

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2002**

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2002:

- *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director
1. Shellfish for Summer 2002
 2. Behavior Risk Factor Survey for 2002
 3. Take Charge Program
 4. Bio-Terrorism Funding for Skagit County
 5. Basic Health for Non-Citizens
 6. Miscellaneous
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Update - Washington State University Cooperative Extension
- *T 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Public Hearing – Formation of Big Lake Management District
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bid Opening- Rainbow Bridge Cleaning and Painting Project
ES40039-2

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 7, 2002, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

1. **Shellfish for Summer 2002.**

Andy Ross, Environmental Health Specialist, gave an update on the Recreational Shellfish Program for 2002. Mr. Ross said the Skagit County Health Department (SCHD) works with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to monitor the safety of public shellfish beaches in Skagit County. The Health Department has established an ongoing program where a group of volunteers collects shellfish samples from popular beaches throughout the county. These samples are submitted to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories for testing of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). Public beaches are temporarily closed when PSP exceeds safe levels.

In March of this year, DOH issued a recreational shellfish harvest closure for Bayview State Park. This was based on DOH's findings of fecal coliform contamination of marine water at three sampling sites around Bayview State Park. SCHD is now working with DOH to determine the extent of fecal coliform contamination over a larger area in Padilla Bay as well as storm water runoff flowing into the bay.

Commissioner Anderson asked whether or not, during monitoring efforts, if it would be possible to distinguish human waste from animal waste.

Mr. Ross replied that there is new state of the art science which would be able to determine this, however, the testing is extremely expensive.

Chairman Munks added that fecal coliform doesn't always have to come from humans or large animals to cause problems. It can also come from small animals such as dogs, cats, birds, etc...

Mr. Ross assured the Board that they would be looking at all of the potential sources.

Mr. Browning indicated that the State Department of Health has continually cut funding for the shellfish program. It is a significant reduction for something so dangerous as shellfish poisoning.

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Mr. Browning thanked Mr. Ross and John Hadman for the tremendous job they have been doing with the limited funding, and said he appreciated all of the community support as well.

2. Behavior Risk Factor Survey for 2002.

Alex Von Cube, Population and Health Information Director, reported on the Behavior Risk Factor Survey for 2002. He remarked about the success of the dental van that was the result of the previous survey, which was conducted in 1995. The dental van operates strictly on a volunteer basis and did 3,400 processes last year.

Mr. Von Cube spoke about how collaboration within the community is so important. For example, in the planning process during the initial phase, \$5,000 was received from the County and various other health organizations contributed to the \$40,000 cost. The information gathered will be crucial when it comes to negotiating health benefits in the future. Priorities will eventually be determined by those organizations involved; the Health Department will only act as a facilitator in the implementation of the final plans.

Mr. Von Cube reported that Gilmore Research, Inc. based in Seattle, conducted a random telephone survey. In the process of randomization, Gilmore Research had to purchase the actual respondents through a vendor in Pennsylvania. Telephone numbers were distributed by zip code therefore, Skagit County received equal and meaningful responses. The survey was 20 minutes in duration and a total of approximately 130 questions were asked. A total of 1,007 surveys were completed out of 6,103 inquiries. The questionnaire was translated into Spanish, which garnered a 10% response from the Spanish population.

Commissioner Anderson queried Mr. Von Cube as to whether the reservations had been polled. Mr. Von Cube replied they had.

Mr. Browning added that they would like to explore the possibility of sponsoring a summit on aging in the near future. Even though there are a lot of organizations in the County that deal with seniors, information is still lacking for them.

The results of the Behavior Risk Factor for 2002 are currently available on the County website. A report of the findings will be published within approximately four weeks.

3. Take Charge Program

Heather Parker, Public Health Nurse, updated the Board on the Take Charge program taking place in Skagit County. The program is a state waiver to Federal medical coupon guidelines and a five-year demonstration project for the purpose of preventing unwanted, unplanned or mistimed pregnancies. Any man or woman who needs family planning services, is at or below the 200% Federal policy level, is a United States citizen and a legal Washington State resident is eligible for Take Charge. Services include a medical coupon for one year of free family planning, a physical exam, education and counseling, over-the-counter contraceptives, prescription contraceptives and/or sterilization. Take Charge provider sites are Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood and Teen Clinics; Sea Mar Clinic recently came on board. Island Prenatal Care Center is currently a pending site.

Ms. Parker added that services being provided by the Skagit County Health Department include part-time Nurse Practitioners that are available by appointment only. A Public Health Nurse is available every Tuesday and Thursday for walk-in office visits. Referrals are made to physicians for follow-up and procedures not provided at the SCHD.

Mr. Browning commended Ms. Parker for all of the hard work and dedication she has given to the Take Charge program.

4. **Bio-Terrorism Funding for Skagit County**

Sandy Paciotti, Communicable Disease Nursing Supervisor, reported on the Public Health Bio-Terrorism Preparedness and Response Grant.

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the anthrax scare, the government decided to beef up the Federal grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration that is being administered through the Center for Disease Control. Public Health nationwide has received 14.5 million in grant funds. The Washington State Department of Health was required to apply for funding prior to April 15, 2002. Funds are to be used to increase the Public Health systems' preparedness and the ability to respond to bio-terrorism as well as other Public Health emergencies and increased surveillance. They were awarded \$18,121,901.

Ms. Paciotti said that nine million dollars would be sent to local health departments to develop and test bio-terrorism. Three million dollars will be used to improve the State Public Health system such as PHIMS, upgrading the Public Health Lab and to help track unusual clusters of health symptoms. Six million dollars will be used to upgrade systems that support regional and local health, hospitals and emergency responders, in addition to improving the ability to respond to bio-terrorism and infectious disease outbreaks.

The Skagit County Health Department is expected to receive \$75,000 for education, planning and communicable disease infrastructure. Another \$55,000 will be used for Epi/Surveillance this year. Additional funds will be based on prioritized needs.

Mr. Browning thanked John Hadman for securing \$140,000, which will be administered through the Emergency Management Department. He also thanked Dr. Howard Leibrand for educating medical providers and others about the effects of anthrax.

Mr. Browning also added that he has been attending a lot of meetings, both locally and statewide, regarding bio-terrorism. Networks have been established between the Health Department and local area hospitals. They will work together to put into place a regional plan and discuss a computerized program that would be helpful in forecasting any potential problems.

5. **Basic Health for Non-Citizens**

Jennifer Sass, Child and Family Health Supervisor announced that this is National Nurses week and the Skagit County Health Department has sixteen of the best nurses in the area.

Ms. Sass reported that the State Legislature decided to eliminate from the budget DSHS medical coverage (medical coupons) for undocumented children and certain legal immigrants who have been in the United States less than five years. Until now, Washington State has been providing medical coverage to these children/families with the same benefits as the Federal Medicaid program. DSHS coverage for these groups will end September 30, 2002, at which time they will be eligible to apply for Basic Health. This will affect 690 undocumented children in Skagit County as well as 177 legal immigrants living in Skagit County who have been in the United States for less than five years. This does not affect pregnant women or children born in the United States.

Between May and July 2002, people will be notified that their DSHS medical coverage will end September 30, 2002 and that they will need to apply for Basic Health. On September 30, 2002, people will be terminated from "state-only" medical. These immigrants who do not enroll in Basic Health will continue to be eligible for Medicaid for emergency conditions only.

6. **Miscellaneous**

Sara Cierebiej, Environmental Health Specialist, gave a brief update on the Rabies program currently in place for Skagit County. This is the time of year when bats start appearing. The

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Health Department is responsible for following up on any bites reported by any animal. Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is carried by saliva. There have been only two deaths related to bat rabies since 1939. Ms. Cierebiej noted that only 5 -10% of bats sent in for testing turns out positive for rabies. It is estimated that the immunization process costs \$1,000 per person. Usually, health insurance companies will cover the cost.

Ms. Cierebiej also noted that there are three ways to reduce the risk of bat rabies: Make sure you don't pick up wild animals or bats, keep them out of your living space by way of screens and doors and make sure you vaccinate your pets against rabies and keep the immunizations current. Ms. Cierebiej encouraged everyone to call the Health Department if you think you have been exposed.

UPDATE – WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATION EXTENSION.

This item was postponed until a later date.

PUBLIC HEARING – FORMATION OF BIG LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

Steve Flude, Assistant Public Works Director, informed the Board that today's Public Hearing being held is to receive verbal and written testimony regarding the proposed reformation of Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake. Passage of the Resolution will initiate mailing a ballot to each affected property owner.

Lee First, Lake Management Technician, added that the number of votes accorded each property owner is one vote per dollar of proposed Lake Management District charge, as specified by RCW 36.61.090. A simple majority of votes marked "yes" by the Big Lake voters will initiate Board of County Commissioner action to adopt an Ordinance forming Lake Management District No. 1. Approximately six weeks following the adoption of the Ordinance, (the required appeal period), the Board will hold a second Public Hearing to hear any objections from affected property owners to the proposed special assessment roll to fund Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake, and to consider making changes to the roll.

