

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:31 a.m. and stated that Commissioner Dahlstedt would be arriving shortly.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the 2011-2016 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revision No. 2

Transportation Planning Services Section Manager Ann Marie Gutwein stated that the proposed revisions made to the 2011 – 2016 TIP would enable the Public Works Department to work on the updated projects. She stated that the projects which were added either received funding or would receive funding soon.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:37 a.m. Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution to adopt the 2011-2016 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program Revision No. 2 (**Resolution No. R20110250**) Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the 2012-2017 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ann Marie Gutwein informed the Board of the new additions to the 2012 – 2017 TIP which included the Cook Road Rehabilitation Project and the Anderson/LaVenture Extension Project. Ms. Gutwein stated that the Cook Road Project would be eligible for funding if it was added to TIP. She said that the funding amounts for the Anderson/LaVenture project were updated and she discussed changing the funding status from a “P” to an “S”.

Alternate routes were discussed if Cook Road would be closed during construction.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:44 a.m.

Ann Marie Gutwein shared information with the Commissioners from Carol Ehlers regarding the potential need of a guardrail near Rosario from the Lake Erie Store to Dean's Lane. Ms. Ehlers told Ms. Gutwein that most of the road in the area already has guardrail and that if guardrail was added to this area as well, she would feel safer. Ms. Gutwein reported that she looked into the cost for this request and stated that there would be approximately 1,200 feet of rail installed for approximately \$50,000. Ms. Gutwein offered to add this project to the next appropriate funding program that Public Works could find. Commissioner Dahlstedt appreciated the idea, but also wanted to know how many accidents have occurred in the area in question?

Ms. Gutwein was only aware of one vehicle going over the edge during a snow event in 2006, but that there were no fatalities or other accidents that she was aware of.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that due to limited resources, he would rather concentrate on critical areas that have actual safety and fatality issues. Commissioner Dahlstedt asked Public Works to consider Ms. Ehlers request and review the safety data in the area and then let Ms. Ehlers know whether a guardrail in the area would be warranted. Seeing no further testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution adopting the 2012-2017 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and make the "P" an "S" on the funding status for the Anderson/LaVenture Project and adding the Cook Road improvements. (**Resolution No. R20110251**) Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Update: Skagit County Transfer and Recycling Station Project #WMP50-11

Solid Waste Division Manager Kevin Renz and Project Manager Jennifer Swanson were present to update the Board on the progress of the construction of the Transfer and Recycling Station Project. Mr. Renz stated that they were on schedule to complete the project in April 2012. Mr. Renz showed photographs and diagrams of the work site and explained the portions of the project which were completed or were currently being worked on. Mr. Renz stated that the station would be more user friendly for the general public as well as the commercial users once construction was complete.

The Commissioners stated they appreciated the update. They also appreciated the fact that the previous building would still be utilized for storage and certain types of waste. They ended by sharing their appreciation for the cooperation from the cities on this project and they thanked the Solid Waste Division employees for helping citizens through construction.

4. Update: Skagit River General Investigation Reset and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing Regarding Imminent Drawdown on the Baker River

Natural Resources Division Manager Dan Berentson stated that a path forward would need to be found regarding the General Investigation Reset. Mr. Berentson discussed the need to complete a feasibility report by October and evaluate potential flood damage in the Baker water system. Mr. Berentson discussed the difficulty of finding agency funding for this project, but that funding would be necessary in order to meet the current milestones and move forward. Mr. Berentson stated that once this project was completed, then there would be a long-term solution in place for flood damage in Skagit County.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that he understood that snow pack was higher than usual in the mountains and he asked if the risk for a flood was higher?

Mr. Berentson answered that snow pack is 157% higher than the 10-year average which could mean a significant flood event could occur this year. It was pointed out that the Dike Districts have been re-building the levy's and that everyone should be prepared.

Mr. Berentson stated that Public Works is still working with Puget Sound Energy, the Aquatic Resources Group, and the Cities regarding 107c of the Settlement Agreement for Relicensing for imminent drawdown on the Baker River. Mr. Berentson stated that comments have been submitted on PSE's preliminary draft report. Mr. Berentson stated that there were two main issues which needed to be addressed: 1. How will PSE achieve the target draw down to 140,000 acre feet in the Baker Dam without the Interim Protection Plan? 2. Skagit County, the Cities, and the Dike Districts would like to write a document regarding public safety protocols in order to improve the response and coordination for each municipality and department during a flood event. Mr. Berentson stated that everyone would benefit from knowing what steps each partner would be taking during a flood event.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that the Interim Protection Plan would not only benefit and protect the citizens of Skagit County, but would be improving the conditions for healthy fish habitat as well.

Manager of Dike District #17 Daryl Hamburg discussed the importance of coordinated response during flood events and he discussed some of the aspects from the responses during the floods in 2003 and 2006. He stated that the responses were adequate based on the information they had, but that

they could have done better if they had known more from the upper baker area. Mr. Hamburg discussed protocols and the importance of knowing about pre-existing conditions before flood events. As Manager of Dike District #17, he wants to be sure all resources are managed correctly and PSE needs to be an active participant to achieve public safety goals. Mr. Hamburg discussed storage amounts within the Baker Dam and discussed concerns regarding PSE's ability to draw down the dam. He stated that this has been an exceptional year with a large amount of retained snow-pack and he wants to know how much storage PSE can handle.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked Mr. Hamburg how the work was going on repairing the dikes and Mr. Hamburg stated that they were on schedule and that the critical areas would be repaired soon. The Commissioners thanked Public Works and Mr. Hamburg for the update.

5. Work Session/Discussion: Drainage Ordinance and Stormwater Manual Update

Assistant Section Manager Jan Flagan discussed the conflicts between the current drainage ordinance and the Stormwater Management Manuals of 1992 and 2005. Ms. Flagan briefly discussed the pros and cons of each Stormwater Management Manual and the consequences of implementing one over the other. She ended by saying that whichever manual was implemented, Skagit County Code would need to be updated.

The Commissioners asked Ms. Flagan for more information on each manual and they discussed the importance for keeping the waterways clean and if there were alternatives to storage ponds. The Commissioners requested a map of the exempt areas and stated that they would like the manual and Skagit County Code to be consistently balanced to protect waterways and encourage development. Discussion ensued of scheduling another work session to discuss this in more detail and move forward with implementing one Stormwater Management Manual and revising Skagit County Code 14.32.

6. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:01 a.m.

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

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. No one was present for public comment and so the Commissioners discussed Consent Agenda Item No. 12 which was postponed from Monday, August 15, 2011.

Judge Svaren was present to provide the Commissioners with more information on this item. He stated that Washington State had legislation in place which encouraged the election of Judges, over appointing Judges, and that for those counties which decided to elect Judges, an incentive was created which returned a

portion of each Judges salary to that County for the purpose of funding a new position, or for capital improvements or programs. A requirement of this fund was the creation of the Trial Court Coordination Council (TCCC). The task of the TCCC was to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on how to use the funds. Judge Svaren stated that he had been a member of the TCCC since its inception and that a project they have been considering was the use of electronic calendar/courtroom display boards similar to those used at airports. He stated that similar electronic boards are being used by other counties. He believes these electronic display boards would help the general public by providing information on where to go for certain matters as well as help Skagit County staff who spend a lot of time directing individuals to the correct place. Judge Svaren stated that there is over \$100,000 in the account and that the current expenditure for an electronic display board at District Court is \$40,000 or lower. Judge Svaren asked the Commissioners to approve the Resolution directing the TCCC to move forward with the project.

The Commissioners discussed the project with Judge Svaren and believed that the project would help the general public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the resolution directing the Information Services Department to move forward and install electronic display boards at the District Court building in order to display the court calendars to the public. (**Resolution No. R20110252**) Chairman Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon's absence was excused

The Commissioners thanked Judge Svaren and the others for coming to discuss this item further.

- c) \*12:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Celebration of Skagit Food Bank Distribution Center & Hunger Summit (220 Michael Street, Sedro-Woolley)

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:43 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

---

Ron Wesen, Chairman

---

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

---

**Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board**