

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, June 5, 2001**

*T	9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Update – State of the Apple Industry and Horticultural Pest and Disease Board Activities
	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Review and Possible Action – An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 18098 and Adding a New Section SCC 14.16.215 to the Skagit County Zoning Code Relating to Development Standards in the Bayview Ridge Urban Growth Area
*T	10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Public Comment Period
	10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Work Session – Skagit County Humane Society
*T	11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Public Hearing – Skagit County Science Advisory Panel Procedures
	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Meet with the Skagit County Realtor’s Association at Mitzel’s (13724 La Conner-Whitney Road, Mount Vernon)
	1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Bid Opening – Skagit County Courthouse First Floor East End Remodel
	2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Annual Performance Report for the Best PLACE Program

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

**UPDATE – STATE OF THE APPLE INDUSTRY AND HORTICULTURAL PEST AND DISEASE BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Jim Perkins from Perkins Variety Apples in Sedro Woolley, introduced himself to the Board. He is representing the Skagit County Pest and Disease Board. Mr. Perkins said the reason for his visit was to solicit Skagit County’s continued support for this very important program. He spoke of how the apple industry has been depressed for the last three to four years. It has been hard to get any funds from growers to help support the program. This will be the fourth year for the program and they are hoping the County will fund it entirely. Mr. Perkins presented the Board with last year’s report. He went on to say that they have done a very good job of spending the money the County has allotted them. Without this program the growers would not be able to send their fruit to Eastern Washington to be packed or sold. Mr. Perkins remarked that the program needs to be fully funded if the apple industry is to be kept alive in Skagit County.

Commissioner Munks asked Mr. Perkins to explain exactly what the program is and what it does.

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Mr. Perkins went on to say the program encompasses the whole pest and disease problem in Skagit County. The concern right now is the apple maggot and their numbers have been climbing steadily. The County has been placed under a quarantine status for four years. What this means is the fruit cannot be transported out of this County without being trapped or inspected before it is sent to Eastern Washington to be packed.

Commissioner Munks asked Mr. Perkins what was being done to reduce the apple maggot population.

Mr. Perkins reported that the Pest Control Coordinator traps one mile away from the orchards. If the Coordinator finds any apple maggots within the one-mile radius, she would then notify the growers and help them decide on a plan of action. The Washington State Department of Agriculture traps one-half mile from the orchards. If the apple maggot is caught in the one-half mile radius, the fruit is quarantined and needs to be inspected before it leaves the farm. If a maggot is found in the produce bin while being inspected, it also cannot leave the farm. It must be placed under a cold treatment, of which there are no facilities available in Skagit County to store that much fruit. It is very important that apple maggots are not found during the inspection process.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked Mr. Perkins if he thought the apples that are being grown in foreign countries face the same rigorous inspections as the United States does in regards to the potential for pesticides. Mr. Perkins felt they did not and feels that we have the safest food in the world.

Commissioner Dahlstedt reported that there are currently 10,000 acres of orchards in Washington State that are being destroyed. This is due to the economics of farming today.

Mr. Perkins explained that no one wants to farm any more as they cannot make any money at it. This in turn has a trickle effect on the economy. If there is no money coming in to an apple-growing city such as Wenatchee or Yakima, then these cities tend to shut down.

Kathy Lonzo was introduced as the new Pest Control Coordinator.

Alan Merritt, owner of Merritt Farms, told the Commissioners that the apple maggot is an insect that hatches randomly throughout the summer, therefore there is no one single control method. The monitoring process is critically important. Small agricultural industries such as apples are so important to this valley and hopefully they will find a permanent niche in the local economy.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked how Skagit County residents could take care of their own apple trees. Mr. Merritt said they could obtain traps or sticky balls to test for apple maggots from the Pest Control office. If they need more information, they can call the Pest Control office and speak with Ms. Lonzo.

### **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION – AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 18098 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION SCC 14.16.215 TO THE SKAGIT COUNTY ZONING CODE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN THE BAYVIEW RIDGE URBAN GROWTH AREA**

Gary Christensen, Assistant Planning Director, presented an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 18098 and codifying permanent development regulations by creating a new section in SCC14.16.215.

