

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, December 7, 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.
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Bid Opening – County Clerk's Office Remodel.
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Bid Opening – Rental of Ferry Passenger Vessels.
*T 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Discussion – Northern State Task Force Proposal.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 7, 1999, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Harvey Wolden, and Robert Hart present.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Dave Fair, Director, and Pete Mayer, Parks Operations Manager, Parks, Recreation and Fair Department, provided a Parks projects update to the Board.

Mr. Fair reported that Patrick Dillon has been hired to fill the Projects Manager position for the Parks, Recreation and Fair Department. Mr. Dillon has a great deal of experience with project management and design.

Mr. Fair advised that the Forest Service has provided a mitigation plan for Pressentin Park in terms of the roadway into the park. He elaborated on the plan, advising that they would not go ahead with this project until some figures have become available.

Commissioner Anderson expressed concern about how this was handled and the length of time it has taken.

Pete Mayer brought to the board three proposed options relative to the demolition of the Highway 9 railroad bridge off the Cascade Trail. He talked about some of the issues around the project, noting that the costs could grow astronomically regardless of how it is handled. He described a project where it was difficult to remove the concrete as it had aged for such a long period of time. After describing the proposed options, he indicated that a joint discussion would be scheduled with Public Works and the Commissioners about this.

Commissioner Hart requested that Chal Martin, Public Works Director, and Vince Clay, Risk Manager, are involved in this discussion. He also stated that a hard look needs to be taken at the option of the Corps managing the project.

Mr. Mayer advised that relative to the Swinomish Channel, the drawings would be finished this week. The National Marine Fisheries is holding it up right now. It is unknown at this time when a decision will be received from them through the Corps. The department will not go out to bid on this project until a Corps permit is received.

Mr. Mayer talked about a letter he copied to Commissioner Anderson from Dennis Lind to John Bannerman regarding efforts to provide cross country ski and snow shoeing classes. The DNR says they aren't issuing permits, but this is being followed up with the District ranger.

Mr. Fair stated that relative to Ann Wolford, they are still committed to purchasing property. There will be more discussion about this.

Mr. Mayer stated that North 30th Street will provide a solution for the Skagit Playfields pathway issue. He will keep the Commissioners up to date on this matter.

Mr. Mayer advised that there was damage at the Howard Miller Park from the Veteran's Day flood. He showed the Board photographs of the damage, indicating that they will be making some repairs this spring after the flood danger is past.

Relative to the Sedro Woolley Christmas parade, the Parks, Recreation and Fair Department entered a float. Marshall Peterson coordinated and did the work on this project, which received third place for best lighted float. This money will be donated to charity.

Commissioner Anderson stated that it was a very good float.

Mr. Fair advised that the Parks, Recreation and Fair Department has been looking at operations, especially as it relates to revenue generation. The bad summer hurt the department's revenue generation because of swimming, camping, etc. They are now looking at ways to limit the impacts of this, which means broadening out the revenue base. He described the possibility of breaking down the Northern State lease into twenty or thirty acre sites rather than depending on one lessee.

There was some discussion about how this may be impacted by the passage of I695. Mr. Fair said he would investigate this.

Commissioner Anderson talked about a resident along the trail, where a storm blew some trees across the fence. The trees were cut down, but the resident was not notified that this was being done. They acted as a cattle guard and he had to spend a couple of days rounding up cattle. He also indicated that his biggest concern is with dogs off a lease.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Mayer to go out and talk to this gentleman about some of these issues and come back with a recommendation.

Commissioner Hart said the fence should have been repaired if the trees were removed. There should be a policy to maintain those fences.

Mr. Mayer said there are a lot of issues. In some cases, it is unclear which fences are within the corridor and which fences are not. In addition, not all adjacent landowners are interested in having their fences maintained by the County. It will have to be determined with each individual landowner. He will talk this over with the Civil Litigator.

Mr. Fair agreed to bring back some options on the fencing issues.

Relative to the Conway site, it looks like there is no impact on the dike itself, although it did create mud holes. Camping sites are offered, although there is no camping this time of year. They will look at options there for keeping automobiles out of the area.

BID OPENING – COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE REMODEL.

Roger Howard, Director, Facilities Management, opened the following bids:

Pottle and Sons
5747 Northwest Drive
Ferndale, WA 98248
Bid bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$135,800

Progressive Builders, Inc.
17330 31st Drive NW
Arlington, WA 98223-9650
Bid bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base bid: \$109,000

Ebenall General, Inc.
P.O. Box 31548
Bellingham, WA 98228-2548
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$116,800

Axthelm Construction, Inc.
1705 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$131,280

Paragon Construction, Inc.
575 Montgomery Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$110,000

Hanson Bros. Construction, Inc.
17958 Cove Lane
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$116,675

KWM, Inc.
4215 148 St. S.E.
Bothell, WA 98012
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$124,000

H. B. Hanson Construction
4833 Rock Rd.
Sumas, WA 98295
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$131,700

North Left Coast Limited
Bell and Sons Construction
11310 Farm to Market Rd.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Bid Bond received with Addendums 1 and 2
Base Bid: \$152,500

One bid was received after 1:30 p.m. and was, therefore, rejected. Architect Marc Estvold and Roger Howard will review the bids and make a recommendation.

BID OPENING – RENTAL OF FERRY PASSENGER VESSELS.

Steve Cox of the Skagit County Public Works Department opened the following bid received for rental of ferry passenger vessels.

Arrow Launch Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 2376
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Operation of one vessel, the Straight Arrow, at an hourly rate of \$200.00, 12 hours for \$1500 and 18 hours for \$800.

The bid will be evaluated and a recommendation made to the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dave Brookings, Public Works Department Administrator, presented a supplement Amendment No. 3 to Kelly Services, Inc. #4217, dated January 19, 1999. He explained that this amendment adds approximately \$4,000 to the current contract, and will allow additional clerical staff to assist in the completion of a project for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hart motioned to approve the above described amendment. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. ([Agreement #004217](#))

DISCUSSION – NORTHERN STATE TASK FORCE PROPOSAL.

Louis Requa, Chairman of the Northern State Task Force, presented a proposal for Northern State for funding the youth playfield complex and planning and supporting the multi-use center. The Task Force was here in June and at that time the Commissioners requested that they go back and get cost estimates and a site plan more specific to the site. The mission is the same as in June, asking the Commissioners to support the project with \$300,000 a year over a 10-year period. This will, basically, be seed money to get something started at the Northern State Recreation Area and fulfill the Master Plan.

Mr. Requa reviewed the location of the site, noting that it is the old Northern State Hospital grounds, 7 miles east of I5, just northeast of Sedro Woolley.

He then reviewed the master plan, noting that it was created in 1994 as a result of public forums and what people want at this site. The Northern State Recreational Task Force was charged with researching the situation to try and get something started at the site. It has been fifteen years in the making. The Task force decided to start with youth playfields and a multi-use center. As part of this process, work was done with Design West in Burlington to come up with this new configuration.

Mr. Requa reviewed the cost figures and requested that John Semrau and David Fair provide backup. They reviewed the concept and as a result of John Semrau and the Parks, Recreation and Fair Advisory Board they went back to the drawing board to try and get more soccer fields in the space.

John Semrau advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on November 18 with the Northern State Task Force. A great deal of time was spent with the Task Force, as well as community members, receiving public comment. As Mr. Requa mentioned, they did ask for the possibility of more soccer fields on the site. They spent a lot of time talking about the differences between youth facilities and adult facilities. Youth facilities have been more on the shoulders of school districts and other community organizations.

Mr. Requa continued to talk about the cost factors, noting that there is nothing in here of the pro bono and volunteer work and grants that would be acquired to bring this number way down. It will come way down. The numbers presented are low, medium and high, depending on the extent of the improvements. He elaborated on the three proposals, noting that the infrastructure costs all should be shared with everyone on the master plan.

Mike Janicki of 810 Talcott St. Sedro Woolley, pointed out some things that look at this from a different angle. He emphasized that this plan addresses almost 1,000 parking spots. He said they want this in their back yard and welcome all the extra traffic, etc. The people in the area are very supportive of this project. He talked about the Cook Road field project and the ratio of County contribution to funding from other sources. The commitment is as great as the commitment has been for the Cook field project.

Mayor Walley of Sedro Woolley pointed out that this project is not for Sedro Woolley, but for the whole county, and it is for kids. He noted that they would get lots of help. He said this is a good going away present from the Commissioners as he ends his tenure as Mayor of Sedro Woolley.

Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma of Burlington said that he supports the project and talked about Burlington's fields. He said he felt that more parking would be desirable. He suggested making sure of the source of water supply for irrigating.

Carl Garrison of Sedro Woolley said that as a soccer and basketball coach, he has worked with kids a lot and there is a need for this facility. This is really an investment in the community that will bring back positive cash flow in years to come. Every dollar that is spent will probably be matched in some way.

Dave Quall, State Representative, 40th District, stated that anything that is done for children has a lasting benefit. "Anything we do for our community, such as setting aside property for recreational activities, is something that will be good ten to fifteen years from now and you will be grateful you made that decision today."

Vern Sims of Sedro Woolley, talked about the history of the property, which was purchased from the state. Many people tried to buy that property. Right now, it is a non-performing asset. It was purchased for recreation. The population is going to double and triple out there. The question is, will more jails be built or more recreational facilities. This is the Commissioners' opportunity to go down in history for having done this. He encouraged them to go ahead with it and not to hesitate any longer. It has plenty of room for expansion.

Mike Crawford of Sedro Woolley expressed his support for the project. It is an asset that is not being used. It will take someone to make the commitment to get it started. They need the development funds to make it work. This is something so special, and it is a new era for the property. The Commissioners should give to the limit of their budgetary restraints.

Gloria Rivera, Sedro Woolley City Planner, emphasized that this is not intended to be just a Sedro Woolley facility. It is intended to serve the entire Skagit County population. It will be a place where a large amount of recreational needs can be accommodated with urban services to service it. If it is built, people will come, and a lot of money will be seen coming back into the community.

Sharon Dillon, Sedro Woolley, stated that she was here before and wants to reiterate that this is a prime piece of property with unlimited parking. She told the Commissioners she is hoping they will help make this dream come true and "give Spud his going away present". The year 2000 is coming up and she hopes this will be part of the Commissioners plan for the year 2000 to give the County a Class A facility.

Jon Aarstad, City Administrator, City of Burlington, stated that a corner has been turned. For twenty-one years, starting in 1977, Parks and Recreation was saying that the quality of life includes our kids, the future, etc. This project, with the support of the citizens, is going to be a very positive asset. This facility can help Skagit County tremendously in dealing with its kids and showing the support and ability to be able to provide things for kids. The cost now is cheaper than it will be down the road when the County will have to purchase additional sites. Now is the time to keep moving with this.

Pam Baird of Mount Vernon said she is here on behalf of the Board of Directors of Sedro Woolley School District. She was also here in July in support of this project. She stated that she supports the project, as does the rest of the school district. It is a long time coming.

Carl Bruner, Asst. Superintendent, Sedro Woolley School District, read comments on behalf of Superintendent Casey, who regretted being unable to be present. He stated that the window of opportunity is here and the Task Force represents a tremendous source of energy and commitment dedicated to this project. The citizens have stepped forward. The effort of the Northern State Recreation Task Force to take the master plan to the next level is the right thing to do. He talked about the efforts of the late Senator Pat McMullen in this regard.

Jim Mastin stated that this field is amazing and the Commissioners have the opportunity to make it a reality. The community needs it and if the people who are present today are behind it, it is going to go right.

A Task Force Committee member stated that he is glad he served on the committee and feels they accomplished something worth looking at. More people will be involved in this than in the rails to trails project. The county is growing rapidly and it is an excellent opportunity today.

Dan Singleton, Facility Manager, Department of Administration, Northern State stated that now that the County has purchased the property the county is ready for it, needs it, and the people support it.

Mr. Requa recapped the project for the board, presenting a chart that shows a few key elements relative to the project. After meeting with the Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department Advisory Board, it now goes to the Commissioners for their approval. A letter has been received from Larry Ashby, which Mr. Requa read into the record. He emphasized that they are not just talking about playfields, but about the County's Master Plan. This will greatly enhance the economy of the region. Mr. Ashby encouraged the Commissioners to move forward with this development for kids.

In closing, Mr. Requa emphasized, that as Mike Casey said in his letter, the time is right to proceed with this and take it to the next level.

Commissioner Wolden wondered how much it is going to take to start the first phase.

Mr. Requa said they would leave that up to the Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department. If they can get the support of the Commissioners they can move forward with the planning process.

Commissioner Hart said there is no question it is a wonderful proposal and the time is right. The real question comes down to dollars. This is an excellent budget and should be funded, but there are other projects as well. It is never easy to increase the government's income, and with the passage of I-695, the public does not want to increase the government's income.

Commissioner Anderson talked about the Real Estate Excise Tax Committee and what a good job they did spreading the funding around Skagit County. There is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$400,000 left in the fund. If a project were to be done, it would be good to have the support of the Board of Realtors. Relative to Northern State, there is probably not another property like it in the state. With the upgrade of Cook Road to Sedro Woolley, there is suddenly another conduit to this facility.

Commissioner Wolden agreed that this is a good project. He suggested that the Commissioners take 30 days to review it. This is a top-flight economic development project. This project will benefit the County many, many times over.

Chairman Anderson said this is the best presentation ever put on before the Commissioners. He felt that the Commissioners could support it somewhat if the realtors will support it.

Commissioner Wolden expressed concern about the maintenance clause. If the Parks, Recreation and Fair Department are going to run this after it is built, it is important to make sure they have the resources to do so.

After further discussion, Commissioner Hart said he felt that it is time to move ahead with this. It is time to commit to it. "When our kids succeed, everything else in the community works."

He then motioned to support the Northern State Task Force proposal, with the details being worked out as the project goes along, at the level of \$300,000 per year for ten years. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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