

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Dillon was absent due to a meeting she was attending in Ellensburg and she was excused.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

- a) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Will Honea, Chief Civil Deputy:

Chairman Wesen introduced Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea.

Mr. Honea briefed the Commissioners on two Right-of-Way Easements regarding access to Lake Shannon, the biggest lake in Skagit County and a popular fishing spot. Mr. Honea said that access to Lake Shannon became an issue when the County began some easement work. Mr. Honea discussed the use of the road and easement issues. He said that the road had been utilized by Skagitonians for 60 to 70 years to reach a popular boat launch.

Mr. Honea stated that the Lennoxes filed suit against Skagit County regarding access to the boat launch on Lake Shannon Road and the suit was recently settled after Skagit County asked for summary judgment. Skagit County has agreed to pay the Lennoxes \$27,000 for Right-of-Way Easements on Lake Shannon Road. Once payment has been tendered, the dispute would be concluded. Mr. Honea also said that Puget Sound Energy has agreed to contribute \$10,000 towards the settlement.

Commissioner Dahlstedt clarified that there were two separate documents to take action on and that after taking action, the dispute would be concluded.

Chairman Wesen thanked Will Honea and Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Steve Fallquist for their work in resolving this dispute.

The Commissioners stated they believed continued access to Lake Shannon on the road was important.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Right-of-Way Easement between Grantor, W.M. Lennox Revocable Trust, and Grantee, Skagit County

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Right-of-Way Easements between Grantor W.M. Lennox Revocable Trust and Grantee

Skagit County, and Grantor JoAnne Williams Lennox and Grantee Skagit County, signed by W.M. and JoAnne Lennox pursuant to the Settlement Agreement with the Lennoxes dated July 12, 2010, and to approve payment of \$27,500 to the Lennoxes pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, \$10,000 of which is to be contributed by Puget Sound Energy. (Contract No. C20110441) Chairman Wesen seconded the motion.

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

2. Discussion/Possible Action: Right-of-Way Easement between Grantor, Joanne Williams Lennox, and Grantee, Skagit County

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Right-of-Way Easements between Grantor W.M. Lennox Revocable Trust and Grantee Skagit County, and Grantor JoAnne Williams Lennox and Grantee Skagit County, signed by W.M. and JoAnne Lennox pursuant to the Settlement Agreement with the Lennoxes dated July 12, 2010, and to approve payment of \$27,500 to the Lennoxes pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, \$10,000 of which is to be contributed by Puget Sound Energy. (Contract No. C20110442) Chairman Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:10 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation: Second and Third Quarter Sustainability Update

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

Sustainability Coordinator Kaci Radcliffe reminded those watching that the goals of the sustainability project were to reduce energy, waste, utility and fuel costs, audit facilities and create action plans, promote conservation, and publicize efforts and results. She briefed the Commissioners on the following projects:

1. GreenPrint;
2. Energy conservation projects;
3. RCM Program with Skagit Council of Governments;
4. Zero-Waste Program;
5. Electric truck, no idle signs, bike rack;
6. Outreach to employees;
7. Climate Stewards Program;
8. Community Energy Challenge; and
9. Other upcoming projects.

Ms. Radcliffe stated that Skagit County would be partnering with Whatcom County on the Clean Energy Challenge which is a program designed to assess 80 residential homes. Ms. Radcliffe stated that a 4 to 5 hour home inspection would be performed to assess energy, water, waste, and wildlife uses. She stated that a grant would pay for a portion of the fee for the assessment and that the remaining balance of \$95 would be paid by the homeowner. She said that the findings as well as possible rebates would be discussed with the homeowner after the evaluation was

completed. Ms. Radcliffe announced that homeowners could sign up for a home assessment at [SkagitCEC@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:SkagitCEC@co.skagit.wa.us) or call 360-419-7607.

Ms. Radcliffe shared other upcoming projects with the Commissioners which included: greenhouse gas inventory update, e-discovery, recycling expansion, a paperless policy, and a purchasing policy.

Commissioner Dahlstedt and Kaci Radcliffe discussed putting together a list of the top ten things anyone could do to save energy and posting the list on the website and or putting it on Skagit 21. Chairman Wesen discussed GreenPrint and discussion ensued with Ms. Radcliffe and Ric Boge regarding what future savings could be achieved if the RCM program was renewed.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:58 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Skagit County Board of Health:

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:04 a.m.