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Mr. Christensen said the Ordinance would eliminate the need to continuously adopt every (6) months, interim development regulations for the Bayview Ridge Urban Growth Area (UGA) while the County pursues and completes the Sub-area Planning process. This action is the result of the County having made reference to adopting permanent regulations for the Bayview Ridge UGA to address outstanding GMA compliance issues through Ordinance #17938 (July 24, 2000). It is therefore not necessary to continue the provisions of Ordinance #18098 as interim development regulations for the Bayview Ridge UGA. This proposed action does not affect or change the currently adopted development standards for the Bayview Ridge UGA and is procedural in nature.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if the Planning Commission was in the process of reviewing the Bayview area at this moment. Mr. Christensen said the Citizen Advisory Committee that was appointed by the previous Board, met in December 2000 and then met several times thereafter. The Committee last met in March and will meet again prior to the issuance of the EIS and a revised sub-area plan development regulation, which would be reflective of comments they made earlier this year. Once that is done, the Planning Commission will begin their review and hold public hearings this fall. The Citizens Advisory Committee will advise the Board of their recommendation.

Commissioner Munks advised that these issues were discussed during a work session. It has been agreed upon by the three Commissioners that there will be no action taken on action issues unless they are all present. However, Commissioner Anderson is not in attendance because he was asked to distribute scholarship awards at Sedro Woolley High School. He had previously agreed to approve this Ordinance.

Commissioner Munks made a motion to adopt the new Ordinance and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were ten citizens present for the Public Comment Period. They talked about the negative impacts regarding the proposed power plant in Sedro Woolley. They also spoke about the airborne pollutants this plant would cause and expressed concern over the closeness of at least four schools and a retirement center in the area. It was felt the physical and neurological effects on County residents could be devastating.

Larry Stiles, 1227 Independence Boulevard, Sedro Woolley, asked the Board how much they knew about Tollhouse Energy, the company proposing the power plant. He stated that Tollhouse Energy has a bad reputation and also has out-dated technology. Their safety practices have been questioned, as well. Mr. Stiles said he was not opposed to the electrical generation business, however they picked the wrong neighborhood.

Virginia Good, 24250 Alexander Street, Sedro Woolley, spoke of the number of Northwest Pollution Control applications that have been issued this year for energy generation. Forty-seven of the forty-nine applications have been issued to the refineries. Ms. Good feels that is where they belong as the refineries have resources for spills and evacuation plans. Sedro Woolley doesn't have these resources.

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Kendra Smith, Assistant Planning Director, spoke about the application from Tollhouse Energy proposed within the Sedro Woolley UGA. The application was submitted to her department with a State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) checklist. The Planning Department did receive numerous comments in opposition of the plant. There was a tentative public hearing set before the Hearing Examiner, which was part of the process in the application procedure. The hearing date was cancelled, based on the comments received from SEPA. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for July 18, 2001 in Sedro Woolley. The Hearing Examiner will look over the application again and the Planning Department will keep everyone notified on this issue.

Commissioner Anderson suggested the Planning Department notify the people who are listed on the sign-in sheet. He said it was very important that the Commissioners remain non-committal because this issue will come before them for a decision. If the Commissioners make a statement for or against during the process prior to it being brought to them, then under the appearance of fairness doctrine, they would have to step aside. Commissioner Anderson told the audience that was why they were not hearing a lot of interest or concern on the part of the Board regarding this matter. He said public hearings would be held to address all of the issues.

Howard Gully of 15815 Yokeko Drive in Anacortes spoke to the Board about a trench that was dug down the road from where he lives. A variance was approved by the County to permit them to dig the trench and install some equipment. His question to the Board was why is he not being allowed to build his garage under the same rules that apply to the County.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – SKAGIT COUNTY SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL PROCEDURES**

Chal Martin, Public Works Director, advised the Board of a letter recently received from the Friends of Skagit County.

