

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2001**

- 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Consideration/Possible Action – Resolution Appointing the Citizens Advisory Committee to Assist the County in Preparation of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the Similk Beach LAMIRD
- *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director
1. Introduction of New Environmental Health Staff
 2. Overview of Health Department in Decontamination of Illegal Drug Labs
 3. Summary of Site Hazard Assessment Grant Activities
 4. Local Public Health System Capability to Respond to Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Parks, Recreation and Fair – Bob Vaux, Director
1. Northern State Recreation Area Charette
 2. Project Update:
 - A. Swinomish Boat Launch
 - B. Poppe Field
 - C. Howard Miller Steelhead Park
 3. Parks, Recreation & Fair Economic Summit
 4. Fair Report
 5. Ann Wolford Park Parcel

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2001, with Commissioners Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present. Commissioner Ted W. Anderson's absence was excused.

**CONSIDERATION/POSSIBLE ACTION – RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ASSIST THE COUNTY IN PREPARATION OF A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE SIMILK BEACH LAMIRD**

Gary Christensen, Assistant Director, Planning & Permit Center, presented the Board with a Resolution Declaring an Emergency for Purposes of Amending the Comprehensive Plan and Appointing a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to Assist the County in Preparation of the Similk Beach LAMIRD (limited areas of more intensive rural development). The Department is working with the Health Department and Public Facility District #1 of Skagit County to assure that PUD #1 will be represented on the CAC.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the Resolution with Commissioner Munks seconding the motion, which was carried. **(Resolution No. 18460)**

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, October 9, 2001, the Board, by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 106460 through 106585 from Clearing fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$441,198.95 (Transmittal No. C-67-01).

2. Staff presented a Resolution to increase the Revolving Fund for the Skagit County Retired Senior Volunteer Program from \$1,700 to \$2,200. Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Munks seconded, which passed unanimously. (**Resolution No. 18461**)

BOARD OF HEALTH, Peter Browning, Director

1. Introduction of New Environmental Health Staff

Corrine Story, Environmental Health Supervisor, introduced Sarah Cierebiej as a new employee who will be working with solid waste and food issues.

2. Overview of Health Department in Decontamination of Illegal Drug Labs

Polly Dubbel, Environmental Health Specialist, said the Health Department has had increasing involvement with illegal methamphetamine labs over the past four years. Their involvement has mirrored the statewide increase in the discovery of these labs. State law requires that the local Health Officer determine if a structure used for the production of methamphetamine is safe or fit to occupy. The law enforcement involved in the bust of an illegal lab must contact Environmental Health to notify them of the bust or impending bust. They respond on site, usually within one to three hours of the bust itself, and obtain information on drug production and duration of drug production to determine if the property will be posted as unfit for use. Once the property has been posted, the property owner is responsible for determining the level of contamination in the structure and, if necessary, has the structure cleaned by a certified company or destroyed with Health Department approval. This process can involve a great deal of time and expense for the Health Department. Ms. Dubbel said they have been allowed to bill all costs related to illegal drug labs to their Site Hazard Assessment Grant for full recovery. The occurrence of these labs is expected to continue to increase dramatically. This increase in methamphetamine labs also impacts many other government agencies that will be dealing with the resulting increase in methamphetamine addicts and their children.

3. Summary of Site Hazard Assessment Grant Activities

Ms. Dubbel gave a brief summary of the Site Hazard Assessment Grant as a whole. The grant is administered by the Department of Ecology (DOE). It provides 100% funding for work that the Health Department does in the areas of illegal drug labs, initial investigations of potentially hazardous sites, and the review and ranking for risk of properties already placed on the DOE's list of potentially hazardous sites. The department has been able to review 16 sites that were on the DOE's hazardous sites list for 1-12 years. On eight of these sites they were able to recommend to DOE that no further action is required. The remaining sites had continuing contamination issues and were ranked according to Ecology's model for risk to human health and the environment.

Environmental Health has performed initial investigations on a variety of sites ranging from home heating oil spills to improperly disposed pesticides at a former crop dusting site. In many instances they have been able to direct the property owners to clean up the contamination without needing to go through the listing and ranking process with DOE. Ms. Dubbel said they also plan to use their initial investigation funds to evaluate the degree of hazard posed by many of the County's abandoned landfills. The grant will allow them to do site review and sampling at abandoned landfills and report on the likelihood of risk to human or environmental health. The Health Department plans to extend the existing grant through June, 2003. They would reapply for the grant and be in line with the State's biannual budget.

4. Local Public Health system Capability to Respond to Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

John Hadman, Environmental Health Specialist II, updated the Board on the recent activities of the Health Department, the lead agency for the Community Health Care System. The local Public Health system is to provide support and training in response to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Hadman reported that the County is in the process of becoming prepared for such a disaster. It requires everyone working together toward the same goals.

Mr. Hadman said the Skagit Valley community is not as prepared as they should be. The community health network held a meeting recently to prioritize the needs in case of a disaster. There was also discussion about who should be appointed to train individuals to use the materials that have been ordered to get the community prepared. Mr. Hadman also requested employees in all departments receive training in disaster preparedness.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said he was concerned about how ready we are for any type of disaster.

5. Miscellaneous

Corrine Story, Environmental Health Supervisor, advised that flu vaccine will be available this year. Only the high risk people will be immunized at this time. The Health Department will also be visiting the senior centers. If there are any questions, the flu vaccine hotline number is 360/419-3315.

PARKS, RECREATION & FAIR, Bob Vaux, Director

1. Northern State Recreation Area Charette

Patrick Dylan, Parks and Recreation, presented a list of the Northern State Recreation Area program elements. They are as follows:

- Open Space – 500 acres minimum for protection of streams, wetlands, habitat and open space compliance with Critical Areas Ordinances and regulations.
- Trails – 5 mile minimum designed for multiple users.
- Campground – 40 acres with multi camper needs served.
- Open Grass Picnic Area – 5 acres with a managed park area.
- Environmental Education Center – 2 ½ acres which would compliment and highlight the diverse range of natural resources on site.
- Playgrounds – 1 ½ acres that enhances experience of the site for the entire family.
- Ball Fields – 40 acres.
- Equestrian Center – 25 acres with significant potential to incorporate established successful equestrian event, Logger Rodeo.
- Infrastructure – 10 + acres for roads, parking, maintenance buildings, restrooms and utilities.
- Additional consideration – Multi-Use Event Center.

Mr. Dylan talked about the elements that were excluded: The survey showed interest in the Water Park/Pool but it is the proposal of the Parks Department that they partner with the Skagit County school districts to see what their aquatic needs are, and to receive assistance in funding such a facility. The Indoor Recreation Area would require a lot of money that just isn't available at this time. The Demonstration Farm/Gardens don't seem to fit in right now, however, they garnered much support.

Earl Dierking, Assistant Parks Director, spoke about the upcoming Northern State Recreation Area 3-day design Charette being held October 19-21, 2001.

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The 726-acre Northern State Recreation Area is part of the historic Northern State Hospital working farm. From 1909 to 1973 the farm employed 2200 people, many of those patients, who produced/processed food for the entire statewide hospital and prison system. When the State sold the 727-acre parcel to Skagit County in 1991, the agreement required that the property be dedicated to public recreational and educational uses.

Although a conceptual master plan was created in 1994, limited forward progress was realized over the next several years. In 1998 a local grass roots group evolved into the Northern State Task Force. This Task Force charged themselves with spearheading implementation of the master plan.

In order to update/finalize the site's master plan, Skagit County partnering with the National Park Service and the American Society of Landscape Architects, will be hosting the 3-day design Charette in Sedro Woolley. Several design teams, made up of volunteer professionals and community members, will engage in intense conceptual design to produce a master plan for a variety of community preferred recreational facilities. The design will be limited to 125 acres of the total site due to surrounding wetlands, creeks and associated buffers.

Bob Vaux, Parks Director, thanked Sedro Woolley as well as Cascades Job Corps for their help and commitment.

Commissioner Munks asked why there are no plans for soccer fields.

Mr. Vaux replied that the City of Burlington has just constructed 20 soccer fields and therefore, it has taken the pressure off of the Northern State site.

**2. Project Update:
A. Swinomish Boat Launch**

Mr. Dylan said the Swinomish Boat Launch is short \$75,000 in order to get the project completed. The Parks Department worked with the State to acquire more funding and to see about a timeline extension. The State gave approval to both, so work shall proceed accordingly.

B. Poppe Field

Mr. Dylan reported that the Poppe field renovation is progressing smoothly. Field grading has been done, changes have been made to the backstop wall, and hydro-seeding took place last week. The field drain system is scheduled to begin this week in addition to fencing and new dugouts.

C. Howard Miller Steelhead Park

Mr. Dierking stated that because of the funding approval, a lot of progress has been made in the last couple of weeks in conjunction with the Public Utilities District, Puget Sound Energy, and the Public Works Department. The project is moving along at a fast pace and they are now in the process of submitting a water application and installing the water meters. The Parks staff will be performing the work, which will save at least \$100,000. Everything is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

3. Parks, Recreation & Fair Economic Summit

Mr. Vaux spoke about the Indoor Recreation Center, which was presented last year by Mike Fohn. He said Mr. Fohn has new information that will be forthcoming. Mr. Vaux explained that project priorities need to be tied into the economic priorities. He said the public/private partnership is certainly interesting and there should be more of this kind of partnering in the future.

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4. Fair Report

Tony Rees, Fair Coordinator, said the "World's Largest Garage Sale and Flea Market" was held at the fairgrounds in September, as well as fundraisers for the Humane Society and Friendship House. These events were well attended. Mr. Rees said the buildings at the fairgrounds are being used nearly all year. On October 1 winter storage begins with availability through March 2002.

Mr. Rees gave an overview on the "Haunted Cave". This annual event began six years ago and is now, basically, self-supporting. They have been coordinating with the Mount Vernon Parks Department's "Haunted Forest" by doing joint advertising as well as promoting the "Haunted Trolley" to transport patrons to and from both venues. The "Haunted Cave" will be open October 26-31, 2001 inside the Pavilion Barn at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. One dollar will be taken off the price of admission with a canned food donation to benefit all Skagit County food banks.

5. Ann Wolford Park Parcel

Mr. Dierking told the Board that the option documents on this parcel were delivered to the Forest Service and a check should be received within the next couple of weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Munks motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Dahlstedt 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:

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