1. Discussion: Clean Samish Initiative - Samish Watershed Marine Recovery Area (MRA) Designation

Peter Browning introduced Environmental Public Health Manager Corinne Story. Ms. Story discussed the work performed by the Health Department in Skagit County regarding the Marine Recovery Area (MRA). She said that the legislation which creates marine recovery areas does so only for areas which rely on septic systems and that some of the areas in the Samish watershed did not meet the minimum criteria. Ms. Story showed a map of the Samish Watershed which color-coded each septic system inspected. Ms. Story said that in order for the Samish Watershed to be included in the MRA, some changes needed to be made to Skagit County Code. She said that the proposed changes had been forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review and that a public hearing would be held on the matter on December 6, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Story reported that mailings would be sent to each property owner within the proposed MRA and information shared with them regarding the updated septic system standards. Ms. Story also said that mailings would be sent to property owners in the existing MRA reminding them of septic system requirements.

Commissioner Dahlstedt and Ms. Story discussed the low percentage of septic system corrections needed after inspections and the possibility of lengthening the period of time in between inspections. They also discussed the need for areas which have poor soil conditions or are near waterways to be able to move from a septic system to the sewer system. Chairman Wesen and Ms. Story discussed what a homeowner could expect upon receiving notice that they are in or may be added to the MRA.

Mr. Browning pointed out that Skagit County has higher standards for septic systems than many other counties due to the proximity to multiple waterways. He said that this can be frustrating for many individuals, but

because of Skagit County's location, the requirements have to be met.

Chairman Wesen stated that Skagit County has to follow state laws.

Commissioner Dahlstedt reminded people that they would not want their kids or pets playing on the lawn with a failing septic system and that the requirements are in place in order to protect the public's health.

2. Miscellaneous

Mr. Browning shared with the Board that the Health Department does not yet know of all of the budget cuts planned by the State of Washington. However, they do know that the aids funds had been cut and that the needle exchange program would end. Mr. Browning also said that there would be reductions in child and family healthcare funds.

Chairman Wesen said that he understood that the Health Department relies on funds from the state and he thanked Mr. Browning for holding the department together through each change mandated by the state.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that during periods of budget cuts, programs and departments should look into consolidation. He said that the tax payers help fund each of the three hospital districts in Skagit County and that they should know what is happening within each district. He suggested inviting members from each hospital district to the next Board of Health meeting in order for them to discuss long term solutions to the burdened system.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:37 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Proclamation: October as Dispute Resolution Month

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

Area Manager Andrea Vallee thanked the Commissioners for considering the proclamation. She stated that the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) provides confidential services and that they have served over 3,000 individuals. She said that many of their referrals are received from Skagit County and that by utilizing the DRC, tax dollars are saved in Skagit County. Victim Offender Meeting Facilitator Anna Swartz, Small Claims Court Mediator Chuck Davis, Family and Foreclosure Mediator Bill Paleck, Facilitator and Mediator Roger Ridgway, and Mediation Practicum student Julie Hubner each shared the duties they performed at the DRC and reasons why they gave their time to this work. More information about the DRC can be found at [www.voaww.org/drc](http://www.voaww.org/drc) and they can be reached at 360-542-8487.

Chairman Wesen thanked everyone for their service to the citizens of Skagit County.

Commissioner Dahlstedt also thanked them for their work and stated that Skagit County was a successful community because of its volunteers and neighbors.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation recognizing October as Conflict Resolution Month.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings.

- e) 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Proclamation: October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:32 a.m.

Linda McCarthy, Executive Director of Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, and a past Komen grantee, was present to discuss the work performed by Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Ms. McCarthy discussed the importance of early screening, outreach, and education.

Commissioner Dahlstedt agreed that public outreach is important and he suggested that Ms. McCarthy contact Skagit County Public Health Director Peter Browning to schedule more time to discuss this matter at an upcoming Board of Health meeting.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the Proclamation recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Skagit County.

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

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

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:44 a.m.

Seeing no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public comment. Chairman Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Commissioners asked drivers to be courteous, safe, and patient with any large trucks or tractors they encountered on the roads. They said that a lot of farmers were working hard to harvest fields and collect silage and that they only had a small amount of time to do the work before the end of the season.

- g) \*3:45 p.m. Skagit Safe Kids Board Meeting (Skagit EMS, 2911 East College Way, Mount Vernon)

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:46 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**