### SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2001

	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Work Session – Operations Division Manager/District Maintenance Supervisors	
*T	9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Public Works Department – Chal Martin, Director  1. Continuation of Public Hearing – Consideration of Vacation of County Right-of-Way Known as East Lake Drive, No. 06750	
		2. Public Hearing – Consideration of Proposed Speed Limit Revision on the Entire Length of West Shore Drive, No. 02500, to 25 Miles Per Hour	
		3. Signature – Right-of-Entry Agreement with Leif Erikson Recreational Association, Inc. for Activities Related to Live Trapping and Removing of Beavers at the Lake McMurray Outlet	
		4. Signature – Summary of Offer - Conrardy Stowe, LLC –	
		Ivy Street, Dewey Beach 5. Signature – Contract Amendment No. 1 to Contract No.	
		005381 with blj Design 6. Miscellaneous	
	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Commissioners' Work Break	
	10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<u>Planning &amp; Permit Center – Tom Karsh, Director</u>	
		<ol> <li>Approval of the Following:</li> <li>A. Final Plat PLoo-0840 PUD Rivers Edge</li> </ol>	
		(Divisions 15 & 16 of Wilderness Village)	
		B. Final Plat PL00-0420 Waters View (Divisions 17 & 18 of Wilderness Village PURD)	
		2. Miscellaneous.	
	10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Commissioners' Work Break	
	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Work Session – Detention Pond Requirements/Forest Practice Conversions	
*T	1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	oo p.m. Discussion & Possible Action on Amendment on Extension of th Time for Agricultural Buffer Ordinance	
	2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Commissioners' Work Break	
	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Decision - Appeal by Donald Caldwell of the Hearing Examiner's Decision (PLo1-0737)	
*T	2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Public Hearing – To Consider Recommendation of the Planning Commission Regarding Adoption of Open Space Corridors and Greenbelts Within and Between Urban Growth Areas	
	3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Commissioners' Work Break	
*T	3:45 p.m. – 4:15p.m.	Public Hearing – Regarding Confirmation and Approval of the Roll, Rates, and Charges for Lake Management District No. 3 for Lakes Erie and Campbell	

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - Chal Martin, Director

## 1. <u>Continuation of Public Hearing – Consideration of Vacation of County Right-of-Way Known as East Lake Drive, No. 06750</u>

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing, indicating that it is a continuation of the original hearing.

Chal Martin, Public Works Director, introduced Steve Flude, Assistant County Engineer indicating that Mr. Flude would provide additional information relative to the right of way in question.

Mr. Flude reviewed the proposed vacation, explaining that the continuation of the public hearing is being held for the purpose of determining whether or not there was access to the Fox property from the south. He then reviewed the map showing Fox Road and a portion of Fox Road, which is an unopened to the County right of way.

Commissioner Anderson questioned the accuracy of the County map in regard to those right of ways. He indicated that he had gone out to the property and, after viewing it, thinks the right of way shown on the map may be different than the actual right of way.

Mr. Flude said he agreed that this portion of East Lake is not on the right of way and that it is not an uncommon situation in Skagit County. In looking at road vacations they look to see if the property would be landlocked. It is clear, in this case, that there is still access to the Fox property. Mr. Weyand's, who basically owns all of the land surrounding the blue portion on the map, has access to his property as well. From that perspective it doesn't appear there is a problem.

Commissioner Anderson stated that if the County is going to abandon the right of way, it should be abandoned on both ends.

Since Mr. Flude had no further input, Chairman Anderson opened up the public hearing for further public comment.

Mr. Fox, 24379 Fox Road, Mount Vernon, stated that the right of way was never intended as a road and he is fine with it if it is vacated.

Mike Weyands, 12816 East Lake Drive, stated that East Lake Drive doesn't exist down there. It shows it on paper, but it doesn't exist in reality. He said that what he actually got was a County right of way that doesn't connect anything at all through his property.

Since there was no further testimony, Chairman Anderson motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which was carried.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that the County vacate the right of way.

Mr. Flude stated that they would prepare the paperwork.

Commissioner Anderson said there would need to be a public hearing because the legal description has not been posted.

Commissioner Munks motioned to vacate the County right of way known as East Lake Drive No. 06750. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

Commissioner Anderson explained that Commissioner Dahlstedt is not voting because he was not present for the original hearing.