Kendra Smith, Assistant Planning Director, stated that through public comment, letters like this should be addressed. Her staff recommends the Board hold a public hearing and then set a date and time for the Board's decision.

The Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board order issued on February 9, 2001, made it a requirement that Skagit County formally adopt the procedures that SAP would be following as part of their organization.

Ric Boge, Public Works Department, gave the Board an overview of the draft of procedural protocols of the Science Advisory Panel (SAP). He mentioned a couple of changes made to the draft copy. As required by Ordinance #18069, the panel was formed in February of this year.

Thomas H. Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road in Alger, read a letter to the Board explaining his views on SAP and the procedural protocols. He sees no need for the panel and questions the expertise of the members. He would like to know why there are no farmers on the panel. Mr. Solberg feels that SAP's whole agenda is based on the need for required buffers and there are many people in the County that do not concur.

Bill Reinard, 12051 Bayhill Drive, Burlington, spoke to the Board about his feelings regarding SAP. Mr. Reinard feels that SAP needs to study the impact of chemical nutrients added to the water. In determining the chemical makeup of the water, the panel needs to find out what nutrients should be added. Once the designated tasks of SAP are completed, it would be essential for the committee to seriously look at this being just one part of salmon recovery.

Randy Good, 25512 Minkler Road, Sedro Woolley, read excerpts from Jean Shea's comments on SAP procedural protocols. Mr. Good had concerns regarding the general practices of SAP. He would like them to stop and review the Ordinance for constitutional property rights compliance. He presented the Board with a copy of Jean's letter and the WAC to put in to public record.

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Commissioner Anderson queried John Moffat, Civil Prosecuting Attorney on whether the letter from Friends of Skagit County should be read into testimony or submitted for the record. Mr. Moffat advised the Board to enter it into the record.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahlsted and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson stated that it was staff recommendation to set a time to reconvene and offer their findings.

Commissioner Munks asked if a work session was needed before a date could be set to render their decision.

John Moffat told the Board that under GMA and the public participation requirements, not only of GMA, but also of the program that the County has adopted, it is important that the Board hear and consider the comments from people on the actions the County intends to take and deliberate on them. He suggests scheduling a time, either at the same time the Board intends to deliberate on this or before then. Then have staff provide comments taken personally and in writing along with an updated draft of the proposal to the Board.

The Commissioners agreed to schedule a work session for Monday, June 25, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. The Commissioners also agreed to schedule Friday, June 29, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. for their final decision.

### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE BEST PLACE PROGRAM**

Maggie Thompson, Director of the Best PLACE Program, introduced several staff members who were in attendance. She applauded them for the fine work they are doing to make this program succeed.

Ms. Thompson presented the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant annual report to the Commissioners. The report was submitted to the Federal Government in April and contains valuable information. She went on to described major components of the report.

Ms. Thompson then gave an overview of the grant. It was received a year ago last December and grant activity began in the spring. The focus of the grant is literacy and the money being received has enabled the program to offer much needed services to Skagit County. Currently, childcare centers are being provided to children 6 weeks old to 5 years old. All centers are licensed and have a rich learning environment. The Best SELF summer program has been expanded to include five more classrooms and is being enhanced by adding literacy programs. The Best SELF After School Program is also being enlarged to incorporate more areas. The Boys and Girls Clubs have played a large part in creating activities that keep the area teenagers engaged in many activities. Teen centers have been set up for those Cities that are lacking a Boys and Girls Club. The Adult Literacy Program partnered with Skagit County Community Action Agency is serving over 150 adults.

Commissioner Anderson asked to hear from the staff members present. He suggested they each share what is happening in their particular areas of expertise.

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Marlys Vollegraaf, Facilitator for the Early Learning Childcare Program, reported that the whole project started out with just an idea and it has been fun to watch everything grow and blossom. It is true when they say, "if you build it, they will come". When Ms. Vollegraaf first started with the program, there were just 10 employees and now there are over 100 at each of the different sites. Staff is now starting to decide how to meet the needs of the families. They have held a few family fun nights that involve a lot of great activities for the participants and have attracted a 75-80% attendance rate.

