

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 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 8:30 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. Public Works- Dan Berentson, Director:

Dan Berentson, Director, was present to introduce the agenda items and answer questions.

1. Farmland Legacy Update

Kara Symonds, River Improvement/Watershed Planner, introduced Farmland Legacy Program staff Linda Christensen, Administrative Coordinator; Conservations Future Program Advisory Committee members Scott Degraw, Mike Hulbert, Carolyn Kelly, Owen Peth, Steve Sakuma, Keith Wiggers, and Andrea Xaver.

Ms. Symonds provided a brief history of the Program and noted that Skagit County enacted Ordinance No. 16380 on December 2, 1996, which levied a property tax pursuant to the authority of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.34.230 and established a Conservation Futures Property fund. Ms. Symonds reported that on November 24, 1997, the Board of County Commissioners signed Resolution No. 16755 which approved recommendations for the Program's implementation.

Ms. Symonds listed several of the Program's accomplishments which included approximately 9,500 acres of land had been enrolled in the Program; 194 development rights had been removed; each enrollee of the Program was monitored annually; and approximately 1,020 additional acres were queued up to enroll in the program.

Keith Wiggers thanked the Commissioners for supporting the Program. Mr. Wiggers spoke about the importance of the annual monitoring aspect of the Program.

Steve Sakuma said that he represented Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and noted that generational farmers in Skagit County were beginning to utilize the Program to help to solidify the future of farming.

Carolyn Kelly with the Skagit Conversation District said that the citizens of Skagit County supported the Program and provided an overview of the process involved for property owners to enter into the Program.

Andrea Xaver said that she was the fourth of six generations of farmers in Skagit

County and stressed the importance of preserving farmland.

Mike Hulbert said it was an honor to serve on the Board and mentioned the value that the Program added to Skagit County.

Scott Degraw thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Program and mentioned the value of agriculture.

Owen Peth noted that he was a fifth generation farmer and thanked Dan Berentson and Kara Symonds for their leadership and organization.

The Commissioners thanked the Farmland Legacy Committee members for their hard work to protect farmland in Skagit County.

2. 2015 Public Works Annual Report Update

Mr. Berentson read a description from the American Public Works Association of the function of Public Works "*Public works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for government to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for its citizens*" and presented the 2014 Annual Report.

2014 Skagit County Public Works Annual Report:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04062015/>

The Commissioners thanked Public Works for the report.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:29 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:36 a.m.

1. Closed Record Appeal PL15-0055 Submitted by Tom Butler Regarding Appeal PL14-0117 of File PL13-0354 and PL13-0117 of Hearing Examiner's Decision Dated February 4, 2015, Regarding Appeal PL14-0117 of Approval of a Reasonable Use Exemption PL14-0026; and Appeal PL13-0354 of Administrative Approval of Reduction in Setbacks in PL13-0146

Will Honea, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, provided an overview of the appeal. He stated that the matter was remanded to the Hearing Examiner by Resolution No. R20140288 on September 16, 2014, for further fact-finding and consideration of: Whether the variance granting administrative reduction in setback complied with Skagit County Code Chapter 14.10; and the effect of the plat of Holiday Hideaway and associated restrictions on the boundary line adjustment and variance. Mr. Honea noted that the appellant Tom Butler had sent an e-mail stating that he would not be present at the hearing. Mr. Honea recommended that oral argument proceed.

Commissioner Dahlstedt confirmed that no one was present to represent the Appellant.

Grace Roeder, Senior Planner, provided testimony on behalf of the Planning and Development Services Department.

Jill Dvorkin, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, provided testimony on behalf of the Planning and Development Services Department.

Tom Moser, Attorney, provided argument on behalf of the property owner Hazel Ford. Mr. Moser requested that the Board of County Commissioners affirm the Hearing Examiners decision dated, February 4, 2015, to deny all the appeals of

Tom Butler and Linda Lewis.

The Commissioners will make a decision in open session on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:00 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Proclamation Celebrating Arbor Day

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:31 a.m.

Carolyn Kelly, District Manager for Skagit Conservation District, informed the Board that 80% of Skagit County was covered by trees.

Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District Public Information Coordinator, provided a brief background of the origins of Arbor Day. Ms. Carpenter said that the first American Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872, it was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. Ms. Carpenter said that Arbor Day was observed in many counties around the world and encouraged everyone to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree.

Al Craney, Skagit Conservation District Forester, provided information about healthy forest management. More information can be found by contacting Skagit Conservation District's office either by telephone (360) 428-4313 or by e-mail at skagitcd@skagitcd.org.

Commissioner Janicki read the Proclamation declaring Wednesday, April 8th as Washington State Arbor Day and Friday, April 24th as National Arbor Day, and urged all Skagit County citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect trees and woodlands.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:56 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing National Day of Prayer Day on Thursday, May 7, 2015

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

Sharon Eldridge, Coordinator for the National Day of Prayer Taskforce, said the theme for 2015 was "Lord Hear Our Cry". Ms. Eldridge provided a brief history of the National Day of Prayer and noted that a law formalizing the annual observance was enacted in 1952 by Conrad Hilton of the Hilton Hotels. Ms. Eldridge said that the celebration occurs on the first Thursday of May every year.

Ms. Eldridge announced that there would be a National Day of Prayer event taking place on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at noon at the Skagit County Courthouse.

Commissioner Janicki mentioned that she would be serving as honorary chair at the Kiwanis Elected Officials and Community Leaders Prayer Breakfast on May 7, 2015, taking place at McIntyre Hall on the Skagit Valley College campus in Mount Vernon.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation declaring Thursday, May 7, 2015, as a Day of Prayer, and urged all Skagit County citizens to join in the special observance.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:15 a.m.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There was no one present to provide Individual and Success Stories.

2. Public Comment Period

There was no one present to provide public comment.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Events:

2015 Kiwanis Salmon BBQ - Saturday, April 4 through Sunday, April 26, 2015, at Hillcrest Park Lodge from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tulip Festival runs through April 30, 2015

Woodfest - April 11 and 12, 2015, Cascade Middle School, 201 North Township, Sedro-Woolley

f) *3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Presentation from FFA Regarding Farmworker Housing

Chair Dahlstedt convened the presentation at 3:00 p.m. with Commissioners Lisa Janicki and Ron Wesen present.

Amy Cable, Mount Vernon High School Agriscience Department FFA Advisor, said that part of the requirements of FFA contest was for the students to perform public presentations and submit them as part of their portfolio for the competition taking place on May 14, 2015.

The students enacted a protest in which they depicted two groups: ***"I Love Berries"*** Sakuma supporters; and ***Familias Unidas por la Justicia*** farmworker supporters.

PowerPoint Presentation and Script of the Demonstration:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04062015/>

The Commissioners thanked the students for the presentation and asked several questions about the pros and cons of boycotting the Sakuma Farms and whether compromise would be possible.

The students responded to the questions.

The presentation ended at 3:36 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:39 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board
