

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2003**

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Approval of Washington State Economic Revitalization Team (WA -CERT) by Economic Development Association of Counties (EDASC)

*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director**
1. Illegal Drug Labs
2. Smallpox Immunizations
3. The Communicable Disease Center in Skagit County
4. Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Swinomish Channel Boat Launch (Under the Duane Berentson Bridge on Highway 20)

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 7, 2003 with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson, and Don Munks present.

APPROVAL OF WASHINGTON STATE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TEAM (WA -CERT) BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (EDASC).

Don Wick, Executive Director of Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC), reviewed the quarterly update of the projects that go on the priority listing for Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team (WA -CERT) Grant Funding. He stated that there was only one new project to add to the list, and it contains good criteria for submission to the State.

He reviewed a Project Proposal submitted by the City of Burlington for a new refrigeration unit at the licensed commercial kitchen located at the Burlington Farmer's Market kitchen. The commercial kitchen was using an old two door refrigerator that was in the Fire Station, which is the site for the market, however, it was not able to hold the required temperature. A unit was loaned to the facility by a local equipment dealer.

The refrigeration unit is expected to cost approximately \$12,000. To date, \$9,000 has been raised and the City of Burlington is requesting the extra \$3,000.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve that the request by the City of Burlington for a refrigeration unit at the Burlington Farmer's Market be placed on the list of projects for WA -CERT. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed.

Mr. Wick reported that he would bring a Resolution back to the Board for their consideration.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Peter Browning, Director

1. Illegal Drug Labs.

Polly Dubbel, Environmental Health, presented an update on Health Department action on illegal drug labs. She said they continue to be a growing concern in Skagit County. The number of drug labs reported to the Skagit County Health Department has increased from 5 in 2000 to 6 in 2001 and to 15 in 2002. They have been discovered in cars, trailers, motel rooms and houses. They involve the use of readily available chemicals and when combined through a process known as cooking, form the drug methamphetamine, a very highly addictive nervous system stimulant. After marijuana, methamphetamine is currently the most widely used illicit drug in Washington State. It destroys the producers, the users, their families, and neighborhoods.

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Drug production results in the release of hazardous chemicals and contamination of any structure or land used for the production of methamphetamine. Local health jurisdictions are required by RCW 65.44 to determine whether a structure or property used as a methamphetamine lab is safe to re-occupy. This process generally involves a temporary property condemnation until adequate cleanup or destruction of the contaminated structure(s) has occurred.

The Health Department has developed a Drug Lab Policy to better deal with the increasing work load that drug labs require and to have effective, safe, consistent methods of dealing with the many difficult situations that can arise related to drug labs. Ms. Dubbel said the plan is to develop this policy into Skagit County Code with the next revision of the county's solid waste code. This should help to better assure that the hazards of drug labs are removed from neighborhoods in a safe and timely manner.

Commissioner Munks asked if grants might be available to help potential buyers or landowners cleanup the sites. Ms. Dubbel said there are no grants, however, the Department has supplied illegal dumping funds when deemed necessary.

Commissioner Anderson said he liked the idea of enforcing a civil penalty when developing the revised code. He feels it should be something that has some teeth in it such as the fine for illegal dumping. The County would then be able to put a lien on the property and provide the cleanup necessary if the property owners are uncooperative.

Peter Browning, Director, advised that he, Ms. Dubbel and others are working at putting together a methamphetamine forum later this year. It will be beneficial for realtors, motel owners, businesses, rental car businesses, law enforcement, schools and concerned citizens.

2. Smallpox Immunizations.

Sandy Paciotti, Communicable Disease Nurse and Supervisor, gave a smallpox vaccine update. She reported that last March, the federal government requested all states to submit Bioterrorism Preparedness grants to begin readying themselves in the event of another possible attack upon the United States after 9/11 events of 2001. Washington State complied and received approximately \$22 million to begin planning. Our County first completed a local preparedness assessment by the end of September and then began the planning phase.

In November, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) asked all states to shift this emphasis to submitting plans for vaccinating specific staff against smallpox. In December, the Washington State Department of Health submitted its Stage I Smallpox Vaccination Plan to CDC. The plan detailed the number and types of public health and hospital workers who would be vaccinated to better prepare our state for a smallpox attack. At this time, there is no reason to believe an attack is imminent. The State I Smallpox Vaccination Plan shows approximately 7000 people in Washington will be vaccinated. This includes about 5900 hospital workers who may diagnose and treat smallpox cases in the hospital, 1100 public health workers who will investigate and assess cases, as well as vaccinate contacts and the community should an event occur.

Ms. Paciotti said this is all a part of their readiness in strengthening their ability to respond quickly and effectively. Participation on these teams will be voluntary. With the information gathered right now, the risk of side effects from the vaccine outweighs the threat of smallpox. She said Washington State does not have any smallpox vaccine available at this time and they do not recommend the vaccine for the general public.

Ms. Paciotti then introduced TJ Harmon, Blair Richards, and Holly Ann Hunt. They have been selected as the regional team that services each of the Public Health Departments in several surrounding counties.

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3. The Communicable Disease Center in Skagit County.

Ms. Paciotti next discussed the follow-up CDC oversight visit of the Skagit County Health Department's tuberculosis program. She said CDC returned to Skagit County in November to re-evaluate the Department's 2 month/2 drug preventative treatment program, which was started in May of 2000. The normal tuberculosis preventative treatment is a 9-month course. Since the new 2-month course of treatment has been introduced, there have been a significant amount of documented reactions and/or deaths. However, the CDC and the American Thoracic Society are not suggesting discontinuing use of this treatment.

Ms. Paciotti then presented statistics for 2000 through 2002 for those clients that have been and currently are enrolled in the 2-month treatment program. She indicated that this particular program must be paid for by the client, as the County cannot fund the cost of medicines and the necessary blood work to monitor the treatment. Skagit County is the only county in Washington still attempting this treatment regimen.

4. Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition.

Mr. Browning reported that Skagit County was one of the few counties in Washington State that received prevention dollars, as we have been recognized as having the most productive physical activity program. Regence Blue Shield has contributed approximately \$150,000 to the coalition to be spread out over a three year period. Liz McNett Crowl has been chosen as Skagit County's Physical Activity Coalition Coordinator.

Commissioner Anderson said he would like to see the revival of Skagit County's internal wellness program.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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