

**SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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
*T	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Department Head Meeting
	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items
	11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Public Comment Period
	11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Presentation –Search and Rescue
	1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 2001, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING:

Chairman Anderson opened the Department Head meeting.

Stephanie Wood, Personnel Director, reported that the Mount Vernon Police Department provides a very good program on workplace violence and have presented the workshop throughout the community. She distributed a sign-up sheet to department heads.

Peter Browning, Director, Health Department, presented a report on biological emergencies in behalf of Dr. Leibrand, who was unable to be present.

There are three levels of the Health Department involved in emergencies. Dr. Leibrand is the medical lead. He works with the hospitals and others on such things as biological emergencies. Corrine Storey, Health Supervisor, works with the structure, and Tom Sheahan would be involved if there was an attack of a large magnitude. He said that he has been working with hospitals since September 11 to make sure roles are well established.

Sandi Paciotti is the Communicable Disease Supervisor. Her division deals with this kind of thing every day. They would do a contact tracing of diseases that come to their attention. They are very aware of what kinds of things might be a biological attack. In cases where there is evidence for a biological attack, they would begin an immediate investigation. He and Dr. Leibrand would determine whether to bring in the state and federal authorities. If they did bring them in, those authorities would take over the case. Skagit County is very well protected here.

The other issue is the response relative to what is going on with envelopes coming into the community. There are a lot of people concerned about what they perceive as dust in an envelope, but they have turned out to be nothing. There have been no reported cases of anthrax in Washington State. He requested that departments go through all three criteria relative to the possibility of anthrax being received through the mail.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 2

Mr. Browning stated that this morning there was another case of inhaled anthrax. He described some of the differences between the kinds of anthrax. He added, with anthrax it has to be pretty high quality to be effective. It has kind of an amber color, doesn't look like talcum powder and is lumpier than one would expect.

There are three kinds of anthrax. 1) Pulmonary anthrax, which is very, very dangerous. One victim seems to be doing very well and recovering. He noted that the kinds of antibiotics that are available are much better than they were in the past. The newest case has gone too far and the victim will most likely die. 2) Coetaneous anthrax is a skin level anthrax. It causes the skin to turn a really dark black. It is red in the beginning and looks like a bug bite. The victim is virtually without pain, which is because it kills the nerves around it. There are fewer than 5% fatalities with this kind of anthrax. Any cases seen today will be 100% recovery. 3) Internal anthrax is internal and has a high mortality rate.

There should not be too much concern about anthrax, but if anyone sees anything suspicious they should call him about it. If any suspicious envelopes are received they should not be shredded, but should be put into a zip lock bag. If something falls out of an envelope that looks suspicious, staff should immediately evacuate everyone from the room. Then they should remove clothing and wash hands, etc. He added that people should not be taking unnecessary antibiotics.

Other biological agents that could be used are things like botulism, which is something that occurred in the past when things weren't canned properly. Q fever is another possibility that occurred in the past. It is very disabling but is not a deadly disease. It has been effective in biological warfare where everyone is very sick and not able to work.

Tularemia is another possible biological agent, which starts out with the same basic symptoms that are seen in the flu season. i.e. fever, malaise, headache, etc. Because they are the same kind of symptoms seen during flu season, there could be a lot of hysteria if the flu season is very aggressive this year.

Another concern is the people working in emergency situations. i.e. police, fire, etc. If anything is seen that looks like a chemical, masks and gloves should be used immediately.

Smallpox is also of very great concern. Those who received vaccinations years ago are no longer immune. At the present time there is no adequate smallpox vaccine in the United States and in the world. There is some live smallpox available in the world but it is in labs. Those locations are unknown. Also, it is not known where literally tons of anthrax went when the Soviet Union collapsed. Of most concern is the fact that we don't know where the scientists went when the Soviet Union went out of business. The difference is, anthrax can be controlled, but smallpox cannot be controlled. It is frighteningly contagious. If someone wanted to use it as a biological warfare mechanism they would be killing their own people as well as those they want to target.

If we begin developing smallpox vaccine there is another very significant concern. The vaccine for smallpox is a toned down version of a similar family of bacteria. That disease itself is fairly dangerous. If we began using this vaccine today we would have a 1% to 2% mortality rate from the vaccine that is not the disease. Anyone who was in any way ill, or seniors, etc. would be very vulnerable to this.

