

**SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002**

\*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director

1. Fee Schedule Changes
2. Group B Public Water System Program Update
3. Centers For Disease Control (CDC) Comes to Skagit County – TB Program on the National Map
4. Physical Activity Report
5. Miscellaneous

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Presentation – Skagit County Medic 1 System

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Discussion and Possible Approval – Growth Management Act Related Contracts

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

**BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director:**

**1. Fee Schedule**

Corrine Story, Environmental Health Supervisor explained the need to revise some parts of the Environmental Health portion of the Skagit County Health Department fee schedule due to the fact that food permit categories are in need of upgrading and to better reflect what is happening in environmental health programs.

The Food Permit changes are as follows:

- Catering Operation Permit: \$110 – same as the current fee
- Commissary Kitchen Permit: \$50 – new permit fee
- Packaged Food Permit: \$65 – same as the current fee
- Limited Food Service Permit: \$105 – new permit fee

In addition, a Limited Convenience Store or Espresso permit would allow low-risk potentially hazardous foods to be sold. Convenience stores with some food service would see an increase from \$65 to \$105, but it would allow them to expand their offerings. Espresso carts and candy kitchens would see no change in their permit fee. A Limited Tavern permit would see an increase in fee from \$75 to \$105 and would also be able to expand their menu offerings. A limited ‘umbrella’ permit for Farmers’ Markets is being proposed and there will be no fee change for a Deli permit.

Ms. Story also outlined the Liquid Waste Program fees. There will be an additional fee for a licensee with an on-site sewage system and it will be one category at \$35 vs. two at \$70 and \$35. A Pumpers’ Certification of \$100 is a new fee for the Health Department. Previously the Health Division of the Planning and Permit Center did this certification. In addition, Operations and Maintenance Specialist Certification is a new fee, which will cost \$50.

In accordance with the pending agreement with the State Department of Health, it has been agreed to use the fees reflected in the temporary worker housing WAC fee schedule, which are in line with the \$200 that has been charged. Also, Water Program fees are changed as follows: 1) Group B water supply report/evaluation from \$100 to \$150; 2) Public water system evaluation for

building permit from \$25 to \$35; 3) Private water supply evaluation from \$175 to \$200; 4) Additional fee for licensee with approved on-site water supply from \$25 to \$35.

Ms. Story said all of these changes are to better recover the true cost of their time, better reflect current trends, and to generally bring the fee schedule up-to-date. These changes will have close to a 'zero' effect on the overall environmental health budget, with the reductions, increases and new categories, and recategorizing some licensees.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve a call for a Public Hearing to adopt revisions to the Skagit County Health Department schedule of charges on March 12, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20020046)**

**2. Group B Public Water System Program Update**

Polly Dubbel, Environmental Health, outlined the Group B Public Water System Program for the Board.

The Skagit County Health Department is responsible for the oversight of small public water systems in the county. These are systems that have between two and fifteen connections or are serving less than 25 people a day on average. In the past, most of the involvement with these systems was limited by staff availability for the approval of new systems. Little follow-up was done on the systems once they were established.

Ms. Dubbel said that in the past year, efforts have been made to develop a line of communication with the water systems. Two educational mailings have been done on water quality issues that solicited up-to-date water system contact information. After the mailings, the Health Department received large numbers of coliform bacteria water sample results, some from systems that had not sampled their water for years. The department has been responding by phone to system managers when unacceptable sample results occurred thus aiding them in the procedures for taking follow-up samples to confirm contamination or in sanitizing the system.

Environmental Health has established more appropriate sampling schedules for systems that serve food service establishments or other facilities that potentially expose a greater number of people to the water. The more frequent sampling (quarterly instead of yearly) will give the systems and the Health Department better information on the safety of the drinking water for these systems.

Ms. Dubbel reported that in the next year, State funds will also allow them to visit Group B water systems with five or more connections. Those sites have been found to be extremely valuable for all involved and good working relationships with water system managers have been established. Through site visits the department is able to see the physical set-up of the water system and are sometimes able to spot very basic problems that can be easily fixed to provide safer water. Files will be updated with water system diagrams and photographs for future reference. Overall, the department is excited about improving their ability to assist small water systems in their goal of providing safe drinking water.

