

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Wesen 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:

Director Dan Berentson and County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter introduced the agenda items.

Water Resources Coordinator Tracy Alker provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the purpose of Lake Management District No. 4 (LMD 4) for Clear and Beaver Lakes.

It was explained that Lake Management District No. 4 (LMD 4) was created in 2007 after the majority of waterfront property owners voted to charge themselves a special assessment for the management of aquatic weeds. Ms. Alker said that LMD 4 had expired after a period of ten years. She outlined the steps taken to ascertain whether the property owners in the LMD 4 area were interested in reestablishing LMD 4. She said that after a survey and advisory committee meetings, there was support from a majority of the property owners to reestablish the LMD 4.

Ms. Alker said that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive verbal and written testimony regarding the proposed reestablishment of LMD 4 for Clear and Beaver Lakes.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04172017/>

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding the Intention to Reestablish Lake Management District No. 4 for Clear and Beaver Lakes Pursuant to Chapter 36.61.030 of the Revised Code of Washington

Chair Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:47 a.m.

Judy Olson of Clear Lake commented on the notices that were sent out to property owners about when spraying would occur at the lake and mentioned that notices were not posted last year. She said that it would be helpful to know what day the spraying would actually occur. She shared concerns about the drainage issues associated with both lakes. She said she supported the LMD 4 but would also like to see the drainage issues managed.

Doug Hanson of Beaver Lake Road commented on the lack of access to Clear and Beaver Lakes and said that the drainage ditches between Beaver and Clear Lakes needed to be cleaned out.

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Adams spoke in support of the reestablishing LMD 4.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:59 a.m. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Janicki said that her family owned property on Beaver Lake and abstained from voting on the Resolution.

2. Possible Action - Resolution Submitting the Question of Reestablishing Skagit County Lake Management District No. 4 for Clear and Beaver Lakes to Property Owners within the Proposed District

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution submitting the question of reestablishing Skagit County Lake Management District No. 4 for Clear and Beaver Lakes to property owners within the proposed district (**Resolution No. R20170091**) Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Burlington Northern (BNSF) Overpass Project Update

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson provided an update on the Burlington Northern (BNSF) Overpass Project. She said that the Demolition Plan was submitted to BNSF in Kansas City on March 20. The Railroad had sent comments and needed revisions April 5. The Contractor, Cascade Bridge LLC, and their subcontractors have reviewed the comments and have made the necessary revisions. She noted that Public Works would send the revised Demolition Plan to BNSF today for the final approval. Ms. Swanson went on to say that the Contractor had been working with BNSF to determine the demolition work windows.

4. Guemes Island Ferry Update

Ferry Division Manager Rachel Rowe provided an update on the Guemes Island Ferry and said that the Ferry was back from haul out and the boat was back in the water.

Ms. Rowe provided a brief update on the Skagit County Guemes Ferry Replacement Project and said that a Request for Qualifications for naval architecture and marine engineering services had been submitted in February and six (6) Statements of Qualifications had been received. She said that after reviewing the Statements, three (3) firms had been selected for interviews. She estimated that the interviews would be conducted next week and a selection would be made shortly after the interviews.

Ms. Rowe reported that they were seeking funding for the Skagit County Guemes Ferry Replacement Project from several sources including the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) County Ferry Capital Improvement Program; Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER); Volkswagen Settlement Funding; and Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grant Program from the EPA. She noted that Public Works had applied for an Economic Development Grant for \$500,000 to assist with the design process and that they had received approximately \$600,000 from the Ferry Boat Program.

There was a discussion about having an outside consultant with navel and/or marine engineering expertise sit on the interview panel and various challenges with the current age of Guemes Ferry.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:20 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Presentation by Christine Adams, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Regarding the Establishment of Quiet Zones at Railroad Crossings

Christine Adams with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration said that the jurisdiction for Quiet Zones fell under the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). She provided information about Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM) and explained that SSMs were safety systems or procedures that had been tested and approved by the FRA. She went on to provide information about Alternate Safety Measures (ASM) and explained ASMs were any alteration of an SSM. She said that ASMs would need approval from the FRA.

Ms. Adams explained that the Federal statute that enabled the establishment of quiet zones did not provide funding for this purpose. She said that public authorities seeking to establish quiet zones must be prepared to finance the installation and maintenance of the SSMs and ASMs. She went on to discuss legal considerations associated with collisions within a quiet zone.

Ms. Adams provided information about the process to establish a quiet zone and said that a detailed list of instructions could be found in Appendix C of the Train Horn Rule.

There was a discussion about risk index for Blanchard Quiet Zone and constructing the safety measures.

Steve Reimer of Legg Road in the Blanchard community commented on the cost to bring South Legg and Colony Roads within the recommended Quiet Zone Risk Index.

Carmen W. of Blanchard Road asked if past fatalities were taken into consideration when the FRA reviewed quiet zones.

It was noted that only fatalities that occurred within the past five (5) years factored into the quiet zone decision-making process.

Link to PowerPoint presenters:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/04172017/>

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:23 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Program Update from Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension

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

Director Don McMoran provided an update on the Agricultural and Natural Resources Program.

4-H Program Coordinator Dorothy Elsner provided an update on the 4-H Program. Ms. Elsner introduced Lauren Hedlin. Ms. Hedlin explained that she was a member of 4-H and now was a leader of the Valley Green Horse Club and shared her experience.

Regional Food Access & Health Promotion Specialist Diane Smith provided an update about the Family Living/WSU Family and Consumer Science Program.

Consultant for Washington State University Jeff Bell said that the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine was a recently created public-medical college, based in Spokane, Washington. He said that the College was affiliated with Washington State University (WSU) of Pullman, and was the second general medical school in the State of Washington.

Mr. Bell explained that the College was a community-based medical school and that 60 students had been enrolled in the inaugural class for the fall of 2017. The focus of the College was to train primary care physicians to work in local and rural communities.

Mr. McMoran presented appreciation awards to several people including Andrew Miller with the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County; Steve Sakuma with Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm; and Commissioner Steve Omdahl with the Port of Skagit for their assistance with the 2017 Skagit Ag Summit.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:26 a.m.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. and excused Commissioner Janicki's absence.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There was no one present for County and Individual Success Stores.

2. Public Comment Period

Lee Lucky and Steve Reimer of Bow spoke on behalf of the Blanchard community in support of option 2 for the Blanchard Quiet Zone. They said that that option provided costs saving and urged the Commissioners to put the question to a vote.

Larry Hedgpeth of Sedro-Woolley thanked Commissioners Wesen and Janicki for taking the time to attend the proposed Grip Road Gravel Pit community meeting. He addressed concerns about water quality and traffic safety associated with the proposed Grip Road Gravel Pit.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Dahlstedt encouraged everyone to visit the Kiwanis Club BBQ at Hillcrest Park.

Commissioner Wesen spoke about being aware of traffic while looking at the tulips.

- e) \*12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. United Way of Skagit County Retreat - Direction Setting (Burlington Public Library, 820 Washington Avenue, Burlington)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:40 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chair

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board