

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005**

- *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Presentation - Future Farmers of America Regarding Buffer Zones in Skagit County
- *T 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Presentation – Skagit Conservation District – Stormwater Runoff Reduction
- 11:30 a.m. Welcome Home Celebration For the Washington National Guard Unit (North Cascades Gateway Center – 24876 Charles Jones Memorial Circle #5, Sedro-Woolley)
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Dinner and Program for Dr. Ronald J. Richeson, M.D. (McIntyre Hall – Mount Vernon)

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present. Commissioner Ted W. Anderson's absence was excused.

PRESENTATION – FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA REGARDING BUFFER ZONES IN SKAGIT COUNTY.

FFA members of Burlington-Edison High School were present to debate the pros and cons of buffer zones currently located in Skagit County.

Chairman Munks and Commissioner Dahlstedt thanked the students for presenting the information and for doing an excellent job in covering both sides of the issue.

PRESENTATION – SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT – STORMWATER RUNOFF REDUCTION.

Tom Slocum of the Skagit Conservation District spoke to the Commissioners about a recently completed in-depth technical study titled "Feasibility Study of Proposed Water Quality, Drainage, and Habitat Improvement Activities in the No Name Slough Watershed, Skagit County, Washington." Mr. Slocum said one of the project tasks involved convening an advisory committee of landowners, government agency representatives, and others who share an interest in water resources management in the No Name Slough watershed.

Mr. Slocum said the advisory committee agreed that the management of stormwater runoff from Bayview Ridge was one of the most significant water resources issues in the Watershed. Unmanaged runoff from pastures and developed properties regularly overflows the existing drainage infrastructure and floods agriculture land in the Flats. Likewise, unmanaged runoff also impacts water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the Watershed.

Mr. Slocum explained that of the eighteen proposed water resources improvement activities that were evaluated in the study, one that appealed to nearly all members of the advisory committee was to work with Skagit County government to develop and implement a program for providing landowners in upland areas of the Watershed with financial incentives for improving on-site management of stormwater runoff. The advisory committee is proposing two kinds of incentives, according to Mr. Slocum. First, landowners could apply for a reduction in their Drainage Utility tax assessment in order to defray the cost of implementing best management practices (BMPs) related to reducing peak stormwater flows and/or improving the quality of the stormwater runoff from their property. A schedule of tax credits for implementing specific BMPs could be developed in coordination with the local dike and drainage district and the Department of Public Works, Drainage Utility section.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005
PAGE NO. 2**

Secondly, Skagit County government could provide small grants to landowners for implementing more ambitious runoff management projects on their property. Mr. Slocum said one possible source of funding for the grants might be offsite drainage mitigation fees associated with permits for new development in the watershed. The Skagit Conservation District could provide landowners with technical assistance for design and permitting of such runoff management projects, just as it did for the County's riparian buffer program a few years ago.

Mr. Slocum said on behalf of the No Name Slough Citizen's Advisory Committee, the Skagit Conservation District urges the Board of County Commissioners to consider implementing these two proposed financial incentives for improving water resources management in the Watershed. Mr. Slocum said the Committee also suggests that the incentives be tried initially in the No Name Slough watershed as a pilot program, and then perhaps be applied Countywide should they prove successful.

Ric Boge, Surface Water Manager, indicated that a drainage study for the area around Bayview Ridge is still in the process of being completed so this proposal may be a bit preliminary. However, his staff continues to be involved in putting together recommendations, which could eventually be matched with some of the needs of the drainage study.

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, May 3, 2005, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$62,949.52 (Transmittal No. C-56-05).

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005
PAGE NO. 3**

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