

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2005**

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Work Session – County Commissioners
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Work Session – County Administrator
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Department Head Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items
- 11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period
- *T 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Public Hearing - To Consider Public Testimony Regarding a Proposal by Skagit County and Douglas County to Conduct a Survey to Determine Farmworker Housing Needs and Preferences
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition

The Skagit County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 8, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING.

Commissioner Munks introduced Teresa Arnott, the new Staff Support Assistant in the Skagit County Commissioner's office.

Commissioner Munks announced the winners for the second annual Salsa Contest. Plaques were presented to Claudio Palomera and Patti Worl, on behalf of Cheryl Peterson who was ill.

Bob Vaux, Director of Skagit County Parks and Recreation, discussed an ice cream social, which was held on Thursday, August 4, 2005. Approximately 200 people attended the event, which was held at the property recently purchased from the Rogers family for a proposed indoor recreation center.

Gary Rowe, Skagit County Administrator, spoke about a recent survey that was sent out to all Skagit County employees. Mr. Rowe stated that the second part of the survey is scheduled to be sent out next week to over 3,000 households in the County. According to Mr. Rowe, results of the survey should be available in October 2005.

Chal Martin, Public Works Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Karen Marshall of the Skagit Historical Museum handed out brochures and explained the many new exhibits that will be held at the Museum in the coming months. Ms. Marshall also spoke of the raffle drawing that will be taking place in November for a refurbished Nash automobile.

Bill Schuler, Skagit County Community Action Agency, advised the Board that a survey will be conducted shortly, which will help staff to understand the types of services and programs that will benefit the lower income citizens of the County.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, August 8, 2005, items 1 through 11. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, August 1, 2005.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, August 2, 2005.

BUDGET & FINANCE:

3. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the City of Anacortes for Economic Development Grant funding, via Resolution R20020326, in the amount of \$25,000 for the "Archway Project" located in downtown Anacortes. The agreement shall commence upon the date of execution and continue for 24 months, or until the project is complete. **(Contract No. C20050318)**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

4. Resolution calling for bids for the Mount Vernon Senior Center Re-roofing Project. The bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. **(Resolution No. R20050278)**
5. Standard Form of Agreement between Skagit County and Scholten Roofing, Inc. to replace the roof at the Skagit County Commissioners – Administrative Building located at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon. The contract shall commence upon the date of execution and continue for thirty days. Compensation is to total \$102,000. **(Contract No. C20050319)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

6. Personal Services Agreement with Skagit Recovery Center, which allows for the continuance of substance abuse treatment services for Skagit County residents for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007. Compensation in the amount of \$1,244,803 is funded by the Department of Social and Health Services – Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse with both State and Federal funds. **(Contract No. C20050320)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

7. Resolution accepting all bids and awarding the haul out and dry docking of the M/V Guemes to Puglia Engineering for the low bid of \$359,805.46. **(Resolution No. R20050279)**
8. Vendor Services Agreement with Motor Trucks, Inc. to provide one used three axle truck with a bin roll-off system. The agreement shall commence on July 25, 2005, and continue through July 24, 2006. Compensation is expected to total \$57,346. **(Contract No. 20050321)**
9. Resolution AND Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission for a biennial grant request that has been submitted in the amount of \$55,750, which pays a portion of Don McKeehen's salary for the work he does as the County's Traffic Safety Programs Coordinator. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2005, and continue through June 30, 2007. **(Resolution No. R20050280 AND Contract No. C20050322)**
10. Personal Services Agreement with Montgomery Water Group, Inc. for the McElroy Slough Restoration Improvements Project, which is located within the Town of Blanchard. Services provided will consist of updating and finalizing the plans, specifications and construction cost estimates. The agreement shall commence on March 12, 2005, and continue through December 31, 2005. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$52,070. **(Contract No. C20050323)**

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11. Vendor Services Agreement with Materials Testing and Consulting, Inc., which will provide material testing as needed in connection with the Casino Drive Reconstruction Project, ES 14619-1. The agreement shall commence on July 18, 2005, and continue through July 27, 2006. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$8,000. **(Contract No. C20050324)**

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, August 8, 2005, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrant number 202924 through 203213 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$564,872.31 (Transmittal No. C-102-05); and

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$60,301.76 (Transmittal No. C-103-05).

2. Marge Swint of Planning and Development Services asked that Tuesday, August 15, 2005, at 11:30 a.m. be set aside to review a preliminary plat approval, submitted by Chuck Dralle for Trumpeter Heights. Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the request by Ms. Swint, which was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

There was no one present for the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING A PROPOSAL BY SKAGIT COUNTY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO DETERMINE FARMWORKER HOUSING NEEDS AND PREFERENCES.