Mr. Browning said the hope is that smallpox is not readily available and that no one is fanatic enough to use it. Even if it were used, there would still be a 50% survivability rate.

Mr. Browning stated that the lack of cleanliness in Africa caused the high mortality rate relative to Ebola, which is a horrific disease to have unleashed.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 3**

Mr. Browning talked about the county's water systems. The Mount Vernon and Anacortes people feel confident they can protect the water distribution system. If something were introduced, the chlorine level would drop. Any drop in the chlorine level would immediately set off sirens and they would then try to decide what the problem was. PUD water is very safe, as is Anacortes water.

Prosecutor Tom Verge pointed out that we do live 3,000 miles away from the nearest reported anthrax.

Mr. Browning agreed. Diligence and good sense should be encouraged, and not panic or anxiety.

Ron Feld, Director of Mediation Services, asked about taking antibiotics unnecessarily. Mr. Browning explained that excessive use of antibiotics reduces the ability of the physical body to ward off disease. It is a very real problem outside of the U.S. where people have been using antibiotics indiscriminately and haphazardly.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that only about 2% of the food that comes in from outside is even inspected at all.

Mr. Browning said that is changing and they are beginning to inspect foods more carefully. He noted that at home people should be diligent about washing food.

He then pointed out that another concern is immigration. People can actually come into the United States as walking diseases. We need to be very, very careful about immigration. Of real concern has been tuberculosis as there are a lot of strains of treatment resistance tuberculosis in the world now.

Roy Atwood, County Administrator, pointed out that on the county website there are links to other agencies who can provide information about some of these things. Mr. Browning added that the CDC or University of Washington web pages and the Seattle-King County website all have excellent information about this.

Chairman Anderson thanked Mr. Browning and agreed with Mr. Verge that one of our biggest enemies is fear. The best thing we can do is to keep our government functioning at the highest level.

Commissioner Dahlstedt noted that he has been pressing, through the National Association of Counties, to go forward with health inspections of food from outside the country. Legislators need to be contacted so this legislation goes through.

Commissioner Munks said that some people think this is funny and like to play pranks, but it costs as much money to look into the hoaxes perpetrated as it does to look at those things that are truly suspicious. "We need to be very serious about what we are doing."

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, October 22, 2001 items 1 through 25. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, October 15, 2001.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 4**

2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, October 16, 2001.
3. Resolution Appointing Ray Sizemore to the Civil Service Commissioner for the term November 2, 2001 through October 31, 2007. **(Resolution No. 18467)**
5. Agreement with Economic Development Association to continue provide Economic Development services for Skagit County. The term of the Agreement shall be from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002. The total County contribution shall not exceed \$38,000. **(Contract No. 05482)**

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

6. Resolution Creating the "Centennial Document Preservation Oversight Committee". **(Resolution No. 18468)**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

7. Interagency Agreement with Skagit/Islands Head Start to provide health consultation by Donna Gustin, Public Health Nurse, to the staff and families of the program in Skagit County. The Agreement is effective September 1, 2001 and shall continue through August 31, 2002. Compensation shall be paid at \$50 per hour for the Consultant with a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,150 for 3-5 program and \$850 for Early Head Start. **(Contract No. 05483)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

8. Amendment No. 1 to County Program Agreement with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to cover the State legislated vendor rate increases for the 2001-2003 biennium. The award also adds funding for the SSI Cost Offset Project (SSI-COP) and for drug treatment services. The amendment start date is July 1, 2001 with an ending date of June 30, 2003. This Agreement shall be increased \$254,527, from \$1,444,724 to \$1,699,251. **(Contract No 05361)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

8. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement with Spillman Data Systems, Inc. to modify the E911 interface script and install the new script on the UNIX server for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. Additional compensation shall be \$5,440. **(Contract No. 00484)**
9. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement with The Software Group to add features to the Washington Assessment and Taxation (WATS) product that shall be referred to as Administrative Accounts. Compensation shall be paid at \$115 per hour. **(Contract No. 00214)**

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:

10. Personal Services Agreement with Marian Daniel to present a workshop titled "Unique Gender Specific Services for Girls". The Agreement shall begin and end on October 5, 2001. Compensation shall be \$1450. **(Contract No. 05484)**

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 5

11. Personal Services Agreement with Western Washington University, Woodring College of Education, Applied Research and Development Center to provide quantitative and qualitative evaluation by Marsha Riddle Buly, Ph.D. of project services for the Swinomish After School Cultural Program including written reports as required, pending the award of grant funding of the project by the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Evaluation and written reports shall be consistent with the program Evaluation Plan as submitted by Dr. Riddle Buly. The term of the Agreement shall commence on August 31, 2001 and continue August 31, 2002. Compensation shall not exceed \$4,285 for the project period. **(Contract No. 05485)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

12. Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing for the Vacation of a Portion of a County Right-of-Way known as East Lake Drive #06750. It is located south of Old Day Creek road, east of State Route 9 and west of Wayward Way. Mr. Michael Weynands, who owns much of the land abutting the right-of-way, submitted the petition. **(Resolution No. 18469)**
13. Summary of Offer to Jack and Charlotte Mason for right-of-way acquisition on the Collins Road/SR 20 Signalization Project. It is needed to construct a hammerhead on the south leg of Collins road. The total for the parcel is \$3,110. The offer represents the beginning dollar amount for negotiations, with final settlement costs subject to change within current right-of-way procedures. **(Contract No. 05486)**
14. Summary of Offer to Snee-Oosh Land Company for right-of-way and permanent easement on two parcels that are required for the Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project, with initial offers being made totaling \$1,400. The offer represents the beginning dollar amount for negotiations, with final settlement costs subject to change within current right-of-way procedures. **(Contract No. 05487)**
15. Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement with Michelle McConnell for consultant services in support of Phase II of Skagit County Marine Resources Committee's Bottomfish Recovery Project. Compensation shall be raised \$7,100 for an amended contract total of \$26,100. **(Contract No. 05063)**
16. Amendment No. 1 Coastal Zone Management 310 Grant No. G0100145 between Washington State Department of Ecology and Skagit County for the "Citizen Inventory of Skagit County's Critical Shoreline Habitats." The grant budget will be increased by \$5,000 and will be used to fund part of Phase II of the Bottomfish Recovery Project. The amount of the contract will be raised from \$30,000 to \$35,000. **(Contract No. 05256)**
17. Personal Services Agreement with Allen Emerson to provide transcript services, key word indexing and a computer disk in ASCII text format to the Skagit County Public Works Department for public and committee meetings related to the Skagit River Feasibility Study and the Ag Land Stream Buffer Program. The term of the Agreement shall begin on September 1, 2001 and continue until December 31, 2002. Compensation shall not exceed \$15,000. **(Contract No. 05488)**
18. Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project with Thomas E. Kay and Sheila Mullen for a portion of Lot 2, "Shorewood". The easement gives the County the right of ingress and egress to enter upon Parcel No. 24-40610-2 to clean, construct, maintain, and operate a storm water collection system. The start date will be September 5, 2001 and the end date will be upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05489)**

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 6

19. Temporary Ingress & Egress Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project for Thomas Kay and Sheila Mullen for Lots 1 and 2, "Shorewood". Rather than receiving direct financial compensation, the property owners have asked that the project area be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition immediately prior to the County's entry, with the exception of the modifications or improvements made as part of the drainage improvement project. The start date will be September 5, 2001 and the end date will be upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05490)**
20. Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project with Thomas Kay and Sheila Mullen for a portion of Lot 2, "Shorewood". The easement gives the County the right of ingress and egress to enter upon Parcel No. 27-40610-2 to clean, construct, maintain and operate a storm water collection system. The start date will be September 5, 2001 and end upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05491)**
21. Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project with Robert Christensen, Jr. and Sokhan Christensen for a portion of Lot 3, "Shorewood". The easement gives the County the right of ingress and egress to enter upon Parcel No. 25-40610-2 to clean, construct, and maintain and operate a storm water collection system. The start date will be September 17, 2001 and end upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05492)**
22. Temporary Ingress & Egress Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project for Robert L. Christensen, Jr. and Sokhan Christensen for Lot 3, "Shorewood". Rather than receiving direct financial compensation, the property owners have asked that the project area be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition immediately prior to the County's entry, with the exception of the modifications or improvements made as part of the drainage improvement project. The start date will be September 17, 2001 and the end date will be upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05493)**
23. Temporary Ingress & Egress Construction Easement for Snee-Oosh Point Drainage Improvement Project for Robert L. Christensen, Jr. and Sarah Christensen for Lot 4, "Shorewood". Rather than receiving direct financial compensation, the property owners have asked that the project area be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition immediately prior to the County's entry, with the exception of the modifications or improvements made as part of the drainage improvement project. The start date will be September 19, 2001 and the end date will be upon completion of the project. **(Contract No. 05494)**
24. Agreement with Public Utilities District No. 1 to utilize their "Aqua Room" for the purpose of Flood Awareness staff training to be presented by various agencies on October 24, 25, and 26, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there is no cost for the room use. **(Contract No. 05495)**
25. Advertising Agreement with the Skagit Valley Publishing Company to provide advertising space for the recycling education project as well as by other divisions of the Public Works Department. The Agreement shall commence on October 1, 2002 and end on September 30, 2002. The dollar amount of the Agreement is estimated at \$13,425. **(Contract No. 05496)**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 7**

