

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, Ron Wesen, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Dillon led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Gary Christensen - Director:

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Conservation Easement per Skagit County Code 14.16.860 for Short Plat PL06-0959 submitted by Lyle and Merri Lou Wesen

Brandon Black, Senior Planner, explained the Conservation Easement per Skagit County Code 14.16.860 for Short Plat PL06-0959 was submitted by Lyle and Merri Lou Wesen. He indicated the short plat developed a .76 acre building envelope (Lot #1) around the existing residential structure and will place 46.28 acres (Lot #2) into a Ag-NRL Conservation Easement with no residential building Site. The project is located at 4614 Chuckanut Drive, Bow, WA; within a portion of the NE 1/2 of the SE 1/2 of Section 28, Township 36 North, Range 03 East.

Mr. Black noted two minor corrections to parcel number were incorrectly listed as well as correction to spelling of Merri Lou Wesen's name.

Commissioner Ron Wesen voluntarily recused himself from making a decision in this matter due to the fact that his parents owned the property.

Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to approve and sign the Conservation Easement per Skagit County Code 14.16.860 for Short Plat PL06-0959, submitted by Lyle and Merri Lou Wesen. Chair Dillon seconded the motion, which passed. **(Contract No. C20100017)**

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Planning and Development Services to discuss.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 8:12 a.m.

b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Hearing to Consider New Fees Increases for Skagit

Playfields and Dreamfield

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:00 a.m.

Brian Adams, Director of Skagit County Parks Recreation and Fair, introduced Administrative Coordinator Pauli Mickelson, and West County Lead Mike McCutchin, who were present to answer any questions. Mr. Adams explained the proposed revision of the current user fees are for the Skagit Valley Play Fields Picnic Shelter, Skagit Valley Play Fields Softball Fields, Wally Sigmar Soccer Field, Skagit Valley Dream Field, and Allen Play Fields.

Mr. Adams pointed out several reasons the user fees needed to be increased and that it has been several years since the fees have been restructured. He said the Parks and Recreation Department can no longer rely on Skagit County inmate services, there have been capital improvements made to the parks facilities, and in order to keep up with level of service for the softball tournaments, two employees are needed to assist during the tournaments.

Mr. Adams went on to explain that the proposed increase in fees will help to recover the costs for running the tournaments.

Chair Dillon opened the public hearing at 9:14 a.m.

Mark White of 2220 N. Trumpeter Drive in Mount Vernon stated he has been playing softball for 35 years and running softball tournaments for 16 years. Mr. White went on to say that the fee increase, in some instances, is a 100% increase. He suggested registration fees for tournament directors from outside the County should be higher. He also stated Skagit County hotels, retail stores, restaurants, and all local businesses benefit from softball tournaments.

Bill Silves of 13254 Parkhurst Lake in Mount Vernon stated Skagit County has one of best parks departments but stated proposed fee increases were too drastic. He urged the Commissioners to find a compromise that can work for everyone.

Bob James of 1022 Nylin Court in Mount Vernon stated the fee increases were too high. He suggested the County consider looking at how many employees are needed during the tournaments.

Commissioner Dahlstedt commented on partnerships with the cities.

Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:37 a.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

After a brief discussion, Chair Dillon stated a decision will be made on this matter on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:41 a.m.

- c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Presentation by Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Senator Harriet Spanel - Recognizing Skagit County for Top Score for an Outstanding Project to Conserve Value Farmland

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:00 a.m.

Kendra Smith, Natural Resource Policy Coordinator, stated Skagit County has been awarded the top score in a statewide competition for grant funding in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Farmland Preservation category, a grant program designed to conserve the state's most valuable farmland for future generations.

Ms. Smith reported Skagit County was awarded a \$319,000 grant to conserve 264 acres of the Smith farm on Fir Island. The land has been farmed for more than a century and is designated as farmland of long-term commercial significance and prime farmland by the Federal National Resources Conservation Service and Skagit County.

Ms. Smith introduced Richard Smith, Kevin Morse from the Natural Conservancy, and former Washington State Senator Harriet Spanel.

Senator Spanel stated she recently became a member of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. She indicated Skagit County has been awarded over 190 grants, which amount to \$54 million. Senator Spanel congratulated Skagit County for its Farmland Legacy Program. She also commended the staff and the Natural Conservancy and presented a check in the amount of \$319,000.

Mr. Smith thanked the County for the Farmland Legacy Program.

The Commissioners thanked the volunteers that support the Farmland Land Legacy Program.

Carolynn Kelly of the Skagit Conservation District and Chair of the Conservation Futures Advisory Board commented on the grant application process. Kevin Morris of the Nature Conservancy also commented on the project.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:20 a.m.

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

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

Seeing no one present Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public comment period at 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Dillon announced that an executive session has been scheduled and will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the topic will be personnel.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:33 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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