

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 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 9:01 a.m. and excused Commissioner Dahlstedt's absence.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

Paul Randall-Grutter, County Engineer, was present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

1. Presentation by Kendra Smith with Innovative Environments - Forestry Update

Kendra Smith, Innovative Environments, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS). Ms. Smith noted that Skagit County had 1.1 million acres of land; 30% of total land area was forest resource production (approximately 360,000 acres); 50% in Federal lands (approximately 501,301 acres). She discussed the Federal Lands bill which was supported by the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC). Ms. Smith also provided an update on State Forest Practices and State lands. She noted that Skagit County received millions of dollars per year from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources which help to support roads, road diversion, mental health, veterans' relief and schools. Ms. Smith said that it was important for Skagit County to support the Board of Natural Resources timber sales.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/12012014>

The Commissioners recognized the hard work of the Forest Advisory Board (FAB) members: Dave Chamberlain, Gordy Iverson, Paul Kriegel, Chuck Park, Al Craney, Fred Loffer, Lisa Cassidy, Ken Osborn, Tim Raschko, Aubrey Stragel, Steve Tift and Tom Nelson.

Commissioner Dillon commented on the Transfer of Developments Rights (TDR) Program being used to help private land owners and how important it was to manage the forest.

Chair Wesen pointed out the approximately 88% of Skagit County's land was forest land and explained that depending on the ownership of the land, that there were different rules and regulations on forest lands that effect how timber could be harvested and mentioned that it was important to have small mills in the general vicinity of where timber was harvested. Chair Wesen

discussed the importance of sustainable forest and land management practices.

Tom Nelson, Forester for Sierra Pacific Industries, reported on the history of the lumber mill. He said that Sierra Pacific Industries chose to build their mill in Skagit County because of the stability of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) timber sales program; and the relative stability of the rules package on private lands. He said that it was important for Skagit County to maintain the stability of the trust land timber sale program; continue to be a leader, in conjunction with other counties, on the state and privately managed forest lands; and support the bill introduced by Representative Blake.

Al Craney, Skagit Conservation District Forester, thanked the Commissioners for their support of the FAB and the Title 3 funds which he noted supported the Firewise Program.

Aubrey Stragel, Nielson Brothers Forester, and member of the FAB, stressed the importance of forest lands supporting local jobs. He said that the County needed to continue to support the work done by Kendra Smith.

Dave Chamberlain, Weyerhaeuser Industries Forest Engineer, and Chair of the FAB, said that it had been a pleasure serving on the Board. He thanked Commissioner Dillon for her dedication and hard work to improve things in forestry areas and spoke in support of Ms. Smith's work on the Board.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:50 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There were no items to present.

2. Public Comment Period

Ed Johnson of Concrete, commented on the amount of trash being dumped on the South Skagit Highway; invasion of privacy issues; identify theft; jobs; and spoke in support of implementing a consumption tax.

Seeing no further public comment forthcoming, Chair Wesen closed the public comment period at 11:51 a.m.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Dillon congratulated the Sedro-Woolley Cubs for making it to the State Championship.

c) *2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Executive Session (Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i))

Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Sharon Dillon attended an executive session on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 2:34 p.m. to 3:18 p.m. The purpose of the executive session was Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). (Matters relating to County enforcement actions, actual litigation, or potential litigation.) The following attorneys were present at the executive session and provided legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners: Deputy Civil Prosecuting Attorney Jill Dvorkin and Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea. Other attendees: County Administrator Tim

Holloran and Planning and Development Services Director Dale Pernula.

IV. VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS:

1. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

a) Warrants numbered 413749 through 413749 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$2,086.82 (Transmittal No. C-158-14).

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:52 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board