

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 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 8:01 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. Skagit County Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Sale of County Surplus Vehicles, Equipment and Office Furniture

Henry Hash, Director of Public Works, introduced Mike Elde, ER & R Fund Coordinator. Mr. Elde informed those present that the auction for the county's surplus items would be performed through the James G. Murphy Company in Kenwood, Washington. The auction is scheduled for October 23, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Elde stated that this company was able to procure the best prices for the surplus items (excluding furniture). Mr. Elde is still looking for a venue for the surplus furniture items. He has considered the cost effectiveness of bringing the metal file cabinets and desks to a company for scrap metal. This may actually bring in more money than if the metal furniture was sold at auction.

Mr. Elde wanted to point out that the furniture in the new ferry building all came from other county departments that experienced cuts. Commissioner Wesen asked Mr. Elde what happens with some of the smaller items for surplus. Mr. Elde stated that many small items such as cameras will be held until a seller can be found. Items which do not work will be disposed of unless Public Works employee Callie Martin, Waste Reduction Coordinator, is able to find a recycling outlet.

Commissioner Dahlstedt agreed that if time and money spent on getting rid of certain items costs more than turning in the items as scrap metal, then scraping the metal items would be a good way to dispose of those items.

Chair Dillon asked if the Crown Victoria vehicles listed were from the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Elde stated that they were, and that many had been transferred to other departments for use before they were slated for surplus.

Commissioner Dahlstedt believes that Mr. Elde has done a great job. The county gets the maximum use out of the equipment before it is surplus.

Commissioner Wesen asked Mr. Elde about the county vehicle fleet and the vehicles that the tax payers see in some of our parking lots.

Mr. Elde stated that since 2008, the county now has twenty-seven less vehicles. A consultant was hired through an energy grant to report on vehicle uses. The outcome may be that there will be more pooling of the vehicles for checking out. With the costs of fuel, repair, tires, etc., they are actively working on reducing the size of the fleet.

Chair Dillon opened the public hearing at 8:11 a.m. Seeing no one present to give testimony, Commissioner Dahlstedt 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 the Resolution authorizing the disposal of county surplus property. **(Resolution No. R20100342)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Resolution Regarding the Approval of the 2011 - 2024 Guemes Island Ferry Fourteen-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Ann Marie Gutwein, Transportation Section Manager, discussed the Guemes Ferry Capital Improvement Plan with the Commissioners and gave some of the history of the ferry.

Commissioner Wesen asked for more clarification on the replacement statistics.

Rachel Beck, Interim Ferry Manager, stated that the previous manager collected various quotes for replacing the ferry with a similar ferry and also with a larger ferry if the cost of repair and maintenance ever outweighed the cost of a different vessel. The current vessel is estimated to be worth \$2 million dollars.

The Commissioners thanked Public Works for a job well done.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the adoption of the Guemes Island Ferry fourteen-year capital improvement plan. **(Resolution No. R20100343)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Resolution Regarding the Adoption of the 2011 Annual Construction Program

Ann Marie Gutwein, Transportation Section Manager, showed the Commissioners documents depicting the annual construction program and equipment purchases. She wanted to point out column nine which list funds which the county is proposing to spend in 2011. She also pointed out columns ten and eleven which list other sources of funding. Ms. Gutwein went on to say that the 2011 annual construction program will need to be approved and passed before the Public Works budget is passed. The 2011 annual construction program must then be sent to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB).

Commissioner Wesen stated that some of the items on the 2011 list are already being worked on.

Ms. Gutwein informed Commissioner Wesen that these are listed as placeholders in case the projects are not completed by the end of the year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the adoption of the 2011 annual construction program. **(Resolution No. R20100344)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

4. Submittal: 2010 Annual Bridge Report

Ann Marie Gutwein, Transportation Section Manager, discussed the 2010 Annual Bridge Report. Ms. Gutwein explained the bridge inspection process to the Commissioners and some of the findings were discussed.

Chair Dillon was pleased that we continually inspect our bridges.

Commissioner Wesen noticed that the county still has some timber bridges.

Commissioner Dahlstedt noticed that there are many areas which may need work performed in the future, or even replacement. He encouraged Public Works to look at funding, repairing, and replacing opportunities soon since plans for repair or replacement can take a long time.

Mr. Hash stated that Public Works would explore options available for the bridges that may need repair and replacement in the near future and that Public Works would come back before the Commissioners at a later date with a list of options.

