

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006**

- *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services – Gary Christensen, Director
1. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution Adopting Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure
 2. Growth Management Act and County Comprehensive Plan/Development Regulation Update
 3. Status Report on Community Plans
 4. Miscellaneous

The Skagit County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 27, 2006, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson and Don Munks present.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – GARY CHRISTENSEN, DIRECTOR

1. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution Adopting Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure.

Oscar Graham, Deputy Director, reviewed the proposed Rules of Procedure for Hearings Before the Hearing Examiner, which were drafted by the County's Hearing Examiner, Wick Dufford. They have been reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office and Planning and Development Services over a period of three years. Mr. Graham said the rules formalize the procedures that have been utilized over the years on an informal basis. They will provide a source of guidance that is frequently requested by the public relative to Hearings Examiner proceedings.

The Commissioners agreed that the County needs a clear and concise set of guidelines in which to operate by. They also thought it would be a good idea to develop guidelines for appeals heard before the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve a resolution adopting Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
(Resolution No. R20060215)

2. Growth Management Act and County Comprehensive Plan/Development Regulation Update.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner, stated that the Department continues to review the 1800 pages of public comment in preparation for Planning Commission deliberations on the 2005 Growth Management Act (GMA) update proposal. Guidance documents have been developed, while work on a more comprehensive report that summarizes and responds to the major comment themes, including more detailed comments on specific policies and regulations continues.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the deliberations schedule and reminded the Board that the primary purpose for this update is to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations are compliant with GMA in light of new state laws and regulations and emerging local circumstances. It is also important to complete the update as soon as possible given the December 1, 2005, deadline. The County may risk losing eligibility for certain state funds the longer it takes to complete the update.

Because of this, the Department has assigned top priority to any issues that must be addressed for reasons for GMA compliance. The second tier of priorities is issues of local concern where there is general consensus on a course of action.

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Gary Christensen, Director, stated that there may be proposals that have strong local support from some element or elements of the community, but are not essential for GMA compliance, and are controversial or raise unresolved implementation problems. If they tie up consideration of the core GMA compliance matters, issues of this nature may need to be removed from the 2005 GMA Update proposal and addressed under a separate timeline and work program.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Johnson for the summary and said it will be helpful to the citizens, including any concerns they may have.

3. Status Report on Community Plans.

Staff gave brief updates on the various community planning efforts underway in the County for Alger, Bayview Ridge, South Fidalgo Island, Guemes Island and Hamilton.

4. Miscellaneous.

Mr. Graham commented on the proposed Deception Pass Tidal Energy Hydroelectric Project, including the potential environmental impacts. Staff from the Department drafted a letter for the Board's consideration, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which would establish the Commissioners' interest in the project as the County's highest elected officials.

According to Mr. Graham, research and development activities will require permits from Skagit County, of which FERC needs to know about.

The Commissioners agreed to sign and mail the letter to Magalie Salas, Secretary of FERC.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Staff brought forth a resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to implement a construction project to restore salmon habitat at McElroy Slough.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Munks. The motion passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20060216)**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

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Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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