

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, November 9, 1999**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Work Session – Planning & Permit Center Work Program.
*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion – Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Skagit County.2. Review of Property Cleanups.3. Discussion – Holiday Food Safety.4. Discussion – Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Avoidance.5. Discussion – STARS Training.6. Miscellaneous.
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Facilities Projects Update.
11:30 a.m. – Noon	Presentation – Concrete School District Track & Field Facilities.
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Public Hearing – Reviewing Community Development and Housing Needs, Informing Citizens of the Availability of Funds and Eligible Uses of the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Receiving Comments on Proposed Activities, Particularly from Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Persons Resident in the Skagit County Area.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson and Robert Hart present. Commissioner Harvey Wolden's absence was excused.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

Peter Browning, Director, Skagit County Health Department, was introduced by Chairman Ted Anderson. Mr. Browning noted that this is the season to talk about some of the issues that will be presented today.

1. Discussion – Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Skagit County.

Maryl Skjei, Registered Nurse, Skagit County Health Department, reported. One of her primary duties is tracking communicable disease in Skagit County. They are now seeing a change in Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Skagit County. Usually Whooping Cough effects babies and infants more than adults, but they are now seeing more occurrences of Whooping Cough in the adult population.

Whooping Cough, or Pertussis, is a local infection of the nose and throat that is caused by a bacteria. The toxin destroys the protection from the bad bacteria and causes a severe coughing disease. The disease starts with cold symptoms and then progresses to a nagging, dry cough that goes into a harsh spasmodic cough where you have to take a breath. This is where the disease gets its name. A vaccine became available in the 1940's, which cut down on the existence of the disease. Since the 1980's there has been a change in the occurrence of Pertussis in infants and older people. She cited some statistics in King County, where over 425 cases were documented in October for 1999.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #2

They are seeing outbreaks in Stanwood and the Camano island area and Snohomish County. Skagit County is being effected as well; a few cases have been seen here. The reason for the change in disease trend is because the vaccine coverage wanes after a few years so someone who might have been covered as a child no longer is protected. For example, a grandmother can give it to her grandchild because she is no longer immune.

A vaccine is being used with infants which causes fewer side effects and soreness than the old vaccine. At the present time, it is not licensed for adult use. However, studies are underway to formulate a vaccine for adults and older children. There is also an antibiotic that can be used for five days rather than a fourteen-day course.

In terms of transporting the disease, children are coming to the County to stay in day care who live in Everett, or live elsewhere, and who bring the disease to Skagit County. It is the intention of the Health Department to continue to immunize children and track closely. Also, it is very important to prevent contact with people who are infected.

Chairman Anderson asked where someone would go who has the symptoms of Pertussis?

Ms. Skjei advised that the cultures can be done here at the Health Department. People can call and ask for Sandy Paciotti or Maryl Skjei at 336-9380. They will then interview the patient and take cultures and send them to the State. They also urge providers to consult with them as well.

Mr. Browning said that the Skagit County Health Department has an exceptional preventive disease program in place. A lot of it has to do with the prompt attention received from Sandy Paciotti, Maryl Skjei and others in the department.

2. Discussion – Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Avoidance.

John Hadman, Environmental Health Specialist, talked about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, which he noted is a higher risk in the winter. It is a silent killer as there is no way to know it is coming. Any fuel-burning appliance in the home, even wood burning appliances, can cause it. The proper operation of appliances and service is one of the ways to avoid the problem. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas. A carbon monoxide detector can be purchased and installed in the home that will sound an alarm when carbon monoxide gets to dangerous levels. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea and irregular breathing. The symptoms are similar to the effects of altitude sickness. It steals your ability to use the oxygen you breathe.

Mr. Hadman stated that they are concerned now because the weather is getting cold and heat is needed in the house to increase comfort. If a heating appliance has not been used since spring, it should be checked prior to use. High risk factors are hydrocarbon heat, wood, oil, gas, and ventilation problems.

Some of the things a person should never do is burn charcoal indoors. Anyone who wishes to service an appliance should make sure they know how to do it. The best thing to do is for an appliance to have an annual service check, which will save money in the end. Also, never use the gas range or oven for heating, never leave a car running in a closed garage, especially one attached to the house, and make sure any unvented fuel burning appliance has plenty of air to it. Check to make sure furnace filters are clean and chimney joints are tight and if the fire is getting enough draft.

