

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, with Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Conservation Easement for Short Plat #PL12-0352 Submitted by Marjorie E. Hart, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert R. Hart, for Property Located at 15920 Best Road, Mount Vernon

Dale Pernula introduced Senior Planner Brandon Black who provided information regarding the proposed short plat submitted by Marjorie Hart. The short plat would create three residential lots (sizes: 1.15 acres, .66 acres, and .49 acres) where residences were already located, and one large lot (70.18 acres) which would be encumbered by the farmland preservation easement. Mr. Black and the Commissioners discussed farmland preservation efforts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Conservation Easement for Short Plat #PL12-0352 submitted by Marjorie E. Hart, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert R. Hart. **(Contract No. C20150050)** Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Discussion/Possible Action: Establishing the 2015 Planning and Development Services Work Program

Director Pernula briefed the Commissioners on the proposed projects and priorities for 2015 which included seven main items: 2014 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Shoreline Master Program Update, Modification to Floodplain Management Regulations, Rural Forest Initiative, 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, 2015 CFP Update and Q1 Update of 2014 CFP, and an Interim Marijuana Ordinance.

Commissioner Wesen pointed out that many of the items on the work plan were mandated by state or federal regulations and that Skagit County was required to accomplish them by certain deadlines.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution establishing the 2015 Planning and Development Services Work Program. **(Resolution No. R20150037)** Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Miscellaneous

There were no additional items to discuss. Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:55 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation by North Sound Mental Health Administration Director Joe Valentine

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m. and introduced North Sound Mental Health Administration Executive Director Joe Valentine.

Mr. Valentine provided a report to the Commissioners on mental health services at North Sound and in the region, the purpose of North Sound Mental Health Administration, and challenges faced in meeting current and future needs. The PowerPoint provided by Mr. Valentine can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/02022015>

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:03 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:08 a.m. and gave directions for providing public testimony which would be timed at three minutes per speaker and he asked that instead of applauding, to raise hands in support of what was said.

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: Continued from January 6, 2015, To Consider Testimony Regarding Adopting a Moratorium on Marijuana Facilities

Before opening the public hearing (which was a continuation from January 6, 2015), Director Dale Pernula and Assistant Director Ryan Walters provided a brief overview of the work performed to date on Skagit County Code and Interim Ordinance to navigate how and where to allow marijuana facilities in Skagit County. Mr. Walters said that complete information could be found at www.skagitcounty.net/planning where a link was located to "I-502".

Commissioner Wesen suggested that people share information about what things they did or did not like about the proposed Skagit County Code and the public hearing recommenced.

Roger Mitchell of Bow, Carol Ehlers of West Fidalgo Island, Elizabeth Schleh of Dunbar Road in Mount Vernon, Joan Schleh of Dunbar Road in Mount Vernon, Crystal Sweger of Mount Vernon, Dave Browning of Bow, Gary Davis of Guemes Island, Paul Gentry of Mount Vernon, and Kathleen Brown of Dunbar Lane in Mount Vernon, spoke in support of the Interim Ordinance and moratorium.

Shelby Lindsay of Flower of Life Farms on Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Vevara Ekmin of the Top Shelf on Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Shawn DeNae of Arlington, Judi Edeen of Mount Vernon, Heather Wolf representing Bernard Finney of Mount Vernon, Bernard Finney of Mount Vernon, David Goree of Hamilton, Chris Ussery of Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Paul Lindsay of Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Miranda Lindsay of Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Dwight Washburn of Sedro-Woolley, Lori Lindsay of Old Highway 99 North in Burlington, Dave Thomas of Redmond and representing Bernard Finney, Patty Perkins of Mount Vernon, Richard Hughes representing a marijuana growing property owner on Dunbar Lane, Ed Stewart of Mount Vernon, and Robert Jenson of Old Highway 99 South in Mount Vernon spoke in opposition of the Interim Ordinance and moratorium.

The Commissioners thanked all the speakers for being respectful of each other and announced that a decision would be made in approximately two weeks and that it would be published on their agenda.

Chair Dahlstedt announced the proceedings would be recessed briefly in order to allow for the room to clear before holding public comment period.

2. Miscellaneous

Planning and Development Services did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:51 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No one was present for county and individual success stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Jim Kennedy of Sedro-Woolley provided comments on fixing Fruitdale Road in Sedro-Woolley to improve traffic flow and provide faster emergency response services, and, he shared concerns regarding a breakdown in communication and information between Skagit County EMS and the fire commissioners and fire chiefs.

Larry Verbano of Guemes Island provided comments regarding permitting marijuana growing operations. He said that Guemes Island was a single source aquifer and requested the county be sure adequate resources were available before permitting and to also scrutinize water run-off from growing operations in fragile water systems.

Sally Stapp of Guemes Island provided comments on the Guemes Island water system, how to find out if current marijuana operations in place were permitted, and said she was in favor of a moratorium on all marijuana projects.

Carol Ehlers of Fidalgo Island provided comments on issues with the way the Skagit County Code was written because it did not usually provide protections for either homeowners or water. She wondered if it made sense for marijuana to be grown in locations that were deemed unbuildable due to lack of access to water rights, and, she said that a study should be performed (perhaps by the Skagit Council of Governments) on the economic recognition of a home once built (maintenance, tax value, mortgage).

Kris Demargin of Guemes Island provided comments on the marijuana growing operation on Homestead Road and the standing water on the property which was a drainage concern. She agreed with previous speakers that water availability and run off should be accounted for.

Ellen Bynum of Friends of Skagit County presented a resolution that had been passed by Friends of Skagit County supporting the preservation of farmland (which was the largest economic driver in Skagit County), adopting a no-net-loss of farmland, replacing farmland that had been converted to other uses since the 1990's, and the importance of food security.

Mike Newman of Mount Vernon provided comments on water and a recent bill submitted by Representative Kris Lytton regarding the provision of water in rural areas by the Public Utility District which he indicated would be a disaster and he asked the Commissioners to oppose the bill.

Ed Stauffer of Alger asked the Commissioners to share some thoughts on the morning's approval of the 2015 Planning and Development Services Work Plan.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

No miscellaneous announcements were made.

e) *3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Services Meeting with Anacortes Representatives (Anacortes City Hall, 904 6th Street, Anacortes)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 12:10 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board