

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004**

- *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Discussion – Chemical Dependency and Alternative Sentencing
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Planning and Permit Center – Gary Christensen, Director
1. Discussion – Proposed Skagit County Code Amendments
 2. Discussion and Possible Action – Adoption of Permanent Lot Certification Ordinance
 3. Request for Approval to Install a Private Grinder Pump Station and Connect to a Sewer Force Main Located on the East Side of Highway 99 North – Samish Water District
 4. Discussion – Professional Services Matrix
 5. Discussion – Forest Practices Advisory Board
 6. Miscellaneous
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Update – Department of Emergency Management
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Meeting with the Skagit County Realtor’s Association Regarding Lot Aggregation (The CottonTree Inn – 2300 Market Street, Mount Vernon)

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

DISCUSSION – CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING.

David Asia, Substance Abuse Coordinator for Skagit County Human Services, provided an update on the progress that has been made with regard to alternative sentencing in Skagit County, primarily Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court and the proposed development of a Juvenile Drug Court. Mr. Asia said that he and Director Maile Acoba, Jim Donovan and Rebecca Clark have been working on these three initiatives with various people throughout the County that will be instrumental in the implementation of both the Mental Health Court and the Juvenile Drug Court.

Mr. Asia presented some of the goals for alternative sentencing in Skagit County, which include reducing pressure on the jail and jail staff, protecting public safety, providing appropriate treatment to offenders, providing appropriate judicial and community supervision, assuring offender accountability and reducing recidivism. This proposal’s purpose is to implement systems that help to prosecute criminals effectively in a tough manner that is smart, that has an impact on their behavior, that has an impact on County finances, and impacts the health and safety of our community.

Mr. Asia asked the Board for their continued support and indicated that there are other critical components that are involved with the ability to continue these efforts. One is that the Department needs to continue to have staff resources at the Superior Court and District Court level with the presence of Commissioners and Judges at both levels that have the time and the commitment to preside over Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Juvenile Drug Court. Continued support from the Prosecutor’s Office is also critical, as well as from the Public Defender’s Office.

PLANNING AND PERMIT CENTER – GARY CHRISTENSEN, DIRECTOR

1. Discussion – Proposed Skagit County Code Amendments.

Carly Ruacho, Associate Planner, stated that the Department is recommending a series of code amendments to the Planning Commission for consideration. Most amendments are minor in nature and can be classified as ‘housekeeping’ that is necessary to address such things as typographical errors, inadvertent additions or omissions, and to provide clarity and/or consistency.

Ms. Ruacho said the following list highlights some of the more substantive proposed changes:

- Add 'out-patient medical services' as permitted in Rural Village Commercial and as a Hearing Examiner Special Use in Rural Village Residential.
- Modify 'animal clinic/hospital' in Rural Resource-NRL to allow new structures.
- Lower the permit level of minor public uses and expansions of public uses to 3,000 square feet from Hearing Examiner Special Use to Administrative Special Use in all applicable zones.
- Clarify setback requirements to include junk vehicles.
- Modify the Innocent Purchaser provisions to reflect the recent court decision in the Cox/Corbiere case.

Ms. Ruacho indicated that the proposed code amendments will move forward through the public process and anticipates that they would come before the Board for a final decision in January 2005.

2. Discussion and Possible Action – Adoption of Permanent Lot Certification Ordinance.

Planning and Permit Center Director, Gary Christensen, advised that this item was discussed last Tuesday, October 12, 2004. However, due to the fact that Commissioner Anderson was in Washington, D.C. on business, Commissioners Munks and Dahlstedt elected to delay the decision on a permanent lot certification ordinance until Commissioner Anderson returned and could weigh in on the decision.

Mr. Christensen noted that the Planning Commission unanimously approved the ordinance, with a 7 to 0 vote. He said that while this ordinance may not provide relief to all, those that need relief may be able to achieve it during the 2005 Comprehensive Plan update.

Chairman Anderson said the County Commissioners' preference is not to have a lot aggregation ordinance. It was removed once from the Skagit County Code; however, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board wanted it reinstated. He feels it is an improved ordinance and any problems that may arise can be dealt with during the Comprehensive Plan update. Chairman Anderson said it is time to move forward with it.

Commissioner Munks said this ordinance is a compromise and indicated that there would be additional opportunities to consider the provisions. He stressed the fact that it is time to end the litigation. Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that the proposed lot certification ordinance doesn't provide a solution to the issue; however, the process has been a team effort and an improvement over what the County currently has. Commissioner Dahlstedt said, "This is the best we can do at the moment."

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the permanent ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission and as outlined by Ms. Ruacho. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Ordinance No. 020040017)**

3. Request for Approval to Install a Private Grinder Pump Station and Connect to a Sewer Force Main Located on the East Side of Highway 99 North – Samish Water District.

Senior Planner, Brent Morrow, stated that a request has been submitted by Jerry and Shirley Hayes to install a private grinder pump station and subsequent connection to a sewer force main located on the east side of Old Highway 99 North Road. This request is pursuant to an existing Interlocal Cooperative Agreement.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the request as outlined by Mr. Morrow. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt, and passed unanimously.