For more information call the Skagit County Health Department at 336-9380 and ask for someone in the Environmental Health Section.

3. Discussion – Holiday Food Safety.

Corrine Storey, Environmental Health Specialist and Food and Living Environment Coordinator with the Skagit County Health Department, talked about cooking during the holidays when the risk is a little different.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #3

She cited some of the statistics relating to food borne disease, which would be considered an epidemic if looking at any other disease.

Some concerns for holiday cooking are the large quantities of food because there is not enough refrigerator space or stove or oven space. She pointed out that ice coolers can be used for hot and cold items. One of the things of concern is pies, especially homemade pumpkin pies. There are a lot of pies made commercially that are acidified, which is a protective factor.

There are a variety of foods that cause food borne illness. Cooked rice, cooked potatoes, items you do not traditionally think of. Cut melon in the last couple of years has been implicated in salmonella outbreaks. What has happened is the outside has been contaminated and, when cut, the knife may go across the outside to cut it. Melons should be kept in the refrigerator after being cut. Other items of concern are sprouts and unpasteurized juices. Cooked beans, which are a very high protein product, are also capable of producing this bacteria.

Some precautions to take are storing of turkey or any meat on a bottom shelf where blood cannot drip on other items. Also, keeping foods at 45 degrees or less will slow or stop bacteria growth. In terms of thawing, plan ahead for thawing in the refrigerator. Also, be sure to sanitize turkey or chicken surfaces. A weak bleach solution for use with a sponge will kill most bacteria on kitchen surfaces.

Cooking is the final hurdle. Any poultry should be cooked to at least 165 degrees internal temperature. The only way is to use a stem thermometer. Many people cook to 180 degrees. It is recommended that stuffing be cooked separately, although if it is being cooked in the bird the stuffing temperature should reach 165 degrees. Refrigerating leftovers quickly is important. In just a couple of hours, you can have millions of bacteria.

If anyone has any questions, there are lots of references. The USDA is at 1800-535-4555, with a website at www.foodsafety.gov. The Skagit County Health Department number is 360-336-9380 and WSU Cooperative Extension is 360-428-4270.

4. Discussion – STARS Training.

Donna Gustin and Corrine Storey talked about the STARS program. Ms. Storey said that she and Ms. Gustin have been working the last couple of years on training in child care facilities. The modules they are concerned with are health and safety issues. Ms. Gustin is the Public Health Nurse who deals directly with personal health issues; and her strength is in the nurturing of children. Ms. Storey deals with environmental and food safety issues.

Ms. Gustin said that 20 hours is now required for a first time child care provider the first year, with a subsequent 10 hour training requirement. The training is based on a DSHS publication, "Adult Sized Guide to a Child Sized Environment". This is to make sure that childcare facilities are up to standards. The training is focused on health and safety.

She described the conditions causing the spread of germs and bacteria causing illness in children. Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of disease and germs.

Ms. Storey added that one of the other aspects of the training is to teach what communicable diseases are most likely to be found in a childcare environment. Also, teaching providers about teaching children good health habits.

Ms. Gustin said, providers are taught what can be done to prevent communicable disease in child care settings. Children are kept healthy through good nutrition, exercise, rest, immunizations and promoting that children and staff stay home from centers when they are sick. Working with childcare providers is a lot of fun, as they are fun people.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #4

Ms. Storey stated that she focuses a lot on handwashing, which is especially critical in a childcare environment. People are quite concerned about the proper technique for handwashing. A little bleach is good, but more is not better when you have kids putting things in their mouths. Also, food safety is important in teaching as well as use.

5. Review of Property Cleanups.

Andy Ross, Environmental Health Specialist, presented an illegal dumping update. He stated that he works in the area of solid waste, which includes illegal dumping. This includes cleanup and enforcement. The effort is funded by a 25 cent a ton contribution from tipping fees collected at the Transfer Station.

One of the activities is private property cleanups. Working with crews has been key and they have been outstanding to work with as they do really good work. He stated that they try to work out agreements with property owners to share expense. They are just about maxed out for 1999.