5. Miscellaneous

Mr. Hash stated that there were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 8:46 a.m.

b) 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Work Session - Snohomish County Presentation of the Sauk River Comprehensive Flood/Erosion Hazard Management Plan

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:15 a.m.

Henry Hash, Director of Public Works, introduced Dan Berentson, Division Manager of Natural Resources. Mr. Berentson informed the Commissioners that the department has been working on the Skagit River plan and that Skagit County has also partnered with Snohomish County for work on the Sauk River Plan, which Snohomish County took the lead on.

Bob Aldrich, Project Coordinator of Snohomish County Public Works Department, thanked the Commissioners and Skagit County for contributing to this plan. Mr. Aldrich stated that the largest hazard posed by Sauk River is not necessarily flooding, but erosion. The Commissioners were briefed on the history Sauk River flooding and Mr. Aldrich stated that in 2005 Skagit and Snohomish Counties partnered on an Ecology FCAAP Grant in which a stakeholder committee was formed. The stakeholder committee's goal was to find methods for reducing flood and erosion damage, restoring salmon runs, and protecting property. The stakeholders committee broke the Sauk River corridor into two phases for proper assessment and identification of high risk areas. Photographs from 1949 to 2004 were shown of the Sauk River near Bryson Road. These photographs demonstrated that the river will move where it wants to when it wants to. After completing Phase I of their work, Snohomish County is able to, in Phase II, guess what the river will do.

Mr. Aldrich stated that the underlying theme throughout the plan is risk, which is rated throughout. Mr. Aldrich pointed out that the rates for risk are quantitatively based. Sediment transport and hydrology, which can be measured year to year, are factors in the plan. The river was broken down into sixty-seven analysis zones. Maps were shown of sediment deposits which settle in waves. When sediment settles, the river diverts around it. Mr. Aldrich pointed out that most of the time when a river moves, it is due to sediment buildup.

Mr. Aldrich ended by stating that the best way to manage the Sauk River is not to manage it. The Sauk River is a large system. He then briefly showed the Commissioners a user's guide regarding the Sauk River.

Commissioner Wesen stated that the conclusion of the work was that the river cannot be managed? Mr. Aldrich clarified that the river could be managed, but it would have to be done extremely carefully. There are many competing interests for the river and the cost of managing it are high, which means in this case, the best management practice is not to manage.

Commissioner Wesen asked what they are doing to increase fish habitat.

Mr. Aldrich stated that gravel transport in the river is amazing and that the side channels of the river are the most important for the fish. They put in fish friendly culverts.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that mother nature is in charge and rivers go where they want to. He appreciates the work that has been done to identify the movement of the river.

Mr. Aldrich stated that planning requirements will be developed in order to discourage building in harm's way. He stated that the river can move a quarter of a mile or more in just one event.

Chair Dillon thanked them for coming up from Snohomish County in order to update them on the plan. She stated that partnerships work and she remembers working on the Bryson Road property. She would like to apply the knowledge gained from the Sauk River plan to other smaller rivers.

Mr. Aldrich stated that their council would be adopting this plan in the near future. He went on to say that the Department of Ecology and the Fisheries Department have already adopted it.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that the Sauk River affects both Skagit and Snohomish Counties and he appreciated the positive partnership of the counties.

Mr. Berentson also thanked the gentlemen from the Nature Conservancy. Bob Carey, from the Nature Conservancy, congratulated the counties on their cooperation and analysis of the river. He understands that the river is difficult to manage and that a goal is to protect private property. He asked what plans the county would put in place in order to accomplish this.

Mr. Aldrich stated that the work performed basically removes the county from the driver's seat and makes it less regulatory and the issues become private property issues. The county would share the regulations with property owners and make private property owners aware of the river and of possible threats but, that the private property owners would be responsible for their decisions.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:54 a.m.

- c) 10:15 a.m. -10:45 a.m. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding an Application for a Franchise Agreement with the City of Anacortes for Work on a Water Utility System and Authorizing a Resolution to Execute the Agreement

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:15 a.m.

Torey Nelson, Engineering Technician, presented a Resolution and Franchise Agreement between Skagit County and the City of Anacortes. The Revised Code of Washington (R.C.W. 36.55) provides that the Board is able to grant franchises. Mr. Nelson stated that work would be performed in accordance with county permitting and that the utility shall restore the surface. He pointed out that the City of Anacortes is a municipal corporation. They want to update their water utility system including water intake, waste water treatment, and water lines throughout Fidalgo Island. A map of franchise area was shown. The Franchise Agreement would remain in effect for twenty-five years.