Commissioner Anderson remarked that with the childcare centers offering their services from 6 weeks on up to the age of 5 years, the County should see the benefits of this program from the first grade right on through high school.

Tawni Helms, Director of the Best SELF Summer and After School Program, gave a brief talk about all that has happened in the past year. Ms. Helms is excited about the addition of five more classrooms for the Summer Program and the hiring of specialists to beef up the literacy component of the grant. In collaboration with Kami Manley, Facilitator for the Best PLACE Adolescent Program, they are looking at plans to offer Middle School services.

Ross Brydges, Facilitator for the Best SELF After School Program, gave the Board an overview of how many sites are currently in operation and how many children are in attendance. The program definitely has a lot of at-risk children who are referred by teachers, parents, counselors and the ARIS program. Mr. Brydges reported that there are three components to this program. One third is homework, one third is literacy and one third is enrichment. The Best SELF After School Program staff is able to make connections with the children's parents, which is very helpful when it comes to reinforcement. They receive countless testimonials from teachers as well as parents.

Kami Manley, Facilitator for the Best PLACE Adolescent Program, discussed briefly with the Board the aspects of the teen program. Ms. Manley feels they are a most interesting age group to work with, as the teenagers have a choice as to whether or not they want to be at the teen centers. It is enjoyable to see the great number of teens the program is serving. It is also beneficial to build relationships and to give the teens places where they can go to have fun and be safe. Ms. Manley cited statistics regarding the fact that crime rate activity rises during the after school hours. She said people who are illiterate are most likely to commit the most crimes. That is the reason why this program is so important.

Bill Henkel, Adult Literacy Consultant, reviewed the specifics of the Adult Literacy Program. He stressed the importance of not forgetting about the adult population. Mr. Henkel reports of the research that has been done showing that adults never stop learning. Skagit Literacy is the adult portion of Best PLACE and they are strictly volunteer-based. The age group that is dealt with is sixteen years old and up. They are partnered with Skagit County Community Action Agency so between the two of them, they receive a lot of referrals. The program has no income requirements so they serve many English as a second language (ESL) people. The program is successful due in part to the volunteers either meeting on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. Mr. Henkel stated that last September, there were 8 students participating in the program and now they have 150. They also started out with 5 volunteers and now have 70. As far as what lies ahead in the future, Mr. Henkel would like to start a conversation group for the ESL population and begin working better with individuals who have learning disabilities. He would also like to see a program partnered with the YMCA and ARIS, along with a lot of other folks where they would go into our detention center, meet with the troubled kids and help them to succeed in the community upon their release.

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Commissioner Anderson commented that a large portion of the jail population housed in Skagit County has language barriers. He said those people tend to end up in jail because of the barriers. He wondered about connecting Skagit Literacy with Letty Alvarez, Coordinator for Assigned Counsel, who interviews those in jail to notify the inmates of the services available to them.

Mr. Henkel noted that it is a huge issue regarding the number of people who end up in jail for minor offenses that don't need to be there, just because they don't have the necessary English skills.

Tim Bruce, Superintendent of the La Conner School District and also the Chairperson for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant commented on the cooperation between Skagit County and the seven different school districts that are all benefiting from the award of the grant. He said it was through that collaboration that they were able to take a simple program and build upon it to make it what it is today. Mr. Bruce noted that this is the largest grant in the nation. He also said it has been a steep learning curve and the whole staff needs to be commended in helping to accomplish all that has happened. Mr. Bruce thanked the Commissioners for laying the foundation down to make this entire program possible.

Commissioner Anderson spoke of the time he was asked to accept the Kennedy Foundation Innovation Award for the Best SELF Program. He felt it was quite an honor bestowed on Skagit County. He would like to see models of the Best SELF Program nationwide. Commissioner Anderson commented that at one time, he sat on the Otto Walberg Scholarship Committee and wondered how some children succeed at all. He encouraged both Best PLACE and Best SELF to keep up the great work.

Ms. Thompson then thanked the Board for their continued support.

**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**

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Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners