

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006**

- *T 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Work Session – Operations Division/Transfer Station
- *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Public Works Department – Chal Martin, Director
1. Public Hearing – Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on a Portion of F & S Grade Road
 2. Public Hearing – Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on Portions of March’s Point Road
 3. Discussion – Hansen-Red Creek Emergency Dredging Project
 4. Discussion – Final Bay View Watershed Stormwater Management Plan
 5. Miscellaneous
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services – Gary Christensen, Director
1. Discussion – Formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to Review Proposed Changes to the Skagit County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
 2. Status Report on 2005 Update Process
 3. Miscellaneous
- *T 1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Recognition – Jan Haugen, Employee of the Skagit County Health Department
- *T 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work Session – Fluoridation in Skagit County
- *T 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Recognition – Erv Lindall, Member of the Skagit County LEOFF Board

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson and Don Munks present.

WORK SESSION – OPERATIONS DIVISION/TRANSFER STATION

The Commissioners received an update from employees of the Skagit County Road Shop regarding ongoing projects.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – CHAL MARTIN, DIRECTOR

1. Public Hearing – Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on a Portion of F & S Grade Road.

Ann Marie Gutwein, Public Works Program Manager, stated that F & S Grade Road is classified as a rural major collector road that runs northwest to southeast for 5.65 miles starting at Prairie Road and ending at State Route 20 in the city limits of Sedro-Woolley. The speed limit is posted at 45-mph from Prairie Road to Kelleher Road and then decreases to 40-mph to the city limits.

Ms. Gutwein said the current annualized average daily traffic on F & S Grade Road is 805 vehicles per day. Collisions reported by the local law enforcement jurisdiction from the year 2001 thru 2005 showed 26 crashes along the County-owned length of road.

According to Ms. Gutwein, the report from the Public Works Traffic Engineering Department has made the following recommendations:

- 1) Reduce the regulator speed limit to 40-mph from Prairie Road to Collins Road.

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- 2) Replace the old existing guardrail at the intersections of F & S Grade Road with Collins Road and Kelleher Road.
- 3) Install reflectors on guardrail when installation is complete.
- 4) Increase speed/safety patrols.
- 5) Install additional speed limit signs.
- 6) Deploy Radar Speed Trailer to increase awareness of speed change.

A letter in support of the speed limit revision was received from Herb Sargo, President of the Valley View Estates Community Association, and entered into the record.

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to revise the existing speed limit on F & S Grade Road from milepost 0.00 to milepost 3.45, from 45-mph to 40-mph. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(A resolution will be brought forth at a later date)**

2. Public Hearing – Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on Portions of March’s Point Road.

Ms. Gutwein next discussed a request received from the City of Anacortes to lower the speed limit on March’s Point Road from the city limits (milepost 0.983) north to the signed 25-mph zone at milepost 2.060. This speed limit reduction would mirror that of the City’s recent reduction, which was implemented to encourage safe roadway speeds near the recently opened Tommy Thompson trail bridge located adjacent to the city limits. This action included the participation of Tesoro Refinery management.

Recommendations from the Skagit County Public Works Traffic Engineering Department are as follows:

- 1) Establish a maximum speed limit of 40-mph on March’s Point Road from milepost 0.983 (city limits) to milepost 2.060 (370 feet south of the Tesoro Refinery’s main entrance). This will match the City of Anacortes; speed limit south of this segment.
- 2) Establish a maximum speed limit of 35-mph on March’s Point Road from milepost 2.060 to milepost 5.760 (the end of the road).
- 3) Place “Truck Crossing” symbol signs with 25-mph advisory plaques on either side of the Tesoro Refinery entrance to inform drivers of trucks entering and exiting the refinery.

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

Commissioner Munks motioned to revise the existing speed limit on March’s Point Road #16610 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously. **(A resolution will be brought forth at a later date)**

3. Discussion – Hansen-Red Creek Emergency Dredging Project.

Burton Reanier, Engineering Services, reported that plans for emergency dredging of Hansen Creek, east of Sedro-Woolley, are on hold after Skagit County received stiff resistance from Federal and State agencies.