Commissioner Dahlstedt commented on the excellent working partnership Skagit County has had with the City of Anacortes.

Commissioner Wesen asked how long the current water system had been in place.

Fred Buckenmeyer, Public Works Director at the City of Anacortes, stated that the water system has been in place since the 1930's. He went on to say that the City of Anacortes has a unique water system that serves many areas. They are advertising for a new water treatment facility and this Franchise Agreement is essential to continuing their service.

Chair Dillon opened public hearing at 10:23 a.m. Seeing no one present for testimony, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dillon thanked the City of Anacortes for working with local farmers and making sure that they have adequate water for their crops in times of need.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution authorizing the execution of a Franchise Agreement with the City of Anacortes. **(Resolution No. R20100345)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve and execute the Franchise Agreement with the City of Anacortes to construct, operate and maintain a water utility system. **(Contract No. C20100470)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:26 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. -11:15 a.m. Proclamation - October as Down syndrome Awareness Month

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

Heather Milliren, of Skagit County Parent to Parent, thanked the Commissioners for today's proclamation. She stated that she was glad that the Commissioners are promoting awareness and acceptance.

Joy Caldwell stated that October is also National Disability Awareness month. She appreciates the Commissioners support and wanted to point out that Skagit County Parent to Parent is also trying to coordinate with other entities with similar missions including People First and ARC.

Tim Holloran, Skagit County Administrator, helps coordinate the Special Olympics with another Skagit County employee, Pauli Mickelson. Mr. Holloran stated that it is important that people recognize the abilities of each other, not the disabilities. The individuals Mr. Holloran works with are active, engaged members of community and the upcoming Buddy Walk is an important celebration. The Buddy Walk is not a fundraising event. The atmosphere is peaceful and everyone can enjoy a nice time.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Holloran to give the specifics about the Buddy Walk.

The Buddy Walk will be held this Saturday, October 9, 2010, at the Bakerview Park in Mount Vernon which is on Fir Street. It starts at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m.

Malinda Bjaaland, developmental disability program coordinator, stated that the Buddy Walk

is a great event and she wants to make sure that the elected officials know how important these kinds of programs and activities are to the community.

The Commissioners encouraged everyone to participate in the Buddy Walk.

Commissioner Dahlstedt thanked everyone for coming. He pointed out that many are struggling in these hard times, but that families with special needs often have greater struggles since many programs that they come to depend on get reduced or cut. He said that it was unfortunate that the 0.1% sales tax assessment that is used for many community programs cannot be used for any of the special needs programs. Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that people are always concerned about taking care of waters, forests and farmlands but people also need to remember that we should also be taking care of our people.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation recognizing October as Down syndrome Awareness Month.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings.

e) 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Consideration of the Hearing Examiner's Recommendation for Approval of the Following Open Space Application:

1. Dale and Teri Dashiell to Include Approximately 178 Acres in the Current Use Open Space Program - Property is Located East and West of Highway 530 and on the East and West Banks of the Sauk River (TRF OS#4-2010)

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:19 a.m.

Karie Storle, residential appraiser with the Assessor's Office, described the property to the Commissioners. She stated that the applicant is requesting a transfer from current use farm and agriculture land to open space. The property is mostly wooded. The property has recently been sold to the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe and the Tribe plans to remove all of the buildings for natural setting.

Ricky Armstrong, attorney for the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, was present to answer any questions the Commissioners may have. Devon Smith, with the Skagit River System Cooperative, was also present. Mr. Smith showed the Commissioners a photograph of the property and stated that this area would be restored as a salmon recovery area and fish and wildlife conservation area.

The Commissioners believe that this is a wonderful idea for the property. They also stated concerns with the open space application and resolution. They do not know if it should be accepted as it is since the property has been sold by the Dashiell's to another party.

Ms. Storle explained why various timing issues delayed the open space resolution.

Commissioner Dahlstedt would like to have the civil department take another look at the resolution, and stated that if it is okay to sign, it would be placed on an upcoming consent agenda. Chair Dillon and Commissioner Wesen agreed with Commissioner Dahlstedt.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve, pending approval by civil, Dale and Teri Dashiell's Open Space Application transferring approximately 178 acres from the Current Use Farm and Agriculture

Program and Classified Forest Program to the Current Use Open Space Program (TRF OS#4-2010) which include Parcels P18774, P18752, P18705, and P18700, and P18782. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

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

No one was present for public comment.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen shared that a local 4-H group recently went to the nationals in Wisconsin and the group placed 9th in the Dairy Judging Team.

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings for the day.

**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