

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 20, 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 8:00 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 and Development Services Department - Gary Christensen, Director

1. Public Hearing - To Consider the Interim Ordinance Process Used for Adoption of Amendments to Skagit County Code 14.04, 14.32 and 14.44 to Prohibit Non-Stormwater, Illicit Discharges into Skagit County's Municipal Stormwater System and to Address Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Site Projects

Gary Christensen introduced Lori Wight, Stormwater Specialist, with the Public Works Surface Water Management Department who presented background information to the Board regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is a Federally mandated permit system to regulate the known pollution sources. Stormwater is considered a major source of pollution and is a threat to the Puget Sound. This permit would be valid for five years. The Board was briefed on the requirements for the renewal of the permit and the work plan in place for meeting the requirements. The final plan must be finished by August 2010. Ms. Wight stated that after meeting with the various stakeholders involved with this plan, no objections have been noted.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 8:12 a.m. Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The motion passed unanimously.

One of the most important things we can do to improve our water is to simply be more responsible and thoughtful of what we do at home in our own backyard.

2. Discussion/Possible Action - Planning Commission Recorded Motion Recommending Approval of Miscellaneous Code Amendments, Phase 2

Gary Christensen introduced Carly Ruacho, Senior Planner and Project

Manager for the Miscellaneous Code Amendments. Ms. Ruacho stated that all but one of the issues interested parties had with the Miscellaneous Code Amendments contained in Phase 2 reached consensus. The one issue which was not fully resolved, but where the parties agreed to disagree, had to do with the Urban Growth Areas modification criteria. The Planning Commission voted on adopting Phase 2 of the Miscellaneous Code Amendments. All members present (seven) voted in favor. One member was absent.

Commissioner Wesen brought up the issue recently reported in the news about the problems that the Burlington-Edison School Board is having with their land purchase. Commissioner Wesen pointed out page 7, line 14 of the Skagit County Code Amendment Proposals and stated that it would be very important and necessary to make sure that all affected would be involved in this process. Mr. Christensen stated that when changes are proposed to the Urban Growth Areas, the municipality has the responsibility to inform those potentially affected by the change, and then between those involved, present any issues to the County.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Ruacho for her diligent work on the code changes. They also appreciate the Planning Commission breaking these 119 Code Amendments into two phases and are pleased that they are working well together.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve that the Planning Department prepare an ordinance adopting the Miscellaneous Code Amendments (Phase 2) as recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Discussion/Possible Action - Proclaiming October 2009 Community Planning Month in Skagit County

Commissioner Dillon read the Proclamation designating the month of October as Community Planning Month in Skagit County.

Planning betters the community's future. We want to make sure we do what is best for our community. If we plan properly we can hope to create the best future. The saying goes, "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail".

The Commissioners had one housekeeping item to take care of: Commissioner Dillon moved to rescind the resolution authorizing the supplement to the 2009 Skagit County Budget signed on the Consent Agenda (item No. 4) on Monday, October 19, 2009. The resolution was added to the consent agenda in error. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:42 a.m.

4. Miscellaneous

- b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Hearing - To Consider a Resolution to Amend the 2009 Budget for Various Departments

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:00 a.m.

Trisha Logue, Finance Director for Skagit County, briefed the Board on the Budget Amendment Packet. The packet is broken out into two sections. The first part highlights County departments in yellow which have requested the use of the general fund balance. Ms. Logue briefed the Board on each department's request and gave the reason from the department for each request. Each request was due to decreases in revenues. It was pointed out that the defense and prosecuting expenses for the Zamora case made up a little more than half of the budget amendment requests.

Ms. Logue then briefed the Board on the second part of the Budget Amendment Packet which consist of departments that are requesting to amend line items in their budgets. Many departments received grants to help fund some of their projects which is why they want to update some of their budget portions.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:21 a.m.

Don Munks, Assessor of Skagit County, was present to request that the Board reduce their request by \$4,973. They re-assessed line items in their budget and saw that they could reduce their request from \$17,723 to \$12,750.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dillon did not want to go over budget. This is serious business. She stressed the importance of having every department carefully track their budget. Every single dime spent this year affects what the County can do next year.

Commissioner Wesen was surprised at some of the budget requests. Some of the items did not make sense. Requests for overtime and retirement shouldn't happen. Departments need to track and plan for these things better. We need to keep the budget balanced it's our responsibility to our taxpayers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the resolution for the supplement to the 2009 Skagit County Budget and to also accept the changes requested by the Assessor. **(Resolution No. R20090431)**  
Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- c) 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Public Hearing - To Consider Whether, Or Which, Applications And/Or Proposals To Amend The Skagit County Comprehensive Plan And/Or Comprehensive Plan Land Use/Zoning Map Should Be Placed On The Docket Of Annual Amendments

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:40 a.m.

Carly Ruacho, Senior Planner, briefed the Board on the petitions received to amend sections of the Comprehensive Plan. Two requests were received. One was a map amendment and the other a text amendment.

The map amendment request was received from Keith Johnson (PL09-0295). Mr. Johnson is requesting the re-designation of approximately 230 acres. A combination of three land owners would like to change the zoning from Industrial Forest - Natural Resource Land (IF-NRL) to Secondary Forest - Natural Resource Land (SF-NRL). The docket recommendation from the Planning and Development Services Department is to deny docketing this request due to reduced staff resources and a large workload for 2010. It was also noted that changing the zoning would increase the residential density on the property, and, that denial of this request for docketing would be consistent with recent changes to Skagit County Code 14.08.020 (3).

The text amendment request was received from Skagit Partners, LLC (PL09-0324). Skagit Partners, LLC seeks additional Comprehensive Plan provisions for the development of Fully Contained Communities. The application proposed policy amendments to Chapters 2, 3 and 11. The application also included proposed code language to address permitting requirements. The docket recommendation from the Planning and Development Services Department is to deny docketing this request due to reduced staff resources and the current work plan outlined for 2010. If dedicated resources were made available to the department so that a sufficient review of the request could be preformed with research, and the 2010 work plan reprioritized, then the department could support docketing this proposal.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:49 a.m.

Michael Crawford, 4435 Agate Road on Guemes Island, was present to comment on Fully Contained Communities. Mr. Crawford urged the Commissioners to start the process. Review takes a long time and he believed that this would benefit the County (generate revenue) long-term. Mr. Crawford believes that there is a need for land like this in Skagit County which helps take development pressure off our farmland.

George Kresovich, Attorney, represents Skagit Partners, LLC. The current Comprehensive Plan provides for and encourages Fully Contained Communities (FCC's). The request they submitted does not propose any changes to the current code. It does request additions to it for clarification purposes. This project was started in the Summer of 2008. Skagit Partners, LLC met with the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) in the Fall of 2008 and received some concerns and also encouragement. Policies were prepared and proposed to address the concerns they heard from SCOG. They would like to continue with this process and find ways to move forward. Chairman Dahlstedt understands that a moratorium was recently issued on FCC's in Snohomish County. Mr. Kresovich understood some of what happened in this situation and explained it to the Board. Commissioner Dillon recently heard that a FCC in Peirce County filed for bankruptcy. Mr. Kresovich stated that it was the "Cascadia Community" and that it was clear that they platted for 500 lots but with current economic situation it didn't work out for them, as many other potential developments that are not FCC's.

Charlie Swab from Grouse Lane, Cascade Ridge, is the Vice President of their

Homeowner's Association. On behalf of their Homeowner's Association, he was present to lend their support to Keith Johnson regarding the proposed zoning map amendment. The proposed land use would be in keeping with neighboring parcels and they support the re-zoning.

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.

Chairman Dahlstedt stated that the Commissioners will make a decision regarding whether or not to docket these items on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

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

- d) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Work Session with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding Flood Awareness Week

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:32 a.m.

Dan Berentson, Public Works Natural Resources Division Manager, was present to introduce Kathy DeJardin and Eric Winters from the Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who presented their current work plan to the Board. Sandbagging demonstrations and communication trials between the County, Dike Districts and local community are on their agenda. The annual high school sand bagging competition and Search and Rescue sandbag training is coming up soon. Mr. Winters stated that Skagit County has the third worst river on the west coast, and the best maintained levy's in the State of Washington. Their job is to try to prevent and reduce damage to our infrastructure. They emphasis on prevention and want to be pro-active. They also provide technical assistance to communities. They can be reached at 206-764-3406.

The Commissioners thanked them for all of their help over the years. Mr. Berentson read a press release from November 2006 wherein the Skagit River was estimated to peak at 46 feet. Our dikes and sandbags could only handle 38 feet. With help we prepared, and with luck the main part of the storm went a different direction. Our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is important.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:50 a.m.

- e) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Proclamation Designating October 18 - October 24, 2009 as Adult Literacy Week in Skagit County

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:05 a.m.

Lynn Christofersen and Kathy Kuba were present to brief the Board on the Adult Literacy Program. They also thanked the Commissioners for celebrating with them today. Supporters of the program and students were thanked. The students wrote essays about the importance of literacy in their lives. They received 106 essays which were compiled into a book. Three community members read and scored each essay. The top three essayists were present today to read their essays.

Ms. Christofersen introduced Senator Kevin Ranker. He thanked the students. Improving literacy is an investment in yourself and the community. Senator Ranker

did some research and found that 9% of adults in Skagit County lack literacy skills. Senator Ranker was glad to see and support these kinds of programs.

Benita Jaramillo, Delores Garcia, and Porforia Mendiola read their essays to the Commissioners.

Linda Fogg was present from the Verizon Foundation and presented a \$10,000 grant to Skagit County Community Action Agency for their literacy program. Literacy is the foundation on which all other skills are built.

Commissioner Dillon stated that many of us take literacy for granted. What the students have accomplished is admirable. Commissioner Wesen thanked the speakers and noted that it was advantageous to be able to speak and read English. Chairman Dahlstedt thanked the students for making time for additional education. To be bilingual is a tremendous asset.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation designating Adult Literacy Week in Skagit County from October 19 through October 24, 2009.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings.

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

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings and called the public comment period to session.

Carol Ehlers presented multiple articles to the Commissioners for further consideration. One article discussed the volunteers located throughout Skagit County who measure precipitation every day and post the information to a website. Ms. Ehlers thought that this information could be accessed by Skagit County during the fall flood season to help with preparation. Another article Ms. Ehlers wanted to point out regarded salmon that failed to spawn and the implications it might have for Skagit County. Ms. Ehlers then wanted to discuss another article regarding home loan branches that continued to open despite the down economy. A stack of newspapers was brought in showing a year's worth of foreclosures in our area. She discussed the legal notices published to evict tenants from homes and people from homes foreclosing and stated that they were very difficult to read and understand. Ms. Ehlers then showed an article published in the Anacortes American that discussed the City's budget. She appreciated the way it was written and requested that Skagit County to do it similarly.

Seeing no further public comments forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public comment period, which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The motion passed unanimously.

g) 1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Presentation by Cascades Job Corps Center on Haunted Hospital

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 1:35 p.m.

Brian Hurst from Cascades Job Corp Center was present to talk about the Haunted Hospital Event. People from as far away as Seattle and Vancouver have come to see the Haunted Hospital. They have had to turn people away from this event at times.

Their ticket booth opens at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday for their showings. They have had people come line up for tickets as early as 2:30 p.m. It has gone very well in this first year and show times and ticket buying options will be expanding next year. Students and graduates from the Cascades Job Corp Center have worked on this project from the decorations to the advertising plan. This event funds scholarships for the students at the Cascades Job Corps Center.

Commissioner Dillon is glad that it has been such a success. The Commissioners thanked them for their presentation.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 1:44 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 1:44 p.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