Commissioner Munks motioned to add to the original motion that there would be a \$75.00 filing fee for the cost of the public Hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

# 2. <u>Public Hearing – Consideration of Proposed Speed Limit Revision on the Entire Length of West Shore Drive, No. 02500, to 25 Miles Per Hour</u>

Mr. Flude described the purpose of the public hearing, which is to consider a proposed speed limit revision on the entire length of West Shore Drive to 25 miles per hour. Earlier this year the Board of Commissioners released West Shore Drive from the primitive roads list. Therefore, there is a State requirement for a study of the road like a normal paved road. The other roads in the area are posted at 25 mile per hour. Also, West Shore Drive is the only road in the community over one mile long without an established speed limit. Two e-mails have been received from residents asking that their letters be added to the record.

The first record is from Dennis Katte, who was unable to be present and requested that his letter be read into the record. Mr. Flude read into the record Mr. Katte's remarks in which he requested that the Commissioners establish the speed limit for the entire length of West Shore Drive at 25 miles per hour.

Mr. Flude then concluded his presentation by recommending that the Commissioners approve the proposed speed limit revision on the entire length of West Shore Drive.

Chairman Anderson stated that this is a public hearing and then opened the hearing for public comment.

Since there was no public comment, Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dahlstedt then motioned to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Department and establish the speed limit at 25 miles per hour for the entire length of West Shore Drive No. 02500. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

# 3. <u>Signature – Right-of-Entry Agreement with Leif Erikson Recreational Association, Inc. for Activities Related to Live Trapping and Removing of Beavers at the Lake McMurray Outlet</u>

Chal Martin explained that this item is a routine right of entry request for trapping beavers.

Dave Brookings, Public Works Administrator, reported that during the last week or so there have been calls from residents who live along Lake McMurray. The lake has risen and is causing property damage. It has been determined that the cause is related to a series of beaver dams at the northern outlet of Lake McMurray. They have worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to define a project to remove the beaver dams. The Board is being asked to approve a right of entry to enable the County crews to go in and remove the beaver dams, begin the trapping process, and then relocate the beavers.

Commissioner Munks motioned to authorize a right of entry procedure to the Leif Erickson Recreational Association and to grant Skagit County right of entry to assist in trapping and removing beavers in the Lake McMurray area.

Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. **(Resolution No. 18495)** 

### 4. <u>Signature – Summary of Offer – Conrardy Stowe, LLC – Ivy Street, Dewey</u> Beach

Mr. Martin explained that this agenda item is an attempt to correct an administrative error in the Public Works Department records. To do this they are requesting authorization to purchase a portion of Ivy Street. He explained that Mr. Stowe, the property owner with whom they have been dealing, wished to sell some property and during the course of his survey found out that the County has a gravel road that sits on a portion of his property. They have been negotiating with Mr. Stowe to come up with a price of \$25,000 to purchase 4,749.25 square feet of his property. They used the assessed value to arrive at this figure.

Commissioner Anderson pointed out that this kind of thing has occurred in other instances throughout the County.

Mr. Flude said there are further ambiguities about this. When the plat was developed these were dedicated to the County as public roads. He said he is of the opinion that this is a County right of way and not a County road. Purchasing this property will not make this a County road, but a public road on a County right-of-way.

Commissioner Anderson said, if the County tries to correct all of these roads throughout the County, "we could really open up a can of worms".

There was a great deal of discussion about this matter.

Commissioner Anderson then stated that he would not be in favor of purchasing this road. It was found through the GIS system that hardly any of Skagit County's roads are where they are supposed to be.

Commissioner Munks suggested holding off on a decision until further questions can be answered.

Commissioner Anderson agreed, stating that he would like to dig into this a little bit more. He said he did not think there needed to be a motion from the Board. He suggested that Steve Flude talk to John Moffat about this.

# 5. <u>Signature – Contract Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 005381 with blj Design</u>

Mr. Martin explained that bj Design has been working with the Public Works Department on developing enhanced computer graphics for the Skagit River Flood Control Project. They have developed an initial video of the proposed project and how it would work during a flood event. He said they are asking blj to go a step further and actually show the effects of a 200-year flood upon the existing conditions of our flood plain. That would increase the contract from \$20,000 to \$40,000 by way of the amendment.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve for signature Contract Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 005381 with blj Design in the amount of an additional \$20,000 added to the original contract. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Contract No. 05381)

#### 6. <u>Miscellaneous</u>

Mr. Martin presented the following miscellaneous items.

a. This Thursday the 2514 Executive Committee will meet. One of the topics will be the government initiating for the watershed planning process. This would include the tribe, Anacortes, Mount Vernon, PUD and Skagit County. The process was set up to take a look at the Samish Basin. The rules for putting these together say that the counties the watershed is in have to be involved.

The issue has come up because Ecology has grant money, under 2514, to initiate these watershed-planning processes. The state is working toward establishing in-stream flows for these watersheds. An in-stream flow has not been established for WIRA 4.

The question is going to come up on Thursday about whether Skagit County should indicate an interest in applying for this grant? Or, is the current setup with the initiating governments, Mount Vernon, and the tribe, etc.; should they be applying for the grant? It is a confusing situation.

Commissioner Anderson said he believes that Skagit County should apply for this grant. When the initial study was done, Skagit County was not a party to it in any way until the study was finished for the Memorandum of Understanding between Anacortes, PUD and the Indian tribes. They met and then came forward to the County with the finalized document asking that the County sign on in support of it. He said he read the document and the "ox that was getting gored was eastern Skagit County".

Therefore, if there is money available and the County wishes to have a voice in this process, the County should apply for this grant and "do our own study".

Mr. Martin said he would try to gather more information between now and Thursday and keep the Board apprised of his findings. It is a confusing situation.

Commissioner Anderson said he does not want Anacortes and the tribes and PUD setting the in-stream flows or doing the study on WRIA 4. The County needs to be involved. When this thing unfolds there are going to be rural property owners trying to purchase back water rights from PUD, Anacortes and the Indian tribes in order to build a house. That is where this is headed. "If there is money available then I'd rather we do it than leave it up to somebody else."

Commissioner Munks agreed. Although he was not present when the previous process took place, after reading the document, if this is the next process, he agrees with Commissioner Anderson. Skagit County needs to be the agency that deals with establishing the water rights issue.

Mr. Martin said, in reading the statute, it looks like the initiating governments in WIRA 4 would have to be the three counties involved, plus towns or cities within that water area. It looks like reorganization might be necessary. Ecology would like to keep the existing structure.

Commissioner Anderson said he is totally opposed to that as it would be non-beneficial to the County. The County needs to get out and get more aggressive in trying to protect rural property owners. He said he lives in the city and it's a great service. It is not anti-PUD, it's not Anacortes or the Indian tribes, but it's about parity and fairness.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said that with all of the parties involved the County should be the lead agency in that water is going to be the most important resource for all the citizens in Skagit County. There is sufficient water for everyone to have water but there hasn't been representation by the County. Agriculture is at risk.

#### PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER - Tom Karsh, Director

Tom Karsh, Director, Planning and Permit Center, stated that Linda Kuller would present the following agenda items.

### 1. Approval of the Following:

# A. <u>Final Plat PLoo-0840 PUD Rivers Edge (Divisions 15 & 16 of Wilderness Village)</u>

Linda Kuller, Senior Planner, presented the above plat to the Board for their approval. Rivers Edge includes six lots. This plat represents a reduction in the number of lot sizes. The lots are served by a private road, which will be maintained by strict covenants. The plat has been signed by all of the required departments.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a resolution concerning a final plat of Rivers Edge PLoo-o840 PUD Rivers Edge as presented by Linda Kuller, Senior Planner. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

# B. <u>Final Plat Ploo-0420 Waters View (Divisions 17 & 18 of Wilderness Village PURD)</u>

Ms. Kuller presented the above plat to the board for their approval indicating that it also consists of six lots, with basically the same layout. It has the same trail amenities, etc.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve adoption of a resolution concerning a final plat on Waters View PLoo-o420 Waters View, Divisions 17 and 18 of Wilderness Village. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### 2. Miscellaneous

- a. Gary Christensen, Assistant Director, Planning and Permit Center, three presented three progress reports. He talked about the 2001 comp plan amendments, the environmental review status, and the updated reports for the Bayview Ridge Sub-area Plans.
- b. Mr. Karsh said they would be coming back before the Commissioners as soon as possible about prioritization of tasks for the year 2002. At that time they will be requesting input from the Commissioners.
- c. Mr. Karsh said that negotiations have begun with Buck and Gordon for the 2002 contract. Staff is satisfied with their work and would like to continue with the contractual arrangement.

### <u>DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION OF AMENDMENT ON EXTENSION OF THE TIME FOR AGRICULTURAL BUFFER ORDINANCE</u>

Tom Karsh presented an interim ordinance amending sections of the Critical Areas Ordinance specifically SCC 14.24.120(3)(g) and (4)(e), to extend the dead line. The ordinance is a staff recommendation of action they believe the Board should take in response to the Superior Court decision, although the Judge has not yet rendered a final decision.