Tom Karsh, Special Projects Coordinator, explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to seek public comment on whether or not Skagit County, in partnership with Douglas County and other funding partners, should make a formal application to the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development for a \$40,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Grant funds would be used to conduct a multiple county survey to determine farmworker housing needs and preferences. Mr. Karsh stated that in order to meet funding timelines, the Board would need to take action on this matter at the conclusion of today's public hearing.

Mr. Karsh said that Federal law requires that local governments seeking funding through State CDBG programs take steps to encourage citizen participation. For the record he acknowledged the following:

- Notice of this public hearing requesting either written comment or oral testimony was published in the Skagit Valley Herald, in English and Spanish, on July 28th and August 4th, 2005.
- No written comments were received.
- The Skagit Valley Herald published an article concerning farmworker housing needs on August 7, 2005, and indicated that a public hearing would be held on August 8, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Karsh commended Jennifer Carter, staff writer, for her story.
- Informational handouts in both English and Spanish regarding CDBG programs in Washington State were made available, both before and at today's public hearing.
- John Smith, a Spanish interpreter, was available in the event his services were needed.
- The public hearing was taped and will be broadcast on local cable networks and Comcast Channel 21 on Thursday at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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- Should the Skagit County Commissioner's decide to go forward with the CDBG program application, they will do so by approving a resolution and adopting a CDBG grievance procedure, as required by Federal law.
- A final report with survey results would be made available at the conclusion of the project and shared at a follow-up public hearing scheduled for early 2007.

Mr. Karsh said here is a tremendous need for housing for low to moderate income families in Washington State. That is especially true for farmworkers with incomes averaging \$16,000 for a family of four or 30% of the State median. The State Farmworkers Housing Trust estimates that there will be a need for 12,000 additional beds for seasonal farmworkers and 27,000 additional housing units for farmworkers who are permanent residents of Washington.

Mr. Karsh explained that farmworkers housing needs have gained both State and Federal attention in recent years. This year the Washington State Legislature has increased the State Housing Trust Fund by \$20 million dollars. Mr. Karsh indicated that this increase is dedicated to farmworkers as well as a 2.5 million dollar matching fund for local infrastructure, which is to encourage the development of seasonal housing.

Mr. Karsh said the goal of the survey is to make sure that when funds have been received, they are effectively used. To do so, the Board of Directors of the Washington State Housing Trust, organized through the leadership of Senator Patty Murray, approached Skagit County and Douglas County as potential partners, which in turn entered into an Interlocal Agreement to jointly seek CDBG funding.

Mr. Karsh mentioned that the CDBG applications total \$40,000; however, there are other funding partners involved in this project. To date, \$80,000 has been raised of the total cost of \$142,450 needed to complete the project. Current funding partners include the following:

- The Washington State Farmworkers Housing Trust from grants provided by Washington State Bank and The Enterprise Foundation
- Warden Family Housing
- Washington State Housing Finance Commission
- Additional funds for the project are currently being solicited from Foundations, Financial Institutions and other community partners.
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John Smith, Director of the Housing Authority of Skagit County, said he is a member of the Washington State Farmworker Housing Trust Board. Mr. Smith said he understands the need for farmworker housing and the goal of the grant is to conduct a complete study from the farmworkers themselves to determine their needs.

Mike Youngquist, 1624 Junquist Road, Mount Vernon, said he is also a member of the Washington State Farmworker Housing Trust Board. He thanked the Commissioners for their support and also thanked Senator Patty Murray and Governor Gary Locke for jumpstarting this project through the Legislature.

Victor Rodriguez, 14 Virginia Street, Mount Vernon, said that he doesn't know much about the project but feels it is important that farmworkers are being asked to become involved. Housing concerns continue to be problematic and he would like to become active in finding a solution to the issue.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution as outlined by Mr. Karsh. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050281)**

Commissioner Dahstedt commented that agriculture is a huge part of the County and the partnership between farmers and their farmhands is important.

Commissioner Anderson agreed and said that Raspberry Ridge is a good example of the way housing should be and that everyone deserves clean, decent living quarters.

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Commissioner Munks concurred and said a lot of people don't want to see that type of housing in their neighborhoods; however, everyone has a right to adequate living conditions and amenities. Commissioner Munks noted that Raspberry Ridge is a good housing project and is something the community needs.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Melissa Collins, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners