

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 5, 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:

1. Presentation: Voluntary Stewardship Program to Protect and Enhance Critical Areas where Agricultural Activities are Conducted

Ryan Walters, Deputy Civil Prosecuting Attorney, provided a PowerPoint presentation about the history of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and noted that in 2007 the Washington State Legislature adopted Substitute Senate Bill 5248 and directed The William D. Ruckelshaus Center to convene to develop recommendations that could be used by counties; farmers; environmental stakeholders; federal; state; and tribal governments to help to improve the State's sensitive ecosystems. He noted that The Ruckelshaus Center went through a four-year process which resulted in the development of the Voluntary Stewardship Program which passed the Legislature in 2011. He also noted that on December 19, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. O20110013, to enroll unincorporated Skagit County and all of its watersheds in the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

PowerPoint

Presentation: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/8042014/>

Mr. Walters stated that implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program was dependent on funding but the County had not received any from the State. He suggested that the County could allocate some money from the Clean Water Program to start the process of implementing the recommendations of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. More information can be found at the Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Program's website located at <http://www.skagitcounty.net/vsp>.

Commissioner Dillon said she would be in favor of moving forward with initiating the next step to implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Commissioner Dahlstedt addressed concerns about the lack of funding from the State. He said that in order to make sure that the County's efforts were not being duplicated the County should work collaboratively with that the Skagit Watershed Council, Western Washington Agricultural Association and others partners who were already involved in the protection of critical areas and watersheds. Chair Wesen spoke about the time, effort and money that had been expended over the past several years to try to come to a conclusion that could work for everyone and that the Voluntary Stewardship Program was the best solution.

Mr. Walters spoke about the next steps which include drafting a resolution to start the Voluntary Stewardship Program; conferring with the tribes and interested stakeholders; adopting a resolution; advertising for members for the Watershed Group and then finally to appoint the Watershed Group.

Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish spoke in support of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and asked about the funding. Mr. Berentson said that initially the County would fund the Program through Clean Water Program. Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, said that he supported the Program and commented on the stakeholder process. Chris

Knight, Nature Conservancy, expressed support for the Program. Brandon Rozen, Western Washington Agriculture Association, spoke in support of including individual landowners in the watershed group process.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:13 a.m.

b) 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Public Health and Community Services - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

1. Introduction of David Jefferson, Community Health Analyst and Tanya Wills, Staff Assistant II

Jennifer Johnson, Director, introduced David Jefferson, Community Health Analyst and Tanya Wills, Staff Assistant II and provided a brief synopsis of their work experience. Ms. Wills has worked for 25 years between Skagit Valley Hospital and United General Hospital in finance and has experience in cash management; grant billing; accounts payable; payroll and general ledger. Mr. Jefferson has a Master Degree in Social Work and has been a Research Associate with extensive experience in behavioral health; working with state agencies on community projects and strategic planning. Mr. Jefferson will be working in the community to create a community health plan and partnering with stakeholders to prioritize the County's health needs.

The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Jefferson and Ms. Wills to Skagit County.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

c) 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

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

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Appeal of Permit Application No. AC13-0101 Submitted by Errol Hanson

The Commissioners deliberated about the requirements needed to complete the Road Access Permit Application. Chair Wesen said that the County Engineer denied Mr. Hanson's application on the grounds that it was not complete. Mr. Hanson did not submit specific plans that would allow the County Engineer to determine whether the application conformed to applicable County Road Standards. Mr. Hanson was offered the opportunity to provide more specific plans, but declined to do so.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to deny Appeal of Permit Application No. AC13-0101 submitted by Errol Hanson on the grounds that the County Engineer properly closed the application because it was incomplete and could not be processed. **(Resolution No. R20140243)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:04 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

Seeing no one present to provide public comment, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public comment period at 11:30 a.m. which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

110th Annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic, taking place at Pioneer Park, South First Street in La Conner - Thursday, August 7, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

Skagit County Fair Wednesday, August 6, through Saturday, August 9, 2014.

Commemoration of 50 Years of Service of the Skagit County Parks Board and the Formation of the Parks Department, taking place at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, 479 W. Taylor Street in Mount Vernon - Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board