A summary of opinion was received that a portion of the Ag buffer program has been deemed to lack a basis in best science. The staff needs time to work with the Growth Hearings Board and the appealing parties in this lawsuit to consider the next course of Action.

November 27 was to have been the deadline for property owners to select a plan. Staff is recommending that the deadline be extended for property owners to select an option to May 24, 2002.

Commissioner Anderson said this would enable the Commissioners to explore other options that could lead to another legal challenge.

Ric Boge, Natural Resource Project Manager, Public Works Department, added that this would provide time to sort out the details to try to work out better answers to the questions that are out there right now.

John Moffat, Prosecutor's Office, clarified that the ag buffer does not include all lands, but just lands with salmon bearing streams, etc. The problem with CREP is that a letter has been received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture taking the position that, because Skagit County's Ordinance 18069 states that people have until November 27, 2001 to choose an option and have not, they are automatically subject to default buffers, as set forth in the Critical Areas Ordinance. They have taken the position that they automatically have the 200' option, can no longer farm that land, and would no longer be eligible for CREP. That is the problem. The letter, combined with the Judge's ruling, means it will be necessary to go back to the drawing board to figure out what the options are for people who have not yet chosen one and for those who have to pick a different one.

Commissioner Munks stated that the Commissioners are still trying to understand the decision of the judge. This does provide an opportunity to take a look at the best available science. He encouraged anyone with information that is true science to come forward to help the Commissioners determine what they are going to do.

Tom Karsh said the Board should adopt an interim ordinance followed by a public hearing. Within the next 60 days there will be a public hearing before the Skagit County Planning Commission. The public will then have an opportunity to comment about the action taken today.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve for signature an interim ordinance to extend the deadline for choosing a buffer option and to extend the timeline for implementation.

Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried. (Ordinance No. 18499)

Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

# <u>DECISION – APPEAL BY DONALD CALDWELL OF THE HEARING EXAMINER'S DECISION (PLo1-0737)</u>

Chairman Anderson apologized for the absence of Commissioner Dahlstedt, who had to go to Seattle to a Corps of Engineers meeting.

Commissioner Munks stated that he has reviewed the facts that were provided at the public hearing and the hearing examiner's information. He then made a motion to reject the appeal and uphold the Hearing Examiner's decision. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

# PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING ADOPTION OF OPEN SPACE CORRIDORS AND GREENBELTS WITHIN AND BETWEEN URBAN GROWTH AREAS

Kendra Smith, Assistant Director, Planning and Permit Center, reported that a public hearing was held with the Planning Commission where they made some major amendments to the proposal.

Because of that the County Commissioners are having their own public hearing because of the direction of the Hearings Board to have something in place within 128 days.

One of the big changes was in the area of open space being an issue of public and private open space. The Planning Commission decided that anything that was in a private capacity should not be included. With that they had the recorded motion.

Ms. Smith then reviewed the findings. One of the findings was to remove critical areas. There are a number of critical areas in Skagit County and it would be hard to map those areas. Those kinds of buffers provide natural greenbelts for the County and are considered greenbelt open space, although they are not public. The Planning Commission also wanted to delete the dike trails. The dike trails have been perceived as being an open space corridor, and they have also been perceived as providing public open space.

Another change was in the area of agricultural land. The original draft included several highways, such as Highway 11, Chuckanut Drive. It also included the area between Burlington and Bayview as an open space corridor because the land all around it is zoned agricultural. This could be considered an open space corridor and a protected area, but not necessarily with public access through them. She said they included those areas in order to find the different links and connections throughout the County, as well as connections to Whatcom County and the urban growth areas. That portion was removed.

The Planning Commission also requested that the Cascade Trail be removed. In the Comp Plan it states that there is a pending lawsuit and that until that has been dismissed the trail should not be included. The Planning Commission felt strongly that that meant the litigation hadn't ended. They did keep the Skagit River as a corridor, which helped link Burlington and Mount Vernon together.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing for public comment.

Thomas Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Alger, said he was a little concerned about the title of the hearing. The word "between" is a vague word and has to do with distances. It could be all encompassing very easily. The proper term should have been "abutting" or "adjacent". It was difficult to get the materials to study this, but he stated that he was glad to see that the Planning Commission eliminated the dikes and the Cascade Trail. Anything that is privately owned should be off limits to a greenbelt. No more ground needs to be confiscated as the government has already stolen enough. He said he hopes to regain some lost ground.

John Schultz stated that he id the attorney representing Dike District 1 and 12 in Burlington. He said there hasn't been much time to review the proposals. As he understands it, the Planning Commission has taken the dikes entirely out of this proposal. That is a good plan and the dikes represent a lot of private property owners. There are liability and other concerns unique to dike districts. They should not be included in the open space or greenbelt areas. On the proposal on page 3, with respect to the Mount Vernon corridors, it does talk about the Skagit River, which is protected. He said there is a reference to Dike District 1, but he does not see a reference to 12. He requested that both dike districts be removed from the open space corridors.

Randy Good, 25512 Minkler Road, Sedro Woolley, stated that they support the October 9 Planning Commission draft, with a correction to the narrative relative to the Concrete and Sedro Woolley open space corridors, that the Planning Commission intended to eliminate all reference to railroad corridors, etc. These changes should be made under the Concrete and Sedro Woolley narrative in the Planning Commission draft.

He encouraged the Board to change the language so landowners are protected from land taking and that no public access is allowed on private property and the right to farm is not hindered. He

questioned how citizens could feel safe on these proposed plans when the attorney can instruct The Commissioners about "how to confiscate our lands without our knowledge".

He said he would also like to address public process concerns. He mailed a letter to the Commissioners on August 20 addressing the Planning Department's failure to supply information requested for the September 4 public hearing. He said he finally received the information two days before the written comment was due.

June Kite, 20819 Starbird Road, stated that she is representing Friends of Skagit County. The open space and greenbelt issue has been ongoing. She said that the Friends have made an effort to encourage the County to get into compliance with GMA. She noted that a number has been omitted from Map 4. A letter was also submitted to the Planning Commission from the Friends of Skagit County.

Carol Ehlers, Wind Crest Lane, West Fidalgo Island, recommended a couple of modifications. She referred to number 11. State Route 20 was designated by the State in 1967 and reaffirmed to the State and Federal Department of Transportation in 1993. This gives it a much stronger position than indicated here. It is something that has had an undue impact on development. The limitations GMA requires are also required by the Feds. Number 12 refers to the Skagit River as being between Mount Vernon and Burlington. It is one of the main habitat sites in the County; it also connects Lyman, Hamilton and Concrete and should be so recorded.

She suggested that the Commissioners review items listed in a publication sent out November 20 by the Office of Community Development. One of the main weaknesses in this document is the failure to include public parks in the cities. The Anacortes forestlands provide exactly the kind of habitat and recreation that GMA asks for. They pre-date GMA by about twenty years. Also, the City of Anacortes has Washington Park, which is another example of exactly the kind of thing GMA wishes to encourage. There are also other parks within the boundaries of the City of Anacortes. There are all kinds of groups working very hard to do all the things that need to be done without using public money and they are doing it out of the goodness of their hearts. It should be possible to send a message to the various cities and ask them what their parks and designated UGA's are. That would be a more effective backup to show that Skagit County can claim to be one of the best counties in the State in terms of what we have to offer.

Geri Krampetz, 2748 West Gilligan Road, Sedro Woolley, asked for consideration relative to number 7. Skagit County Parks and Recreation did a survey that went to all households in the County and the will of the citizens was trails. Also, there is no scientific evidence to back up the statements of some that trails are unsafe. In fact, a lot of evidence has been supplied by the National Park Service that says trails are a safe place to be. She suggested that in light of September 11, everyone think about trails, as they provide people a place to go to renew their spirits and take their families to enjoy the outdoors. She said she daily sees an increase in the use of the Cascade Trail, with people walking, bike riding and horseback riding. She also asked the Commissioners to consider putting Chuckanut Drive back into an open space corridor.

Paul Reilly, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, said he was advised that there is some lack of clarity as to the legal status of the trails. He said there is no litigation with regard to the trail at this time. The matters brought by opponents of the trail or who claim loss of property, chose the State court system and have agreed with the federal courts that this is entirely a federal situation.

Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which was carried.

There was some discussion about time line. Ms. Smith said they would meet with the Hearings Board January 19. It was agreed that a decision would be rendered on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. under the Planning Department agenda time.

# PUBLIC HEARING – REGARDING CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ROLL, RATES, AND CHARGES FOR LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3 FOR LAKES ERIE AND CAMPBELL

The hearing was postponed because the legal notice was incorrect. It will be rescheduled.

### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Munks made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** 

	SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON
	Ted W. Anderson, Chairman
	Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner
	Don Munks, Commissioner
ATTEST:	
Jean Terry, Acting Clerk of the Board Skagit County Board of Commissioners	