

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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 8:31 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Public Health and Community Services - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding the 2015 HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME Program) Funding

Jennifer Johnson, Director; Bob Hicks, Public Health and Community Services Operations Manager/Skagit County Consortium Lead Agency Staff; and Paul Schissler, Independent Contractor/Lead Agency Technical Assistance Provider. Were present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions. Ms. Johnson said that the Skagit County Consortium was established in 2014 and was comprised of three (3) counties: Skagit, Island, and Whatcom; and sixteen (16) towns and cities within the (3) three counties. He said that throughout the public outreach process, meetings had been held with the Consortium to receive comments as well as postings at various locations throughout the County and on Skagit County Access 21 television station in an effort to inform the community about the proceedings and the Skagit County Home Consortium Tri-County Consolidated Plan (Plan).

Mr. Hicks noted that the hearing today was the second public hearing regarding the grant funding from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME Program) and provided background information about the Skagit County Consortium. He noted that the Skagit County Consortium had prepared a plan for use of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funding and was now prepared to submit its plan to the United HUD for review and approval. He noted that the public hearings were key in the development the Plan and that as of today's date no negative comments had been received. Mr. Hicks noted that the Plan was available for review at the Commissioners' office main reception desk from Tuesday, April 6, 2015, until the end of the day on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, and explained the funding allocation formula that each County would receive.

Chair Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 8:30 a.m.

Teresa Pugh, Skagit Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, said she was excited about the partnership of the Tri-County Consortium. Ms. Pugh said that Skagit Habitat for Humanity provided affordable permanent housing but she recognized the need for affordable temporary housing and rental assistance.

Jodi Monroe, Home Trust of Skagit County Executive Director, spoke in support of the data in the Plan.

Tina Tate, Friendship House Executive Director, provided testimony about homelessness in Skagit County. She said that any funding that can be provided to help people avoid homelessness would be a benefit.

Melanie Corey, Housing Authority of Skagit County Executive Director, spoke in support of the process to bring additional housing funds to Skagit County.

Paul Schissler, independent contractor, said that by working together, the 19 participating agencies of the Skagit County Consortium were able to increase the size of the grant.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:56 a.m. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve moving forward with the Skagit County Home Consortium Tri-County Consolidated Plan, Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous for Public Health and Community Services to discuss.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed proceedings at 9:01 a.m.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m. Paul Randall-Grutter, County Engineer, was present to represent the Public Works Department. Mr. Randall-Grutter introduced staff from the Public Works Department.

1. Proclamation Recognizing May 17, through May 23, 2015, as National Public Works Week

Mr. Randall-Grutter said that National Public Works Week was a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. He said that as a National Public Works Week was created by the American Public Works Association in 1960 as a public education campaign to call attention to the importance of public works community life and said that the week enhanced the prestige of the often unsung heroes of our society and the professionals who serve the public good every day.

The Commissioners thanked the Public Works department for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Wesen read the proclamation recognizing May 17, through May 23, 2015, as National Public Works Week.

2. Presentation: County Road Administration Board (CRAB) Certificate of Good Practice to Skagit County Engineer

Mr. Randall-Grutter noted that the Certificate of Good Practice was issued by the Washington State County Road Administration Board and transmitted to the State Treasurer each year. The Certificate is issued on behalf of counties that are found to be in reasonable compliance with provisions of law relating to County Road Administration and standards of good practice.

Commissioner Janicki read the Certificate of Good Practice and presented it to Paul Randall-Grutter.

3. Presentation/Discussion: Update by the Operations Division Regarding the Chip Seal Procedure

Andy Shaw, Operations Division Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Skagit County's Chip Seal Procedures. He noted that every year, the roads to be chip sealed are selected by the Road Maintenance Supervisor's and Engineering Division.

Chip Seal Program PowerPoint:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05042015/>

Forrest Jones, Lead Engineer, discussed the cost savings to the County when roads were chip sealed rather than using an asphalt overlay.

4. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Quarterly Update by Washington State University Skagit County Cooperative Extension

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

Diane Smith, Washington State University Skagit County Cooperative Extension provided an update of the Community Food Planning Grant. Ms. Smith invited the Board of County Commissioners to the Stakeholder meeting on June 23, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the WSU Research Station, located at 16650 State Route 536 in Mount Vernon.

Alex duPont, Washington State University Skagit County Cooperative Extension Shore Steward Program Coordinator, provided an update of the Shore Steward Program and shared the 10 Shore Steward guidelines which can be downloaded at <http://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/>

Kate Selting, Washington State University Skagit County Cooperative Extension Small Farms and Latino Agriculture Educator, provided information about the Program. Ms. Selting noted that bilingual farmer meetings take place on a monthly basis at VIVA Farms and shared information about several courses, workshops and training sessions being held to help beginning farmers navigate through the small farming business.

Don McMoran, Washington State University Skagit County Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

Director, said that WSU Skagit County Cooperative Extension were fully staffed and provided information about the Program. Mr. McMoran noted that WSU would be applying for a USDA NIFA Agrability grant. Mr. McMoran reported that he would be traveling to both Scotland and Ireland on June 27, through July 8, 2016, to visit more than fifteen potato, vegetable, fruit and grain farms, packing houses, distribution centers, research stations and growers cooperatives.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05042015/>

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:28 a.m.

d) 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 present to provide County and Individual Success Stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Mike Newman of 1000 South Point in Mount Vernon commented on the South Skagit Highway road closure. He mentioned the emergency repair work that the Public Utility District (PUD) would be performing on the transmission line from Judy Reservoir to Sedro-Woolley. Mr. Newman said that there was another main transmission pipeline that ran from Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon that was installed in 1956 and was probably the source of a large portion of water loss and said that the PUD should get this waterline fixed. Mr. Newman went on to thank the Commissioners for supporting the water and exempt wells issues.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Dale Pernula, Director of Planning and Development Services; and Jack Moore, Building Official, introduced Jeanne Aungst, Permit Technician. Mr. Pernula said that the Permit Technician position had been created to help improve customer service with respect to the issuance of building permits. Ms. Aungst was hired a few weeks ago and shared that she was from Sedro-Woolley and had significant customer service experience.

Mr. Moore provided information about how the new position had already showed signs that it has helped improve the development review process.

The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Aungst to the County.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:41 a.m.

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board