The creek swelled during heavy rainfall in January, and the channel was clogged with gravel, which in turn flooded adjacent farmland. The County intended to clear the creek under an emergency order; however, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) said an emergency project would jeopardize applications to dredge 3,000 feet of the creek this summer.

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The WDFW filed a Clean Water Act violation with the Washington State Department of Ecology shortly after the County approved the emergency dredging in January. The violation anticipated that dredging the creek would muddy the water downstream, therefore harming fish.

The Commissioners expressed frustration that they and five different State and Federal departments could reach some sort of an agreement, especially after more than four years of trying to receive the permits to dredge the creek before it became a problem.

Commissioner Munks blamed the flooding situation on the inept ability of other agencies.

Mr. Reanier told the Commissioner that if the emergency work is undertaken, NOAA had promised to send armed enforcement officers.

The Commissioners said the controversy creates an opportunity to expedite the larger, 3,000-foot dredging project planned for this summer.

Mr. Reanier noted that at the same time so many State and Federal agencies turned their attention to Hansen Creek, the County was able to get solid commitments that permits for the summer dredging project would be granted this year, but only if the County held off on its emergency plan.

The Commissioner thanked Mr. Reanier for all his efforts in getting the project underway.

4. Discussion – Final Bay View Watershed Stormwater Management Plan.

Dave Brookings, Public Works Administrator, gave a PowerPoint presentation and advised that the Department recognized the potential for drainage impacts to low-lying properties resulting from development on Bay View Ridge. A project to develop the Bay View Watershed Stormwater Management Plan was established in 2002. The 95% Draft Plan was completed in September 2005.

Mr. Brookings said the Final Plan has now been completed and proposed projects have been identified. He said Public Works should negotiate interlocal cooperative agreements with Drainage Districts 12, 14 and 19 that establish the financial responsibilities of the Drainage Districts and the Drainage Utility.

Commissioner Anderson indicated that he doesn't want to see the Drainage Utility Funds depleted; however, perhaps a special assessment should be put into place for those responsible for paying their fair share.

The Commissioners agreed that a funding mechanism needs to be considered that is fair and equitable for all.

5. Miscellaneous.

- 1) Mr. Brookings brought forth a proposal from the United States Forest Service, which is providing logistical support for a community sponsored and endorsed river clean-up weekend in the Upper Skagit River on March 18-19, 2006. They are asking for a fee waiver or partial fee waiver of disposal costs not to exceed \$500.

The Commissioners voted to approve the request as outlined by Mr. Brookings.

- 2) Public Works Director Chal Martin provided an overview of Skagit Basin flood issues and requested the Commissioners to consider giving Public Works the authority to engage a qualified consultant to study the technical and historical basis for unrecorded flood events and produce a report. Mr. Martin indicated that he would also like to work with Seattle City Light on this project.

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Chairman Dahlstedt said it nice to receive an endorsement from the Skagit River Impact Partnership group.

The Commissioners commended Larry Kunzler, Joseph Kunzler and Dan Berentson for their efforts.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – GARY CHRISTENSEN, DIRECTOR

1. Discussion – Formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to Review Proposed Changes to the Skagit County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Tim DeVries, Planning and Development Services, discussed with the Board the formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee to review proposed changes to the Skagit County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, which the Board gave approval to in November 2003. The proposed changes are intended to accomplish a couple of different objectives, the first of which would make the ordinance more consistent with other jurisdictions in our area. The second is to adopt, by reference, FEMA bulletins that provide builders and homeowners with more alternatives to construction than they are allowed now. Third is to modify ordinance provisions that are creating undue costs to builders and homeowners.

The Commissioners concurred that this is much needed and well past its time.

2. Status Report on 2005 Update Process.

Senior Planner Kirk Johnson gave a short status report on the 2005 Growth Management Act (GMA) Update process. He said the 2005 GMA Update Proposal was released for public review and comment on February 17, 2006. The Department is now in the midst of the public review process with Planning Commission hearings scheduled to take place within the next several weeks.

Mr. Johnson said Planning and Development Services has made an unprecedented effort to inform residents, applicants, property owners, and others in Skagit County of the nature of the 2005 Update Proposal and their opportunities to comment on and shape the proposal. He spoke of the various mailings that have been done to date and said additional efforts are underway to communicate with the public using display ads and public service announcements.

3. Miscellaneous.

- 1) Jeroldine Halberg, Associate Planner, brought forth a resolution appointing Ron Walden to replace Marty Coble on the Alger Community Plan Citizens Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the resolution as outlined. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20060100)**

- 2) Planning and Development Services Director Gary Christensen announced that the Department will again have a booth at the annual Skagit County Home Show, which is taking place this weekend at the Skagit County Fairgrounds.

RECOGNITION – JAN HAUGEN, EMPLOYEE OF THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARMTENT

Public Health Department Director Peter Browning said Jan Haugen began working for Skagit County in 1972 in the Health Department. In 1973, she moved to Juvenile Probation and worked there until 1976. She returned to the Health Department in 1982, where she has been for the last 24 years. Ms. Haugen has always been very conscientious about her work, very friendly, outgoing and always reliable. Mr. Browning said they have appreciated her many years of service and the Department wishes Jan the best of luck.

WORK SESSION – FLUORIDATION IN SKAGIT COUNTY

Phil Martinez from CH2MHILL gave a brief summary presentation on a report given to Public Utility District No. 1 a few months ago. He said PUD's main water treatment plant supplies water to about 65,000 people in the cities of Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley and surrounding areas. It would cost about \$800,000 to install a liquid feed system and about \$43,000 per year for operations and maintenance.

Washington Dental Service Foundation has offered to pay for installing the system. However, the PUD Commissioners have taken no position on the issue and say the decision should be left to the voters.

Commissioner Anderson said a decision needs to be made one way or the other. Because the largest group affected by this would be Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and Burlington, he thinks the public needs to know how they feel about the proposal.

Commissioner Munks said PUD has supplied everyone with a road map as to what the costs of fluoridation might be. He said he doesn't think there have been any measurable problems with fluoridated water in Anacortes; however, he agrees that the three major cities need to weigh in.

Chairman Dahlstedt concurred and read a letter crafted by Skagit County Administrator Gary Rowe addressed to the Mayors of Mount Vernon, Burlington and Sedro-Woolley.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to send the letter to the affected cities, which was seconded by Commissioner Munks and passed unanimously.

Robbie Robertson, Commissioner of Public Utility District No. 1 – District 2, indicated that the PUD Commissioner voted unanimously to take a neutral position on this. However, they also took a position to encourage the citizens of Skagit County to vote on the issue.

RECOGNITION – ERV LINDALL, MEMBER OF THE SKAGIT COUNTY LEOFF BOARD

Commissioner Anderson announced that Erv Lindall has been a part of the LEOFF Board from 1974 – 2006. He is now moving over to the City of Mount Vernon, who has formed their own LEOFF Board. With this change Commissioner Anderson stated that he has now become the Chairman of the committee.

Commissioner Munks thanked Mr. Lindall for all his hard work and said that his efforts have been appreciated.

Chairman Dahlstedt said he only filled in a few times as needed but wanted to thank Mr. Lindall for his commitment.

A few local Police Chiefs were also present and thanked Mr. Lindall for a job well done.

Joyce Erickson of the Skagit County Human Resources Department, presented flowers to Mr. Lindall to pass along to his wife for her work as well.

The Board of Commissioners presented Mr. Lindall with a plaque of recognition.

Mr. Lindall thanked the Board for the recognition and spoke briefly about his experiences while serving on the board.

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ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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