He presented a list of 8 sites that have been cleaned up, noting that a lot of the county has been covered in these cleanups.

In terms of enforcement, twelve fines have been issued this year, ranging from \$70.00 to \$500.00.

In an effort to provide some education, Mr. Ross stated that they are working with Mount Vernon High School students to produce 30 second video spots for television. They've done some really nice work. They are also starting to work with Sedro Woolley and Mount Vernon High Schools to create illegal dumping posters. The Health Department telephone number is 336-9380. The public is encouraged to report illegal dumping activity.

6. Miscellaneous.

Mr. Browning reported there are no miscellaneous items, but information about the effects of 695 will be brought to the next Board of Health meeting.

Andy Ross presented a video for the board to review. Chairman Anderson expressed his enthusiasm for the videos.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Pete Mayer, in the absence of Director David Fair, presented information regarding Parks projects. Dennis Lind was also present.

- 1) They are Interviewing for a Parks supervisor position.
- 2) They are working with the Forest Service and the tribe on a memo of agreement about the artifacts on the upper plateau at Pressentin Park.
- 3) Dennis Lind is working with Pauli Mickelson on the department website. This will give the public access to information about recreation and parks and trails.
- 4) The recycled Christmas Tree Program will take place again this year. Mary Ann Dodge is working on this now. The hope is to get this out as early as possible this year, with some news releases and promotion to nurseries in the coming weeks. There will also be a few messages on TCI through the Commissioners meetings.
- 5) In terms of Parks projects, some work is being done on Guemes Island, with new playground apparatus coming. Parks will assist with installation of some climbing equipment.
- 6) Winter work is continuing on Skagit Playfields.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #5

- 7) The Swinomish Channel is coming along. Another contract addendum will be coming to the Commissioners for signature which will encompass the marine portion. Work has been done with a number of agencies in order to proceed with this project.
- 8) Skye Miller and Dale Muir have been working on the Highway 9 bridge situation. They met with the Corps and demolition experts and are very interested in blasting the bridge. They believe they can do it much less expensively than any contractor. They want to take a second look and submit an estimate. He described some of the possible alternatives they have asked the Corp to respond to.
- 9) Halloween has concluded at the Fairgrounds. They had good attendance, but not as many as last year. There has been a revenue decrease, which is mostly attributed to the weather. SKAT was excellent in providing a trolley.
- 10) There will be a Fair Advisory Board meeting tonight. The Board is looking at the possibility of revising the premium book. The Fair theme will be "Swinging into the Millennium for 2000". The fair will begin on August 9, 2000.
- 11) A contract was just received from State Parks for the Snowmobile Program. It will be processed for Board signature.

Dennis Lind reported on recreation activities, with some of those listed as follows:

- 1) The Indian Summer softball league probably had the nicest fall for a long time.
- 2) There will be an invitational volleyball tournament this weekend at Mount Baker Middle School.
- 3) The Girls High School Basketball League is breaking up this Sunday. The high school season starts a week from yesterday.
- 4) The regular girls basketball league for girls 5 through 8 started last Saturday. They are using a lot of gym facilities on weekends.
- 5) The Men's basketball league just started.
- 6) The Skagit Valley Soccer League has been playing at the Dreamfield on Saturdays.
- 7) The Arts and Crafts Fair was held October 15 at the fairgrounds. It was a successful event.
- 8) Weight conditioning for women is starting up again.
- 9) The Penguin Dip is on January 1, 2000.
- 10) State Softball meetings will be the first weekend in October. Skagit County will have a girl's tournament in the year 2000.
- 11) Regarding the Custer Field renovation, they will try to make two fields out of the facility.

Mr. Mayer added that he and Dennis Lind have been meeting with Director David Fair weekly for about three hours to look at inter-organizational issues within the department to plan for where they need to be in the future. They will report on this at the next Parks presentation.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #6

FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE.

Roger Howard, Director, Facilities Management provided a Facilities Project update.