**3. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Comes to Skagit County – TB Program on the National Map**

Sandy Paciotti, Communicable Disease Supervisor, explained that on January 15, 2002, the Health Department received a day-long visit from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to evaluate the new two-month/two-drug preventative tuberculosis treatment program, which CDC and the American Thoracic Society recommended be used beginning in April of 2000. Isoniazid, being the less expensive treatment, but a longer treatment of nine months, is now the main preventative regimen recommended and is given free to clients. The two drugs currently used are

costly and blood must be tested more frequently according to CDC guidelines. Treatment usually costs from \$100-\$125 per month.

Ms. Paciotti, said Skagit County began the program in late 1999 at the suggestion of Dr. Chris Spitters, the Washington State tuberculosis consultant. Since then, 168 clients have started the treatment with a 73% completion rate, which is much higher than the Washington State completion rate of 60%. There were fifteen reactions, which were caught early. CDC says an 8-10% reactivity rate is within normal limits to continue using this particular treatment.

There have been nine deaths nationwide from use of this regimen. CDC is evaluating how the Health Department is monitoring their clients, why the reactions have not been severe and what risk factors clients who even mildly reacted may have had to cause Hepatitis. They were impressed that our clients were caught early before any liver damage resulted.

Skagit county is the largest cohort of facilities in the country for the CDC study, with Cook County Jail in Chicago being the next largest with 150 clients. The department has provided reports to CDC showing their results and they have reviewed all client records for possible reasons for reaction. Only Yakima and Snohomish counties have attempted this treatment, which ended with poor results.

CDC asked why the Health Department regimen was so successful. The reasons were that they were cautious in the treatment process, which required clients to report back weekly for symptom checks and liver function blood levels were monitored with any slight report of side effects or if the client had significant prior risk factors. In September of 2001, CDC published new guidelines to begin using this treatment regimen very cautiously and have begun a close evaluation of what might be causing reactions and deaths. Skagit County is the only County in Washington State continuing treatment on a consistent basis. The department has offered to become a pilot program for CDC and is currently looking for further grant funding.

#### **4. Physical Activity Report**

Alex Von Cube, Population and Information Health Manager, reported that during the last three months prevention publications have been made available entitled "Environmental Health in Skagit County", "Injury Prevention in Skagit County", and "Physical Activity and Your Health". Mr. Von Cube said they are wonderful publications that have come about with the leadership of Peter Browning, Health Department Director. The prevention reports will be distributed to all of the schools and the community. He stressed that education is the key to better health and is the one factor that influences health behavior at every turn. Any opportunity to increase education should be taken advantage of.

The Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition, under the direction of Liz McNett Crowl, has also distributed a pamphlet called "Be Healthy, Be Active". Mr. Von Cube says it is very important to collaborate with other agencies in order to keep abreast of all the data that has been collected for the publications with regards to updates.

Mr. Von Cube also mentioned that the Health Department is in the process of putting together a Community Health Survey with the hospitals and a number of other organizations. There were a number of public health issues that were addressed in the survey. As soon as the results have been compiled, they will be brought before the Board for review.

#### **5. Miscellaneous**

There were no miscellaneous items to report.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Chairman Don Munks said it has been decided to close consideration of the posted Human Resources Director position without filling it at this time. The Board intends to revisit the nature of this position and how best to fill it given the County's needs.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motion to approve closing the Human Resources Director position and Chairman Munks seconded the motion, which was carried. Commissioner Anderson opposed the decision.

**PRESENTATION – SKAGIT COUNTY MEDIC 1 SYSTEM:**

Jodi Monroe, Executive Director of Skagit Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council, introduced the executive council members for EMS to the Board.

Earl Klinefelter, Training Coordinator, gave a brief overview of the differences between basic life support and advanced life support.

Jim Porch, a paramedic with Affiliated Health Services then explained some of the equipment used for saving lives that is found on units responding to emergency calls.