4. Discussion – Professional Services Matrix.

Mr. Christensen said his Department has been meeting with the Board periodically over the last several months as part of an ongoing discussion regarding various elements of the Department's business plan. To date, Departmental organizational changes, work load and a resource-need analysis have been reviewed. He shared a status report on the Department's 2004 Professional Services budget. This includes consultant work on various ongoing projects and their timelines, predicted outcomes, budgeted dollars, remaining dollars and estimated expenses through the end of the year and into 2005.

Mr. Christensen spoke about the 2004 work program and its associated costs and also of identifying 2005 work program projects. He then provided a snapshot of the matrix and indicated that the 2004 Professional Services line item budget has been under spent by approximately half, with the excess being returned to the general budget. Mr. Christensen explained why there are remaining dollars, which is contributed to balancing work program demands and priorities, addressing Board of County Commissioner directives, the involvement of Departmental re-organizational and management priorities, delays brought on by Western Washington Growth Management Hearing Board orders, ongoing cases of litigation and also some statutory requirements.

Mr. Christensen proceeded to review projects outlined for 2004. After a lengthy discussion, he advised the Board that he would be working with County Administrator, Gary Rowe, and Budget Administrator, Trisha Logue, to create a template outlining the direction of the Department for budget year 2005.

5. Discussion – Forest Practices Advisory Board.

Kendra Smith, Natural Resource Policy Coordinator, stated that during the informal meetings she has been attending with members of the timber industry, it has come to her attention that as a major component of Skagit County's natural resources, they need a forum similar to the Agriculture community, which has an Ag Advisory Board, to keep the Board of County Commissioners informed on timber issues. The timber industry would like a Forest Advisory Board made up of both large and small private timber owners, foresters, loggers and sawmill owner/operators.

Ms. Smith said the Forest Advisory Board would be available to make comments to the Commissioners on County policies and regulations pertaining to the sustainability of the timber resource, as well as State initiatives. She advised that the timber community has suggested the following members for the Commissioners' consideration:

Gordy Iverson	Mark Edick	Paul Kreigel
Dick Whitmore	Chuck Parker	Mike Janicki
Chuck Kallman	Aubrey Stargell	Mark Hitchcock or John Gold
Kris McCall (Hampton)	Rush Paul (Crown)	Larry Micheum (Longview Fiber)

The Board of County Commissioners agreed that the proposal sounds like a great idea and added that public involvement is always welcomed.

Commissioner Munks made a motion to publish a formal request for interested persons who would like to serve on a Forest Advisory Board, with a closing date of November 5, 2004. Staff will then bring that list of people and their qualifications back to the Commissioners for their selection. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion and noted that there are a lot of public and private timber land owners, including other groups such as schools and fire districts that are impacted as well. He said it would balance and strengthen the credibility of that group to include some of those other parties to address their concerns, as well.

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6. Miscellaneous.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner, stated that in preparing for the 2005 updates to City and County comprehensive plans, the Cities and County have been working together to establish population and employment allocations for the next 20-year planning period, through 2025.

In March of 2003, the Growth Management Act (GMA) Steering Committee approved a 2025 population forecast and allocations to the Cities and the County. That forecast falls approximately half-way between the Office of Financial Management's low and medium population projections for Skagit County.

The Technical Committee is now recommending commercial and industrial acreage allocations through 2025. Once approved, these allocations will be incorporated into a proposed revision to CPP 1.1. Mr. Johnson said the Technical Committee's consensus position is that the County will need an increase in urban commercial/industrial acreage of 125 acres between 2015 and 2025. This is based on analyses done by Berryman & Henigar, under contract to the County, and E. D. Hovee & Associates, under contract to the Cities.

Mr. Johnson said City and County planners have agreed upon and recommend the following distribution of those 125 additional acres, based on the Cities' needs for and abilities to serve that acreage:

Mount Vernon – 90 acres

Sedro-Woolley - 35 acres

Other Cities represented on the Technical Committee either did not request additional acreage, or conceded that they had less need for additional acreage than Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley.

In addition to this increase in urban commercial/industrial acreage, Mr. Johnson advised that the Technical Committee is also recommending that the reference in CPP 1.1 to a rural commercial/industrial acreage allocation of 584 acres be removed. It would be replaced by a new policy under CPP 2, identifying what type of commercial/industrial development is allowed under GMA in the rural area. New development would be guided by the County's rural commercial/industrial designation policies and development regulations, which have been found compliant with GMA by the Growth Management Hearings Board.

UPDATE – DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Director, Tom Sheahan, thanked the Board of County Commissioners and the area Mayors for providing his Department with the specific tools that are required to do their job, including radios, vehicles, an Emergency Operations Center and the Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Sheahan spoke of the cooperation being displayed between Public Works, the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, Information Services, Geographical Information Services and the Communications Director for the County, Dan Berentson.

Mr. Sheahan discussed the flood event that occurred in October of 2003, in addition to some of the confusion that Flood Fight Sectors caused his Department during that time. He also mentioned ongoing problems with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as they continue to halt critical projects.

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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