- 1) There was a Call for Bids on the Clerk's Office Remodel yesterday. There is a requirement to do a hazardous waste survey, so there was someone yesterday taking samples. They do not expect to find anything, but it was inserted in the contract documents. More will be required of the contractor than has been required in the past in order to ensure that the project is completed on time.
- 2) Work will continue on some of the problems relative to the Burlington tank cleanup site.
- 3) The space next to Youth and Family Services will be completed this Friday. Some ARIS staff will move into that location.
- 4) Relative to the Search and Rescue Building, Don Semrau has been assisting in getting that through the city.
- 5) Three bids have been received on the fairground restroom repair. It will cost \$3,900 to fix that facility.
- 6) The emergency generator has been completed.
- 7) Lease agreements are being written with several organizations.
- 8) Working with Superior Court to alter two of the judges' benches.
- 9) Working with the city on the street project next to the County offices. Have also worked with them on parking lots, relocating parking for County employees.
- 10) Rick Smith, Director of E-911 called about putting a radio wave dish on top of the building. They are trying to find a location for it now. Chairman Anderson noted that it would be excellent and greatly reduce the telephone bill there.
- 11) A meeting was held with Tom Verge and some of his staff about moving their family support services off the hill. It has been determined that the space left by the Clerk's Office is not large enough for that many staff people. There is no vacant space to move them to. They will stick to the original plan and move Civil there.

PRESENTATION – CONCRETE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRACK & FIELD FACILITIES.

Marie Phillips, Superintendent of the Concrete Schools, presented a proposal to improve the Concrete School District track and field facilities for the benefit of the Concrete School District, Concrete Residents, Skagit County Residents, etc.

Ron Rood, Concrete High School Coach, talked about the present field and the desire to expand it. It gets a lot of use. It has been a playoff field and is worn to the point where the patchwork repairs are not enough. There is a need for some major repairs. The last major repairs took place in 1972. The visitor's bleachers are quite old and need some major work.

Carrie Newby, Concrete High School Track Coach, indicated that the problem with the track is it holds water. There has been no major work on the track in the last twenty years, although it is graded annually. When it rains, the track is nearly impossible to run on. A track meet had to be cancelled one year because of rain. Maintenance did an excellent job, but it was impossible to get it in shape for the meet. It is a 440 yard track as opposed to the 400 meter track used today. It is not a certified track. The track and field program has been

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #7

declining over the years because of the inadequate facilities. Athletes are unable to participate in competition. They are trying to rebuild the program and with improved facilities, they feel the numbers will grow.

Jim Newby talked about the bleachers and fencing of the compound and the 6 acres of practice facilities. The visitor bleachers should be torn down as there is dry rot in them. They also need to be handicap accessible. The home bleachers are in pretty good shape. They need to box in under the seats so small children can't fall down or climb under the bleachers. Under the handicapped seating the wood is weak and needs to be redone. Also, when the project begins, the surrounding areas will need to be fenced. There is about 6 acres of practice and football-softball facilities that need to be renovated. Some help is needed in that area as well.

Dean Ramsey provided a chronological view of the overall project proposal outlining how the work will proceed on the project.

Ms. Phillips talked about the option that has been inserted into the proposed project. They believe that school district taxpayers would not be able to support the maintenance of the facility over time. They only have \$10,000 in cash and many thousands of dollars of contributed labor. She discussed the various options for the project, noting that there is considerable expense in maintaining this surface over time.

Colin Howell talked about the benefits to the residents of Skagit County. He thanked the Commissioners for the way the roads are maintained and for the prisoners who have sandbagged when they are needed.

He noted that the Booster Club has been in existence about 24 years now and has done many projects for the school, some of which he cited.

Conrad Claybo talked about how proud they are of the Concrete School, the grounds, the people that work there and the kids that attend the school. The baseball field is one of the best in the state. They would like to see the football field turn out close to that. Without the Booster Club, Concrete would probably not have one tenth of what they have now. Everyone benefits from the grounds. He said he would like to see them work with the County to get this new ballfield.

An unidentified gentleman talked about the youth who use the field in Concrete and the track. The track and football facility is probably one of the best in the county now. If the track and baseball field is improved, they will probably be able to hold more events there. Also, the kids should be able to take pride in what they are playing on.

Ms. Phillips concluded the presentation and thanked the Board for listening to them and providing an opportunity for them to come in today.