Dennis Taylor, Skagit EMS, reported on the Skagit County EMS System Council Strategic Plan for 2002-2006. The Executive Board developed five-year strategic goals in work session held December 10, 2001 and January 7, 2002. The planning process included a review of past accomplishments, assessment of current and near-term environment, discussion of system assessment conducted by Emergency Services Education and Consulting Education Group (ESECG), and the projection of needs for the next five years. Five strategic goals were identified with specific, measurable objectives and action plans, which are as follows:

- High Quality, Cost-Effective EMS Services in Skagit County
- Financial Solvency for the EMS System
- Continuous Improvement of the Quality of the EMS System
- Continuing Education for EMS Personnel, Public
- Effective Oversight and Administration of EMS Services

Mr. Taylor discussed the decision by Affiliated Health Services to stop providing ambulance service effective December 31, 2002. Affiliated supports the EMS Council's effort to move ahead with plans to provide ambulance service in central Skagit County.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve amending Agreement **(No. 05150)** for Medic 1 Services with the Skagit Emergency Services Council to add language that reads: 1) The Council agrees to coordinate those services necessary for a countywide emergency medical services program, including ambulance services at the paramedical level with twenty-four hour service in the County. The services to be coordinated by the Council shall be provided through a series of contracts between the Council and itself, or contracts with various services provider agencies and other persons who will be of assistance to the Council in maintaining the Medic 1 program". This Amendment will ensure uninterrupted ambulance service to citizens and visitors in the "central valley". Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(An Amendment will be brought forth at a later date)**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL – GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT  
RELATED CONTRACTS:**

Gary Christensen, Assistant Director of the Planning & Permit Center, discussed Amendment No. 4 to Personal Services Agreement **(No. 04771)** with Reid Middleton to add tasks 1 and 2 to the Agreement as well as increasing the compensation amount. Task 1 would be to prepare one

revised draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan and Development Regulations. Task 2 would involve the preparation of one revised draft of the Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan. Compensation shall be increased by \$5,500 for a total of \$52,002.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve Amendment No. 4 with Reid Middleton as outlined by Mr. Christensen. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Amendment No. A20020025)**

Mr. Christensen next discussed a Personal Services Agreement with Berryman & Henigar to provide consultant assistance to Skagit County and the Cities (Skagit Council of Governments)(SCOG) in supporting the process to establish population and employment targets to the year 2020 growth management planning purposes. Skagit County will act as the SCOG contracting entity for this assignment. As all jurisdictions have responsibility in establishing growth management targets within the Skagit Countywide Planning Policies, the consultant will provide facilitation assistance to the SCOG in addition to providing the work products as outlined. As time is of the essence, the production of work products and related scheduling of SCOG reviews and discussions will be coordinated by Skagit County.

Tom Karsh, Director of the Planning & Permit Center, read a letter from Terry Christiansen, Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Anacortes. It states:

Given the State's delay in issuing the baseline population projections from the Office of Fiscal Management and the inadequate funding provided for the task by the Legislature and Governor, the timeframe for cooperative Cities and County action on the 2002 GMA Updates is totally unrealistic. We consider the end of 2003 to be a more realistic and achievable timeframe. Under these circumstances the current proposal in Olympia to extend the deadlines to 2005 is much more sensible in order to allow the full public participation called for by the Growth Management Act and local ordinances.

Under these circumstances we request that the consultant contract that you are considering relative to the 2002 GMA Updates not lock us in to an unrealistic September 2002 schedule. Hopefully, the Legislature and Governor will give us all an extension. However, even if they do not do so it is the City's position that we will just need to be out of compliance for a few extra months to do the update properly. Much better this than have appeals go forward on inadequate work.

Mr. Karsh said there is concern that the information needed from the Cities and County will not be readily available. If that is the case, there will be problems with meeting the timeframe put into the contract. His recommendation is to move forward with the contract with Berryman & Henigar and invite them to meet with the SCOG planners next Friday to see if the information is available.

Commissioner Anderson said he thought it would be a good idea to consult with the city planners and then let the State know that the information cannot be readily obtained and that the timeline needs to be extended. He feels the consultant's work will likely result in having to amend the countywide planning policy.

Chairman Munks was concerned about losing grant funds. Commissioner Dahlstedt also expressed concerns and suggested an extension be requested now as opposed to later.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve a Personal Services Agreement with Berryman & Henigar in the amount of \$20,000. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20020053)**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Don Munks, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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