down and need to be rebuilt. He stressed the need for departments to be creative with the dollars they are allocated.

Chairman Hart stated that he does not see a problem with temporarily increasing hours, but the authorization of a permanent position will not be forthcoming. He stated that we need to proceed with the permanent position of an assistant agent, but would agreed to temporarily funding additional hours for the Program Assistant until the hiring of an assistant agent has occurred.

Mr. Hackett concurred with the desire of the Board to proceed with the previous commitment from WSU for the hiring of an assistant agent and not head in another direction at this point in time.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

There were no citizens present for the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, February 17, 1998 and Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to approve Items 1-12 of the Consent Agenda as presented by Staff/

• **COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:**

1. Record of the Proceedings of Monday, February 9, 1998.
2. Record of the Proceedings of Tuesday, February 10, 1998.

• PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

3. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing to Consider a Speed Limit Revision on a County Road known as Blodgett Road, No. 70510. The proposal is to reduce the speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour from mile Post 0.204, Mount Vernon City Limits, to Mile Post 1.11 at Ridgewood Lane. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. **Resolution No. 16879**
4. Resolution Updating C.R.P. Reservation Road Project No. ES40210-1. **(Resolution No. 16880)**
5. Resolution Updating C.R.P. Cook Road Project No. ES63000-6. **(Resolution No. 16881)**
6. Resolution Updated C.R.P. Avon Allen Road Project No. ES33110-3. **(Resolution No. 16882)**
7. FCAAP Grant Agreement No. G9800166 Washington State Department of Ecology for Phase I, Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. The maximum FCAAP Grant Share is \$262,500, with the Estimated Local Share being \$87,000. **(Contract No. 03837)**
8. Professional Services Agreement with Rick's Refrigeration for the collection and recycling of refrigerated appliances for per unit prices as follows: Refrigerator/Freezer \$20, Clothes Washer \$5, Clothes Dryer \$5, Stove/Range \$5, and Dishwasher \$5. The contract will commence on February 17, 1998 and will be effective until terminated. **(Contract No. 03838)**
9. Letters to the City of Anacortes and WSDOT Clarifying the Board of County Commissioners' Position on Expanding Federal Urban Area near the Swinomish Casino. **(Approved)**
10. Letters to Legislative Members Regarding the Cook Road Improvement Project in an attempt to gain whatever freight mobility funding that may become available in support of this project. **(Approved)**

• PARKS & RECREATION:

11. Resolution approving a "Notice of Intent to Lease Land per RCW 36.34.10) for property located west of Russell Road and north of the centerline of the Cascade Trail Corridor. This area was used by the railroad for commercial purposes. **(Resolution No. 16883)**

• CONSERVATION FUTURES PROGRAM:

12. Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement with Timmers Appraisal Services, increasing the maximum contract amount by \$2,000 for a total amount of \$7,000 to complete additional tasks as requested by the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee. **(Contract No. 03656)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, February 17, 1998, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 14361 through 14600 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,287,062.38 (Transmittal No. C-09-98);

Warrants numbered 14601 through 14861 from Clear Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$342,606.55 (Transmittal No. C-10-98);

Payroll warrants numbered 10356 through 10995 in the total dollar amount of \$551,886.54 (Transmittal No. P-07-98); and

Payroll warrants numbered 10996 through 11019 in the total dollar amount of \$12,255.71 (Transmittal No. P-08-98).

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE NO. 16785 CREATING SKAGIT COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR BIG LAKE.

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, reviewed the housekeeping changes necessary to Ordinance No. 16785 for the first mailing of tax statements regarding the formation of Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake. He advised that the District was formed following the Thurston County example. It prescribed the process for assessing property owners via the property tax statements. In Skagit County, the Treasurer has asked for things to be done a little bit differently, and some changes need to be made in the collection of the tax amounts. He listed the specific changes as detailed in the proposed ordinance.

There being no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Anderson moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the amendments as presented by Mr. Woodmansee. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Ordinance No. 16884)

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Hart made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Robert Hart, Chairman



Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners