

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Interim Director:

Mr. Berentson introduced Waste Reduction/Recycling Education Specialist Callie Martin to discuss the first item with the Commissioners.

1. Signature: Proclamation Commemorating Earth Day 2014 and Challenging Skagit County Residents to Increase Home Energy Conservation and Reduce Waste by Recycling and Composting

Ms. Martin shared that it was the 44th Anniversary of Earth Day. She briefed the Commissioners on Skagit County's sustainability and recycling programs, efforts, events, and opportunities and shared that more information could be found at [www.skagitcounty.net/zwe](http://www.skagitcounty.net/zwe).

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation commemorating Earth Day.

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 1:31 p.m.

2. Presentation: 2014 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report

Mr. Berentson introduced Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe. Ms. Rowe briefed the Board on the 2014 Ferry Fare Revenue Target Report and discussed revenue projections and collections.

Ms. Rowe and the Commissioners discussed adjusting the fare in 2015, and holding a public hearing to revisit the methodology of fare projections and accountability as well as putting into place a possible ferry replacement surcharge. Ms. Row and the Commissioners also discussed and agreed that the ferry needed to be hauled out for maintenance annually.

3. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have anything else to discuss. Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:06 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Update from Washington State University Skagit County Extension

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m. and introduced Director of WSU Extension Center Don McMoran.

Mr. McMoran and the Commissioners discussed the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between WSU Extension Center and Skagit County and then Mr. McMoran briefed the Commissioners on the conclusions of the three-year irrigation evaluation project. After reviewing data, WSU Extension Center had the following suggestions for best irrigation practices when using the reel big gun method: not irrigate when wind speeds reach above 8 miles an hour, irrigate at night, and set each row for proper overlap. Mr. McMoran thanked The Washington State Department of Agriculture, Western Washington Agriculture Association, Skagit County, and the four farmers that worked with WSU for the research project.

Sacha Buller, Master Gardener Program Coordinator, briefed the Commissioners on the Master Gardner Program and said that in 2014 they were focusing on additional public outreach and accessibility by having some training and learning opportunities during the evening or on a weekend. Ms. Buller briefed the Board on the services offered by the Master Gardner Program including a new email for plant problem diagnostic questions: [skagitmgplantclinic@gmail.com](mailto:skagitmgplantclinic@gmail.com)

Mr. McMoran shared information found regarding last years' losses of many beet seed crops. He showed that farmers would have needed to irrigate with ten inches water in order for crops to succeed.

Mr. McMoran ended the presentation to the Commissioners by discussing the Cultivating Success program, Worker Protection Standard training program and shared that WSU Skagit County Extension was about to celebrate 100 years of service with an ice cream social at the Port of Skagit on May 8, 2014, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. McMoran and Ms. Buller for the information and Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:14 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Consideration of the Hearing Examiner's Recommendation for Approval for the Following Open Space Applications:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:31 a.m. and introduced Current Use Specialist from the Assessors' Office Annette DeVoe.

1. Resolution Concerning a Timber Open Space Application of Comer Larue and Emilie Fenlon, to Amend Agreement to Include in the Current Use Timber Program the Property Originally Excluded for a Home-Site, and to Set Aside a Different 1.0 Acre Tract for Home-Site Purposes (C/UTMB #01-2013)

Ms. DeVoe shared that the applicants were requesting that a 1.0 acre tract on Bacus Hill be relocated within the property to different, buildable site.

The Commissioners agreed that the 1.0 acre site should be feasibly buildable, however, they shared concerns regarding the new location, and whether it met current Skagit County Code requirements and was, in fact, buildable.

Commissioner Dahlstedt suggested one of the Commissioners discuss the proposed new 1.0 acre site with Planning and Development Services to confirm if it could be developed. Commissioner Dahlstedt suggested postponing the decision on the application for one to two weeks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve that the Resolution concerning a Timber Open Space Application of Comer Larue and Emilie Fenlon, to Amend the Agreement to include in the Current Use Timber Program the property originally excluded for a home-site, and to set aside a different 1.0 Acre tract for home-site purposes (C/UTMB #01-2013) be brought back for consideration on May 13, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Resolution Concerning an Open Space Application of Edward Bishop for Bishop Special Needs Trust, to Transfer 16.93 Acres from Farm and Agriculture to the Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Program (CUOS #1-2013)

Ms. DeVoe shared that the applicants of the family farm were no longer actively farming the 16.93 acres and that they wanted to preserve the option to return it to active farming in the future with the next generation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution concerning an Open Space Application of Edward Bishop for Bishop Special Needs Trust, to transfer 16.93 acres from Farm and Agriculture to the Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Program (CUOS #1-2013). (**Resolution No. R20140118**) Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Resolution Concerning an Open Space Application of Thomas and Mary Jo Andrak, to Include 5.0 Acres of Land in the Current Use Open Space Program (CUOS #2-2013)

Ms. DeVoe shared that the applicants wanted to preserve the 5.0 acres as it was due to the high amount of wildlife it contained, and keep it as a scenic backdrop for the road accessing trust lands.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution concerning an Open Space Application of Thomas and Mary Jo Andrak, to include 5.0 acres of land in the Current Use Open Space Program (CUOS #2-2013)

**(Resolution No. R20140119)** Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

4. Resolution Concerning a Timber Open Space Application of Robert B. and Judith A. Hamner, to Transfer 15.56 Acres to the Current Use Timber Program (C/UTMB #02-2013)

Ms. DeVoe shared that the applicants wanted to transfer 15.56 acres to the Current Use Timberland program since it no longer met the minimum 20 acre forest designation due to a boundary line adjustment. Ms. DeVoe also shared that the application had begun with different owners: John Semmes and Pamela Mickelwait, but that the new owners, Robert and Judith Hamner, had written a letter requesting the assumption of the application, and that the Commissioners had the authority to approve the update to the application.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution concerning a Timber Open Space Application of Robert B. and Judith A. Hamner, (formerly John Semmes and Pamela Mickelwait) to transfer 15.56 acres to the Current Use Timber Program (C/UTMB #02-2013) **(Resolution No. R20140120)** Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

5. Resolution Concerning a Timber Open Space Application of John G. Seehorn, to Include 18.08 Acres in the Current Use Timber Program (C/UTMB #03-2013)

Ms. DeVoe shared that the applicant wanted to include 18.08 acres in the Current Use Timberland program, that the residence would be excluded from the parcel, and that the owner had invested time to educate himself on best practices and had created a timber management plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution concerning a Timber Open Space Application of John G. Seehorn, to include 18.08 acres in the Current Use Timber Program (C/UTMB #03-2013) **(Resolution No. R20140121)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:54 a.m.

- d) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. Public Comment Period

Ellen Bynum was present from Friends of Skagit County to inform the Commissioners about food security and how food was produced and distributed. She requested letters be written to the Regional Food Policy Council in Seattle and inform them about the Farmland Legacy Program. She also asked that the Commissioners consider putting together volunteers to work on other coordination efforts with regional food councils to help update policies.

John Piazza Sr. of Mount Vernon was present to thank the Commissioners for taking the time to hear information on a leasing a new Skagit County Jail and that he had hoped to share more information with the Commissioners about that option soon.

Mike Newman of Mount Vernon reminded the Commissioners of a meeting held late 2013 regarding water right issues with the Department of Ecology and that he understood another meeting would be scheduled with all of the legislators to discuss Skagit County's multiple hardships further. Mr. Newman and Commissioner Dillon discussed the progress made on the follow-up meeting.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

The Commissioners recognized Skagit Valley Herald reporter Rachel Lehrman and wished her well at her new place of employment.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:43 a.m.

e) 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Decision: Proposal to Amend Skagit County Code Chapter 14.44. Enforcement/Penalties

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:02 p.m. and introduced Senior Deputy Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney Arne Denny. Mr. Denny said that the changes to the code were minor and also being suggested in order to comply with current laws. Mr. Denny explained further.

Skagit County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Walters was also present to inform the Commissioners that they were present today to either make a decision on the code, defer the change(s), or make changes of their own before finalizing.

Commissioner Dahlstedt clarified that since he had not attending the public hearing he would be abstaining from voting on the matter.

Chair Wesen suggested the Commissioners review the changes line-by-line with Mr. Denny and Mr. Walters, which they did. The Commissioners suggested one change which was to include a Washington State RCW for further clarification.

Chair Wesen said that a group of concerned citizens had met with him and then with Commissioner Dillon about the proposed changes and that they had requested submitting information on the revisions in order to make it clearer. He said that he would be happy to allow time for this, then to review their

suggestions, and then make a decision.

Commissioner Dahlstedt agreed to accept additional information as well, and then he said he would also have time to review the public hearing, and could then vote with the Commissioners on the changes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve postponing the decision on the proposal to Amend Skagit County Code Chapter 14.44, Enforcement/Penalties until May 27, 2014, and to give the citizens until May 22, 2014 to submit their changes. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Walters clarified that the Commissioners would allow additional comments from all citizens, not just the concerned group present.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 1:37 p.m.

f) 1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Parks and Recreation - Brian Adams, Director:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:44 p.m. and introduced Brian Adams.

1. Earth Day Recognition

Brian Adams was present to inform the Commissioners about the two work parties that had been formed of volunteers and Skagit County staff to complete two projects for Earth Day: one on South Fidalgo Island, and one at the Continental Building along the stream. He and the Commissioners expressed their appreciation for completing the important projects.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 1:52 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chair

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board