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer 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 22, 2001, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 106974 through 107626 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$2,634,724.24 (Transmittal No. C-69-01)

2. Marge Swint, Associate Planner, Planning and Permit Center, presented to the Board notification of a public meeting to be held the following week, Tuesday, October 30, 2001, during the scheduled Planning agenda time at 9:00 a.m. The public meeting is a signature item to approve the final plat for Pat Wardell, who has met all of the requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Tom Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Alger, said that he stopped by the hatchery and they killed a few more fish today for eggs. After that he talked to Al, who said they would probably open the fish ladder at the dam and let them go. "There is a whole slug of fish there."

He said he thought that James Gelouso's last article in the Skagit Valley Herald was good. Fish and Game people are finally admitting that there are no wild salmon. He is urging them to do a de-listing petition. The cattlemen have theirs in and it is in the works.

Chairman Anderson said he has seen a prototype of the one they are filing and will draft one for the Commissioners to vote on.

Commissioner Munks said they would present that to the state.

Mr. Solberg made a few more comments about the Planning Department budget as it relates to Fidalgo Island, Big Lake and Alger. He said once they get started on the Comp Plan changes he hopes they can go in a logical order as things get approved.

Chairman Anderson explained that those are estimates and agreed that the work needs to be steady.

PRESENTATION – SEARCH AND RESCUE

Jeff Brown, President of Explorer Search and Rescue, said they were present to orient the Commissioners as to what Search and Rescue is. He introduced others who were present who are connected with Search and Rescue.

Mr. Brown said that Search and Rescue wants to present a volunteer based 24-hour a day rescue unit. They do high mountain evacuations, as well as search and rescue efforts all the way to the shores of the San Juan Islands. They carry the highest statewide certification for Explorer Search and Rescue you can get. The Skagit County organization is one of four in the state who have attained this certification.

Public education and public information classes are provided and they have spent over 5,000 hours in training, which makes them the highest trained unit in Skagit County. In 1990 there were

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 8**

40 incidents in Skagit County. This year there have been seven events. He noted that Search and Rescue has saved the County \$74,000 in staffing.

Chairman Anderson talked about his support for Search and Rescue and the outstanding work they do for the County.

Sheriff Goodman added that President Brown is probably one of the most active volunteers they have ever had. Search and Rescue does an outstanding job for Skagit County and the County is going to need to look for a facility and funding for them. The County could not function without Search and Rescue.

Chairman Anderson said that could be looked at.

Undersheriff Stafford said they would be bringing an update to the Commissioners on the facility on October 29.

Sheriff Goodman emphasized that the County has to be responsible for some kind of facility. The taxpayers are really benefiting from this.

Undersheriff Stafford asked Administrator Roy Atwood to look into the issue of the facility and the market value of the current facility.

Commissioner Anderson thanked Mr. Brown for bringing this forward. He asked that Sheriff Goodman and Dave Stafford check on the status of this.

Commissioner Munks said that he wanted everyone to know that he feels Search and Rescue is vital to the County. It is unfortunate that the people who create a need for them do not understand what they do. They do a tremendous job!

Commissioner Dahlstedt said if we don't have adequate ways to rescue people when they get lost it doesn't make sense to expand some of our facilities out in the County.

Undersheriff Stafford said that for Forest Service property, they are a primary user of Search and Rescue.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Munks made a motion 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

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001
PAGE NO. 9**

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Jean Terry, Acting Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners