

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003**

- *T** 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director
1. Update – Water Program in Skagit County
 2. Discussion – Skagit County’s Younger/Older Population
 3. Update – Changes in First Steps Program
 4. Update – WIC Nutrition Program
 5. Discussion/Possible Action – Emergency Resolution for Free Bacteriological Water Testing and Free Tetanus Shots for Flood Victims
 6. Miscellaneous
- *T** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Discussion - Updated Department Recommendations on 2003 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Applications
- *T** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Public Hearing – Review Community Needs Related to the Services Presently Provided by Skagit County Community Action Agency (SCCAA), Inform Citizens of the Availability of Funds and Eligible Uses of the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Receive Comments on Proposed Activities of Expanding the SCCAA Location and Facilities in an Effort to Meet Expressed Community Needs, Particularly for Low- and Moderate-Income Persons Residing in Skagit County
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Work Session – Task Force Preliminary Recommendations – Guemes Island Ferry Fares and Schedule

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present. Commissioner Don Munks’ absence from the Board of Health agenda was excused due to illness; however, he was present for the remainder of agenda items.

BOARD OF HEALTH – PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR

Public Health Director, Peter Browning, introduced Alba Gutierrez as a new employee of the Health Department. Ms. Gutierrez was a nurse in Mexico and has recently graduated as a Physician’s Assistant. She will be a welcome addition to the department.

1. Update – Water Program in Skagit County.

Lorna Parent gave a Power Point presentation on Skagit County’s Interdepartmental Water Program. She stated that half of the population is serviced by Public Utilities District No. 1 (PUD) and the City of Anacortes. The State Department of Health (DOH) has begun funding sanitary surveys on large and small systems throughout the County. Ms. Parent said PUD has recently applied for more federal funding for the Marblemount water system. She explained that part of the delay for this system are water rights issues with the Department of Ecology (DOE). Commissioner Anderson expressed his dismay over the constant hurdles DOE continues to use to block progress. He stated that the Marblemount system is critical to the folks that live in that area.

Ms. Parent said the Environmental Protection Agency changed the maximum contaminate level for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb; however, they are only doing this for part of the systems. It has been somewhat confusing as to what they plan to do with the remainder. The State DOH has yet to decide what to do with the small system regulations. As a result, the County could end up with two different sets of health standards. She indicated that excellent resources exist for those citizens that have questions through Skagit County’s website at www.skagitcounty.net/drinkingwater and <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/welllog/>, which is the website for the State Department of Ecology.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
PAGE NO. 2**

Ms. Parent also noted that the SCC 12.48 – Water Code was drafted in 1992 and has worked well; however, many other state codes are linked to it, which will require updating. The Department is also working in-house on a water database that will tie water wells with the parcel on which they are located.

2. Discussion – Skagit County’s Younger Older Population.

Alex Von Cube and Jennifer Sass-Walton reviewed a report they recently collaborated on titled “Skagit County’s Younger Older Population.” Mr. Von Cube said it was funded by Affiliated Health Services, Island Hospital, Skagit County Community Action Agency, Skagit County Health Department and Skagit-Island Counties Medical Society. He thanked those organizations and the individuals who provided professional contributions and input.

The document includes information on the following topics:

- Demographics of Aging
- Physiologic Changes in Aging
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Diseases of Aging
- Health Care Access
- Finances
- Mental Health and Social Support
- Injury Prevention
- End of Life Issues

Ms. Sass-Walton spoke about how lifestyle changes in behavior is the biggest contributor to a person’s health. She indicated that 90% of health care dollars are spent on people that will be deceased within a year. Mr. Von Cube added that lifestyle changes work better than drugs and are generally cheaper.

3. Update – Changes in First Steps Program.

This update will be presented at a later date.

4. Update – WIC Nutrition Program.

This update will be presented at a later date.

5. Discussion/Possible Action – Emergency Resolution for Free Bacteriological Water Testing and Free Tetanus Shots for Flood Victims.

Corinne Story presented an emergency resolution authorizing bacteriological drinking water samples and tetanus boosters to be given at no charge through November 7, 2003 or longer, if deemed necessary. She explained that the resolution is necessary due to the flooding that began October 16, 2003. The flood contaminated drinking water wells and the citizens affected by the floodwater need to be protected as they may be exposed to contaminants, including tetanus, while cleaning up flood-soaked debris.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the resolution, as outlined by Ms. Story. Chairman Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which was carried. **(Resolution No. R20030356)**

It was reported that 40 free water samples were done last week and there are 40 more requests on the waiting list. In addition, over 400 tetanus boosters have been given.

6. Miscellaneous.

There were not miscellaneous items to discuss.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
PAGE NO. 3**

**DISCUSSION – UPDATED DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON 2003
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS.**

Gary Christensen, Administrative Official and Assistant Director, stated that on October 7, 2003, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on the 2003 Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications. The hearing was held to help the Board make its decisions on which proposals should move forward for further consideration by the County, and which should or could be denied without prejudice.

In response to public comments before and at the October 7 hearing, the Department has updated its recommendations, which include three proposals for which applicants had not previously provided sufficient information. These are: City of Anacortes, Mount Vernon School District, and WYJ Associates. A fourth proposal from the City of Mount Vernon has been withdrawn.

Mr. Christensen said that with a few exceptions, the Department is not recommending any additions to Municipal Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) in this round of Comprehensive Plan Amendments. With work about to begin on the 2005 update of the County's and cities' Comprehensive Plans, the Department believes it is not timely to consider significant UGA additions at this time. While several of these proposals may have merit, they would be most effectively considered in the context as part of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan update.

Mr. Christensen indicated that the Board has two options. They could deny the proposals without prejudice or initiate the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process and have them move forward. If approved for further consideration by the Board, amendment proposals would then undergo full public and agency review of the substantive merits, Planning Commission public hearing(s) and a final recommendation.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner, asked the Board if they had any outstanding issues with the proposals and the Board agreed that there were none. Commissioner Anderson noted, however, that each jurisdiction is allotted a commercial/industrial tax base. Because there has been some confusion over this issue, he said it might be good for the Planning Commission to discuss.

Chairman Dahlstedt concurred with Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Munks said he would like to see the County function as a whole. He is tired of each individual community looking out only for themselves. Each city tries to grab commercial/industrial base to meet residential growth, but residential growth isn't happening. The Growth Management Act said we would allow cities to venture out to meet residential needs; however, we only see the advancement of commercial takings. He stated that if the County isn't healthy then the cities aren't healthy. The cities want to grow bigger and have more power, which is creating some serious financial problems Countywide.

Chairman Dahlstedt disclosed that letters had been received from C. Thomas Moser regarding the Keith Johnson Comp Plan Amendment Lake Ten Quarry Proposal and from Gerald Steel, on behalf of the Washington State Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters in regards to an environmental element of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan.

For clarification purposes, Mr. Johnson asked the Board if they were ready to move forward on proposals by the City of Anacortes, Culbertson, Town of La Conner, Mount Vernon School District, WYJ Associates and Koozer.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve for further consideration those 2003 Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications recommended by the Planning and Permit Center in its Memorandum dated October 28, 2003, as outlined by Mr. Johnson, and to deny without prejudice all other 2003 Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
PAGE NO. 4**

Mr. Christensen said the Department will prepare a resolution, which affirms the Board's decision this morning and it will be placed on a future Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous.

Kendra Smith spoke of a previous discussion with the Board regarding a Personal Services Agreement with AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. The contractor would inventory the mass wasting and potential sedimentation areas along the Skagit County shorelines relative to the Shoreline Master Program update work. The agreement would commence on November 5, 2003 and continue until December 31, 2003. The amount of the contract would not exceed \$19,280.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the contract with AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., as outlined by Ms. Smith. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. C20030469)**

PUBLIC HEARING – REVIEW COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO THE SERVICES PRESENTLY PROVIDED BY SKAGIT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY (SCCAA), INFORM CITIZENS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND ELIGIBLE USES OF THE STATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND RECEIVE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF EXPANDING THE SCCAA LOCATION AND FACILITIES IN AN EFFORT TO MEET EXPRESSED COMMUNITY NEEDS, PARTICULARLY FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS RESIDING IN SKAGIT COUNTY.

Mike Edwards, Budget and Finance, provided handouts for the audience and indicated that an interpreter was present and available if needed. He stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to receive community input on a proposed grant application benefiting member agencies of the Skagit County Community Action Agency Resource Center.

Mr. Edwards said the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development have announced the availability of approximately \$1 million dollars in individual grants, which would be awarded on a competitive basis through the Community Development Block Grant program. The member agencies of the Resource Center have proposed to make application for those funds to enhance services by expanding the existing facilities and grounds. This suggested use of the grant funds has been endorsed by the Skagit County Commissioners by their commitment to contribute economically to the expansion project.

To further explain the details of the proposed plan, Mr. Edwards introduced Margy Miller, Director of Island and Skagit County Head Start. Ms. Miller thanked the Board for their support and reported that the Resource Center has exceeded the number of services, clients and staff in the area they are contained in and are in need of additional space. This is not only for their own agencies but for other possible partners as well. SCCAA is proposing that the County submit as a Community Development Block Grant proposal for funds to expand the property by buying a third building on the site, which would increase square footage and provide for remodeling. It could also possibly support a modular building to be placed on a site that the County is buying behind the Resource Center. The expansion would position them to both further coordinate their services, and perhaps move forward with some additional maintenance facility development that would further enhance the collaboration of agencies in Skagit County that are providing services to low income children and families.

Karen Parnell, Deputy Director of SCCAA, spoke of the need for expansion. She said SCCAA in particular was able to secure some space in the proposed building in this process. She mentioned the literacy program and said the signage on Riverside Drive has attracted both students and volunteers for this program. She noted that Head Start and Catholic Community Services have both had to expand from their original space and are renting additional space offsite. Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC) also have a pressing need as they will be losing one of their Mount Vernon facilities. They are looking forward to the expansion that this grant will bring to them.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
PAGE NO. 5**

Larry Farr, Regional Director and Janet Simpson, Family Center Director for Catholic Community Services also spoke in support of the grant. They are looking forward to more space and feel it is important to have these agencies together as it would be easier to collaborate and offer better services. It would also be easier on the families that are benefiting from these services as they would be in one location.

Ms. Miller then spoke on behalf of Joan Martin, Executive Director of SPARC. Joan feels the community room at the center pulls in a lot of people from other agencies, which allows them to collaborate. Not only do they need additional facilities but this expansion would also enable them to enlarge their parking area.

Paul Schissler of Paul Schissler and Associates, 1101 Harris Avenue, Bellingham, stated that this was one of the stronger proposals his firm has worked on. The Resource Center is bursting at the seams and for this reason the proposal should be very competitive. With the help of Skagit County Facilities Director, Roger Howard, they will create a budget that will stay within \$1 million dollars. Funding help will also be sought from the City of Anacortes and the City of Mount Vernon out of their new Community Development Block Grant funding. Hopefully, both cities will see this as a high priority project.

SCCAA Director, Bill Shuler, indicated that his agency has already requested funds from the Mayors of Anacortes and Mount Vernon and remain optimistic that they will each commit CDBG funds to the project. Chairman Dahlstedt encouraged the public to make phone calls to their mayors asking for their support.

Commissioner Anderson said he hopes that next year SCCAA and other agencies will help support a CDBG application for a regional food bank distribution center. The building would be on a site donated by the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Commissioner Munks said it is critical for all of Skagit County to realize what SCCAA does for them. They were able to bring resources to the flood area around Hamilton and helped approximately 75 families.

There being no further public testimony, Commissioner Anderson motioned to close the public hearing and Commissioner Munks seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve a resolution with certifications of compliance authorizing a Community Development Block Grant application for the acquisition and renovation of the Family Resource Center located in Mount Vernon. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

**BID OPENING – DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF TWO BUILDINGS NEAR
GUEMES/ANACORTES FERRY TERMINAL.**

This bid opening was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Monday, November 10, 2003 at 1:15 p.m.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
PAGE NO. 6**

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