

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, May 12, 1998**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director.</u> 1) Discussion – Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Program. 2) Discussion – Bathing Beach Evaluation and Monitoring. 3) Update on Clean Up of Incinerator Ash near Alger. 4) Miscellaneous.
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

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

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

Peter Browning, Health Department Director, provided an overview of the Board of Health agenda.

1. Discussion – Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Program.

John Hadman, Environmental Health Specialist, reported on the Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Program. He stated that the department is working on building volunteer support to assist in monitoring the program. Health Department staff handles testing in the more difficult locations.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Hadman what they are looking for with water samples.

Mr. Hadman explained that they are testing for water quality fecal coliform. He elaborated further on the kinds of testing that are done, indicating that at the present time the toxin levels are going down.

When there is a crisis situation a fax and phone network is used to inform hospitals, doctors, ER's and the media of danger. There is also a hotline to call at 1-800-red tide.

Mr. Browning asked if they are looking for volunteers to help with the testing?

Mr. Hadman said they are always looking for volunteers to bring in samples. Enough samples are brought in that they get a fairly good return on their efforts. The areas are pretty specific, as they are popular areas. They have to work harder to get samples in other areas.

2. Discussion – Bathing Beach Evaluation and Monitoring.

Mr. Hadman talked about the Bathing Beach Evaluation and Monitoring Program. The federal government conducted a state survey to see how states were treating, monitoring and following the development and maintenance of state waters and bathing areas. The State of Washington ended up right next to the bottom of the list as doing well. What saved Washington from being rated lower is because some counties do have a program. Several years ago a state ad hoc committee was formed to change bathing beach regulations. At the present time, not much progress has been made.

Skagit County has sixteen beaches, although they are not all monitored. Some of the beaches that are monitored are Clear Lake, Big Lake, Lake McMurray and Lake Sixteen. The Lake Cavanaugh Association monitors Lake Cavanaugh. Lake Campbell has never been tested, although Pass Lake and Lake Campbell should probably be monitored. The only salt-water beach tested regularly is at Del Mar.

Mr. Hadman explained that coliform sampling is done and they want to add health and safety and water clarity to the testing. It is going to become a much more important issue and it is better to be active rather than reactive.

3. Update on Clean Up of Incinerator Ash near Alger.

Britt Pfaff, Environmental Health Specialist, reported on the cleanup of illegally dumped ash in Alger. On March 10 a call was received from a citizen who reported suspicious activity at a property in Alger. They contacted Whatcom County, as they were concerned about the association of an individual who owned that property with his place of work in Whatcom County.

A joint inspection was done with Whatcom County, the Department of Ecology, and the Skagit County Health Department. It was found that incinerator ash had been dumped on logging roads and then spread out. The greatest concern was because of the possibility of high levels of lead in the ash.

Work was begun with the individual who dumped the ash and with the company where the ash originated. The owner of the company stepped forward and paid for trucking and removing the ash. Around 50 tons of material was dumped on the site, and approximately 150 tons removed. The next step was to test the site to confirm that the ash had been removed. Any small amounts left will be picked up with a wheelbarrow or shovel. During this process it was found that other waste materials had been dumped on the site. Also, some of the other neighbors called to report other activities they have seen there over the years. Depending on what is found, that material will also be cleaned up.

Commissioner Hart expressed appreciation to Britt and the Health Department for being so active in this.

Britt added that it is a good example of how different departments in the County, such as Planning and Emergency Management, as well as other agencies, Whatcom County and the Department of Ecology, can work together when there is good communication between them.

Mr. Browning asked Ms. Pfaff about water safety at the site.

Ms. Pfaff indicated that they would be contacting the Department of Ecology to assess the site. Some surface water will probably be tested in the vicinity just to make sure none of it has gotten off the site. In talking to a lot of the neighbors, they have been very helpful and positive in letting her know what is happening there.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Browning reported to the Board that the recent Health Department open house was extremely successful. Hopefully, this will now be an annual event. He indicated that they needed to thank Sandi Paciotti for the work she did on this event.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Jon Aarstad, Director, was present with other staff members for the Parks Projects Update.

1. Swinomish Channel Update

Pete Mayer, Operations Manager, reported on the progress of the Swinomish Channel update. The agreement with the State has been sent out for signature. It identifies the County's percentage of matching funds and the County's obligation with regard to the project. Once the agreement is signed, the process to get a consultant on board to do the preliminary engineering of the site will begin.

Pete reviewed a map with the Board showing the layout of the area, explaining that they are looking at extending the existing boat ramp and placing a new float down the center. A new unisex restroom facility will be built and the log boom will be extended on either side to provide handicapped accessible parking. Mr. Mayer briefly reviewed the timeline, indicating that it is hoped that an RFP can be developed by June first so a qualified engineer can be hired by August.

Commissioner Hart asked if the fact that construction can't begin until September 1999 has to do with the need for a low tide.

Mr. Mayer explained that they are looking at February 1, 2000 for actual construction to begin, which will take into consideration the tidal situation. They need to allow the maximum cure time on the concrete. There should be other aspects of the project completed by that time. The delay that is foreseen is the staff and plan review by DOT. It is anticipated that it will be quite arduous to obtain permits.

Commissioner Wolden asked about the ramp width.

Mr. Mayer advised that approximately 9' would be added to the existing ramp, which will be sufficient to accommodate two vehicles with trailers.

Commissioner Wolden expressed concern about the bureaucratic problems and delays in getting the project started and suggested inviting DOT up to look at the site.

Commissioner Hart added that he is no less frustrated about this than Commissioner Wolden.

Howard Miller Update

Mr. Mayer reviewed the Howard Miller Steelhead Park revenue history, indicating that it is now slightly less than what it has been over the last five years. He reviewed a chart with the Board showing that the totals are slightly down for this year, about \$1,000 less than at the same time last year. This could be for a variety of reasons. It is important to keep the year to date figures in mind.

Mr. Mayer advised that the department's new promotional guide will include the Howard Miller Steelhead Park. They are also looking at having some ball caps available with "Howard Miller Steelhead Park" imprinted on them. They are working hard at trying more aggressively to market services.

Presentin Park Grant Status

Jon Aarstad, Director, Parks, Recreation and Fair, reported on the Presentin Park IAC grant, reviewing the project up to the present time. IAC has allowed the grant to be resubmitted one more time. The grant is for a 50% match. Last year, in the original submittal, several options were provided for the match. He reviewed the original submittal amounts with the Board.

The donation of equipment, labor and materials is still the same. As the forest grant ends later this year and, if that money can't be used, then Skagit County needs to find additional funding through 1999 and the year 2000 from some other source.

This year \$100,000 from real estate excise tax monies was available to assist with the water system. Money that is used on site for a water system can be used as the match also.

The department will not know until July of 1999 whether the grant has been received from IAC. There should be a good indication by October, but because of the review process and IAC functions in the way their meetings occur, July will be the earliest time that the contract could be obtained.

Commissioner Anderson excused himself to attend another meeting.

Jail Inmate Program

Mr. Mayer reported that extensive changes have occurred as a result of an incident at the Skagit County Fairgrounds facility earlier this month. A lot of internal changes have been made on how jail inmates are supervised. Meetings have been held with the Sheriff's Office staff and the Risk Manager to identify issues that can be changed in the department. A copy has been provided to the Risk Manager of things that can be put into action immediately.

They have also talked to the Sheriff's Office about consistency and the policy each agency follows in using inmates. If they are treated better elsewhere it creates a lot of problems for supervisors in the field. This situation has created an opportunity to address this broader issue. Meetings will be held with the Sheriff's Office and other agencies to draft policies to improve the consistency among agencies. The Sheriff, Jail Manager and Risk Manager have all been very cooperative and helpful in this situation.

Spring Flyer and Program Activities

Kami Manley, Recreation Coordinator, reported on the spring flyer and program activities.

Right now there are adult softball leagues going on, with 77 teams participating on Mondays and Fridays. They are short handed in terms of staff with that league, so part-time staff are working on this. This summer there will be two tournaments and they may ask for Commissioner support to come out for those tournaments and throw out the first pitch.

Softball tournaments have provided a positive economic impact in the community. A survey was done last year and it was found that approximately \$150 was spent per family, with a total of approximately \$130,000 brought into Skagit County.

Last Saturday there was a Fun Run. It was a very positive community event, with great comments received.

Ms. Manley handed out the spring flyer to the Board, highlighting some of the programs being offered by the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department this summer. She also provided a flyer citing the benefits of parks and recreation.

Ms. Manley concluded her presentation. She thanked Commissioner Hart for coming to their staff meeting last week, indicating that it was very positive for them to have him there.

Fairgrounds

Laurie Anderson, Operations Coordinator, reported that the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band tickets are selling fast. The printing for the flyer was donated by Pip Printing in Mount Vernon.

Tony Rees, Fair Facilities Coordinator, reported on the change in the master plan for this year. Originally, restroom facilities were going to be constructed, but that is not going to happen because the project was too complex for the Job Corps to handle.

Since then, other options have been looked at such as needed repairs and improvements to the grounds and buildings. For example, the south entrance needs to be landscaped and signed, with power and lighting installed at the ticket booth. The ticket booths are old and in need of replacement. Also, better signage is needed from I-5 exits to the fairgrounds.

Mr. Aarstad added that since they couldn't do the restroom facilities they were looking at the sheep and llama areas. After the fair they are looking at how to get more year round usage of the fair buildings with accommodation of other events.

Commissioner Hart agreed that the restroom situation is a problem, and at one time there was discussion about a modular unit being brought in. Mr. Rees noted that a modular unit with handicapped access has been brought in. Mr. Aarstad explained further that the reason they were unable to proceed with the restroom facilities was because the Job Corps does not have a person skilled in masonry. A modular building does not have the capacity that a cement block building would have.

Commissioner Wolden felt that a volunteer might be found to come in and lay the block.

Foundation Activities

Mr. Aarstad reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is in the process of asking five people to serve as the incorporating fathers for the new Parks and Recreation Foundation. So far, three of those people have expressed an interest in this. They will be invited to participate in the Parks Tour later this month. There will be a review of the foundation and discussion about the direction to go at the June Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

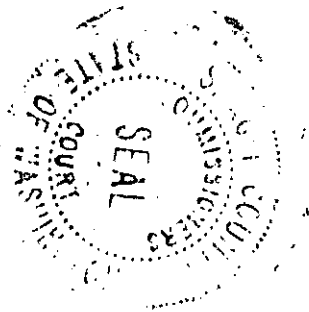
Tributary 80/Fish Enhancement Project


Mr. Aarstad talked about the Tributary 80/Fish Enhancement Project, indicating that the property was purchased from Pacific Denkman for an Environmental Education Park. The project is to re-establish channel flows and enhance creeks known to harbor fish. There is no cost to Skagit County for the installation of this culvert.

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

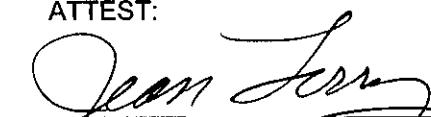


Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:



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