

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 9, 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 9:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Dahlstedt 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:

Dan Berentson, Director, introduced the Environmental Services Team: Emily Derene, Habitat Specialist; Shaun Tawes, Maintenance Technician; and Tyler Scott, Maintenance Technician.

1. Presentation: Environmental Services Projects Update

Emily Derenne, Habitat Specialist, provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted that the Environmental Services Team was created in 2007 due to a need for a County workforce that was knowledgeable and capable to work in off road right-of-ways projects. Ms. Derenne said that the Environmental Services Team assisted other divisions to obtain the appropriate permits for road maintenance projects.

Ms. Derenne said that since its creation, the Environmental Services Team had completed 82 projects, including the Dairy Creek Culvert Replacement; Child's Creek; Drainage Correction at Milepost 65.4 on State Route 9; Carpenter Creek Sediment Removal; West Big Lake Drainage Improvement; Pedestrian Crossing on Kulshan Creek; Guemes Boat Launch Maintenance; Taylor Road Abutment Repair; Fish Creek/Grassmere Road Plugged Culvert; South Skagit Highway at Milepost 12 Culvert Repair and various other projects.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06082015/>

Contact Information:

Emily Derenne, Habitat Restoration Specialist

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E-mail: emilyjd@co.skagit.wa.us

The Commissioners thanked the team for their hard work.

2. Miscellaneous

Paul Randall-Grutter, County Engineer, provided a brief animated demonstration about the Burlington Northern Overpass Project which depicted how light affects the homes in the area in the spring and summer and said once the Project was further along the Public Works Department would conduct community meetings to get input from the homeowners in the area.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:24 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

1. Certificate of Commendation - Retirement of Marge Swint, Senior Planner

Dale Pernula, Director, was present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

Brandon Black, Senior Planner, congratulated Marge Swint on her 27 years of public service and dedication and shared a few memories about working with Ms. Swint.

Chair Dahlstedt recognized that former Commissioner Sharon Dillon was present in the gallery.

Alison Mohns, Planning and Development Services; Bruce Lisser, Land Surveyor; Oscar Graham, Graham-Bunting Associates; Sharon Dillon, former County Commissioner all shared stories about working with Ms. Swint.

Marge Swint, Senior Planner, thanked everyone for attending her retirement celebration and shared memories of her working life over the past 27 years.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Swint for her hard work and dedication while employed with Skagit County from September 18, 1987, to June 30, 2015, and wished her well in her retirement.

Commissioner Wesen read the Certificate of Commendation in recognition of Ms. Swint's public service.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:58 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Briefing Regarding Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan by Jack Oelfke, Chief of Natural Resources and Cultural Resources, North Cascades National Park Service; and Tom McDowell, Deputy Project Leader, Washington State Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

Jack Oelfke, Chief of Natural Resources and Cultural Resources, North Cascades National Park Service, provided a PowerPoint presentation and introduced Tom McDowell, Deputy Project Leader, Washington State Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service.

Mr. Oelfke provided background information about the National Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan and explained that grizzly bears were listed as threatened in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in 1975 and that the National Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was approved in 1982 and revised in 1993. He said that the North Cascades chapter had been added to the plan in 1997. It was noted that the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were the lead agencies in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development process and that the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife would be cooperating agencies. Funding for the EIS would be provided by the National Park Service. He said that the cooperating agencies and partners would provide technical support throughout the process and estimated that it would take anywhere from 50 to 125 years to achieve a sustainable grizzly bear population in the North Cascades area.

Mr. Oelfke spoke about the public scoping meetings which took place during the weeks of March 3, 2015, and March 9, 2015, which were the first stage of a multi-step process to help inform decisions about grizzly bear restoration. He mentioned that the National Park Service would be releasing a press release this week that would include an analysis of the public scoping meetings and that the public comments would be available for review. He said the next public meeting would be during the summer of 2016 which would provide the public an opportunity to comment on alternatives plans.

Commissioner Janicki addressed concerns about increasing the grizzly bear population in the North Cascades area; the openness of the process of the Restoration Plan; and the mismanagement of the timberlands by the U.S. Forest Service. She said that she would like to have a public meeting about the Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan conducted in Skagit County.

Commissioner Wesen said he was able to attend one of the public scoping meetings in Bellingham in March and spoke about the public comment process. He went on to address concerns about the lack habitat to support the grizzly in the North Cascades and the amount of people that use the Park for recreational purposes. Commissioner Wesen addressed concerns about grizzly bears killing livestock.

Chair Dahlstedt addressed concerns about introducing grizzly bears into the North Cascades and public safety and how the introduction of bears would affect the local economy. He suggested that the area was too heavily populated by people and that maybe there would be a better place to sustain the grizzly bear population. He said that a public meeting should be held in Skagit County in September or October of this year and that the County Commissioners would receive testimony and could submit the comments to the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife/National Park Service.

Mr. Oelfke indicated that there was a mechanism in place to compensate ranchers for losses of livestock caused by grizzly bears. He said that he would be available to attend a community meeting in Skagit County in the fall.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06082015/>

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:16 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

Oscar Lagerlund of Burlington spoke about a meeting he attended on Thursday, June 4, 2015, in LaConner regarding the Clean Samish Initiative's "90 Days to Clean Water Campaign". He said that he was impressed with the direction and the progress that the Campaign was making.

2. Public Comment Period

Chair Dahlstedt said that due to the large number of people in the audience and in order to allow everyone enough time to speak, each person would be given two minutes to provide public comment and he directed the Clerk to set the time clock.

Carol Ehlers of West Fidalgo Island said she would be in support of the Board of County Commissioners holding a public meeting to collect public input about restoring the grizzly bear population in the North Cascades area. Ms. Ehlers said she had been involved in creating the North Cascades Park in the early 1960's and that the purpose of the Park was to provide a safe recreational environment for people and to protect the Skagit River.

Keith Wagoner, City of Sedro-Woolley Councilmember, complimented the Commissioners on how they handled the grizzly bear restoration briefing and spoke in opposition to restoring the bear population to the North Cascades area.

Randy Good of Sedro-Woolley spoke in opposition to the Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

Dave Coleburn of Anacortes spoke in opposition to the Predators of the Heart litigation.

Connie Munsey of Anacortes thanked the Commissioners for their willingness to conduct a grizzly bear public meeting in Skagit County and spoke in support of Mr. Coleburn's comments.

Bill Reinhardt of Burlington spoke in opposition to the Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

Susan Denham of Burlington spoke about the lack of public process with the Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

Cindy Alia, Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights, spoke in opposition to the Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan.

Andrea Xaver of Mount Vernon thanked the Commissioners for their willingness to hold a public meeting about the grizzly bears and requested more information about the status of Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chair Dahlstedt closed the public comment period at 11:49 a.m.

3. Miscellaneous Announcement

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the following vouchers and warrants for Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

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 423579 through 423624 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$124,332.18 (Transmittal No. C-82-15); and
- b) Payroll warrants numbered 349788 through 350483 in the total dollar amount of \$1,145,352.97 (Transmittal No. P-22-2015); and
- c) Junior District Payroll warrants numbered 809221 through 809337 in the total dollar amount of \$209,550.09 (Transmittal No. P-23-2015).

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board