Commissioner Hart asked about the four phases of the project that would be paid for over time.

Chairman Anderson said that he is very supportive of their endeavors. If it is a project that can be phased in and funding provided over a period of years, it would be much more palatable. He asked about the phases and wondered how much they would need from the County during the different phases.

Dean Ramsey responded that phase one would pretty much complete the football surface. It would begin next fall, with phase two completed by 2002.

Chairman Anderson asked about providing the funding partially this year and then additional funding the next year.

Mr. Ramsey said that would work fine.

Ms. Phillips stated, if they go with the all weather track, all of the money would be needed at the same time.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #8

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Commissioner Hart motioned to approve for signature a Resolution Authorizing a Budget Line Item Change totaling \$238,000, transferring money between departments. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried. **(Resolution No. 17641)**.
- 2) Commissioner Hart motioned to approve a Resolution Calling for Public Hearing for Supplemental Budget for a variety of funds with a public hearing in two weeks on November 23. It has to do with water quality programs. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried. **(Resolution No. 17645)**
- 3) 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, November 9, 1999, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Payroll warrants numbered 952184 through 952242 in the total dollar amount of \$68,811.00 (Transmittal No. P-41-99);

Payroll warrants numbered 42916 through 43680 in the total dollar amount of \$716,225.43 (Transmittal No. P-42-99).

PUBLIC HEARING – REVIEWING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS, INFORMING CITIZENS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND ELIGIBLE USES OF THE STATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), AND RECEIVING COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY FROM LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS AND PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE SKAGIT COUNTY AREA.

Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing.

Paul Schissler, 1101 Harris Avenue, Bellingham, 98225 explained that the Public Hearing is to announce the availability of funding as part of the process of identifying applications, and also to receive comments from people about the use of the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program. A couple of projects were described in the public notice. One project is a facility to serve the Skagit County area to expand services in the east county area. There is a location in Concrete that would work well.

Also, the state is encouraging local communities to request additional funding for micro-enterprise businesses. The Small Business Development of EDASC would like to expand that. That application would also be due this November 19 and the County applied for both that and a micro-loan fund with a \$50,000 grant and another for \$70,000.

Mr. Schissler provided a recap of the funding to date.

Michael Marland, 13470 Janicki Rd., Sedro Woolley, stated that he is working with Raymond Kelly to find funding for a healing arts facility. He described the kind of facility they are hoping to construct. Raymond Kelly built the first straw bail house near Big Lake. Mr. Marland said he is in support of his vision of creating this healing arts center. It would provide jobs and a low cost place for people to have a clinic. They are also looking for comments and insights from the community on how to better generate funds for this endeavor.

Raymond Kelly, 13470 Janicki Rd., Sedro Woolley presented a proposal to create a healing arts facility in Skagit County. He is married to a massage therapist they go to different practitioners of the healing arts and they are shocked at the conditions of the buildings. He stated that he has 25 years experience working to create healthy

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Page #9

buildings and would like to create a building that would be as healthy as the practitioners. He stated that he is known in this country and internationally for his artistic ability. It would be something comparable in Skagit County to what the Space Needle is in Seattle. The facility would be large enough for 90 office spaces, which would generate around \$300,000 in lease rentals, not to mention how much income each business would create in that space. The building would be generated from local materials. After a few further comments, he thanked the Board for the opportunity to present his proposal.

Margy Miller of 12450 Whitecap Lane, Anacortes, WA was present to represent the Concrete Head Start Center and Skagit-Island Head Start. She stated that she is supportive of a Family Resource Center in Concrete. As work continues on this project, the need continues to increase. If there was an adequate facility in the east county area to house interagency services for low and moderate-income families in the area, it would offer some tremendous services to these people.

Chairman Anderson agreed that the Family Resource Center has also been a dream of his.

Chairman Hart motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

Chairman Hart asked if actual proposals would be brought to the Commissioners. Mr. Schissler said he would prepare resolutions for the grant applications.

Chairman Anderson explained that there are community development block grants through the state. Mr. Schissler, who just spoke, is a very talented grant writer who puts proposals through for the county.

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Jean Terry for Patti Chambers, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioner