

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007**

- *T 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Work Session – Operations Division/Transfer Station
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Closed Record Hearing for the Preliminary Plat Approval Request of Saratoga Passage View Long “CaRD” Land Division #PL06-0107
- *T 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Presentation – The Importance of Trust Land Management for Both the Beneficiaries and the Forest Practice Industry

WORK SESSION – OPERATIONS DIVISION/ROAD SUPERVISORS.

An update was received from division supervisors of the Skagit County Road Shop regarding ongoing projects. Each division reported they were experiencing delays in their routine maintenance because of work involved in storm cleanup. Transfer Station Manager Kevin Renz also reviewed a list of tasks currently being undertaken at the Skagit County Transfer Station.

CLOSED RECORD HEARING FOR THE PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL REQUEST OF SARATOGA PASSAGE VIEW LONG "CaRD" LAND DIVISION #PL06-0107

Brandon Black, Senior Planner explained the closed record hearing was for approval of the preliminary plat of Saratoga Passage View #PL06-0107, submitted April 10, 2006, by Bruce Johnson on behalf of the Benson Family Trust. The project proposal includes the creation of twenty-six (26) single family residential lots, one detention tract, and associated open space from a 590 acre original parcel. The residential lots will be no larger than one (1) acre in size, the detention tract will be 3.18 acres in size, and the open space tract associated with lot #26 will be approximately 550 acres.

Commissioner Dahlstedt commented on the need for the development community to continue to work with the drainage and dike districts to manage water in the new development areas.

Seeing there was no one present to speak at the closed record hearing, Commissioner Munks made a motion to close the closed record hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Munks to approve the resolution concerning the Preliminary Plat Application of Saratoga Passage View #PL06-0107 by the Benson Family Trust. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20070024)**

PRESENTATION - THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT FOR BOTH THE BENEFICIARIES AND THE FOREST PRACTICE INDUSTRY

Will Hamilton, Consultant for the American Forest Resource Council, introduced the following beneficiaries and members of the forest industry to speak about the importance of trust land management, and specifically the relationship to Skagit County:

Rich Gantman, Superintendent, Mount Baker School District, spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries and the concerns about the fiduciary responsibility the State has to manage forest board transfer land. Mr. Gantman said the fiduciary responsibility of the State was to manage the transfer land, to provide a financial revenue stream for the stakeholders of that land, which school districts are specific beneficiaries. Mr. Gantman explained the school districts concerns that if there was a divergence from the revenue stream promised to the school districts, the State and the Bureau of National Resources has a responsibility to find another revenue stream to fund public education.

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Commissioner Dahlstedt spoke about the concerns the County had in entering into lawsuits with the State and the ability to pay for the lawsuits, which cost tremendous amounts of tax resources.

Mark Veen, Superintendent, Sedro-Woolley School District, commented on the specific benefit the district experiences from the timber funds, and, the tremendous benefit to the district as a whole. Mr. Veen said the Sedro-Woolley School District strongly supported Skagit County's efforts in the Lake Whatcom lawsuit.

Tim Raschko, representative of the Skagit Valley Hospital Board of Commissioners, thanked the Board for their continued support for protection of income from State trust land timber sales revenues to the trust beneficiaries. Mr. Raschko told the Commissioners the revenue the hospital received from timbers sales was hugely important to the hospital. Particularly, because the hospital is a not for profit hospital, that has to provide a broad array of services, many of which lose money. Mr. Raschko provided the Board with a listing of timber revenue by fund.

Paul Kriegel, manager of a small tree farm in Skagit County and Board of Directors member of the American Forest Resource Council, commented on his support for the County's efforts in the Lake Whatcom lawsuit. Mr. Kriegel also spoke about the benefits Skagit County received from the revenues of timber trust lands.

John Gold, Forester, Sierra Pacific Industries, thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Gold spoke about the importance of the County continuing to go forward with the Lake Whatcom lawsuit and that his company supports the County's action. Mr. Gold told the Commissioners that Sierra Pacific Industries has created over 200 jobs in Skagit County. Mr. Gold went on to say Sierra Pacific Industries chose to invest in Skagit County because the relative certainty and stability of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' timber sales program on Skagit County's 130,000 acres.

Mr. Gold went on to explain the certainty drawn from the trust land mandate for the State's Habitat Conservation Plan, which ratifies that present forest management practices meet Federal requirements for sustainable production of clean water, endangered species, and other ecosystem services.

Dick Whitmore, Resource Manager, Washington Alder, stated that his business depends heavily on State lands for the resources for their mill. Mr. Whitmore also said that his company supports the County's action in the Lake Whatcom lawsuit.

Ron Smith, General Manager and log buyer, Buse Timber and Sales, spoke about the importance of the County's efforts in the Lake Whatcom lawsuit. Mr. Smith said historically his company has gotten approximately half their supplies from the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Smith went on to say that his organization is committed to financially support the lawsuit.

Dave Ivanoff, Vice-President of Resources, Hampton Lumber, told the Board his company owns about 65,000 acres of timber land in Northwest Washington. He said not only does his industry depend on timber to maintain the infrastructure, but the infrastructure is necessary to maintain healthy forest conditions.

Mr. Ivanoff commended Skagit County for their leadership to promote the principle of the trust mandate and he strongly encouraged them to continue in their efforts to move forward.

Bill Vaux, Anacortes resident, welcomed Commissioner Dillon. Mr. Vaux spoke about Skagit County's history in becoming intervener's in lawsuits and urged the Commissioners to go forward with their present lawsuit against the State. He also said the trust beneficiaries need the revenue from timber sales.

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Both Commissioners' Munks and Dahlstedt stated that the forest was a renewable resource and they both supported the County's beneficiaries of timber revenues.

Commissioner Dillon also said she agreed the forest was a renewal resource and she is also committed to education and the timber industries.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming and making their comments.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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, January 9, 2007, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 240420 through 240475 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$92,862.63 (Transmittal No. C-03-07); and

Payroll warrants numbered 198869 through 199646 from Clearing Fund 695 in the total dollar amount of \$1,008,581.66 (Transmittal No. P-01-07).

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chairman

Don Munks, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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