Chairman Munks opened the Public Hearing.

Neil Hanson, 17523 State Highway 9, Big Lake, said he is the present chairman for the Big Lake Advisory Committee. Mr. Hanson said there is an overwhelming majority of property owners that feel the need to reform the district to make sure the lake is kept as clean as possible.

Ed Finlan, 18692 State Highway 9, Big Lake, is a waterfront property owner. He is opposed to the way the process is being carried out and feels it will be an ongoing tax that will never go away.

Jim Hanson, 17446 Mallard Cove Lane, Big Lake, a recent volunteer on the advisory committee, feels it is very unfortunate that the people that live on the lake have to bear the cost of the clean-up. He also agrees that it will be a long-term issue unless the State finds it important enough to fund it. Mr. Hanson is in favor of the reformation, however, he feels there are inadequacies as to the parcels being taxed.

William Niegowski, 17247 Lakeview Boulevard, Big Lake, has been a landowner since June of 2001. There are nine owners of Lot No. 53. All nine of them have been assessed taxes on the lot independent of one another. He asked why the lot assessment wasn't split between the nine parties.

Bruce Richlin, 17249 Lakeview Boulevard, Big Lake, favors extending the tax burden to homeowners and property owners around the entire lake. Mr. Richlin enjoys using the public boat launch and feels the County should upgrade the launch and begin charging a launch fee to help pay for the clean-up of Big Lake.

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Commissioner Anderson asked Ms. First what the State Fish and Wildlife's tax bill was. Ms. First said it is \$5,600 based on an estimated use of fifty vehicles per day. Commissioner Anderson also noted that the boat launch is owned by the State and perhaps they would be the best agency to address all of the concerns.

Ms. First suggested a letter be sent to the State regarding the dialog that was discussed today. Commissioner Anderson said he wouldn't be opposed to writing a letter regarding the boat ramp and the inequities of the tax burden.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Public Hearing was closed.

Ms. First said she recommends delaying the sending of the ballots for one week, as there has been some question as to who the property owners are. The ballots will be mailed by May 17th and must be returned by June 6, 2002.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the Resolution submitting the question of recreating the Skagit County Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R2002 00151)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve a Resolution Re-Approving Resolution No. 16564 Regarding the Formation of the Bullerville Sewer District. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on April 8, 1997, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners received a petition requesting the formation of the Bullerville Sewer District, as well as an Affidavit of Sufficiency from the Skagit County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 1997, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the formation of the Bullerville Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 1997, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 16564 approving formation of the Bullerville Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, apparently due to a misunderstanding, the initiators of the Bullerville Sewer District failed to comply with RCW 36.93.090 in that they failed to file a notice of intention to form such district with the Boundary Review Board within 180 days of the adoption of Resolution No. 16564; and

WHEREAS, it remains the intention of the initiators of the Bullerville Sewer District to form such District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Skagit County Board of Commissioners re-approves Resolution No. 16564 regarding the formation of the Bullerville Sewer District.

Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20020152)**

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**BID OPENING – RAINBOW BRIDGE CLEANING AND PAINTING PROJECT,
ES40039-2.**

Barb Hathaway, Public Works Department, opened the following bids for the Rainbow Bridge Cleaning and Painting Project, ES40039-2:

Dunkin & Bush, Inc.
4648 Pacific Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226
Bid Bond Enclosed
Statement of Experience and Qualifications Enclosed
Base Bid Total: \$768,867

D. S. Purcell Painting, Inc.
6456 South 144th Street
Tukwila, WA 98168
Bid Bond Enclosed
Statement of Experience and Qualifications Enclosed
Base Bid Total: \$788,000

Long Painting Company
21414 68th Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032
Bid Bond Enclosed
Statement of Experience and Qualifications Enclosed
Base Bid Total: \$837,250

Robison-Prezioso, Inc.
10114 Shoemaker Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Bid Bond Enclosed
Statement of Experience and Qualifications Enclosed
Base Bid Total: \$867,000

S & K Painting, Inc.
P. O. Box 390
15355 SE Industrial Way
Clackamas, OR 97015
Bid Bond Enclosed
Statement of Experience and Qualifications Enclosed
Base Bid Total: \$867,250

Ms. Hathaway advised the Board that upon review of the bids, a decision would be made and presented to them next week.

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ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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