

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, February 5, 2001**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Work Session – County Administrator.
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Work Session – Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Department Head Meeting.
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	CONSENT AGENDA & MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Presentation – Skagit Watershed Council.
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Public Comment Period.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 5, 2001, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING.

Roger Howard, Facilities Management, reviewed a short list of Energy Conservation Recommendations for County Employees. He advised that lighting has been reduced, but that security lighting in breezeways would be maintained. He stated that the use of portable space heaters should be eliminated, and employees encouraged to wear warmer clothing. He indicated that these measures themselves would not reduce the County's total energy consumption by 10%, but would help. He stated that building maintenance personnel would continue to improve our buildings in this regard. Commissioner Anderson suggested that Mr. Howard contact Puget Sound Energy to conduct an energy audit to assist in such evaluations.

Mike Almvig, Information Services Director, discussed a National Association of Counties Technology Summit held in Seattle. He commented briefly on the issue of privacy, noting that Skagit County is one of the few governmental agencies that has a privacy statement on their website. He reviewed some of the intertwined issues of privacy among our County departments.

Peter Browning, Health Department Director, reported on the United Way campaign and the County's involvement. He explained that donations from County employees were quite low, and that next year's campaign needs to be better organized, with the establishment of a culture of giving among our employees. He mentioned that the City of Mount Vernon, for example, asked employees to contribute one hour per month to United Way.

Commissioner Munks stated that there needs to be an education program as to what United Way does and the worthwhile causes it participates in. Chairman Anderson added that all of the money contributed stays in the County and many of the County's own programs benefit directly.

Gary Gaer, Public Defender, indicated that there is a high degree of resentment by employees if they are coerced into donating. He stated that many people like to contribute directly to enterprises of their own choice.

Mr. Browning stated that the intent is to help people who want to give appropriately, respecting the right to decide how their money will be spent.

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CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Munks moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, February 5, 2001, and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, January 29, 2001.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, January 30, 2001.
3. Supplement No. 1 to Memorandum of Agreement with Skagit County Community Action Agency (SCCAA) adding the Adult Literacy Component of the 21st Century Learning Centers Grant to be administered through SCCAA. The total for the Adult Literacy Component shall not exceed \$181,000. **(Contract No. 05160)**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

4. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing for the potential lease of County Real Property to be utilized by the Humane Society of Skagit Valley. The public hearing date is February 27, 2001. **(Resolution No. 18164)**
5. Bid Award for the Parks Maintenance Shop to Structures West Construction, Inc. for the total bid price of \$424,133. **(Resolution No. 18165)**
6. Vendor Services Agreement with Cass Construction for minor remodeling to an area on the ground floor of the Administration Building to provide an area for our mail postage metering operation. The total cost for the project is not-to-exceed \$6,000. The agreement term is January 24, 2001 through December 31, 2001. **(Contract No. 05190)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

7. Agreement for Computer Access with First American Title Company for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. The County will provide access to computer screens for a monthly fee of \$70, payable in advance on a quarterly basis. **(Contract No. 05189)**
8. Out-of-State Travel Request for David Anderson to attend the Visual Basic Insider's Summit Workshop in Chicago, Illinois, for the period April 23 – 27, 2001. Total cost is \$3,477 (the registration fee is \$1,645). **(Approved)**

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

9. Resolution approving payment to Mister T's Trophies for mugs displaying the Prosecutor's logo to be used for conferences and meetings in the three sites of the Prosecutor's Office. The total cost is \$559.48. The Auditor's Office has refused payment without approval of the Board. Budget Director advises that the Prosecutor has adequate budget to cover this expense. **(Resolution NO. 18166)**

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

10. Personal Services Agreement with Comprehensive Toxicology Services to provide drug and alcohol testing through samples submitted by the Department. The fees for the tests range from \$6.14 to \$6.50, and the contract term is December 1, 2000 through December 31, 2002.

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(Contract No. 05191)

11. Interagency Work Order with DSHS for Child Welfare League of America Program in the amount of \$5,000. The Department will chair a multi-system work group to study Skagit County's capacity to protect children and develop a design for service delivery system. The Work Order Period is December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2001. **(Contract No. 05192)**

HEALTH:

12. Guest Speaker contract with Art Hayward to provide a presentation on Personal Perspectives on HIV/AIDS for a fee of \$25. **(Contract No. 05193)**
13. CY2001 Consolidated Contract with the Department of Health wherein the State will provide \$407,432 for various functions in calendar year 2001 including WIC, Immunizations, Child Death Review, Oral Health, Tobacco Youth Access, Shellfish Program, and others. **(Contract No. 05194)**

PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER:

