

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2004**

8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.                    Work Session – Operations Division Manager/Road District  
Maintenance Supervisors

**\*T** 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.            Public Works Department – Chal Martin, Director  
1.        Public Hearing – Consideration of Vacation of Unopened County  
            Right-of-Way Known as Spruce Avenue and an Alley  
2.        Signature – Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement with  
            Pacific International Engineering, PLLC  
3.        Review – Surface Water Management Planned Projects and  
            Activities  
4.        Miscellaneous

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.            Work Session – Planning, Public Works, and Health Fee Structure  
Proposal

**\*T** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.            Deliberations – Proposed Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, January  
2004 Version

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.                Work Session – Burn Regulations

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2004 with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

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

**1.        Public Hearing – Consideration of Vacation of Unopened County Right-of-Way  
            Known as Spruce Avenue and an Alley.**

Assistant Public Works Engineer, Steve Flude, said the public hearing being held is to consider a vacation of an unopened County right-of-way known as Spruce Avenue, including an alley lying north of Pringle Street. Mr. Flude showed a map and provided photographs of the area in questions. He indicated that the Department hasn't received any telephone calls wanting information about the vacation or opposing the vacation.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing.

Beverly Van Slagren, an adjacent property owner, expressed concerns regarding trash that the renters next door continue to spread around the alley. She would like to see the problem solved before the vacation is granted.

Larry Walker, 23533 Pringle Avenue, said he didn't understand what the word vacated means.

Chairman Anderson explained that when a right-of-way is vacated, ownership reverts back to the property owners on each side of the vacation. The County is released of ownership unless there are utility easements located on the property, which the County would retain.

There being no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The public hearing was closed.

Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Flude to contact the litter crew to clean the alley prior to vacation.

Commissioner Munks said that if someone is dumping garbage in the alley, they should be held accountable.

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Commissioner Munks made a motion to accept the vacation of unopened County right-of-way known as Spruce Avenue and an alley in Clear Lake at no cost to the petitioner except for the cost of the public hearing. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**2. Signature – Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement with Pacific International Engineering, PLLC.**

Mr. Martin reviewed an agreement with Pacific International Engineering, PLLC. He said the purpose of the work is to advance multiple aspects of the Skagit River Flood Reduction Project, whereby the project is well defined on a physical, cost, and procedural basis. Upon completion of the tasks listed herein, Skagit County will be able to formalize an implementation plan, a financial plan, and a schedule that maps out the methods needed to take the project through the next phase.

Chairman Anderson asked what the County actually receives for \$2,051,500.00.

Mr. Martin said this is part of the Skagit River Feasibility Study, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Bridge, and hydrological studies for the feasibility study. He said it is a two-year project, which also includes studies with Seattle City Light.

Commissioner Munks said he thinks the amount of money being spent is huge; however, when looking at the end result, this is a small amount of money if the County can accomplish what needs to be done with regard to flood control.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said it is a miracle that the 50-year flood in October, 2003 didn't do more damage. He said over 71 million dollars has been spend on flood cleanup in Skagit County since 1990.

Chairman Anderson indicated that there is not doubt the Board agrees that there needs to be flood control. However, there hasn't been any information forthcoming from Pacific International Engineering regarding what has and is being accomplished. Chairman Anderson said he would sign the contract only if there is better communication about where the money is being allocated and what product we got for it.

Mr. Martin said he would make sure that information is provided.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement with Pacific International Engineering, PLLC, which allows the Consultant to work on multiple aspects of the Skagit River Flood Reduction Project. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20040186)**

**3. Review – Surface Water Management Planned Projects and Activities.**

Burton Reanier, Interim Surface Water Manager and fulltime Assistant Manager, reported on several activities that are currently underway and those that are planned for the middle six months of this year.

Ric Boge, Natural Resources Project Manager, provided a Natural Resources Workgroup update. He also touched on the following points of interest:

- Lake Management Districts
- Marine Resources Committee
- Salmon Habitat Enhancement
- Water Quality and Habitat Monitoring
- Ag-CAO Compliance Order
- County-Owned CREP Sites
- Bayview Ridge Stormwater Management Plan

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Mr. Boge said projects for 2003 are being finished and the projects for 2004 have begun. He said volunteers are always encouraged.

Mr. Reanier discussed priorities for Surface Water Management Projects including flood damage repair and area drainage studies and management plans. Future study plan areas under consideration include South Fidalgo-Similk Bay; Sedro-Woolley East – South Skagit; South Mount Vernon; and the Upper Samish River Basin.

Continuing drainage correction projects for District One are the Edison Town Pond and the Quaker Cove Storm Drain. For District Two the projects are the Eastlake Drive storm drain and several sites in the Lake Cavanaugh area. Projects for District Three include the Cockerham buy-out feasibility study, the Emmanuel Lane storm drain and Skiyou Slough drainage correction.

The Commissioners thanked staff for their hard work and dedication given to these projects.

**4. Miscellaneous.**

Mr. Martin briefed the Board on the latest developments with regard to the Baker Dam Relicensing Project.

**DELIBERATIONS – PROPOSED NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JANUARY 2004 VERSION.**

Gary Christensen, Assistant Director, stated that the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) has received intensive public and Planning Commission review since its initial development in 2000-2001. The County has considered several versions, from the initial proposal, to a 2002 version recommended by the Planning Commission that removed specific project references, to this January 2004 version that reinserts proposed projects, as directed by the Board. This plan specifies that no projects will be designed or built without the Board first adding them to the County's 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), following a public hearing.

Mr. Christensen said the Planning Department recommends approval of the Plan, with certain revisions, which are based on the Board's March 22, 2004 public hearing and the Planning Commission's February 3, 2004 suggestions.

Senior Planner, Kirk Johnson, outlined the following revisions:

**Process for Adding Projects to the TIP**

The Board directed the Planning Commission to recommend a process for adding projects contained in the Plan to the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program. The Planning Commission made an unofficial recommendation (due to the lack of a quorum of Planning Commission members voting in favor of the recommendation) during its February 3, 2004 deliberations. The Department has further developed that recommendation based on the Planning Commission transcript.

Mr. Johnson said the Department recommends approval of this process, either as part of adopting an ordinance or part of the Plan itself.

**"System Map" (Fig. X-1 of Report)**

Based on Planning Commission and public comment, the Department realizes that Fig. X-1, a map titled "Skagit County Recommended Non-motorized Transportation Improvements," does not accurately reflect the proposed projects in the Plan and is misleading. The map is a holdover from the Regional Transportation Policy Organization's countywide non-motorized plan, and has not been updated as the County's proposed Plan has evolved from those documents.

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Mr. Johnson said for these reasons, the Department recommends the Board delete from the Plan Fig. X-1 and remove references to the map on pages 174 and 175.

Specific Road Segment Issues

The City of Sedro-Woolley submitted written comments requesting that:

- 1) The discussion of the City's non-motorized transportation policies and initiatives be updated; and
- 2) The Plan identify linkages between the Sedro-Woolley adopted Bike and Trail Map and County non-motorized facilities; and
- 3) Additional information be included about bicycle and pedestrian facility needs on certain major roads extending from the City into the County.

Mr. Johnson said the Department recommends addressing the first two issues through proposed edits to the Plan. However, in partial response to issue #3, the Board may want to consider adding the following requested roads and improvements to Table X-1, "Recommendations for On-Street Facilities". They are Helmick Road, Garden of Eden Road and Third Street south of Sedro-Woolley. Mr. Johnson said the Public Works Department has no objection to their inclusion.

Mr. Johnson said the Board may want to direct the Planning and Public Works Departments to send a letter to the City committing to include such requests in joint City-County UGA transportation planning efforts.

Planning Commission member, Carol Ehlers, expressed concerns that the Plan indicates State Route 20 is the preferred non-motorized route into the City of Anacortes, rather than the Tommy Thompson Trail, which is the City's preferred route. The trail, which is expected to be completed later this year, will link downtown Anacortes with March Point, crossing Weaverling Spit on an old railroad trestle.

Cascade Trail

Alleged legal issues surrounding the Cascade Trail were raised in the Board's March 22, 2004 public hearing and during the Planning Commission public hearings and deliberations on the Plan. Although the Planning Commission recommended removal of trail references from the Plan in its October 9, 2003 Recorded Motion, the Board rejected that recommendation in Ordinance No. O20020033. (This ordinance adopted the Transportation Systems Plan update and remanded the NMTP back to the Planning Commission.)

Comments were made at the public hearing and in writing regarding trail maintenance and safety issues. Those have been addressed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Johnson said the Department is unaware of any new information regarding that Cascade Trail that would warrant removal of trail references from the Plan.

The Commissioners agreed that Chapter 10 is the correct place to put any references to the Cascade Trail.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said he appreciates the efforts by staff and the Planning Commission in compiling all the data for the NMTP. They have done an excellent job in listening and adopting what people wanted. He said the 6-Year TIP is a good way to monitor the Plan.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the proposed January 2004 version of the Skagit County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, which will become Chapter 10 of the Transportation Systems Plan, with the six proposed edits and revisions recommended in the Planning and Permit Center's April 6, 2004 memorandum to the Board, as outlined by Mr. Johnson. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconds the motion, which passed unanimously.

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**MISCELLANEOUS.**

1. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, April 13, 2004, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Purchase Card Electronic Payment to JP MORGAN CHASE from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$42,232.38 (Transmittal No. C-49-04).

2. Staff presented a Vendor Services Agreement with Electric West, Inc. to perform electrical work in Hearing Room A. The agreement shall commence on the date of signature and continue through December 31, 2004. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$5,200.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the agreement with Electric West, Inc. and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20040187)**

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

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Don Munks, Commissioner

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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