

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 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 8:31 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

- a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Proclamation: Recognizing Wednesday, April 11, 2012, as Washington State Arbor Day and Friday, April 27, 2012, as National Arbor Day

Skagit Conservation District Public Information and Education Coordinator Kristi Carpenter provided a brief history of Arbor Day.

Skagit Conservation District Forester Al Craney encouraged all citizens throughout Skagit County to celebrate Wednesday, April 11th, as Washington State Arbor Day and Friday, April 27th as National Arbor Day. Mr. Craney explained the benefits of trees and said the key to benefiting from trees was to select the right tree and planting them in the right place.

Cofounder of the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards Sue Mitchell explained that to celebrate Arbor Day there were several events planned. She said that on Thursday, April 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Skagit Conservation District would be offering a Native Plant Workshop at Alger Community Hall.

Ms. Mitchell announced that on Saturday, April 28, the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards had partnered with Alger Community Hall, Skagit Conservation District and the Chuckanut Transitions to hold a seeds, starts, and swap sale at the Belfast Feed Store from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She said that on the same day, there will be an Arbor Day open house at Alger Community Hall.

Co-Chair, Friday Creek Habitat Stewards Sylvia Weber shared her personal experience with trees.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation recognizing Wednesday, April 11, 2012, as Washington State Arbor Day and Friday, April 27, 2012, as National Arbor Day.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:55 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

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

1. Work Session: Skagit County and Skagit River System Cooperative Project Partnerships Update

Public Works Director Henry Hash and Natural Resources Manager Dan Berentson were present to introduce the agenda item and to answer questions.

Salmon Habitat Specialist Jeff McGowan provided a PowerPoint presentation about the collaborative work that had been done between Skagit River System Cooperative and Skagit County and provided a brief history of the work done on the Hansen Creek projects.

There was a discussion about whether the Hansen Creek project helped to improve the number of fish in the Creek. Mr. McGowan indicated that he thought the Swinomish Tribe were monitoring the numbers of fish in the Creek.

Skagit River System Cooperative Director of Habitat Restoration Steve Hinton introduced key staff members Restoration Ecologists Devin Smith, Eric Mickelson, Nora Kammer, and GIS Specialist Kate Ramsden.

Mr. Hinton provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Skagit River System Cooperative partnerships on various projects with Skagit County. He explained that over the years, Skagit County had provided resources and collaborated with Skagit River System Cooperative on the following projects:

i)	O'Brian Creek restoration of fish passage; removed rip-rap, acquired land, reconnected side channel, installed log jams, and installed native vegetation from Sauk River on Bryson; and
ii)	Restored 4.2 acres of intertidal salt marsh, constructed a public park in La Conner, filled in pot holes, and provided transportation for the Canoe Journey, "Zero Waste" event on the Swinomish Channel; and
iii)	Johnson Creek was ditched to protect adjacent residences, provided work on alluvial fan process restoration, fish habitat, improved drainage, and reduced flood risks; and
iv)	Skagit County acquired property along Hansen and Red Creek, and provided Herrera design work, and provided near-term restoration by planning fish barrier removal, and berm work and eliminated the need for flood control activities on Hansen Creek; and
v)	Restored 60 acres of pocket estuary via removal of road crossing and tide gates, potholing, and provided road design signage at Turner's Bay.

Mr. Hinton went on to discuss the following proposals:

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i)	Sandy Creek - Proposal to restore the alluvial fan process, fish habitat, improve drainage, reduce flood risks, and to install a bridge to project adjacent to a residence; and
ii)	Illabot Creek - Proposal to reconnect Illabot Creek to historic channel and floodplain; and
iii)	Muddy Creek - Proposal to realign to South Skagit Highway; and
iv)	Savage Slough - Proposal to improve Savage Slough and Mill Creek crossings, restore floodplain, hydrologic connectivity, and access to slough and wetland habitat.

Mr. Hinton thanked the County Commissioners for their support.

The Commissioner thanked Mr. Hinton for the update and for the collaborative partnership.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:19 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Presentation: American Farmland Trust - Farmland Protection Program Champions Award

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:33 a.m.

Regional Director for the Northwest Branch of the American Farmland Trust Dennis Canty stated that in 2011 the American Farmland Trust performed a study of the farmland protection programs in the 12 counties around the Puget Sound. He said that Skagit County scored number one of the 12 counties studied. Mr. Canty awarded Skagit County the 2012 Farmland Protection Program Award and presented it along with the report "Losing Ground: Farmland Protection in the Puget Sound Region" to Commissioners.

Farmland Legacy Coordinator Kendra Smith was present to introduce and acknowledged the hard work of past and present members of Farmland Legacy Advisory Board and the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The Commissioners thanked the American Farmland Trust for the award and recognized that former County Commissioner Bob Hart was present in the gallery and thanked him for his hard work and efforts in protecting farmland.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:44 a.m.

d) 10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Decision: Amending the 2012 Skagit County Budget

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:49 a.m.

Budget and Finance Director Trisha Logue was present and stated that on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, Commissioners Dillon and Wesen were present and that Chairman

Dahlstedt was absent from the proceedings, as he had to attend another meeting. The Commissioners postponed taking any action after the public hearing because Chairman Dahlstedt was not present. Chairman Dahlstedt indicated that he had reviewed the record of proceedings from Tuesday, April 3, 2012, and had an understanding of the testimony and the concerns that were raised.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Budget. **(Resolution No. R20120124)**
Chairman Dahlstedt seconded the motion.
The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Dillon dissenting.

- e) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Proclamation: Recognizing Thursday, May 3, 2012, as National Day of Prayer

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:02 a.m.

Skagit County Coordinators for the National Day of Prayer Task Force George Eldridge and Sharon Eldridge were present. Mr. Eldridge introduced National Day of Prayer Board Members Shirley Tollefson, John Tollefson, and Joan Johnson.

Mr. Eldridge explained that the National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of American when the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer in 1775.

Sharon Eldridge said that this year marked the 65th year recognizing the National Day of Prayer. She said that this year's theme was One Nation Under God.

Commissioner Dillon read the proclamation recognizing May 3, 2012, as a National Day of Prayer.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:17 a.m.

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

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

Seeing no one present to comment, Chairman Dahlstedt closed the public comment period at 11:32 a.m.

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

- g) 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding the Close Out of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) No. 08-64008-027, Skagit County Contract No. C20080396

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:45 a.m.

Skagit County Community Action Agency Deputy Director Karen Parnell was present to introduce the agenda item.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 11:46 a.m.

Arielle Stein Food Distribution Center Coordinator provided a PowerPoint presentation and reported on the Food Distribution Center, which is a warehouse located in Sedro-Woolley. She said that the Food Distribution Center was owned by Skagit County and managed by Skagit County Community Action Agency. The building housing the Food Distribution Center was acquired by the County in late 2006, and Community Action began managing some programs out of the building in early 2007.

Ms. Stein provided information and pictures depicting what the Food Distribution Center looked like prior to the upgrades provided by the \$894,100 Community Development Block Grant. She indicated that in August 2011, the 21,000 feet of space for dry food storage was completed. The renovation included paving and lighting the parking area, ramps for forklifts and rain gardens to accommodate on site drainage issues, and workspace for staff. The Food Distribution Center provides services to 14 food banks. Ms. Stein stated that there was a growing community need and in 2007, the first year they began to track the amount of food provided, they had provided approximately 550,000 pounds of food, and that in 2011 approximately 2 million pounds of food were provided.

United Way Board Member Ken Bergsma was present to comment about the United Way's support of the Food Distribution Center. He said that a centralized resource such as the Food Distribution Center was essential to the County.

Ms. Parnell acknowledged the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, McIntyre Foundation, North Coast Credit Union, Bite of Skagit, Cascade Farm, General Mills and many others who help provide food to the low-income sector of the County.

Commissioner Dillon thanked United Way, the City of Anacortes, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and Consultant Roger Howard for working together to make sure the project was completed.

Commissioner Wesen and Dahlstedt thanked Consultant Roger Howard, Skagit County Facility Management Administrative/Small Works Coordinator Kelley Marriott and all the community partners for making the Food Distribution Center a reality.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing at 12:04 p.m. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve closing out the CDBG #08-64008-027 project. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 12:06 p.m.

- h) 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Public Hearing To Consider Testimony Regarding Amending Skagit County Code Chapters 1.20 and 6.12 Adjusting Voter Precinct Boundary Lines and Commissioner District Boundary Lines

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 2:00 p.m.

Elections Supervisor David Cunningham presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Skagit County's redistricting for 2010 through 2012. He indicated that every 10 years there is a census, and in response to the census, jurisdictions are required to redistrict. Skagit County district types subject to redistricting are; County Commissioners, cities, wards, school districts, Ports, PUD, and precincts.

Mr. Cunningham said that redistricting was the redrawing of a district's internal boundary lines using the example of Skagit County's cities, redistricting would change the size and shape of the cities internal wards, but would not alter the external boundaries of the cities. He said that reprecincting was the redrawing of a precinct's external borders. He said that once all other changes are in, Skagit County Elections would adjust the external borders of many of Skagit County's voting precincts.

Mr. Cunningham explained that precincts size limits were part of the redistricting considerations and that they changed from 900 to 1,500. He indicated that the law required lines to incorporate all of the territory in a given jurisdiction. He explained that in the east part of county there were changes to include precinct areas that had previously not been precincted.

Mr. Cunningham said that the Washington State Legislature were responsible for creating the Congressional district lines and Legislative district lines. He indicated that County Commissioner district boundary lines were drawn according to population; redrawing precinct boundary lines were drawn according to registered voters and geography. He said that Skagit County would incorporate all the changes into Skagit County's election system.

Mr. Cunningham discussed the creation of the new Congressional District.

More information can be obtained by logging onto Skagit County elections at <http://www.skagitcounty\elections>, or the Washington State Redistricting Commission: <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov>.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 2:24 p.m.

Skagit Democrats Officer David Allen asked whether there would be large congressional district maps available. GIS Director Geoff Almvig indicated that the maps would be available.

The Commissioners will make a decision on this matter on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

The Commissioners attended an executive session on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, from 3:10 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. the purpose of the executive session was for Litigation - RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). (Matters relating to County enforcement actions, actual litigation, or potential litigation.) The following attorneys were present at the executive session and gave legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners; Rich Weyrich, and Will Honea. Additional attendees: County Administrator Tim Holloran.

The Commissioners attended an executive session on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, from 4:10 p.m. to 4:25 p.m. the purpose of the executive session was for Litigation - RCW 42.30.110

(1)(i). (Matters relating to County enforcement actions, actual litigation, or potential litigation.) The following attorneys were present at the executive session and gave legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners; Rich Weyrich, and Will Honea. Additional attendees: County Administrator Tim Holloran, and Parks Recreation and Fairgrounds Director Brian Adams.

The executive session scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. was canceled.

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 2:26 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