

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt excused.

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:

Public Works Director Dan Berentson introduced the agenda items.

1. Burlington Northern (BNSF) Overpass Project Update

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson provided a brief update of the Burlington Northern (BNSF) Overpass Project and a time-lapse video of the BNSF bridge demolition. She noted that the contractor had started demolition of the bridge on May 1, 2017.

There was discussion about the construction period, the businesses in the area remaining open during construction, traffic counts on Bow Hill Road; and traffic detour signs on Cook Road.

2. Guemes Island Ferry Update

Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe said that they were in the process of selecting a naval architecture and that the following five firms had been selected to move forward: Elliott Bay Design Group; Guido Perla & Associates; Jensen Maritime; Glostent; and Art Anderson Associates. She noted that all the firms were located in the Puget Sound Region. She said that the Public Works internal review team had evaluated and scored each of the firms' Statements of Qualifications and completed onsite visits. She indicated that the Guemes Island Ferry Committee had become involved in the process and that a member of the committee would assist Public Works in the selection process. She announced that on May 3, 2017, an advertisement for a citizen volunteer with a naval architecture background had been placed in the Anacortes American. Ms. Rowe noted that the next step in the process was to score and select the top three firms to interview. Public Works estimated that they would have a naval architecture firm selected and a contract would be in place by the end of June 2017.

Ms. Rowe reported on the April 27, 2017, presentation before the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). She said that CRAB had approved their Call for Projects for County Ferry Capital Improvement Program. She said that applications for the Program were due to be submitted to CRAB by December 31, 2017. She reported CRAB may make a decision about project funding at their spring meeting but they are required to take action at their summer meeting. If CRAB approved the funding, the request would then go to the State Legislature for approval in the 2019 budget.

Mr. Berentson noted that Skagit County would probably be the only county submitting applications for funding this year.

3. National Public Works Week Presentation and Proclamation

County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter provided an overview of National Public Works Week and noted that the 2017 National Public Works Week Poster Theme was "Public Works Connects Us". He said that this year National Public Works Week celebrates the vital role public works played in connecting us all together. As the cornerstone of civilization, public works provides, maintains, and improves the structures and services that assure a higher quality of life for our communities. Its streets, roads, bridges, and public transportation keep us linked together from coast to coast, and its clean water and sanitation services keep us healthy and allow our communities to grow and prosper.

Commissioner Janicki read the Proclamation recognizing May 21 through May 27, 2017, as National Public Works Week and thanked Public Works staff for their hard work and dedication.

Link to Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/>

4. Water Quality Monitoring Update

Water Quality Analyst Rick Haley provided a PowerPoint presentation about the types of water quality monitoring that his division provided. He noted that the Skagit County Monitoring Program started in 2003 and they provide ambient sampling of each site every two weeks. He noted that most Skagit County streams do not meet state water quality standards. The Skagit River was in good shape; smaller tributaries had various problems and that monitoring was the only way to know what was going on in the water.

Mr. Haley reported that the focus of the Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) was to produce positive results in storm events.

There was a discussion about prioritizing negative water quality trends.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/>

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:21 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.. Presentation from Washington State Department of Natural Resources Regarding State Uplands

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m.

Commissioner Wesen welcomed Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Northwest Region Manager Jean Fike; Trust Outreach Specialist Lisa Anderson; and Baker District Manager Chris Hankey.

Ms. Fike provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the DNR organizational structure and noted that the Department was managed by the Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, an elected official.

Ms. Anderson noted that DNR managed approximately 5.6 million acres of State lands of which approximately 3 million consisted of Trust Lands. She said that they also managed 2.6 million acres of Aquatic Lands and Conservation Lands. She explained that as manager of State Trust Lands, DNR had legal fiduciary responsibilities under the State Constitution. She noted that State Trust Lands were distinctive in that they were managed to produce non-tax revenue for specific beneficiaries. She provided information about how DNR generated revenue from a variety of sources including forested lands; agricultural lands; communication sites; wind farms and grazing lands.

Ms. Anderson said that before Washington became a state in 1889, Congress passed the Omnibus Enabling Act of 1889, which granted the new state millions of acres of land to support public institutions. Today, these trust lands are an ongoing source of land-based financial support to the various beneficiaries, including public kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12) schools, state universities, buildings on the capitol campus, and correctional facilities. By far the largest of these federally granted trusts are the Common School Trust with approximately 1.8 million acres of forestland, agricultural lands and other properties. Revenue generated on these lands helped fund K-12 school construction projects across the state.

Ms. Anderson indicated that the State Forest Trust Lands were the second largest trust that DNR managed. She said that most State Forest Trust Lands were located in western Washington and that DNR managed several trusts with different beneficiaries. DNR managed 139,536 acres in Skagit County and that Skagit County had the second largest State Forest Transferred Lands in Washington State. She noted that counties and junior taxing districts benefited from the revenue distributed by DNR. The revenue supported local and state schools as well as county services including roads, libraries, fire districts, ports, hospitals and emergency management.

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of Blanchard Mountain and said that it was a 4,800 acre forest with a long history of logging and was a popular recreation area. She also provided a brief history of Management Strategies for Blanchard Forest State Trust Lands. She said that in 2006, the Commissioner of Public Lands convened a group, Blanchard Strategies Group, with diverse interests to create a collaborative forest management plan for Blanchard. The group met for two years and in 2008 came up with the collaborative agreement; the Management Strategies for Blanchard Forest. She explained that part of the agreement recommended that a 1,600 acre core area be protected and would no longer generate revenue. As part of the Agreement, replacement lands were required to be purchased for long-term revenue generating. She said that DNR was working on purchasing the replacement lands and that overall value of the 1600-acre Blanchard Core was \$14.2 million. She said that \$4.5 million had been purchased; they were working on purchasing \$2 million and that they have a funding request to the State Legislature for \$7.7 million. The \$7.7 million would complete the purchase of the replacement lands.

Baker District Manager Chris Hankey said that the Baker District encompassed the area from the Skagit River up to the Canadian Border which included the Harry Osborne Forest, Alger Mountain, Blanchard Mountain, and lands in Whatcom County. He noted that these lands helped fund local services in Skagit County and that local beneficiaries included Burlington-Edison Schools, United General Hospital, the Port of Skagit County, and Skagit County roads and public services. Mr. Hankey explained that he worked with foresters and other specialists to manage the land base according to a Habitat Conservation Plan and other policies established by the Board of Natural Resources.

There was a discussion about the Sustainable Harvest Calculation Draft Environmental Statement, pressure on the DNR not to log forested lands, and whether there was a physical inventory of State Trust Lands.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation:](ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/)

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/>

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:35 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Board of Health

Chair Wesen convened the Board of Health at 10:38 a.m. and welcomed Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson and Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibard.

1. Discussion - Law Enforcement Social Worker Program

Behavioral Health Coordinator Sarah Hinman explained that in 2015 Skagit County Public Health learned about a successful program in Snohomish County. The program was a partnership between Snohomish County and the Everett Police Department that imbedded a social worker in the police department to assist law enforcement with homeless individuals. She said that Skagit County had entered into an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Mount Vernon to set forth the duties between the City and County regarding a two-year pilot program (Program) that hired an Embedded Social Worker (ESW) to respond to a variety of street-level social issues. The goal of the ESW would be to provide an alternative police response through outreach and engagement to homeless individuals with behavioral health disorders (mental and/or substance use disorders), health service or other needs within the City.

Ms. Hinman introduced the ESW Erin Von Fempe and Commanding Lieutenant Moore with the City of Mount Vernon. Lieutenant Moore spoke about the benefits of having an ESW working within the Police Department.

Ms. Von Fempe said that she had been working within the Mount Vernon Police Department for two months and spoke about her experiences and challenges involved in connecting homeless individuals with the services that they needed. She indicated that a multi-services drop-in center was needed in Skagit County that would connect people with services, shower facilities and laundry services.

2. Discussion - Food Inspection Program

Environmental Health Specialist Joanne Lynn provided an overview of the Food Inspection Program. She said that the goal of the Program was to prevent disease through education and technical assistance. Ms. Lynn explained that the public could contact Environmental Health by logging on to their website at: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthEnvironmental/healthreportform.htm>; or by telephone at (360) 416-1555; or by e-mail at EH@co.skagit.wa.us.

3. Discussion - Population Health Trust Update

Health Analyst David Jefferson provided an update about the Population Health Trust 2020 Integration progress. He noted that the partnership group tentatively included Skagit Regional Health Peace Health, Planned Parenthood Behavioral Health Organization and the Swinomish Tribe. The project was Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). He said that they would confirm participation of the partners on June 6, 2017. Mr. Jefferson provided an update of the Population Health Trust retreat and the Safe Firearms Storage Event that took place on May 13, 2017.

Link to Public Health Presentation Materials:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/>

Chair Wesen adjourned the Board of Health at 11:32 a.m.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

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

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Ehlers of West Fidalgo Island provided comments about how maps were used to provide information to the public. She provided a map depicting the Stephen Mather Wilderness Area and spoke about Highway 20 not being designed for the public to view wildlife. She spoke about the chief diet of grizzly bears being protein-based and indicated that the North Cascades could not support their diets.

Ms. Ehlers also provided a map of the Public Utility District Anacortes Water System service area and a Skagit County map that depicted the Anacortes water service area and indicated that an accurate geographical map needed to be created.

Link to documents submitted during public comment:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05152017/>

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Elected offices candidate filing week was May 15 through May 19.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:52 a.m.

e) *1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Work Session - Public Health Department

f) 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Jail Construction Update from Marc Estvold, Project Manager

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 2:06 p.m.

Project Manager Marc Estvold provided a brief update.

Significant Change Orders:

No significant change orders reported.

Risk Contingency:

Risk was estimated to be 3% with 15% of the contingency budget remaining.

Mr. Estvold reported that they were monitoring well ground water and had recently performed the third test which came up clean. The final sample would be done in August 2017 and if it came up clean, the Department of Ecology would consider the site to be a clean non-contaminated site.

Mr. Estvold said that the temporary certificate of occupancy was issued on April 21; move in of office furniture commenced on May 15; security electronics training would commence on May 22; all staff training would take 90 days and would be complete on August 21. He reported that they were two to three weeks behind in getting security electronics operational.

Sheriff Will Reichardt reported that the delay in security electronics would delay other contractors. He estimated that inmates would be transferred to the new facility after the Labor Day weekend. He said that the recruiting and hiring for jail staff had been successful.

The ribbon cutting for the Skagit County Community Justice Center was scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. followed by a public tour on Saturday, July 15, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Estvold for the presentation.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 2:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board