

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005**

- *T 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Work Session – Cockreham Island – Training Levee Issues and Status of Total Buyout Feasibility Study
- *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Public Works – Chal Martin, Director
1. Discussion – FEMA Floodplain/Flood Insurance Update
2. Discussion – Skagit River Hydrology and Hydraulics
3. Miscellaneous
- *T 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Public Hearing – To Consider Public Testimony Regarding a Resolution Authorizing Skagit County to Increase Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Property Tax Revenues, In Excess of Increases in the Value of State-Assessed Property, New Construction and Improvements to Property For the 2006 Budget Year
- *T 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Public Hearing - To Consider Public Testimony Regarding a Revision to Admission Fees For the 2006 Skagit County Fair
- *T 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Decision – Creation of a Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) Program, Including Budget, Rates and Charges

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

WORK SESSION – COCKREHAM ISLAND – TRAINING LEVEE ISSUES AND STATUS OF TOTAL BUYOUT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Burt Reanier, Project Development Engineer for the Public Works Department, presented results of investigations with regard to the Cockreham training levee toe at the upriver section of the Skagit River. Mr. Reanier indicated that the current condition is not as bad as had originally been thought. However, it is the Department's recommendation that the Commissioners authorize toe repairs to the levee. Said work is to consist of:

- a) Purchasing and stockpiling rock for said repair work.
- b) Preparation and submittal of permitting applications for the repair work.
- c) Coordination with the Corps of Engineers for technical advice and authorize the Corps to replace the County in this work if a flood event occurs.
- d) Setting aside \$350,000 for said work.
- e) Directing Public Works to prepare an emergency resolution to undertake necessary repairs.
- f) Developing a long-term training levee maintenance and improvement plan when results are known for the Cockreham Buy-out Feasibility Study.

Commissioner Anderson said if the toe is damaged, then there is the potential for disaster and failure is eminent.

Mr. Reanier stated that the Corps of Engineers has opened informal discussions regarding a set back of the existing levee to improve its long-term ability to perform its "training" function. This possibility will be pursued in continuing discussions with the Corps.

The status of the Cockreham Buy-out Feasibility Study was provided by a Surface Water Management consultant for GeoEngineers. He indicated that a draft report would be ready by mid-February.

Chairman Munks said he would like to see the county proceed with the buy-out, which should be focused on the southern portion of Cockreham Island.

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Dave Brookings, Public Works Administrator, said it is important that Skagit County aggressively maintain the levee. He spoke of the possibility of making it a joint venture with other entities.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to proceed with the work, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. This would give Public Works the ability to stockpile products necessary to conduct the repairs.

PUBLIC WORKS – CHAL MARTIN, DIRECTOR

1. Discussion – FEMA Floodplain/Flood Insurance Update.

Mr. Brookings said Congress has provided \$1.475 billion for National Flood Insurance Map Modernization for FY04 to FY08. FEMA develops Flood Insurance Rate Maps to accurately identify areas at risk of flooding, appropriate flood insurance rates, for floodplain management and mitigation activities. FEMA Region X has been awarded a portion of the funding to update and modernize the maps within its boundaries (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington).

According to Mr. Brookings, Skagit County has been identified as a Tier 1 (high risk) community and will be one of the first to have its maps modernized. Skagit County's current maps were done in 1985 and are known to be inaccurate in many areas. FEMA has contracted with the Army Corps of Engineers to generate draft maps for the county.

2. Discussion – Skagit River Hydrology and Hydraulics.

Public Works Director Chal Martin provided a PowerPoint presentation consisting of selected factual information regarding Skagit River hydrology and limitations of existing flood reservoir storage.

3. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous Public Works items to discuss.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- a) Chief Civil Prosecutor Don Anderson presented a resolution requiring legal fees contributed to Skagit County in support of Lake Whatcom litigation to be expended only for that purpose.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution, as outlined by Prosecutor Anderson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously.
(Resolution No. R20050481)

- b) With the recommendation of Prosecutor Anderson, Commissioner Dahlstedt read the following statement: I move that Skagit County approve the proposed settlement of the pending litigation between Qwest and the State of Washington Department of Revenue as it applies to Skagit County. The information provided by the Skagit County Assessor is that the net impact to Skagit County's revenues under the proposed settlement is approximately \$3,900. At the Assessor's recommendation, it appears that the proposed settlement is in the County's best interests. Accordingly, I move that the Skagit County Board of Commissioners approve the proposed settlement as recommended by Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander.

Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SKAGIT COUNTY TO INCREASE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) PROPERTY TAX REVENUES, IN EXCESS OF INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF STATE-ASSESSED PROPERTY, NEW CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY FOR THE 2006 BUDGET YEAR.

County Administrator Gary Rowe explained the history of the property tax levy from 2000 through 2006, which reflects a 1% increase as allowed by law.

Chairman Munks opened the public hearing.

Tony Splane, Sedro-Woolley, said he objected to the constant increase in property taxes as they are terribly hard on senior citizens. He doesn't understand why property owners are tapped every time the County needs to generate additional revenue. Most seniors are on a fixed income. Mr. Splane said he realizes it takes money to run the government; however, there must be a better way to raise it other than always asking property owners.

There being no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to authorize a property tax increase for the 2006 Skagit County Emergency Medical Services levy. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050482)**

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to authorize a property tax limit factor increase for the 2006 Emergency Medical Services levy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050483)**

Mr. Rowe also brought forward a resolution authorizing the adoption of the 2006 Emergency Medical Services budget, which was altered slightly from what was presented to the Board during last week's public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve adopting the Emergency Medical Services budget for 2006, as outlined by Mr. Rowe. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. R20050484)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner with the Planning and Development Services Department presented a resolution authorizing a contract with the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to provide assistance with the County's 2005 Growth Management Update process. Mr. Johnson indicated that Skagit County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution, as outlined by Mr. Johnson. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050485)**

Commissioner Dahlstedt also motioned to approve a contract for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 with the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to assist with the 2005 Growth Management Act update. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20050553)**

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING A REVISION TO ADMISSION FEES FOR THE 2006 SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR.

Chairman Munks opened the public hearing to consider a revision to admission fees for the 2006 Skagit County Fair.

There being no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Anderson motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve a resolution outlining the new fee schedule for the 2006 Skagit County Fair. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. R20050486)**

DECISION – CREATION OF A CLEAN WATER (SHELLFISH PROTECTION) PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUDGET, RATES AND CHARGES.

Special Projects Coordinator Tom Karsh stated that a public hearing was held on November 28, 2005, to consider the establishment of a Clean Water Program (CWP). The Commissioners postponed taking any action on this matter and directed staff to contact the cities and towns within the County to invite them to comment and participate in the CWP.

Mr. Karsh said staff met with Chuck Bennett and John Shultz, representatives of Dike, Drainage and Irrigation District #12, to discuss their concerns with the proposed CWP. It was agreed that it does not duplicate activities or responsibilities of the drainage districts; however, several areas of concern remain.

According to Mr. Karsh, staff prepared a proposed ordinance and two alternatives of the proposed budget resolution. Both versions of the amended resolutions reflect: 1) the 2007 assessment date; 2) clarification that contracts are required for entities receiving CWP money, and 3) that the Public Works Director has until December 31, 2008, to merge the CWP into a more comprehensive, countywide, and coordinated flood protection, stormwater management program.

Following a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve an ordinance amending Skagit County Code Chapter 6.68 Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) District establishing a Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) Program. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Ordinance No. O20050014)**

Commissioner Munks also motioned to approve a resolution regarding the establishment of a Skagit County Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) Program budget and finance charges to become effective on January 1, 2007, and continued for three years. Chairman Munks seconded the motion and added that he wanted to make sure that funds for the CWP are collected from everyone. The motion carried. Commissioner Anderson voted against the resolution. **(Resolution No. R20050487)**

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

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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