

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order at 8:00 a.m. and excused Commissioner Wesen's absence from the proceedings.

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. Discussion: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Safety Measures at the Intersection of State Route 9 and Francis Road

Rob McGaughey, County Engineer, introduced Dina Swires, P.E. from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Ms. Swires informed the Board of the studies performed in 2006 and 2010 at the intersection of State Route 9 and Francis Road. The 2010 study showed that a four-way stop sign (or light) would be beneficial at this intersection due to the current traffic load and motor vehicle accident data. Ms. Swires stated that although the WSDOT has been monitoring the intersection, they do not have any current plans to create a four-way stop sign. They would be interested in partnering with Skagit County and the Cities in the near future to improve this intersection.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if a round-about would be considered at the intersection.

Ms. Swires informed the Board that a round-about would be considered but WSDOT has budgetary concerns.

Chair Dillon was concerned about the accidents at the intersection and also asked if a potential round-about would be one or two lanes.

Ms. Swires stated that as traffic volumes increase, people are performing risky maneuvers which result in more accidents. She informed the Board that a round-about at this intersection would most likely be one lane. She went on to say that a round-about would be the best option for this intersection. They range in cost from \$450,000 to \$800,000 and that purchasing right-of-ways from nearby property owners makes the cost go up. Ms. Swires specifically mentioned that the shoulders at this intersection

would need to be evaluated before installing a four-way stop sign at the intersection.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that traffic at this intersection would probably increase with the nearby road improvements. He asked Ms. Swires about funding for a round-about.

Ms. Swires stated that the WSDOT could help write grants and letters of support for the project, and that they could do some of the engineering work.

The Commissioners asked Forest Jones, from the transportation program section in Public Works, about the round-about that was constructed on McLean Road.

Mr. Jones stated that traffic volume was similar. The speed limit was higher at the McLean Road intersection. Mr. Jones informed the Commissioners that many logging trucks approaching the State Route 9/Francis Road intersection from Old Day Creek Road travel down a side road parallel to State Route 9 instead of attempting turns at the intersection with Francis Road. This side road passes by an elementary school.

Mr. McGaughey stated that a round-about would reduce vehicle emissions. Different funds can be looked at and grants applied for to help cover the cost of a round-about.

Chair Dillon confirmed that the next step in improving this intersection was to add it to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 8:21 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

- b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Reformation for Skagit County Lake Management District No. 3 for Lake Erie and Lake Campbell

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:03 a.m.

Tom Ballard, Interim Public Works Director, introduced Tracy Alker, Water Resources Technician, who stated that Marsha Flowers, Chair of the Advisory Committee of Lake Management No. 3 was also present.

The Lake Management District No. 3 formed in 2001 when property owners agreed to pay a fee in order to control water weeds. This agreement expires May 2011. Ms. Alker was informed by Lake Management District No. 3 Advisory Committee that they would like to renew the agreement for the committee and pay the same rates.

Letters were mailed to each property owner describing the proposed reformation process and highlighting the accomplishments over last 10 years. A petition was also mailed with this letter regarding re-forming the committee. Over 36 petitions were returned. One letter of support has also been received. No opposition letters have been received. Once the proposed resolution has been signed, a ballot will be mailed to the property owners for a vote on the reformation of the Lake Management District No. 3.

Chair Dillon opened the public hearing at 9:08 a.m.

Dave Crawford of 5974 Campbell Lake Road in Anacortes was present to let the Board know that he has been disappointed over the last few years with the meetings because there were less of them than in the past. He believes that fish work better at controlling the weeds than chemicals. He stated that permitting from the Department of Fish and Wildlife had been difficult. He believes that there should be at least two annual meetings, and if not, he will have a hard time supporting the reformation. Mr. Crawford mentioned that the lake is higher than usual. He noticed a culvert under Buttram Lane may be blocked. Commissioner Dahlstedt and Mr. Crawford discussed the culvert further. Chair Dillon asked Ms. Alker about making sure certain language is in the new agreement included a minimum number of meetings per year.

Bill Gattenby of 5027 Sharpe Road in Anacortes has property on the south side of Lake Erie. He would like to renew the agreement. He would appreciate more meetings. He and a neighbor have discussed problems they see with skidoo's and jet ski's, that damage the shorelines, stir up the lake, and often chase lake birds. He wants to make sure the lake stays clean.

Marsha Flowers of 6080 Campbell Lake Road in Anacortes is the Chair of the Advisory Committee of Lake Management No. 3. She agreed that in the first five years of the newly formed Lake District, communications and meetings went well. She also agreed that they have become less frequent. Ms. Flowers understands that other Lake Management Districts have bylaws and wonders if they should put some together as well. She stated that requests have gone out for a base of volunteers, however no one has responded. The current group needs to be relieved. Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:20 a.m. which was seconded by Chair Dillon.

Commissioner Dahlstedt suggested to Ms. Alker that Lake Management District meeting information be made available on the County's website. He and Chair Dillon thanked the volunteers of the district and suggested that they periodically schedule updates with the Board.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:23 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution Regarding the Reformation for Skagit County Lake Management District No. 3 for Lake Erie and Lake Campbell (**Resolution No. R20100196**). Chair

Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Ron Wesen's absence was excused

- c) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Presentation: United General Hospital - Drug Endangered Children Protocol

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

Lisa Mitchell, United General Hospital Program Coordinator for the Community Health Outreach Program was present to discuss V.O.I.C.E., the Skagit Meth Action Team, and a proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Protocol for Skagit County Drug Endangered Children. Ms. Mitchell described the outreach activities performed with some of the funds they received from the Department of Commerce (\$16,000 total). They have also provided training for law enforcement and other entities who periodically work with drug endangered children. Ms. Mitchell stated that Morgan Curry of V.O.I.C.E. helped create backpacks for kids who are taken from homes where meth or other drugs were made. The goal of the Meth Action Team is to bring all of the entities together who work with drug endangered children, for example: law enforcement, hospital staff, child protective staff, and outline the duties each department needs to follow. Each entity has weighed in on the Memorandum, as well as the Skagit County Substance Abuse Advisory Committee. Ms. Mitchell introduced Chief Criminal Deputy with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Mr. Reichardt to further discuss the Memorandum of Understanding.

Will Reichardt is also involved with the Drug Task Force. He stated that this protocol will provide some uniformity for law enforcement and other entities who work together when responding to incidents involving children and drugs. Mr. Reichardt said he has appreciated working with the Meth Action Team.

Ms. Mitchell introduced Morgan Curry from V.O.I.C.E. Ms. Curry stated that V.O.I.C.E. was excited about this Memorandum of Understanding and they fully support it. Madeline Loy was also present from V.O.I.C.E. and she informed the Board about their backpack project. Backpacks given to children include an extra set of clothes, a water bottle, a stuffed animal, and books.

The Commissioners were pleased to see young individuals involved in community projects. They look forward to signing the protocol and they thanked Mr. Reichardt for his involvement and support of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- d) 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation: United General Hospital - Northern State Recreation Area Tobacco-Free Park

Brian Adams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Fair was present to inform the Board that one of the goals of his department is to provide a place for community members to play and be healthy. One way of accomplishing this is to partner with other entities. Mr. Adams introduced Carol Hawk from United General Hospital.

Carol Hawk is the Director of the Community Health Outreach Programs and they support tobacco free parks. Ms. Hawk stated that tobacco free parks have less garbage and fires. One cigarette butt is toxic to children and pets. Having tobacco free parks creates a better social environment for children. Ms. Hawk discussed some polls taken of Skagit County residents regarding smoking. She stated that they would like to add Northern State Recreation Area to their tobacco free park list.

Brian Adams stated that Northern State Recreation Area is made up of many big grassy areas and wooded areas. In order to reduce the risk of fires, it should be a tobacco free park. Mr. Adams read the resolution to the Commissioners. He stated that the resolution was being routed for their signatures.

Commissioner Dahlstedt wanted to point out that Northern State Recreation Area was 726 acres. While it would be nice to provide another tobacco free park, smokers are tax payers too. He understood that some of the reasons why other parks were designated as tobacco free was due to their small size and usage by children. Commissioner Dahlstedt believes that there should be a designated area for those who smoke.

Chair Dillon is concerned about grassy and wooded areas at Northern State Recreation Area, and she would like to be sure that Commissioner Wesen is involved in the final decision.

Carol Hawk discussed a grant that V.O.I.C.E. would like to apply for in order to continue their funding for their tobacco use outreach programs. One of the requirements of the grant application is to have a Commissioner from the Board of Health be an active member.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that the Commissioners try to share responsibilities evenly and suggested that this position be filled by the chair since this is a rotating position.

Carol Hawk will send a letter of support and application to Chair Dillon.

e) **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Skagit County Board of Health**

1. Restoration of Universal Vaccine Program

Peter Browning, Director of the Health Department, started off by thanking the Chair for volunteering to join the tobacco free group. He is also a member and looks forward to working together on the project. Mr. Browning introduced Amie Tidrington, public health nurse, to discuss the universal vaccine program.

Ms. Tidrington stated that they are at risk of losing the universal vaccine program which purchased vaccinations for children from birth through 19 years of age. Ms. Tidrington discussed the history of the program which

started in the 1990's after a measles epidemic in 1989. It was discovered that approximately 50% of children did not receive vaccinations by their regular doctor.

2. Possible Funding and Program Changes for Child and Family Health Programs

Jennifer Sass-Walton, Child and Family Health Nurse Manager, was present to discuss some funding changes to some programs. The WIC program is receiving an increase in funding from \$132 to \$160 per client due to the importance of supporting good nutrition. They are expecting federal funding for the nurse family partnership program. They are unsure about the Healthy Child Care Washington program and the Department of Early Learning program. These programs are leaving local health departments and will instead do regional outreach. These unknown changes in funding will make preparing the budget challenging.

3. Food Program, Hot Fun in the Summertime

Corinne Story, Manager of Environmental Health, stated that summertime is busy for their division due to the increase in community events: fair, parades, festivals, sporting events, etc. Where food is from, how it is handled, and how it is prepared are things their department focuses on when evaluating food safety. The safety focus in years past has had to do with temperature. The focus has since changed to looking at how food is handled. Outbreaks come from food sources, poor hygiene, and ill food workers.

Ms. Story informed the Board that the Washington State Department of Agriculture licenses whole sale vendors and that the local health departments license retail vendors. There has been some collaboration with the Department of Agriculture because some of the state codes and local codes slightly differ. She stated that the Health Department will be switching from the 2001 guidelines from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the 2009 FDA guidelines. One of the biggest differences in the guidelines is that tomatoes and leafy greens are seen as a hazardous food like meat.

4. Skagit County Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Program

Jeanne King, Environmental Health Specialist, discussed Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP or red tide). PSP is the most prevalent marine biotoxin. Algal blooms occur when a large amount of nutrient is present. Shellfish eat the algae and accumulate the toxin. Cooking or freezing the shellfish does not remove the toxin. The symptoms of PSP and how the beaches are monitored was discussed. Beaches closed due to PSP are shown on the website of the Department of Health. A telephone number (1-800-562-5632)

can also be called which lists any closed beaches.

5. County Health Rankings: What do they Mean?

Peter Browning, Director of Public Health, discussed the health rankings of the Washington counties. Our county was ranked 16th out of 39 counties. Information was collected for this study by the University of Wisconsin in cooperation with Robert Wood Johnson. Five categories factored into the rankings: health outcomes, health factors, social and economic factors, clinical care, and our physical environment. Mr. Browning discussed some of the specific reasons why Skagit County ranked the way we did in these five areas.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:57 a.m.

6. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

f) 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, Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to close the public comment period, which was seconded by Chair Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon discussed the conference that the Commissioners attended at the Great Wolf Lodge where they were able to talk to the other Commissioners from the other 38 Washington Counties regarding various issues. Chair Dillon stated that the Town of Concrete is receiving an award for their "Imagine Concrete" planning for the future of the town. Chair Dillon spoke about her participation in the Berry Dairy Days Parade in Burlington.

Commissioner Dahlstedt reported that he went to the Burlington soccer park and Maiben park and served food for the Kiwanis club. He also wanted to remind everyone that it is strawberry season in the valley and encouraged citizens to buy some local strawberries while they are in season.

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:36 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