

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Parks & Recreation - Brian Adams, Director:

1. Presentation: Skagit County Park Stewardship Award

Brian Adams thanked his employees for their excellent work and he briefed the Commissioners on all of the volunteer work performed by Rich and Karen Castano some of which had been working as camp hosts for 4 years, performing maintenance work and completing various projects at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, building the beautiful camping cabins, maintaining the flowerbeds and bird feeders, and sewing curtains for the cabins. Mr. Adams said that Mr. and Mrs. Castano also help build homes in Snohomish County with Housing Hope.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. and Mrs. Castano for their volunteer work at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. Commissioner Dillon said that Rich and Karen Castano are excellent camp hosts and their friendly service encourages the return of many campers.

Commissioner Dillon read the Skagit County 2012 Park Stewardship Award, honoring Rich and Karen Castano for serving the recreational interests of the community through their tireless work efforts in building camping cabins, remodeling the interpretive center and their involvement in many other projects, as tenured camp hosts at Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Rich Castano thanked the Commissioners for the award and said that they both felt privileged to be able to host at Howard Miller Steelhead Park and that they appreciated working with Skagit County employees Rusty and Kyle.

Brian Adams shared that both of the cabins had been named and he showed a sign which would be mounted on one of the cabins which was named the Castano Cabin.

Commissioner Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:42 a.m.

- b) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Presentation: 2012 yellowbook/MacGregor Tulip Festival Phone Book Cover

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

Cindy Verge, Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, was present with Midge Howard, Sales Coordinator for yellowbook/MacGregor Phone Directory, and Greg Peck, Vice President Board of Directors of the Tulip Festival.

Mr. Peck stated that he was promoting the Tulip Festival and that 2012 would be its 29th year. Mr. Peck said that the festival has grown from a 3 day event to a 30 day event and that approximately 1 million people come to Skagit County from all over the world. Mr. Peck briefed the Commissioners on some of the upcoming events. Ms. Verge presented the Commissioners with the 2012 Tulip Festival Poster.

Ms. Howard said that this was the 5th year that yellowbook/MacGregor has sponsored and been named the official telephone directory of the Tulip Festival. Ms. Howard gave some background information on yellowbook/MacGregor. She said that when yellowbook acquired MacGregor, users of the directory were given better access to information online and yellowbook allowed MacGregor to keep its branding. Ms. Howard said that yellowbook/MacGregor was still a local company, employing locals, and she appreciated the Commissioners support of the Tulip Festival and local businesses.

Commissioner Dillon said that she appreciated that the Tulip Festival has expanded to have different events in all parts of Skagit County.

Commissioner Wesen thanked Ms. Verge, Mr. Peck, and Ms. Howard for the information and for their improvements to the brochure and their work on traffic issues during the festival.

Chairman Dahlstedt thanked Ms. Verge, Mr. Peck, and Ms. Howard for their hard work promoting Skagit County and he recessed the proceedings.

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

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

Seeing no public present to comment, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public comment period at 11:31 a.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dillon encouraged attendance at the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

Commissioner Wesen thanked Representative Larsen for his help obtaining funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the GI Study.

Chairman Dahlstedt said that each of the Commissioners had met with some of the local mayors and he thanked them and the other two Commissioners for their cooperation.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:33 a.m.

- d) 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Budget & Finance - Trisha Logue, Director:

Commissioner Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 11:45 a.m.

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Amending the 2011 Skagit County Budget

Trisha Logue was present to explain that additional funding was received from the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery from the Department of Social and Health Services and that a budget amendment was necessary in order for a balanced budget.

Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon 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 supplemental budget as outlined by the Budget and Finance Director. **(Resolution No. R20120037)** Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:48 a.m.

- e) 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 2:03 p.m.

1. Decision: Closing a Portion of Similk Bay Road #16010, for the Skagit River Cooperative's Turner's Bay Pocket Estuary Restoration Project

Commissioner Wesen said he met with Mr. Culbertson approximately one month to see how his property would be affected and Commissioner Wesen said that he believed many of the concerns Mr. Culbertson raised had merit, and he believed it was a good project, and so Commissioner Wesen would like to close the portion of Similk Bay Road at milepost 0.130 to the end of the roadway, milepost 0.380.

Commissioner Dillon said that she discussed each of the options with Public Works staff and she said that closing the road as requested seems acceptable.

Discussion followed regarding the possible installation of barricades on the road once it was closed.

Steve Hinton, representative from Skagit River System Cooperative, and Mr. Culbertson, owner of the property affected, appreciated the Commissioners decision and looked forward to knowing whether or not the closed road would also be vacated by Skagit County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve that the Board of County Commissioners execute the Resolution to close a portion of Similk Bay Road #16010 at milepost 0.130 (near the northernmost property line of P19750) to the end of the roadway (milepost 0.380 - Reservation Road). **(Resolution No. R20120038)** Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve that Public Works staff bring forward a proposal to consider vacating the closed portion of Similk Bay Road #16010. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 2:10 p.m.

f) 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 2:30 p.m.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Granting of Voting Authority and Negotiation of Possible Extension of Current Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Agreement

Solid Waste Division Manager Kevin Renz was present to update the Commissioners on the construction of the new transfer station. Mr. Renz presented a slideshow of photographs and discussed the correction of the footing for the buildings, re-pouring portions of the slab, and the erection of beams for the new transfer station building. Commissioner Wesen asked when construction was estimated to be complete.

Mr. Renz said that since the project had been delayed they are now hoping to finish by late May. Mr. Renz also updated the Commissioners on the new compactor.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Renz for the update and for the good work of his employees.

Chairman Dahlstedt recused himself so that Commissioner Dillon and Commissioner Wesen could make a decision on who would have the voting authority at the Solid Waste Governance Board meeting for the decision on the current solid waste transportation and disposal agreement.

After Chairman Dahlstedt left the hearing room, Mr. Renz discussed the possible extension of the long-haul contract with Allied Waste. He said that Skagit County has had a contract with them since 1993. Mr. Renz discussed the terms of each subsequent contract and the structuring of fees. Mr. Renz

said that per the terms of the current Agreement, Skagit County must provide nine months notification if the contract is going to be cancelled, otherwise the contract would automatically be renewed for five years. Mr. Renz discussed the current disposal rates and annual contract costs.

Mr. Renz and Commissioner Dillon discussed the tonnages which are loaded onto the train and whether or not the new compactor would be capable of loading the same amount.

Mr. Renz said that a decision needed to be made to either extend the current contract or issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for updated contract rates and then make a decision of who to contract with at what rate. Mr. Renz said that Public Works spoke with both Waste Management and Allied Waste regarding what they would be able to offer Skagit County and Public Works believes that it would be in Skagit County's best interest to extend the current contract with Allied Waste. Mr. Renz said that the Solid Waste Governance Board wanted to vote on whether or not to extend the contract or put it out for bid. Mr. Renz said that Allied Waste has been an exceptional vendor and that Skagit County has a good relationship with them and that the option of utilizing trains to transfer waste to the landfill was better than having to truck it.

Commissioner Dillon said that she would like to stay with the current vendor, but also wants to make sure that Skagit County is getting the best price for its citizens.

Commissioner Wesen said that he would like to explore extending the current contract with Allied Waste, but that if their rates do not come in competitively, then he said he would like to be able to submit an RFP.

Commissioner Dillon said that the Commissioners needed to decide which Commissioner would cast the vote on behalf of Skagit County at the next Solid Waste Governance Board meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve that the Board of County Commissioners grant voting authority to Commissioner Dillon to vote in opposition of issuing an RFP for long haul and disposal services and direct Skagit County Public Works staff to proceed with negotiations with Allied Waste with the intent of extending the current disposal contract. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 3:03 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board