

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Dillon called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m. and announced that Chairman Wesen would be arriving late to session as he had to attend another morning meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

1. Discussion: 2012 - 2017 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and Revision of the 2011 - 2016 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Transportation Planning Services Section Manager Ann Marie Gutwein was present to discuss the new 2012 – 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as well as discuss the revisions to the 2011 – 2016 TIP. Ms. Gutwein stated that a public hearing would be held at 1800 Continental Place on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 as well as an informational public meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2011 to answer any questions that people may have. Ms. Gutwein informed the Commissioners that the 2011 – 2016 TIP needed to be amended in order to account for some grant funding that they were awarded for the Guemes Ferry Dolphin Replacement Project and the Hard Creek Bridge Repair Project. She stated that two new projects were also being added: the South Shore Road Relocation Project on Guemes Island and the Josh Wilson Road Culvert Replacement Project. Ms. Gutwein stated that these two projects need to be started, which is why they are being added to the 2011 – 2016 TIP.

Ms. Gutwein discussed the projects listed on the 2012 – 2017 TIP and stated that many were carry-over projects from the previous year.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Gutwein for the information.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that after the after the Anderson/La Venture Road Extension Project was completed he would like to focus on the projects on Francis Road and Cook Road.

2. Discussion: Possible Reclassification of Collins Road Rail Crossing to Pedestrian-Only Crossing with Special Vehicular Egress Only in Flood Emergency

Engineering Technician Given Kutz was present to discuss the reclassification of the Collins Road railroad crossing at State Route 20. Mr. Kutz explained the project and the past actions taken. Mr. Kutz stated that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway requested that Skagit County take official action reclassifying the crossing as a pedestrian only crossing except in a flood emergency. Mr. Kutz stated that the homeowners which this would affect support the reclassification of the crossing.

The Commissioners, Mr. Kutz, and Mr. Hash discussed the reclassification and decided that a public hearing would be held before taking action.

3. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Dillon presented Henry Hash with his Skagit Conservation District Watershed Master's Program Participant Certificate and thanked Mr. Hash for immersing himself in the community.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation: Backyard Conservation Project by Skagit

Conservation District and Friday Creek Habitat Stewards

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

Public Information and Education Coordinator Kristi Carpenter thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Backyard Conservation Projects and stated that Sue Mitchell, Sylvia and Bud Weber, were present from the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards group. Ms. Carpenter stated that Sue Mitchell inspired her neighbors to garden for wildlife on the ten mile stretch of Friday Creek in order to protect the wildlife and the watershed. Ms. Carpenter discussed the Gardening for Wildlife program and stated that the program encourages conserving habitat for wildlife. Ms. Carpenter said that wildlife needs food, water, and shelter, and that these methods are achieved by implementing sustainable gardening practices. She also said that participants are encouraged to provide more than the basics for wildlife including reducing the amount of lawn, growing native plants, conserving water, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, and recycling plant material. Ms. Carpenter suggested that grass be maintained in any septic areas and that pet waste be picked up and disposed of properly. Ms. Carpenter stated that the Gardening for Wildlife program is a nationwide movement. She then introduced Sue Mitchell of the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards group and said that people with questions of the group can contact them at [fridaycreekstewards@gmail.com](mailto:fridaycreekstewards@gmail.com) or 360-724-0397, or 360-724-3762.

Sue Mitchell resides near Friday Creek. She stated that she was inspired to form the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards Group after taking a course about cleaning up the Samish watershed and encountering a Bald Eagle in her backyard. She stated that she wanted to be sure that others could experience nature and wildlife as she had. Their group, Friday Creek Habitat Stewards, is going through the registration

process and will have their official kickoff at Donovan Park on Saturday, October 8, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Mitchell stated that Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group included their celebration with their Samish River Family Festival. Ms. Mitchell stated that over the next two years, in order for their group to receive certification, they need to certify 175 homes, two parks, businesses site, a public site, a school, create a brochure, and they hope to find a web designer to create a website for them, and they want to create three demonstration gardens. Ms. Mitchell stated that this Fall, they will be restoring the area around the Alger Community Hall and removing the invasive blackberries. Ms. Mitchell ended by stating that they will also be giving informational sessions to residents and will be present at many local festivals and events. She is looking forward to their certification in 2013.

Sylvia Weber of the Friday Creek group shared that she moved to the area in 1963 and that their home is about 100 feet away from Friday Creek. She shared that she has watched many animals in her backyard including fish, eagles, deer, ducks, beavers, otters, turkey buzzards, coyotes, wolfs, black bears, birds and insects. She said that they garden organically and that their children often played in creek which she also now shares with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ms. Weber Stated that her goal is for her family to continue to learn and enjoy nature.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that he appreciated their committed group and that the country will be saved from the bottom up by groups like theirs.

Commissioner Dillon wished them luck on their certification.

Chairman Wesen thanked the group for coming and stated that conservation begins on your own property.

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:04 a.m.

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

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Carol Ehlers of Fidalgo Island was present to share some information with the Commissioners from the article printed in the New York Times on December 26, 2010, regarding Deepwater Horizon's final hours. Ms. Ehlers stated that the article was magnificent and could be referred to for our own safety planning measures. Ms. Ehlers stated that the event was about 8 minutes long but that most disasters are shorter in length. She stated that this article explored what happened and how, and she stated again that it is an excellent article for employees within the emergency planning and preparedness department to review as well as those dealing with the pipeline safety measures. Ms. Ehlers stated that plans needed to be in place, and practiced from top to bottom, for the worst case scenario.

Ms. Ehlers also wanted to share a letter she obtained from the National Transportation Safety Board regarding pipeline safety recommendations. Ms. Ehlers requested that the Planning Commission receive this letter as well and went on to explain that the letter explained the explosion in California and discussed class location and State Laws. Ms. Ehlers stated that Skagit County needs to know this

information since it is the Governments responsibility to protect the public.

Ms. Ehlers ended by encouraging the Commissioners to explore some of the farming and fishing issues within Multnomah County, Oregon. She stated that people are worth more than potatoes or fish. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Ehlers for her comments.

- d) \*1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Presentation: Hatfield and Dawson - Skagit 911 Radio Infrastructure Consultant Report

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:42 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board