

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 3, 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 8:30 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:

Dan Berentson informed the Commissioners that Watershed Planner and Project Manager Kara Symonds would be providing an update on the Skagit River General Investigation Study and that the Commissioners would also receive updates on other projects from Construction Manager Dave Walde, Project Manager Jennifer Swanson, Engineering Technician Dianne Crane, and Water Quality Analyst Rick Hayley.

1. Update: Skagit River General Investigation

Project Manager Kara Symonds was present to give the Commissioners an update on the most recent developments in the Skagit River General Investigation Study. After reviewing the work performed to date, she said that the project would be listed in Federal Register at the end of the week which would trigger a 45-day National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period. Public Works would also be attending city and town council meetings to discuss the project.

Ms. Symonds said that after the Army Corps of Engineers complete their technical, legal, and procedural reviews of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), and after a review and response to public comments received, the agency would be making a decision and a report from the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers would be sent to Congress for authorization.

The Commissioners thanked and appreciated the efforts and work of all involved with the study and Commissioner Dahlstedt believed that the selected TSP to strengthen the dikes and gain additional water storage at the dams would be beneficial for people and for fish.

2. Update: Engineering Division Projects

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson was present to brief the Commissioners on the Pioneer Highway/Fir Island Intersection project, Davis Slough

project, and Guemes Ferry Dolphin Replacement project.

Construction Section Manager Dave Walde briefed the Board on the 2014 asphalt overlay projects and said that Skagit County was also working with the City of Burlington to purchase asphalt at a better price. He also updated the Commissioners on the Hansen Creek Pedestrian Bridge project, Calhoun Road rehabilitation project, street waste facility project, and Edison Culvert project.

Commissioner Dahlstedt and Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter discussed the Calhoun Road rehabilitation project. Commissioner Dahlstedt said that Green Road should be rehabilitated as well, and that it should be completed prior to upcoming work on the nearby railroad trestle. Commissioner Wesen shared that not all roads could be easily rehabilitated and that Green Road would behave like a dike if additional height was added to it.

Engineering Technician Dianne Crane shared that Skagit County had recently been awarded funding for the low impact development of the parking lot to the north of 1800 Continental Place (the previous Cinema 5 site). She said that the lot would be improved, water would be treated before returning to the nearby stream, and it would serve as an example of a pervious development.

Water Quality Analyst Rick Haley briefed the Commissioners on the work performed in the Samish basin to locate sources of fecal coliform contamination with Crush, a dog trained to detect human sewage.

3. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:10 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Reauthorization of the Skagit County Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) District Program and Reestablishment of Budget and Finance Rates and Charges

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:32 a.m., introduced Public Works Director Dan Berentson, who introduced Stormwater Permit Program Coordinator Michael See.

Mr. See summarized the main functions of the Clean Water Program: to improve water quality, restore fish habitat, maintain Lake Management Districts, support the Skagit Marine Resources Committee, and support clean water programs through the Health Department. Mr. See said the fund was established in 2005 and reauthorized in 2009. Mr. See said funding would be expiring at the end of the year and Public Works was recommending that it be reauthorized for an additional 5 years at the current rates. Chair Wesen

opened the public hearing at 9:41 a.m. Ed Stauffer of Bow encouraged Skagit County to use real science, not political science, when working on clean water issues, and, he reminded the Commissioners to be mindful of the funding sources and requirements attached to the acceptance of grant funding.

Manager of the Bellingham Department of Ecology office Doug Allen was present to encourage the reauthorization of the Clean Water Program. Bill Dewey of Taylor Shellfish Farms was present to thank the Commissioners for their leadership on local clean water issues. He said that clean water was necessary to grow shellfish. He encouraged the reauthorization of the Clean Water Program. Carolyn Kelley was present from the Skagit Conservation District to encourage the reauthorization of the Clean Water Program. Brandon Roozen of Western Washington Agricultural Association was present to encourage the reauthorization of the Clean Water Program to support salmon recovery efforts and water quality programs. Leah Kinder of Puget Sound Partnership was present to encourage the reauthorization of the Clean Water Program. Puget Sound Partnership appreciated the work being accomplished to improve the watershed, and fish, shellfish, and human habitat. Seeing no further testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon, to close the public hearing at 9:58 a.m. The vote passed unanimously. The Commissioners thanked members of the audience for their comments and thanked the agencies that partnered with Skagit County to accomplish the goals of the Clean Water Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution regarding the reauthorization of the Skagit County Clean Water (shellfish protection) District Program and to reestablish the current rates and charges. **(Resolution No. R20140165)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.
The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:09 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:32 a.m. and introduced Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley.

1. Interview Candidates for Vacant Town of Hamilton Council Seat

Mayor Cromley informed the Commissioners that the Town Council was unable to appoint a member to their vacant council seat, the vote was split 2 – 2. The Council decided to refer the decision to the Skagit County Commissioners. Mayor Cromley said that both individuals were residents of Hamilton, qualifying them to serve. Mat Coker and Michael Brockman stated their interests in serving on the Town Council and they answered questions from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners thanked the candidates and informed them that a decision would be made on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:47 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

Steve Reimer of Blanchard was present to inform the Commissioners that his community submitted a draft proposal for a quiet zone in their area and that they were also in touch with the Federal Railroad Administration for more information on accomplishing the Quiet Zone designation.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:34 a.m.

e) 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Presentation: Certificate of Commendation Upon the Retirement of Marie Nelson

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:30 p.m. and introduced Auditor Jeanne Youngquist. Auditor Youngquist thanked Marie Nelson for her excellent years of service as well as Administrator Tim Holloran and each Commissioner.

Commissioner Dillon read the Certificate of Commendation in recognition of dedicated public service rendered on behalf of the people, the community and the in the public interest faithfully and unselfishly by Marie Nelson from October 15, 1987, to June 6, 2014.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 1:42 p.m.

f) 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Presentation

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 2:00 p.m. and introduced Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Executive Director Vyrle Hill and Member Services Manager David Goldsmith. They presented the Commissioners with a certificate of membership. Skagit County joined the risk pool August 1, 2003.

Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Hill provided a PowerPoint presentation of their Annual Report for 2013. Mr. Goldsmith explained the WCRP was established to provide its member counties with joint programs and services including self-insurance, purchasing of insurance, and contracting for or hiring of personnel to provide administrative, claims handling and risk management services. The WCRP operates under the Washington's "pooling" laws, specifically RCW Chapters 48.62 and 39.34 and WAC 200.100, and is overseen by the State Risk Manager with fiscal and accountability audits performed annually by the State Auditor. He said that at

this time the WCRP served 26 out of 39 counties. The 13 counties not part of WCRP were individually self-insured or part of a rural county program. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hill and Mr. Goldsmith for the information.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 3:01 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board