

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 17, 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 8:01 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Henry Hash acknowledged Glen Veal and Al Bush who were present from the Guemes Island Ferry Committee and after informing the Commissioners of the American Public Works Association selection of the Anacortes and Guemes Island Dock Rehabilitation Projects as the Project of the Year, he introduced Ferry Manager Rachel Beck to brief the Board on the 2012 ferry fare revenue target report.

1. Presentation: 2012 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report

Ms. Beck said that the report needed to be presented to the Board annually each year by April 30th pursuant to Resolution Numbers R20100050 and R20110382. She said that the report had been available for public comment for over one month.

Ms. Beck reviewed the report with the Commissioners. They discussed the decrease in total revenue amounts which was attributed to the reduction in ridership in 2011 due to the dock rehabilitation projects and Ms. Beck said that 2012 was estimated to be a normal year. Ms. Beck said that Public Works was not recommending a fare increase for 2012.

Ms. Beck discussed the sailing schedule, ticketing, and the report compiled by multiple customer service surveys completed by individuals who ride the ferry. Ms. Beck stated that Public Works received many requests for an expanded sailing schedule on Sunday nights as well as expanding the Ferry's peak season from May 20th to September 30th. Ms. Beck said that Public Works researched the possibility of expanding ferry sailings on Sunday evenings. They determined that revenues from fares would probably break even. She said that Public Works would consider expanding Sunday evening sailings and expanding the peak season as well. She discussed the research Public Works performed to determine when to expand the peak season.

Ms. Beck said that the customer service surveys also showed strong support for renewing the use of the 10 trip punch cards. She said that Public Works was recommending that they offer 10 trip punch cards at the normal rate.

Commissioner Wesen and Ms. Beck discussed the mid-watch hours and how they were used throughout the year. They also discussed how 10 trip punch cards would cut down on the amount of time it took to load the ferry. Commissioner Wesen thanked Ms. Beck and the Ferry Committee for researching and discussing the requests for 10 trip punch cards, expanding sailings on Sunday evenings, and expanding the peak season.

Commissioner Dillon said that she appreciated the research Public Works performed and she asked if the Ferry Committee agreed with Public Works' findings.

Mr. Glen Veal, representative from the Guemes Island Ferry Committee said that all of the

decisions made by Public Works were based on data and made sense. Mr. Veal appreciated that Public Works considered each request, researched each request, and was doing a good job at controlling costs.

Chairman Dahlstedt stated his concerns regarding the continued shortfall in fare revenue, the expansion of services, and the decision to leave rates unchanged. Chairman Dahlstedt said that he wanted to make sure that funds were set aside for the eventual replacement of the ferry.

Mr. Hash said that he understood Chairman Dahlstedt's concerns and he said that Public Works was planning for the eventual replacement of the ferry.

Mr. Veal asked that the eventual replacement of ferry be based on data about the vessel and not just its age.

Ms. Beck said that Skagit County Public Works may be partnering with Whatcom County Public Works to hire a consultant to compare the costs of maintaining an aging vessel to replacing it.

Commissioner Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:33 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

b) 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 8:36 a.m.

1. Signature: Proclamation Declaring May 2012 as Puget Sound Starts Here Month

Natural Resources Division Manager Dan Berentson introduced Stormwater Permit Program Coordinator Michael See to provide information about the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign. Mr. See said that the key messages that the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign wanted to share was that Puget Sound is in trouble and that everyone's everyday activities contribute to its pollution which create short and long term risks. The other message which the campaign wanted to share was that we can all help save the Puget Sound. Mr. See showed some examples of how the message was being shared across Washington. These included radio and television advertisements and utilizing social media and local businesses.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. See for the information and said that people contribute to the pollution of the sound and that they can also be the solution.

Commissioner Dillon read the proclamation declaring Puget Sound Starts Here Month for May 2012.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:49 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

c) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:00 a.m.

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Intention to Re-Establish Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake Pursuant to Chapter 36.61 R.C.W

Water Resources Technician Tracy Alker was present to give some background information on

Lake Management District No. 1. She said that it was one of four districts which were self-taxing pursuant to RCW Chapter 36.61. She said that each taxing cycle was set for a period of ten years and that the County partners with each District to provide technical and administrative assistance to each of the four citizen advisory committees which meet at least twice a year.

Ms. Alker said that Big Lake had a long history of aquatic weeds. She said that the District was formed in 1997 and in 2002 it was reformed for another 10 years.

Ms. Alker said that Public Works met with the citizen's advisory committee for Lake Management District No. 1 to discuss their goals and estimated costs for controlling the weed growth in the lake. She said that letters were mailed out to all property owners in the district and she said that many owners were in favor of reforming the district. She said that the public hearing was scheduled to collect more comments regarding whether or not to reform the district and after the hearing, Public Works would like the Commissioners to authorize the mailing of ballots to all property owners in the district for an official vote.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:05 a.m.

Kathy Sanchez of 17461 Big Lake Blvd. said that she had lived in the district for 12 years and she had seen the benefit of the district. She said that she would like to see it renewed and service improved. Ms. Sanchez said that most of the lake was only 14 feet deep, which made it prone to weed problems.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming Commissioner Wesen 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 submitting the question of Reforming Skagit County Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake (**Resolution No. R20120129**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wesen thanked Public Works for the information. He said that a question came up during the public process regarding the users of the public boat ramp and if those users also contributed to the district's fund. Commissioner Wesen said that he was given documents showing that the boat launch contributed approximately \$6,700 per year towards Lake Management District No. 1. Commissioner Wesen clarified that the Commissioners had now voted to allow the citizens residing in the district to vote on whether or not to reform.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:08 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

d) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Update from Safe Kids of Skagit County: Tulip Pedal

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:32 a.m. and excused Chairman Dahlstedt.

Bill Criag from Skagit Safe Kids informed the Commissioners that the annual Tulip Pedal would be held Saturday, April 31, 2012 and that so far 333 people had pre-registered. Mr. Craig said that there were 20, 40, and 60 mile-long races. He said that registrants were coming from all over the United States to participate in the Tulip Pedal. Mr. Craig said that proceeds from the Tulip Pedal help support Skagit County Emergency Medical Services and the Safe Kids Chapter.

Mr. Craig said that the Safe Kids Chapter was part of a country-wide coalition which was started 22 years ago out of a Children's Hospital in Washington D.C. and was dedicated to preventing child injuries sustained by falls, motor vehicle accidents, choking, poisoning, and fires. Mr. Craig said that

Skagit County Medic One was the lead agency in Skagit County and that they attend fairs, back-to-school events, provided car seats and helmets at a discounted rate, and held clinics in various locations to teach people how to properly use car seats.

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:41 a.m.

- e) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Decision: Revision of Skagit County Voting Precincts Regarding Amending Skagit County Code Chapters 1.20 and 6.12

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Barbara Leander said that the Commissioners received the corrected legal descriptions yesterday which were attachments to the proposed ordinances.

Commissioner Wesen clarified that the boundaries needed to be updated due to the shift in population which was recently recorded by the United States Census Bureau. He thanked Skagit County staff for the work performed to update the boundaries.

Ms. Leander clarified that the Commissioners would need to pass both ordinances. One ordinance updated Skagit County Code, Chapter 6.12 adjusting the Commissioner District boundaries and the other ordinance updated Skagit County Code, Chapter 1.20 adjusting the Precinct boundaries.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve Ordinance amending Skagit County Code, Chapter 6.12.010-030 adjusting Commissioner District boundary lines in Skagit County (**Ordinance No. O20120003**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chairman Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve Ordinance amending Skagit County Code, Chapter 1.20 adjusting Voting Precinct boundary lines in Skagit County (**Ordinance No. O20120004**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chairman Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:06 a.m.

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

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:33 a.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