

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon present. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:31 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, Director:

Chair Wesen introduced Dan Berentson.

1. Update: Skagit River General Investigation (GI) Tentatively Selected Plan

Watershed Planner Kara Symonds briefed the Board on the work performed to date on the Skagit River General Investigation Study and then described the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) that would be moved forward and evaluated by other agencies.

Ms. Symonds said that the purpose of the study was to determine the best way to protect lives and property and reduce economic damages during a flood event. The Tentatively Selected Plan that was chosen included comprehensive urban levee improvements (9 miles of improved levee and 3 miles of new levee), flood storage at the Baker Dams, site specific measures, and non-structural measures (raising buildings, etc.). Ms. Symonds discussed hard storage availability and opportunity at the Upper and Lower Baker Dams.

Ms. Symonds said that after the plan's next review and evaluation of public comment letters and responses, a decision would be made whether or not to continue to move the TSP along for finalization. If it is determined to finalize the plan, the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers would send a report to Congress for final authorization.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Symonds for the update.

2. Presentation: Engineering Division Update Concerning Grant Applications and the Pioneer Highway/Fir Island Road Intersection

County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter was present to inform the Board about proposed projects and the grants that Public Works had applied for. He said that Skagit County Public Works maintained approximately 800 miles of roads and over 100 bridges which also have to be periodically improved to meet standards, and repaired to correct failures, etc.

Mr. Randall-Grutter said that expenses for road maintenance and construction projects matched revenues in the amount of \$18 to \$21 million, however, larger construction projects exceeded annual revenues, which was why Skagit County applied for grants for many construction projects. Mr. Randall-Grutter briefed the board on grant project locations that Public Works was currently preparing, grant project locations that were out for review and being considered, and grant project locations that had recently been awarded.

Grant Project Locations Currently Preparing:

1. North Fork Bridge Replacement
2. Samish River Bridge Deck
3. Friday Creek Bridge Deck
4. Lower Finney Creek Bridge Deck
5. Dodge Valley Road Guardrail
6. Cook Road Intersection Safety
7. Old HWY 99 Pedestrian Safety
8. Big Lake School Zone Safety
9. Centennial Trail Construction

Grant Project Locations being Considered:

1. BNSF Burlington Northern Overpass
2. Francis Road Section 1
3. Francis Road Section 3
4. Centennial Trail
5. Josh Wilson Road

Grant Project Locations Awarded:

1. Hard Creek Bridge
2. BNSF Burlington Northern Overpass
3. Pioneer HWY/Fir Island Road
4. Bow Hill Road
5. Ferry Dolphin Replacement

Commissioner Dillon reminded Public Works to also reach out to the State of Washington about a possible round about at the intersection of Francis Road and HWY 9. Chair Wesen discussed

safety concerns with Mr. Randall-Grutter about the Interstate Cook Road Off-Ramp and conformed that any project to improve that area would be performed by the State of Washington. Next, Project Manager Jennifer Swanson briefed the Board on the Pioneer Highway/Fir Island Road Intersection project. Ms. Swanson said that an improvement project had been considered since 2000. A grant was recently awarded and work began October 2013 and it was estimated to be completed July 2014.

3. Presentation: County Road Administration Board Certificate of Good Practice

Mr. Randall-Grutter informed the Board of an annual reporting process to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) which evaluated Skagit County Public Works performance and qualifications in order to determine if Skagit County still qualified to receive gas tax funding and grant funding. He reported that Skagit County had, once again, met the standards of good practice.

The Commissioners thanked Public Works for continuing to meet CRAB's requirements and Commissioner Dillon read the Certificate of Good Practice which was awarded by CRAB to Skagit County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter. Mr. Randall-Grutter said that the entire Public Works staff and department made the annual certification possible.

4. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Proclamation: Firewise Awareness Month

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:32 a.m. and introduced Carolyn Kelly, Manager of Skagit Conservation District who discussed Firewise Prevention Month along with Tom Smith of Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Jennifer Hinderman, Firewise Program Coordinator and Resource Technician of Skagit Conservation District. Fire Chief Cody Watson at Newhalem-Diablo Fire Brigade was also present to discuss and thank Skagit Conservation District for their partnership with Seattle City Light.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for their efforts at fire prevention and home and property protection and Commissioner Dillon read the proclamation regarding May as Wildfire Awareness Month.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:51 a.m.

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

1. Public Comment Period

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. He acknowledged the large number of people present to comment on an application to Planning and Development Services by Shell Oil Company and asked for individuals to come forward first who wanted to comment on a different topic.

Jason Easton of Anacortes was present to submit his letter of resignation from the Skagit County Planning Commission. He thanked the Commissioners for the experience and opportunity to serve the public. He shared that he was going to run for election to a local office in Skagit County and resigned due to a potential conflict of interest.

Next, Chair Wesen invited Dale Pernula, Director of Planning and Development Services to speak on the Shell Oil Company application to build an additional rail spur in order to receive oil being shipped by railroad cars, and which parts of the project Skagit County had an influence over. Mr. Pernula also shared that the application still needed to be reviewed for the shoreline portion of the permit and that a public hearing would be scheduled in July or August.

Anne Winkes of Conway, Carolyn Gastellum of Anacortes, Tom Glade of Evergreen Islands, Sandra Spargo of Anacortes, Bud Meyers of Lyman, Ahmed Gaya of Seattle, Roger Ridgeway of Mount Vernon, Ty Campbell of Bellingham, Carlo Voli of Edmonds, Cat Hay of Anacortes, Jenny Wolf of Bow, Emily Junsten of Seattle, Phyllis Stall of Anacortes, Phyllis Bravender of Friends of Skagit Beaches, Janet Weedman of Anacortes, Ashlyn Dennis of Burlington, Hunter Marshall of Seattle, Nan Monk of Sedro-Woolley, a student from Western Washington University, Mary Rush Holder of Mount Vernon, a resident of Seattle, a resident of Bellingham, Lisa Marcus of Seattle, Rob Zwick of Mount Vernon, and Jim Katreen of Hamilton commented on Public safety and environmental concerns and the need for additional information regarding the Shell Oil Company application to Planning and Development Services and requests were made to perform an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and hold a special public hearing to discuss concerns further.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

No miscellaneous announcements were made.

d) *5:30 p.m. Leadership Skagit Spring Reception (Regional Byway Center at Railroad

Park on Fairhaven Avenue, 520 E. Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington)

- e) *6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting (City of Burlington Council Chambers, 833 S. Spruce Street, Burlington)
- f) *6:45 p.m. Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Meeting (City of Burlington Council Chambers, 833 S. Spruce Street, Burlington)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 12:50 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board