14. Personal Services Agreement with Buck & Gordon to provide consultation, legal services, and litigation support on selected legal issues relating to the Growth Management Act, and other land use matters. The maximum contract amount for the period December 15, 2000 through December 31, 2001 shall not exceed \$100,000. **(Contract No. 05195)**

PUBLIC WORKS:

15. Notice of Road Closure on South March's Point Road between milepost 0.08 and 0.472, with the closure not to exceed 70 days during the months of April to June. The exact dates will be determined at a later time. **(Resolution No. 18167)**
16. Memorandum of Understanding among Skagit County, Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG), Duke Engineering and Services, Inc. and GeoEngineers, Inc. with respect to the County conducting a location survey of several domestic wells as part of the Samish Watershed Project, directed through SCOG. Skagit County will be compensated through a reimbursable from SCOG per the preceding Interlocal Agreement for the approximate project cost not-to-exceed \$8,600. **(Contract No. 05196)**
17. Local Agency Consultant Agreement with Sheldon & Associates to provide environmental impact assessment and permitting support for the Goldenrod Bridge and Road Improvement Project. The maximum amount payable is \$47,501.61, with the work to be completed by December 31, 2002. **(Contract No. 05197)**
18. Vendor Services Agreement with Island Building for routine maintenance and repair of the Skagit County Sinclair Dock facility from February 6, 2001 to December 31, 2001 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,499. **(Contract No. 05198)**

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 5, 2001, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

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Warrants numbered 88648 through 89153 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$834,588.20 (Transmittal No. C-08-01); and

Warrants numbered 89154 through 89154 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of 1,947.80 (Transmittal No. C-09-01).

2. Staff presented for the Board's consideration an Agreement for Computer Access with Land Title Company wherein the County will provide access to computer screens for compensation of a monthly fee of \$70, payable in advance on a quarterly basis. The duration of the contract is calendar year 2001. Commissioner Munks moved to approve the Agreement as described by Staff, and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. 05199)**
3. On behalf of the Public Defender's Office, staff presented an Out-of-State Travel Request for Gary Gaer to attend a Workshop on Defending Death Penalty Cases in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 3-6, 2001. The approximate cost of the travel, lodging and reservation is \$1,050. Commissioner Munks moved to approve the Out-of-State Travel request as presented. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Approved)**

PRESENTATION – SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL.

Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council Chair, presented the Board with a packet of materials regarding the activities of the Council for their perusal. She advised that the Council would like to keep the Board apprised of the work they are doing.

Ms. Solomon explained that the Watershed Council is a public interest not-for-profit organization began in February 1997. She stated that there are 36-member organizations ranging from City of Mount Vernon to the Wildcat Steelhead Club. The focus of the Council is voluntary habitat restoration and protection of salmon. She spoke to the responsibilities of prioritizing salmon habitat recovery to obtain funding. Ms. Solomon reported on the recent award of a grant to the Council, which will allow the Council to work with entities and organizations to put the highest quality projects forward for funding. If we have learned anything, there is a standard for this work that was not in effect five years ago. She discussed strategies and standards for obtaining funding and completing worthwhile projects.

Ms. Solomon stated that the work done by the Council is helping both in the short and long term. She detailed that the Council works on restoration and projection, honoring those people who are out completing the work necessary and working with the Council as partners. There is also an education component, that provides outreach to the community and encourages people to work with the Council on projects. She discussed the Council's annual float trip, awards and other acknowledgements. She detailed some of the educational programs, giving examples of such efforts. Ms. Solomon indicated that the Council is a provider of technical assistance to those individuals interested in doing something for fish. She stated that the Council's work would focus over the next few years on the delta, an area that has undergone much change. It is believed that much constructive and productive work can be accomplished. She expressed that such a not-for-profit organization has all facets of the community working with it.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if the Skagit Watershed Council had looked at buffering issues. Ms. Solomon responded that the Council has stayed out of discussions or questions about regulations. She stated that the Council has made various determinations on what constitutes good habitat and not-so-good habitat, and would be willing to give a more technical presentation to the Board as an educational tool. She stated that the Council is a consensus-based organizations, trying to find common ground based on the best science available.

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Chairman Anderson commented on the value of voluntary programs and their ability to get better results from landowners. He further commented on the difficulties of the County in obtaining permits for projects, asking if the Watershed Council was experience similar problems.

Ms. Solomon responded that the Council has also experienced a slow-down in the permit process. She detailed the close working relationship the Council has enjoyed with the County, noting the contributions of former Commissioner Bob Hart. She expressed the need to continue this close relationship between the Council and County.

Chairman Anderson noted that both entities have had similar and different paths from time to time. He expressed his appreciation of local and volunteer efforts. He explained that there is only so much funding available, and that working together is advantageous to the citizens of Skagit County. He spoke to estimates of \$50,000,000 to implement the buffer program over the next 5 years. He commented that if the Council acts as a lead agency, then perhaps there would be competition for such available funding.

