

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:50 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Dahlstedt led the gallery in the flag salute.

III. AGENDA:

A. 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works Department - David Sheridan, Director

Jan Flagan of Surface Water Management stated Dike Districts 1, 3, 12, 17 and the Cities of Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley have all agreed to participate in cost-sharing of fees associated with the Sauk and Skagit River USGS gauge maintenance.

The Diking Districts and the City of Burlington have signed Interlocal Agreements for \$2,000 a year for a two-year term. Sedro-Woolley has signed an Interlocal for \$1,000 a year for a two-year term. The City of Mount Vernon has elected to participate by way of an invoice generated by the County in the amount of \$2,000 per year for a two-year term.

Chairman Dahlstedt asked why Mount Vernon hadn't agreed to sign an Interlocal Agreement like the others. Ms. Flagan indicated they preferred to be invoiced. Chairman Dahlstedt asked Public Works Director Dave Sheridan to pursue an Interlocal Agreement between Skagit County and Mount Vernon for gauge maintenance.

1. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #12 to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #12. **(Contract No. C20090310)**  
Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #1 to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #1. **(Contract No. C20090311)**  
Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed

unanimously.

3. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #3 to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #3. **(Contract No. C20090312)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #17 to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #17. **(Contract No. C20090313)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sedro-Woolley to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sedro-Woolley. **(Contract No. C20090314)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Signature - Interlocal Agreement with the City of Burlington to Cost Share Annual Maintenance of Several USGS Gauges

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Burlington. **(Contract No. C20090315)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Public Hearing - To Consider Vacating Portions of Unopened County Rights-of-Way Platted as 1st Street, 2nd Street, and the Alley of Blocks 2 and 3, Lying within the Plat of Hamstrom's Addition to Grassmere Near Concrete

Torey Nelson, Engineering Tech with Public Works, reviewed a Petition to Vacate portions of unopened rights-of-way within the Plat of "Hamstrom's Addition to Grassmere" submitted by Wendy McDaniel.

Ms. McDaniel petitioned to vacate 4 locations within said plat. The intent is

to first vacate identified streets and alleys adjacent to Ms. McDaniel's property and secondly, to boundary line adjust the platted lots in accordance with usage and Skagit County Code.

According to Mr. Nelson, there are several homes/shops built in the unopened rights-of-way and access roads that are not located within any right-of-way. This will be corrected when the vacation is processed and boundary line adjusted. Final Order of Vacation will be issued once the County receives receipt of a 50' easement from Grassmere Road to the end of Thomas Jones' property (P71046). Mr. Nelson added that if Mr. Jones is to ever develop his property, he will be the third house on the road and would need to bring the road up to Skagit County Code.

Mr. Nelson provided photographs of the proposed vacation. He said it is the opinion of Paul Randall-Grutter, P.E., County Engineer, that the unopened County rights-of-way is not a necessity and should revert to adjacent property owners.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing.

Robert Austin, 57627 State Route 20 in Rockport, asked if his property line would change should the vacation proceed.

Mr. Sheridan said there should have been a legal survey done, but he will meet with Mr. Austin to alleviate any confusion. This will give a clear definition of what will happen once the vacation is approved.

Butch Rohweder, 44639 Grassmere Road in Concrete, spoke about survey stakes and wondered what would happen to garages, shops and other structures located in the rights-of-way.

Mark Thomas, 60590 Cascade River Road in Marblemount, also questioned how the vacation would affect his property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve closing the public hearing as there was no further public testimony forthcoming. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Nelson said he does not plan to issue a Final Order of Vacation until the 50' easement is completed. However, he will notify all interested parties as to when a decision will be brought forth.

Mr. Sheridan indicated others could join in on the proposed vacation, which would make this transition even smoother.

#### 8. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous Public Works items to discuss.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 9:22 a.m.

B. 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation/Recognition - Volunteers With the Skagit County Diversion Program

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

John Lum, Youth and Family Services Director, stated everyone is here today to recognize and thank those folks who have given and continue to give their time over the years to the Skagit County Youth and Family Services Diversion Program.

According to Mr. Lum, approximately 2,000 cases are received through their agency each year, not including ARIS clients. If there were no such program and those cases had to be handled through the Court, it would cost the County approximately \$527,460.

Mr. Lum recognized Dave Yount, Kevin McCrea and Tess Lahrman, the diversion team who provide support for the Community Accountability Board (CAB).

Mr. Yount stated volunteers are the heart and sole of the Diversion Program. It provides volunteers with the opportunity to participate in addressing the issue of local youth delinquency. This personal commitment results in substantial savings to the taxpayers. Twenty volunteers in Skagit County are involved in the Program to stress the fact that the community is concerned with children, adolescents and their families.

