

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 29, 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 10:30 a.m.

II. [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:](#)

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

III. AGENDA:

a) [10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing September 1 through September 30 as Skagit Water Weeks](#)

Public Works Water Quality Analyst Rick Haley, who was also a Board of Directors Member for the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA) introduced SCEA Director Karen Summers, SCEA Board of Director Members Kristi Carpenter and Jill Weber and Lisa Miller from Skagit Land Trust.

Mr. Haley said that there were many outreach events occurring in September and he thanked the Commissioners for their support of the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of water resources.

Director Karen Summers shared that SCEA was a 501 (c) (3) community based organization which worked for the benefit of the Skagit ecosystem to protect and enhance water quality. She said that Skagit Water Weeks was a collection of opportunities and events that residents could attend throughout the month of September and she provided an overview of the events that were scheduled to celebrate the importance of clean water.

Discussion was held regarding the bountiful water resource in Skagit County, the importance of keeping water clean and available, the opportunity to do something fun with the family at no charge, that Skagit County was fortunate to have a committed base of volunteers, and to remember little things individuals could do to improve water quality such as washing cars on lawns, picking up after pets, and inspecting septic systems.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation regarding Skagit Water Weeks from September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

Events and volunteering opportunities can be found at [www.skagitchleanwater.org](http://www.skagitchleanwater.org)

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:44 a.m.

b) [11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Certificate of Commendation for Chief Deputy Auditor Barbara Leander](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m. and acknowledged the following elected officials in the audience: Superior Court Judge Dave Needy, Auditor Jeanne Youngquist, Treasurer Katie Jungquist, and Assessor Dave Thomas. Auditor Youngquist, Assessor Thomas, and the Commissioners thanked Chief Deputy Auditor Barbara Leander for her years of service at Skagit County.

Barbara Leander introduced family and friends in the audience and she said that she appreciated and

enjoyed her tenure at Skagit County. Commissioner Janicki read the Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition for 36 years of outstanding service to the citizens and employees of Skagit County: 1981 to 2017.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:21 a.m.

c) [11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:32 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No one provided county and individual success stories.

2. Public Comment Period

No one was present to provide public comments.

3. [Miscellaneous Announcements](#)

The Commissioners announced the Guemes Island Community Meeting occurring at 5:30 p.m., discussed the dry conditions and increased risk of fires, and the importance of preparedness for fires and floods.

Commissioner Janicki thanked the Commissioners and the community for their support of her and her family as they were grieving the loss of their son. She said that her office hours would be slightly reduced for a period of time and she would be advocating for a compassionate plan of care for those with substance use disorders.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:39 a.m.

d) [2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Presentation from Marc Stern, MD, MPH: Jail Medical Standards; followed by Presentation from Director of Human Resources & Risk Management Jessica Neill Hoyson: Three Distinct Jail Medical Models](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 2:30 p.m. and introduced Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Jessica Neill Hoyson.

Ms. Neill Hoyson provided an overview of the costs, risks, and benefits associated with implementing three different corrections health models. There were two main options to choose from for correctional health care: Skagit County could enter into one or more contracts for the provision of services, or, Skagit County could provide services directly.

Discussion was held on the data provided by Ms. Neill Hoyson and what the current level of service was at the Skagit County Community Justice Center. Discussion was also held on the challenges and benefits of either choice. The data provided did not include the costs of additional programming at the center for the inmate population.

Ms. Neill Hoyson recommended that Skagit County retain a consultant to evaluate the current model and other options.

The information provided by Ms. Neill Hoyson can be found here: <http://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08282017/>

Commissioner Janicki said that while the budget was important, it was more important to fund the right model.

Ms. Neill Hoyson introduced Dr. Marc Stern, a consultant in the correctional health field.

Dr. Stern provided information about his background and work history. He discussed the standard of care that all correctional facilities were expected to meet and the inherent differences between each of the delivery models (contractual and direct services).

He said that while some of the liability was shifted when providing health care through a contractor, such as the third party being considered by Skagit County (NaphCare), liability could never be 100% shifted to a third party. He pointed out that the population temporarily residing in county jails were our neighbors and held the sickest residents who often had substance use disorders and behavioral health issues. Research showed that the community benefited from adequate treatment for health, substance, and behavioral health problems.

He found that Skagit County spent approximately \$3,000-4,000 per year per inmate. He said it was not uncommon to have that number be closer to \$8,000. For the best delivery of community oriented care with the involvement of Public Health, and to reduce recidivism, Dr. Stern believed Skagit County should choose to provide direct services. He said contracting for services would be more expensive and he believed Skagit County would do better with direct oversight and a stronger community connection.

Dr. Stern and the Commissioners discussed NaphCare. They were marketing heavily in the State of Washington and provided a valuable service. He said they served the SCORE jail facility in Des Moines and a few other jails in Washington State with additional counties considering contracting with them. They also discussed the timeline for making the decision for which model to select. Dr. Stern suggested the decision be made at their earliest convenience for the best possible operational transition from facility to facility.

Jail Finance Committee member/City of Burlington Administrator Bryan Harrison asked what the process would be going forward and asked that the Jail Finance Committee take part in the decision making process.

Skagit County Director of Public Health Jennifer Johnson briefed the Board on the Public Health programs currently in place to promote recovery and reduce recidivism. She and the 1/10<sup>th</sup> Committee believed that Public Health should have a role in the Community Justice Center. She said that people's lives and the community at large was positively impacted when substance use disorders and behavioral health issues were addressed for inmates with a plan of continued care after being released from jail.

Skagit County Administrator Tim Holloran thanked Dr. Stern for donating his time to Skagit County. He agreed that a decision would need to be made soon. He said that it took longer than expected to get information from NaphCare in order to compare their costs with a direct services model. He said that Northwest Regional Council had been approached to see if they would serve Skagit County as they did Whatcom County. He said that they were not looking to expand services.

Jail Finance Committee Member and Chair Mark Venn thanked Commissioner Janicki for her attendance and also said that he would appreciate it if the Jail Finance Committee was involved in the decision making process. Mr. Venn shared that when he was the Superintendent for the Sedro-Woolley School District, they considered whether or not to switch from direct services to contracting for services for their food service, transportation service, and janitorial service. While contracting for services lightens the workload for top management, they also decided against the idea each time it came up because they felt that service and the level of care was better for the district, students, and tax payers when it was provided directly by the people who live in the community.

Chair Wesen thanked Dr. Stern for the information.

- e) \*5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Guemes Island Community Meeting (Guemes Island Community Hall, 7549 Guemes Island Road, Anacortes)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 3:41 p.m.

The Commissioners attended an executive session on Friday, September 1, 2017, from 9:35 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The purpose of the executive session was Job Applicant - RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). (Review qualifications of job applicant.) Administrator Tim Holloran, Assistant Director of Human Resources & Risk Management Donnie LaPlante, and Dr. Matthew Russell were in attendance.

The Commissioners attended an executive session on Friday, September 1, 2017, from 1:01 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. The purpose of the executive session was Job Applicant - RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). (Review qualifications of job applicant.) Administrator Tim Holloran, Assistant Director of Human Resources & Risk Management Donnie LaPlante, and Dr. Matthew Russell were in attendance.

**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