

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003**

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.                      Work Session – Operation Division Manager/ Road District Maintenance Supervisors
- \*T** 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.                      **Public Works Department, Chal Martin, Director**  
1.            Review and Follow-up on Current Flood Situation  
2.            Miscellaneous
- \*T** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.                      **Planning and Permit Center, David W. Blane, Director**  
1.            2004 Planning and Permit Center Budget Overview  
2.            Request for Direction Following Lot Aggregation Work Session of October 7, 2003  
3.            Consideration and Possible Action – Resolution Establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee to Address the Review of Skagit County’s Forest Natural Resource Lands Designations, Policies, and Development Regulations  
4.            Set Date and Time to Consider Planning Commission Recorded Motion on the Transportation Systems Plan, Which Includes the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan  
5.            Miscellaneous
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.                      Work Session – Solid Waste
- \*T** 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.                      Presentation of the J. Larry Russell Commemorative Award
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.                      Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation, and Land Acquisition

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson and Don Munks present.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – CHAL MARTIN, DIRECTOR**

**1.        Review and Follow-Up on Current Flood Situation.**

Director, Chal Martin provided a review and follow-up on the current flood situation. He stated that for years the inflow into the Baker system as been underestimated and continues to be the case. He supplied a chart which showed the actual inflow into the system and the water flows at several different locations. Mr. Martin said that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) certainly didn’t need to supply flood storage but that the amount of storage that was available helped tremendously. It was available due to the fact that the reservoirs were so low. He added that without flood storage in Lake Shannon, flood control in the Baker system would be unattainable. Discussions will continue with PSE to obtain storage in that particular lake.

Commissioner Anderson noted that the Board has a keen interest in increasing flood storage to help the upriver communities. Therefore, it seems reasonable for them to be an active player in the relicensing process to achieve the increased storage.

Chairman Dahlstedt thanked PSE for their efforts as they didn’t have to lower the level of the lakes for the flood event but they did. The flood could have been much worse if they hadn’t of cooperated. He also said it seemed as though more logs were coming down the river than ever before, which caused a lot of log jams at the bridges. This is yet another reason why the Commissioners are dedicated to seeing that the 3-bridge corridor project proceeds.

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Commissioner Munks said after taking a tour of the area by helicopter, the amount of debris washing down the river and out into the ocean was tremendous. He said it makes you wonder how the debris affects the river banks.

Commissioner Anderson spoke about the flood situation in the Hamilton and Lyman areas and said the Board is concerned about the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. "We have little authority over the river that causes the problems but it would help to remove river obstructions before we receive high winds and high water" stated the Commissioner. He also noted that it is imperative to get Skagit County declared a disaster area so that the FEMA team can come on board and help as the County has sustained a lot of damage. Commissioner Anderson stated that the Red Cross is here in force and are doing a great job, however, people want to know where FEMA is. They are unable to lend a hand until a disaster is declared.

Mr. Martin explained that damage estimates haven't been tallied yet. Commissioner Anderson said his personal estimate is between 4-5 million dollars. Mr. Martin said discussions will be taking place with the Assessor regarding property values in the Hamilton area. Commissioner Anderson said at one point there had been talk of relocating the Town of Hamilton, however, the Growth Management Hearings Board turned down the request. He said the Commissioners will revisit the proposal again, especially if Skagit County is declared a disaster area.

The three Commissioners thanked all of the people involved in the flood fight and recovery efforts. They said they are pleased to see neighbors are helping neighbors, which proves it is a great County that we live in. It is a difficult situation as there are a lot of people that have no where to go. The Board also thanked the Public Works Department, Congressman Rick Larson, Burlington Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma and Sedro-Woolley Mayor Sharon Dillon for all of their support. They also encouraged anyone that would like to volunteer with the cleanup efforts to contact the Emergency Management Department. Commissioner Munks also recommended that the citizens of Skagit County put forth an effort to donate items to help flood victims replace what has been lost.

**2. Miscellaneous.**

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

**PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER – DAVID BLANE, DIRECTOR**

**1. 2004 Planning & Permit Center Budget Overview.**

Director, David Blane, reviewed the 2004 Budget for the Planning & Permit Center. He stated that after meeting with several people within the department, upcoming projects were put into two categories – mandatory and discretionary. He then summarized each project and noted that project #7 was being taken off of the mandatory list as it has already been taken care of.

Commissioner Anderson stressed the importance of project #3, subarea planning. He strongly urged the department to initiate the third subarea plan, which would involve the Alger and Big Lake areas.

**2. Request for Direction Following Lot Aggregation Work Session of October 7, 2003.**

Mr. Blane indicated that the lot aggregation interim ordinance is due to expire the first week of December. Therefore, a decision needs to be made as to whether the ordinance needs to be extended or whether to approve a new and improved interim ordinance. He said he is confident that Plan B could be ready and scheduled to come before the Board within the next two weeks. Commissioner Anderson said he would prefer that approach.

Mr. Blane also asked if the pilot lot certification program should be done in-house or should be contracted out. It is on hold at this point as it is a budget and policy item. However, the department would like to know quickly how they should handle it.

**3. Consideration and Possible Action – Resolution Establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee to Address the Review of Skagit County’s Forest Natural Resource Lands Designations, Policies and Development Regulations.**

Guy McNally, Planning & Permit Center, discussed the matter of establishing and making the appointment for a new Forest-Natural Resource Lands Citizen Advisory Committee. He then reviewed the list of potential candidates that the Board has chosen. Mr. McNally said candidates for this committee should be citizens with unique experience in comprehensive planning, growth management, and natural resource land management, or other related areas to review, comment on, and suggest alternatives to proposed Forest-Natural Resource Lands designation criteria, the resulting mapped areas, and policy or regulatory changes needed to ensure conservation of forest lands of long-term commercial significance as required by the Growth Management Act.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the appointment of a Citizen Advisory Committee as outlined by Mr. McNally. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. A resolution will be drafted and put the on consent agenda within the next two weeks.

**4. Set Date and Time to Consider Planning Commission Recorded Motion on the Transportation Systems Plan, Which Includes the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.**

Kendra Smith, Assistant Director, reviewed the background of the Transportation Systems Plan, which includes the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Commissioner Anderson motioned to hold a public hearing to consider the Planning Commission’s Recorded Motion on this matter on Monday, November 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**5. Miscellaneous.**

- a) Tim DeVries from the Planning Department presented a resolution which would waive all County fees for permits to repair damages caused by the October 21, 2003 flood. All repair work is limited solely to damage caused by the flood and permit applications for flood damage repair must be received no later than April 21, 2004. All work that is done must be in compliance with Skagit County permit requirements.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board said they were very supportive of the resolution. Commissioner Anderson said this might also be the time to educate people as to what exactly needs to be done to prevent unsafe conditions. Commissioner Munks echoed those sentiments and said it is important to make sure people take every precaution to clean out their homes in order to have a safe environment to live in.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the resolution as outlined by Mr. DeVries. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried. **(Resolution No. R20030350)**

- b) Ms. Smith gave an update on Phase One of the Shorelines Master Plan. Under a future Consent Agenda, the department will be bringing forth a contract between Skagit County and a consulting firm, which has been budgeted for. She indicated that Phase Two would be reviewed next year.
- c) Mr. Blane introduced Brent Morrow as a replacement for Linda Kuller who left County employment in June of this year.

Chairman Dahlstedt noted that while touring the Town of Hamilton, it was brought to their attention that the Growth Management Hearings Board had denied an application to move the Town. The Board will be attempting to address this issue on a more serious note this time as it only makes common sense. While the flood is still fresh, this would be a golden opportunity to revisit the proposal, which will require some interaction between the Town and the Planning &

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Permit Center. Chairman Dahlstedt stated that the Commissioners will be stressing the importance of more flood storage and are committed to making sure the 3-Bridge Corridor project takes place.

**PRESENTATION OF THE J. LARRY RUSSELL COMMEMORATIVE AWARD.**

Tim Holloran, Coordinator for Special Olympics, stated that the program is celebrating its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of athletic training, sharing courage, joy and friendship throughout the valley. Currently there are close to 200 special athletes participating. Mr. Holloran then introduced Tyler Davis, a seventeen year old who attends the transition school in Mount Vernon. Tyler has been involved in Special Olympics for eleven years and trains and competes in the sports of basketball, bowling, swimming, track and cycling. His passion sport is cycling and he enjoys major league baseball as well.

Mr. Holloran said the presentation of the J. Larry Russell Commemorative Award is an ongoing celebration of a very special person's life and a tribute to the impact he made in our community and our lives. Jimmy Larry Russell passed away at the age of forty. He was one of the original members of our Special Olympics Program and acted as a self-imposed ambassador, in addition to touching many lives in our valley.

Commissioner Anderson introduced Gladys Buhrow, Larry's mother, and stated that the J. Larry Russell Award is presented as our community's appreciation of an individual's or organizations outstanding support of Special Olympics in Skagit County. This award is one of a kind and the only one in the nation honoring community support for Special Olympics as a tribute to the life and legacy of a Special Olympian. Past recipients include: Ben and Elsie Bournes; Skagit Bicycle Club; Skagit Valley Eagles No. 3242; Pauli Mickelson, Bill Silves & Carlos Hall; and the Ed Gegen Family.

Mr. Holloran stated that this year's presentation is made in appreciation and recognition of the work of RiverCity Screenprinting and the Kyle Davis Family. RiverCity Screenprinting is family-owned by Kyle Davis and his wife Barb. He said Kyle has always provided shirts and uniforms at cost while donating free printing. Special Olympics has been the fortunate recipient of their generosity for many years, accounting for countless in-kind dollars of support. Kyle also created a job for a special needs individual in his business. Mr. Holloran also noted that Special Olympics families and their support and participation in the program is truly essential for success. Barb Davis is a long-time, well respected educator in the Mount Vernon School District and holds a Masters Degree in Special Education.

Kyle, Barb and their daughter Megan believe Special Olympics gives their family a nice way to support Tyler and participation in the program has certainly enriched Tyler's life. This award recognizes the impact The Davis Family has made in the lives of many special people and their successes. They are being honored for their work over the years in the name of Larry Russell.

The Commissioners asked Kyle, Barb, Megan and Tyler to come forward to accept this year's J. Larry Russell Award. Barb Davis then concluded by reading a letter she wrote regarding her early involvement in the 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**

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

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Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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