Approximately 480 volunteer hours are provided by Community Accountability Board members each year. CAB members Alison Mohns, Bill Bailey, Lynn Black and Peggy Suryan spoke in support of the Program.

The Commissioners thanked those volunteers present for the time they contribute to the Program.

Tim Holloran, County Administrator, also thanked the volunteers for making a difference and turning lives around.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 10:03 a.m.

C. 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Plaque Presentation by FEMA - National Flood Insurance Program for Community Rating System

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:05 a.m.

Dan Berentson, Natural Resources Director for Skagit County, introduced Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Mitigation Director Mark Carey.

Mr. Carey stated Skagit County has one of the highest ratings in the nation for avoiding property damage due to flooding. FEMA awards point credits towards classification ratings for activities in communities participating over and above standard practice.

According to Mr. Carey, the latest rating improvement was achieved by the County gaining additional points in the activities of Open Space Preservation, Stormwater Management and Flood Damage Reduction.

Skagit County has been a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System since 1997. As of October 2008, the County achieved a '4' classification, which reduces flood insurance premiums in the 100-year floodplain by a total of 30%. This is an additional 5% reduction from the County's previous Class '5' rating.

Delores McLeod, CRS Coordinator, said it's always a pleasure to work with talented staff and added that as a public servant, she finds her job rewarding. She thanked the current and past Commissioners for their commitment in preventing the County's risk of flooding, as well as Kendra Smith of the Farmland Legacy Program, Bill Dowe of Planning & Development Services, Geographic Information Services, Emergency Management and other Public Works staff.

Mr. Carey next presented the Commissioners with a rating certificate, which Commissioner Dillon said belongs to all those County employees who work tirelessly all year long on flood issues.

The Commissioners gave thanks to everyone involved in this effort, including FEMA.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 10:20 a.m.

- D. 10:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m. Proclamation - May 7, 2009, as National Prayer Day in Skagit County

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:45 a.m.

George Eldridge, Skagit County Coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, reviewed a list of events taking place on Thursday, May 7, 2008, in recognition of Prayer Day in Skagit County. Mr. Eldridge also provided a brief history of the National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner Dillon read a proclamation declaring May 7, 2009, as a Day of Prayer in Skagit County

The Commissioners thanked those in attendance.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 10:55 a.m.

- E. 10:55 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Proclamation - May 3 - 9, 2009 as Municipal Clerks Week

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:55 a.m.

Commissioner Wesen read a proclamation declaring May 3 - 9, 2009, as National Municipal Clerks Week.

The Commissioners thanked Clerk of the Board JoAnne Giesbrecht and Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Hammons for continuing to make sure they stay on track with their many responsibilities, duties and commitments as Skagit County Commissioners.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

- F. 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Presentation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; Proclamation Declaring May 3 - 9, 2009, as Wildfire Awareness Week; and Discussion Regarding Title III Funding

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:03 a.m.

Kendra Smith, Natural Resource Lands Policy Coordinator, introduced Carolyn Kelly, Manager of the Skagit Conservation District and Jennifer Hinderman, Firewise Program Coordinator.

Ms. Kelly said she truly appreciates the support given by Skagit County.

Ms. Hinderman summarized the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is a community-based plan that identifies and prioritizes hazardous fuels treatments and recommends ways to reduce structural ignitability.

Within the plan, collaborative strategies are developed to reduce community risk from wildfires and restore healthy more resilient conditions in the surrounding forest.

Rich Dodd, Fire Protection Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, thanked Skagit County for partnering with them in conjunction with Wildfire Awareness Week.

Al Craney, District Forester for the Conservation District, spoke about the Jenkins Lane Community Fuels Reduction Project.

Commissioner Dillon read a proclamation declaring May 3 - 9, 2009, as Wildfire Awareness Week in Skagit County and encouraged all citizens to join in this special observance.

Ms. Smith advised the Board that Skagit County has received Title III funding for 2009; however, before the money can be distributed, there must be a 45 day public comment period. She indicated a public notice would be sent to the County's legal newspaper announcing the availability of those funds.

According to Ms. Smith, Title III funds must be used the year they are received. Because the Skagit Conservation District has been working on developing the Skagit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and implementing the Firewise Communities/USA Program, they are seeking funding for continued implementation and have requested a portion of Title III monies. Ms. Smith continued to explain how these funds would be utilized.

Chairman Dahlstedt excused himself from the proceedings at 11:20 a.m.

Commissioners Dillon and Wesen thanked everyone for their presentations.

Commissioner Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

- G. 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Several folks attending the preceding meeting spoke in support of Skagit

Conservation District's Firewise activities.

Ms. Smith indicated the Community Wildfire Protection Plan would be presented to the Skagit County Planning Commission on May 19, 2009.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dillon adjourned the proceedings for the day at 11:43 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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