

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 20, 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 8:00 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. Public Works- Thomas G. Ballard, Interim Director

1. Progress Report: 2010 Annual Road Program

Thomas Ballard, Interim Director of Public Works, updated the Board on the 2010 Annual Road Program. The engineering staff of Public Works was present and reported they have been putting together processes, tools, and methods for completing projects. Mr. Ballard discussed the processes and tools involved from beginning to end for any project. Mr. Ballard also discussed each step involved in completing the annual road projects. A master schedule of the 2010 planned projects was shown to the Commissioners.

Mr. Ballard asked Jennifer Swanson, Project Manager, to discuss the status of the Frances Road Re-alignment Project. Ms. Swanson stated that the project would be going out to bid this fall. The cost of the project will be three million dollars, and it is expected to be completed in spring 2011. Ms. Swanson stated that the segment of Francis Road to be re-aligned does not meet the minimum current road standards and that it has been identified as a high accident location.

David Walde, Project Manager, discussed the Parson Creek-Friday Creek Roads and he stated that the roads need to be repaired due to slip and shifting. The project is estimated to cost \$165,000, and it should be completed in October 2010.

George Dragseth, Project Manager, discussed the Anderson LaVenture Road Improvement Project. He stated that it would go out to bid and that it would be federally funded. The cost of the project is estimated to cost between eight to twelve million dollars. The project should be completed in 2012. Mr. Dragseth stated that the county still has to acquire some right-of-ways and

that there is still permitting to complete. This project will improve traffic flow between I-5 and College Way.

Paul Randall-Grutter, Senior Project Engineer, discussed the Edens Road project on Guemes Island. This is a main road on the Island and the roadway has no shoulder. Mr. Randall-Grutter explained that during heavy rains, water covers the road. The road needs to be raised 18 inches, shoulders need to be added, and some culverts need to be replaced. The cost estimation for this project is \$390,000.

Mr. Ballard stated that each project is tracked on the master schedule. Some projects will go into 2011 and 2012. Mr. Ballard believes that with this system in place, when the new public works director comes on board, all projects will continue along as planned without interruption.

The Commissioners thanked Public Works for the presentation, updates, and jobs well done. They understand that a lot of work goes into each project.

2. Staff Update: Washington D.C. Trip Regarding Skagit County Flood Topics

Dan Berentson, Natural Resources Administrator, informed the Board that he and Lorna Ellestad, Project Coordinator of Surface Water Management, travelled to Washington D.C. in order to attend a technical conference that was set up regarding Skagit River hydrology. Mr. Berentson reported that they also met with Michael Baker, a FEMA contractor working on the flood maps. United States Geological Services was also present to discuss Skagit River hydrology, and many cities were present to discuss issues. Mr. Berentson was pleased with the outcome of the meetings, which is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will now take into consideration the information provided by Mr. Berentson and the cities of Skagit County before releasing the flood maps.

Mr. Berentson stated that Senators Cantwell and Murray and Representative Larsen are working to secure funds needed in order to finish the GI Study of the Skagit River, and wide-spread support for the project was confirmed at these meetings in Washington D.C.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Berentson for attending the meetings in Washington D.C. Flooding does millions of dollars of damage to county roads and infrastructure which is why the county works on these critical issues.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 8:56 a.m.

3. Miscellaneous

b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Proclamation for Soil and Water Stewardship Week

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

Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District Manager, was pleased to be able to share this week with the Commissioners.

Kristi Carpenter, Public Information and Education Coordinator at Skagit Conservation District, thanked the Commissioners and stated that this year's motto is "Conservation Habits Equal Healthy Habitats". Every year they have a poster competition. Ms. Carpenter discussed healthy habits for our local habitats. She also pointed out that Fidalgo Island received national recognition in 2008 for being a natural wildlife habitat community. The Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat team is working on getting this designation for Mount Vernon as well.

Donna Schram, member of Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat, stated that they have been operating for three years and that they are only a few months away from certification. She stated that the habitat celebration will take place on August 24th. Ms. Schram saw the rain garden on Continental Place and encouraged the Commissioners to certify it as a wildlife friendly habitat.

Cindy Pierce, Youth Education and Data Information Coordinator at Skagit Conservation District, introduced Blossom and led her up to sit with the Commissioners. Ms. Pierce stated that over 200 posters were submitted from grades K through 12 for their annual poster contest. Ms. Pierce thanked the four judges and announced the winners of each grade division who showed their posters to the Commissioners. Nylah Torgerson was the category K-1 winner. Lauren Mowat was the category 2-3 winner as well as the overall winner. Cheyenn Hendrickson was the category 4-6 winner and the runner-up winner. Mercedes Garfias was the category 10-12 winner.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation designating April 25 to May 2, 2010, as Soil and Water Stewardship Habitat Week.

The Commissioners thanked the Skagit Conservation District and Donna Schram for their work. They also thanked the poster contest winners and their families for sharing their posters with them.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:25 a.m.

- c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Proclamation for Denim Day in Skagit County in Recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:34 a.m.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the Proclamation declaring April 22, 2010, as Denim Day in Skagit county in Recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:39 a.m.

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

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:32 a.m.

Seeing no one present for public comment the Commissioners shared some information with each other.

Chair Dillon is one of the representatives on the Solid Waste Governance Board and after a long process of working with the cities of Skagit County, the Board hopes that

the governance committee approves the new county transfer station.

Commissioner Wesen commented on the experience he had being a panelist on the Burlington-Edison Senior Student Exit PAWS Presentations. Each Commissioner was a panelist either on a different day or with a separate panel and they were all impressed with the groups they evaluated.

The Commissioners shared that they were invited all the Park and Ride Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, April 23, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Hickox Road and Old Highway 99. It is a great location for the train and carpooling transit options.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:39 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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