

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present. Commissioner Lisa Janicki excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Vacation of a Portion of County Right-of-Way within the Plat of Rancho San Juan Del Mar

Public Works Director Dan Berentson introduced Engineering Technician Shane Whitney.

Mr. Whitney provided additional information regarding the proposed vacation of county right-of-way. He said that the property was platted in 1948 and included an unusual pie-shaped Public Reserve that was owned by the neighborhood homeowners association. Mr. Whitney said that a Resolution approving the proposed vacation had not yet been drafted since the valuation of the right-of-way came back higher than expected (\$47,040). He thought that the Commissioners would want time to consider if that amount was fair and equitable.

Discussion was held regarding the Public Reserve and the possible attempt of the applicant to also purchase the Public Reserve from the inactive homeowners association.

Chair Wesen opened public hearing at 8:49 a.m.

Tom Loesch of Anacortes (the applicant of the proposed right-of-way vacation) discussed the access roads for lots 57 and 58, which were now combined lots. He also shared that a previous owner constructed his driveway and that it was not completely on his property. Some of it was within the right-of-way. Mr. Loesch said that his goal was to acquire additional property from the right-of-way and Public Reserve to "square-off" the back end of his property line (if the price for vacation was reasonable). He did not think \$47,040 was reasonable. At most he thought that the price might be \$5,000 - \$10,000. He shared that he had the support of his neighbors for his plan and also noted that it would be important to maintain the road in place for lot 56.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:57 a.m. which was seconded by Chair Wesen. The vote passed unanimously.

The Commissioners said that they would want to solve the issues with the proposed vacation before taking final action, and, that legal should be involved to provide input on the actions Skagit County should take regarding the price and the matter of the Public Reserve. They also asked for input from Planning and Development Services, and inquired if payments for property tax had been made over the years.

2. Update: Burlington Northern Overpass Project

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson reported that shaft work for the bridge had been completed and columns were being erected. She said that Deputies were patrolling the area since people were still turning left onto Green Road from Cook Road (and backing up traffic).

3. Update: Ferry Vessel

Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe said that a contract had recently been executed with Glosten for marine engineering services. They would be starting on the first task which included a lot of public engagement. Also, she reminded the Commissioners that a community meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on August 29, 2017, on Guemes Island and Glosten would be attending.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:05 a.m.

b) 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension Program Update - Don McMoran, Director

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:08 a.m.

Program updates were provided by WSU Associate Professor Kevin Zobrist, Dr. Steven Jones, Entomology Coordinator Talea Price, Pest Board Technician Benjamin Diehl, Americorps Vista member Drew Gilliland, Master Gardener Program Coordinator Alex duPont, Brenda Cunningham from the Latino Outreach Committee, and Director of WSU Extension Center Don McMoran.

Updates included work in forestry and education; work, tours and classes being held at the Bread Lab; the Skagit County Pest Board, current work, and research on pests affecting crops in Skagit County; work with the Skagit County Public Health Department through the Strengthening Families Program, plans to increase food access to children who have experienced food insecurity, the 1095 Skagit Coalition to support 3 meals per day/365 days a year for all kids and families, laying groundwork for the future implementation of summer meals; the Master Gardener Program and their class of 2017, community outreach, volunteer hours, workshops, youth outreach, work at the Skagit County Fair, and plans to make sure that Latinos were included. The due date for applications for the 2018 Master Gardener Class is October 31, 2017.

Updates also included grants for the implementation of cover crop trials; the USDA AgrAbility grant, planning for the 2018 Skagit Ag Summit, the Water Irrigation Systems Efficiency program, tours, work with USDA on the issues regarding commercial and home grown brassica and the importance to project the seed industry, WSU's Pesticide Safety Course, potato nutrient trials, the Farm Safety Class, field trips with elementary children, and trainings that Mr. McMoran attended.

The Commissioners thanked WSU Extension Center for the updates.

The packets of information provided by WSU can be found here:  
<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08072017/>

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:09 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Health -Kathy Ferris, Housing Resource Coordinator:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:13 a.m. and introduced Kathy Ferris Housing Resource Coordinator.

1. Presentation of Concrete Community Center Report from Community Action of Skagit County for 2016-2017

Ms. Ferris invited Community Action of Skagit County's Community Services Director Lynn Christoferson to provide information regarding the work and outreach provided towards reducing poverty through their programs.

Ms. Christoferson provided an overview of the programs and numbers of clients served at the East County Resource Center (about 1,600 per year). She said that it was

Community Action's 5<sup>th</sup> year of partnering with Skagit County as they worked to stabilize the lives of individuals and families. She also updated the Commissioners on changes occurring at the center with the library moving into a new space and the development of an adult education center. The Commissioners thanked Community Action for their partnership.

2. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding Community Action of Skagit County's Annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Public Services

Chair Wesen opened the public hearing at 10:32 a.m. Seeing no one present to provide public testimony, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing which was seconded by Chair Wesen. The vote passed unanimously.

East County Manager Claudia Marken provided an overview of the programs and activities occurring at the Concrete Community Center (formerly the senior center). Programs and activities had been expanded to include the entire community. Many goals had been met to train more volunteers, add new programs, new activities, and educational opportunities.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Marken for her work in the community.

- d) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Presentation from Diane Kamionka - Northwest Innovation Resource Center (NWIRC)

Executive Director Diane Kamionka provided an update on the work and collaboration occurring at the Northwest Innovation Resource Center to support entrepreneurs and inventors.

Their two programs: the Buildit Program and the Enterprise Program were growing each year and Ms. Kamionka briefed the Commissioners on the areas that needed additional improvement or support in order to create a positive ecosystem that would continue to support the program and successful participants.

The PowerPoint provided by Ms. Kamionka can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08072017/>

Diane Kamionka can be reached at [dianek@nwirc.com](mailto:dianek@nwirc.com), 360-255-7870, or [www.nwirc.com](http://www.nwirc.com)

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Kamionka for the work and support of Skagit County inventors and entrepreneurs.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:19 a.m.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No one provided county and individual success stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Susan Woods of Sedro-Woolley shared concerns regarding Skagit County's contract with Margaret Byfield and American Stewards of Liberty, Skagit County's contract with Robert K. Weidner, public safety and environmental contamination concerns if the gravel pit on Grip Road was allowed to be permitted, public safety concerns with the potential Zyleen plant at Tesoro in Anacortes, and she requested improved transparency and additional opportunities for public participation.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve ACH Transfer request for Trusteed Plans Service Corporation C-107-17. Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

f) 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Consideration of the Hearing Examiner's Recommendation for Approval for the Following Open Space Applications:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:48 a.m.

1. Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 7.38 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agricultural Land to Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation by Dennis Nichols CUOS/F&A #12-2017

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that it was traditional farmland that no longer met the requirement for gross commercial agricultural income, and said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution concerning an application to transfer 7.38 acres from Current Use Farm and Agricultural Land to Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation by Dennis Nichols CUOS/F&A #12-2017 (**Resolution No. R20170167**) Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

2. Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 19 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agricultural Land to Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation by Daniel Pioske CUOS/F&A Conservation #13-2017

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that it was traditional farmland that no longer met the requirement for gross commercial agricultural income, and said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution concerning an application to transfer 19 acres from Current Use Farm and Agricultural Land to Current Use Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation by Daniel Pioske CUOS/F&A #13-2017 (**Resolution No. R20170168**) Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

3. Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 20.20 Acres from Timber Land to Current Use Open Space Land by Skagit Land Trust CUOS #14-2017

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that the applicant wanted to conserve the natural and scenic resources and protect streams, wetlands, soil resources and wildlife. She said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution concerning an application to transfer 20.20 acres from Timber Land to Current Use Open Space Land by Skagit Land Trust CUOS #14-2017 (**Resolution No. R20170169**) Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

4. Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 20.07 Acres from Timber Land to Current Use Open Space Land by Skagit Land Trust CUOS #15-2017

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that the applicant wanted to conserve the natural and scenic resources and protect streams, wetlands, soil resources and wildlife. She said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution concerning an application to transfer 20.07 acres from Timber Land to Current Use Open Space Land by Skagit Land Trust CUOS #15-2017 (**Resolution No. R20170170**) Chair Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:56 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