

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2004**

*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director

1. Call for Public Hearing – Solid Waste Code Revision
2. Discussion – First Steps Tobacco Cessation
3. Update – Behavioral Crisis Triage Programming
4. Discussion – The Co-existence of the Rural/Urban Clash
5. Award for Excellence in Environmental Health to Corinne Story
6. Miscellaneous

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

BOARD OF HEALTH – PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR

1. Call for Public Hearing – Solid Waste Code Revision.

Britt Pfaff-Dunton of the Health Department advised that Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-350 for solid waste in the State of Washington was adopted February, 2003. Local health jurisdictions are now required to adopt the WAC. Our local code SCC 12.16 has been revised and reviewed by stakeholder groups. Additional public comments are being requested through June 4, 2004. She indicated that no unfavorable comments have been received to date.

Ms. Pfaff-Dunton asked the Board to call for a public hearing on this matter for Monday, June 14, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve calling for a public hearing for the Skagit County solid waste code revision on Monday, June 14, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt, which passed unanimously.

2. Discussion – First Steps Tobacco Cessation.

Donna Smith of Maternity Support Services stated that “First Steps” is Washington State’s health program for pregnant women and infants. This program has selected Skagit County Public Health staff to participate in a pilot project to improve skills in working with pregnant women and their families to help them quit or reduce smoking. Our County was chosen because we have a high number of mothers who smoke at some point during pregnancy and continue to do so after childbirth. Maternity Support Services and Infant Case Management are two components of the “First Steps” program.

Ms. Smith explained that tobacco exposure during pregnancy is associated with lower birth weights and other threats to the health of an unborn child. Second-hand smoke exposure for infants and children also poses serious health threats.

The current strategy for the program is to increase visibility and consistency of non-smoking signs and provide specific information for smoking cessation throughout areas in the Health Department.

3. Update – Behavioral Crisis Triage Programming.

David Asia of the Human Services Department provided an update on the latest developments in trying to obtain a Behavioral Crisis Triage Center. He stated that the goal is to stop putting people in jail who are intoxicated, mentally unstable and/or under the influence of drugs. This would mean substantial savings for the County. Currently a 6-bed detox center is being provided but more beds will be needed in the near future.

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Collaboration between Compass Health and Corky Hundahl of Phoenix Recovery is currently underway. Ms. Hundahl has purchased a building on College Way that could accommodate 12 beds after renovations are completed. She would offer a 3-year lease with the understanding that the facility would be able to house a 16-bed triage center by the end of the lease.

Human Services Director, Maile Acoba, said the current option is the best they've been able to come up with yet and they are hoping to work more closely with Compass Health to make it all a reality.

4. Discussion – The Co-existence of the Rural/Urban Clash.

Alex von Cube, Population and Health Information Manager gave a presentation on urban/rural census concepts. He made the following three points:

1. **Urbanized Area:** The U.S. Census Bureau declared Skagit County as the Metropolitan Mount Vernon-Anacortes Statistical Area after the 2000 Census. The term "metropolitan area" was adopted in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Metropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population. In Skagit County this area clusters around Mount Vernon and includes Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. Criteria for defining 'urbanized areas' are provided by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Implications of this designation mean the forming of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with the State Department of Transportation to carry out transportation planning and obtain federal funding. This task is being carried out by the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG).
2. **Rural Health Clinic Status:** As result of the status of Mount Vernon as an 'urbanized area' the "Rural Health Clinics" status in Skagit County according to CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) was thrown into uncertainty because none of the 'rural health clinics' were supposed to be in urbanized areas. With the help of the Commissioners who intervened on the federal level via Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Rick Larsen where it was determined that a portion of this rule was in violation of section 902 b of the Medicare bill. As a result the rural health clinic status in Skagit County is no longer threatened.
3. **Unincorporated versus Incorporated Area of Skagit County:** As Skagitonians increasingly build homes in areas outside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns there are implications for providing infrastructure services. Infrastructure can cost up to one-third of the purchase price of a home building site or lot. County residents acting through their elected officials will be increasingly called upon to make the development decisions that will shape the character of our county. As an example, 48% of waste water in our county is de-centralized (19,500 septic systems).

The Board thanked Mr. Von Cube for the information.

5. Award for Excellence in Environmental Health to Corinne Story.

Health Director, Peter Browning, introduced Corinne Story, Environmental Health Supervisor. Ms. Story has recently been awarded the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award that is given to recognize a Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) member who has directed considerable time, commitment and personal effort toward the development, maintenance and/or promotion of the WSEHA. That member must also inspire and motivate other environmental health professionals, through his/her involvement and personal enthusiasm, to become involved with the Association and develop to their maximum level of personal and professional potential.

Ms. Story said the award is truly humbling because she has an incredible staff that is dedicated to environmental health. She added that they are the most professional team of individuals with which she has ever worked.

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The Commissioners individually thanked Ms. Story for her dedication, hard work and the respect that she has for everyone she comes into contact with.

6. Miscellaneous.

Mr. Browning discussed a few minor miscellaneous items.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Don Munks, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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