Ms. Solomon responded that the Council offers technical assistance and prioritization, assisting in funneling Salmon Recovery funding to the projects that need to be done. The Council itself does not do projects.

Commissioner Dahlstedt concurred that it is good for the Council and County to partner, generating public trust and good utilization of public dollars. He stressed the need to get the truth on the table about habitat, continued harvesting, and best science. He stated that, if there is a limited amount of funding, we need to work in the most efficient manner to get that truth out. He noted the need to bring people together, improving communication, and accomplishing common goals.

Ms. Solomon emphasized that lead entities are doing yeoman's work throughout the State in arenas different than the regulatory arena. She stated that the whole question of "salmon recovery" contains many components, and that it is necessary for the Board to think holistically. Consequently, the capital improvement component – fixing up habitat that for whatever reason is not functioning – is a critical piece of the puzzle. Lead agencies are required to do a variety of activities and bring forward the best recommendations for funding.

Chairman Anderson commented on the difficulties of complying with State direction regarding the County's Critical Area Ordinance. He stated that rural counties are at a disadvantage because they are being asked to restore habitat, while urban areas are not participating to the same degree.

Ms. Solomon explained that local governments are required to regulate, while lead agencies such as the Watershed Council, are doing something quite different.

Chairman Anderson indicated that the County is supportive of what the Council does, but that the State is telling the County what can and cannot be done.

Commissioner Munks spoke to the difficulties of being mandated to develop a buffer program to restore salmon without consideration of other factors. He stated that the problem is that there are many other ways to help salmon restoration, but the County is restricted because of such mandates. Consequently, the County is being directed to devote all of our energies and resources to strictly restore habitat. It is important to have projects that actually look at true restoration, which is what the Watershed Council is doing.

Ms. Solomon expressed empathy for the magnitude of the task before the Board. She stated that the Watershed Council takes a small do-able piece of a much larger pie, appreciating that there are complexities. If we are going to be collaborative, there are some things that can be done together. The Watershed Council is a non-governmental not-for-profit organization. The Council can identify as many of the puzzle pieces as possible and paint a good picture using information from all of the involved entities

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and can tell the County the status of habitat and then use their good offices to go out to find ways to fix those problems. She stated that the Watershed Council would like to serve as an asset to the County.

Commissioner Munks stated that the more the County can work with the Council on solutions and developing true science, the better it will be for all concerned. He stated that habitat is not the sole way to recover salmon.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that he is personally committed to working with any group. He reviewed the various efforts being made to restore salmon, and the need to bring total projects forward with the emphasis on key issues, not a political fix. He stated that people in non-political situations need to be involved to recommend practical solutions.

Ms. Solomon invited the Board to attend the Watershed Council meetings the second Wednesday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the P.U.D. Building.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that he would see to getting the meetings on the calendar and getting a commitment from one commissioner to be involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Stuart Van Buren, 17963 Wood Road, Bow, indicated that his wife's family had run up against a problem with the City of Anacortes regarding a condemnation of property consisting of a 50-foot strip of land about 5,000 feet long. He explained that this situation had been through a court proceeding, and gave some of the details of the particulars of the property.

Commissioner Munks stated that he would to meet with Mr. Van Buren to discuss in further detail this situation.

Jeff Davis, 1202 Independence Blvd., Sedro Woolley, spoke regarding a problem of hybrid wolves being bred near Sauk Valley Road and then allowed to run free. He expressed the need to have ordinances or policies in place to deal with this type of problem. He reviewed safety considerations to livestock and human life, noting that one of his friends was attacked and had to shoot the wolf/dog.

Chairman Anderson indicated that he could have the County's legal department look at such ordinances from other counties. He promised to look into this for Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that the animals, at a minimum, need to be confined to an enclosed area

Tom Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Alger, indicated that the City of Anacortes wants to condemn the property mentioned by Mr. Van Buren to construct a trail, which would be 15 feet from the property owner's bay window.

Mr. Solberg next discussed the non-motorized transportation plan, and concern over how the property would be acquired.

Chairman Anderson stated that from his perspective, he voted against the trail feasibility plan because all of the dike districts showed up and asked that the dikes not be used for recreational purposes. He stated that the land is designated to be used specifically for the purpose of diking and flood control.

Mr. Solberg discussed salmon recovery and the unsettling fact that Skagit County is leading the pack on proposed regulations. He stated that there is a wealth of information from Okanogan County on what has transpired there.

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Chairman Anderson discussed the parameters of the Critical Areas ordinance and the financial impacts on the County.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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