

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Dahlstedt led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Planning & Development Services Department - Gary Christensen, Director

1. Discussion/Possible Action - Proposed Code Amendments to Skagit County Code 14.04, 14.32 and 14.44 for Compliance with Skagit County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit

Gary Christensen briefed the Board on NPDES and he explained that he would be asking for an interim ordinance from the Board. The hearing will be scheduled on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Michael See briefed the Board on the history & background of NPDES. All of the requirements are mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act. Their recent appeal process was completed. Boundaries of urbanized areas were discussed which were based off of the numbers from the US Census from the year 2000.

Lori Wight further explained the work plan for this process and recommended that the interim ordinance be adopted.

Commissioner Wesen asked how much this new plan would cost developers. Michael See explained that there would be an increase in costs, but that he did not have the figures yet. This ordinance is mandated by the Federal Government and it is important for Skagit County to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act.

Commissioner Wesen stated that we all need to do our part to keep Puget Sound clean.

Gary Christensen stated that developers may actually benefit from this ordinance that have commercial and industrial properties.

Commissioner Dillon stated she liked the idea of using our space more efficiently and navigating around some the problems that the traditional

retention ponds for stormwater runoff create.

Chairman Dahlstedt questioned some of the exemptions in the document. He asked if we inspect and enforce these additions properly? And, will we be doubling our workload unnecessarily?

Kate Rose from OTEC explained the document and answered the questions.

Michael See wanted to inform the Board that this document was put together after meeting with multiple departments.

Chairman Dahlstedt wanted to stress the importance of working together with other departments and entities whenever possible on projects that affect us all.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve An interim ordinance amending Skagit County Code (chapters 14.04, 14.32, 14.44) to prohibit non-stormwater, illicit discharges into Skagit County's municipal separate storm sewer system and to address runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction site projects in the urban growth areas and census defined urban areas of Skagit County to ensure compliance with the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit. (Ordinance No. O20090008). Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Discussion/Possible Action - Urban Growth Act (UGA) Open Space Concept Plan

Gary Christensen stated that many stakeholders helped draft the UGA Open Space Concept Plan. It is recommended that the Board adopt the UGA Open Space Plan.

Carly Ruacho explained the recommended changes.

Commissioner Dillon was pleased that the UGA Open Space Concept Plan received input from the city departments so that a similar county/city wide plan could be adopted.

Chairman Dahlstedt realized that this project was challenging and he appreciates the coming together of the departments to create a balanced plan.

Gary Christensen thanked multiple employees and the Planning Commission for their help with this plan.

It was reiterated that the public is always free to come and comment on suggested changes.

The Board approved all four recommendations (R1. - R4. on page 5 of 6 of

Skagit County Planning Commission Recorded Motion UGA Open Space Concept Plan).

Commissioner Dillon wants to be sure and work on R2. in order to maintain consistency throughout the county. Funding for this plan needs to be researched.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve to direct the Planning Department to prepare an ordinance adopting the UGA Open Space Concept Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission (which also includes the four recommendations made by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Discussion - Long Range Work Program Update

Kirk Johnson briefed the Board on the status of their projects. Staff reductions have strained their ability to move forward. Two employees were lost and now the Alternative Futures Project takes up 90% of Kirk's time and he has been unable to help with the Long Range Planning Work Program. There are many miscellaneous code amendments to work on which are up for public review and comment.

Chairman Dahlstedt understands that additional funding from other sources may be coming for the Alternative Futures Project. If so, the county may be able to reallocate some funds towards help/staff.

4. Discussion - Alternative Futures Project Update

Planning and Development need to reallocate funds in order to continue work on the Alternative Futures Project until the new funding comes in.

As with the other projects, it is important to have partnerships with other entities as the project develops.

Chairman Dahlstedt wants to make sure that broad representation is achieved.

Kirk Johnson provided a schedule through 2010.

Commissioner Dillon was pleased that this project is moving forward and that funding is coming through for it.

Commissioner Wesen wanted to thank all of those working on this project. Many volunteers are needed for this project and it is appreciated.

Chairman Dahlstedt is committed to this project and his only concern is the hope for younger citizens to also be involved in the planning since this project spans 50 years and they should have a say in their future.

5. Miscellaneous

Summary descriptions given of 2009-2010 Comprehensive Plan Land Use/Zoning Map Amendment Applications received by July 31, 2009. Carly Ruacho stated that two amendment proposals were received before the July 31, 2009 deadline. One was a map amendment proposal and the other was a text amendment proposal.

The land use/zoning map amendment proposal was received from Keith Johnson (PL09-0295). The request was discussed.

The text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan policies was received from Skagit Partners, LLC (PL09-0324). The request was discussed.

Other amendment proposals are being worked on.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation- Skagit County Library Districts

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:32 a.m.

Brian Soneda, Director of Mount Vernon City Library, came to speak on behalf of the Anacortes, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and Mount Vernon libraries. Mr. Soneda wanted to make sure that the Commissioners knew that they all appreciate the County's support of their libraries. He discussed the current economy and increased usage of libraries. He also discussed new challenges which include: teaching library users who are looking for employment opportunities how to use computer/find job/etc. He stated that they need help in multiple ways to continue their support of the community. Mr. Soneda then introduced Don Cook who is a volunteer at the library.

Don Cook thanked the Commissioners for the funds allocated to the libraries. Mr. Cook wanted to discuss the Burlington library's increase of use. Mr. Cook said he helps with the sale of used books, etc. He also discussed the cost of the library cards and how many community members cannot afford, or choose not to purchase the card, yet they still use the libraries resources.

Commissioner Dillon wanted to know about the past summer youth reading programs. She asked if the libraries were still able to offer them?

Mr. Soneda stated that the summer reading program is still running. The partnership with SKAT to ride free to the library has been great.

Commissioner Wesen appreciates the volunteers at our local libraries and the programs that help the citizens.

Friends and volunteers help greatly with the high level of service they are able to provide.

Chairman Dahlstedt will continue challenging the budget to keep up continued support for our libraries.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:47 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Hearing - Declaration of Surplus Property Auction

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Thomas G. Ballard, P.E., Interim Public Works Director, discussed the resolution for the property to be surplus.

Mike Elde was present to answer any questions that the Commissioner's had.

Commissioner Dillon noticed three wrecked vehicles and asked what was being done with them.

Mr. Elde stated one vehicle is almost completely stripped down (used for parts).

One will be surplus/sold.

The last will be kept for parts.

The auction for the surplus vehicles is scheduled for September 12, 2009 in Bothell, WA.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 10:05 a.m. and noted that no public was present for comment.

Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve to dispose of said County surplus property. (Resolution No. R20090355). Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:06 a.m.

d) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Presentation - Downtown Mount Vernon Main Street

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the hearing at 10:30 a.m.

Georgiann Dustin, Executive Director of the Downtown Main Street Program came to give a presentation on their project for Downtown Mount Vernon.

Ms. Dustin discussed the multiple problems facing many historical downtowns: she said they are no longer the center of activity since the introduction of big box malls, they continually lose the small shops which try to move into the big malls in order to compete for business, the infrastructure starts to deteriorate (streets, sidewalks, and buildings) which detracts new businesses.

The Downtown Program focuses on organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring.

Ms. Dustin presented the best ways to revitalize and improve any downtown atmosphere.

Revitalization cannot happen overnight and it works best when the community itself is involved.

Commissioner Dillon discussed a workshop she attended. The main idea that was discussed at the workshop was how you needed to have mix of shops and living spaces in order to have a sustainable downtown. Commissioner Dillon asked if this still the prevailing way of thinking?

Ms. Dustin stated that it was still a main focus for the downtown idea.

Commissioner Wesen thanked Ms. Dustin for the information. He stated that we want to maintain what we have and that it was nice to see this project being worked on.

Chairman Dahlstedt thanked Ms. Dustin for returning to make this formal presentation and is pleased that she is taking the lead on this issue.

Ms. Dustin invited the Commissioner's to her office for a tour of downtown Mount Vernon.

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

- e) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Department of Commerce U.S. Census Bureau - Update Changes for Census 2010

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:01 a.m.

Gladys Romero, with the US Census Bureau, updated the Board on changes to the 2010 census. She stated since 1790 the census has been performed every 10 years. When the population count is correct, funding is fairly allocated for an area.

Ms. Romero discussed a Proclamation from the Commissioners to declare their support of the US Census 2010 and for the formation of a Complete Count Committee to advocate for the completeness of the 2010 census.

Ms. Romero explained the changes in 2010, which discontinues the "long form". There will only be the short form. The long form is being replaced by a short survey questionnaire. This questionnaire will be readily available five languages and more languages will be made available upon request.

For our information, in mid-March a card will be sent out to residents to inform them that the census is coming. Shortly after the card is sent, the survey questionnaire will be mailed out to residents to complete and return. Once completed and returned, their part is finished. If the questionnaire's are not returned in a timely fashion, a second questionnaire will be mailed. If the second questionnaire is not returned, a representative will be sent to the resident's house to verbally complete

the census questionnaire.

Ms. Romero hoped that the Board could hold town meetings and urge residents to complete the questionnaires.

Commissioner Dillon mentioned the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) meeting that will be talking place soon and that this issue could also be brought up there. SCOG helps link the county and cities.

Chairman Dahlstedt recommended that Ms. Romero attend a SCOG meeting and present this information since all mayors, ports, etc. will be present. The next SCOG meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 19, 2009.

A discussion ensued regarding the proclamation and when to complete it.

Ms. Romero explained that there would be an advertisement campaign for the 2010 census in January/February.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:12 a.m.

f) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings and opened the public hearing at 11:33 a.m.

Bob Helton, 21032 Little Mountain Road in Mount Vernon was present for public comment. Mr. Helton is a member of the Beat the Heat group in Anacortes, WA. At their last meeting they reviewed a book "Living Well, Living Green" that will help the citizens of Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Their group was able to create this book with a grant through the Clean Air Agency. It will serve as a user-friendly and informative guide to help citizens lower their carbon emissions.

Commissioner Wesen asked Mr. Helton where the photograph was taken which is on the front cover of the book.

Mr. Helton explained that it was a local field, but he did not know the exact location.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The motion passed unanimously, and the public comment period closed at 11:37 a.m.

g) *2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Executive Session - Potential Litigation

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dahlstedt ajourned the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

**Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners**