

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, with Chair Peter Browning, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m. and excused Commissioner Janicki's absence.

II. AGENDA:

a) *8:30 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Browning led the attendees in the salute to the flag.

b) *8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Grace Kane, Director:

Public Works Director Grace Kane introduced the agenda items.

Natural Resources Division Manager Michael See invited Water Resources Technician Tracey Alker to present information about Lake Management District No. 1 (Big Lake) program.

Ms. Alker provided an overview of Lake Management District No. 1 (LMD 1) which was originally formed in 1997 after the majority of lakeside residents voted to tax themselves a special assessment for the treatment of aquatic weeds. The primary goal of LMD 1 was to eradicate the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil (Milfoil) and Brazilian elodea. She also provided information about the accomplishments and challenges in LMD 1.

Ms. Alker said that LMD 1 was set to expire on July 30, 2022. Upon expiration of LMD 1, there would not be a funding mechanism to undertake future lake maintenance activities unless LMD 1 was reformed. Ms. Alker outlined the communication that was provided to the property owners which included a survey that showed that a majority of property owners were in support of reforming LMD 1.

Ms. Alker said that if the Resolution was approved, the ballots would be mailed out to the residents on June 16, 2022. Ballots were due at the Commissioners' office no later than July 7, 2022, and if a majority of residents voted in favor of reforming LMD 1, then an Ordinance reforming LMD 1 would be signed. The final step in the process would be a public hearing in October.

Discussion ensued about how the special assessment rates were set and the need to increase the rates.

Chair Browning said that he would need to recuse himself from voting on the Resolution since he was a property owner in LMD 1. The Resolution would be brought forward at 11:30 a.m. when Commissioner Janicki would be present.

Link to PowerPoint

presentation: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/06132022.zip>

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action - Consider Testimony Regarding Submitting the Question of Reforming Skagit County Lake Management District No. 1 (Big Lake)

Chair Browning opened the public hearing at 8:46 a.m.

Mark Johnson of Big Lake commented on the support of property owners to reform LMD 1 and requested that the treatment of the weeds on the Lake be done closer to the docks.

Jeannie Englund of Big Lake expressed concerns that only the property owners were responsible for paying for the management of the Lake and that other measures should be taken to control the weeds.

Jenny Lanker of Big Lake commented on keeping a regulated amount of water in the Lake.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:00 a.m., Chair Browning seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Presentation Regarding ER&R Rates for 2023

Equipment/Facilities Division Manager Rick Owens said that his division maintained the Equipment Rental and Revolving (ER&R) Fund. Mr. Owens explained that the ER&R funds were internal service funds operated by his division and that the funds were used to purchase equipment for various County departments. He said that his division performed all of the maintenance and fueled the equipment. Mr. Owens introduced ER&R Fund Assistant Kyle Fink.

Mr. Fink provided a PowerPoint presentation and said that Public Works was proposing a 3% increase in the rental rate due to inflation. Mr. Fink outlined the 2022 rental rates and the proposed 2023 rental rates for each department. He said that the rates would increase by approximately \$285,000 in 2023.

Discussion ensued about how the rates were calculated.

3. Miscellaneous

None presented.

Chair Browning recessed the proceedings 9:15 a.m.

c) *11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Hal Hart, Director:

Chair Browning reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

Planning and Development Services Director Hal Hart introduced the agenda item, noted that this process was a Washington State mandated process and introduced Assistant Long Range Planner Jenn Rogers

Ms. Rogers provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted that this was the fourth (4) meeting on the 2022 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments. She said the Comprehensive Plan review was a yearly process where citizens and County staff could submit petitions to make changes to the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. She said the County had received five (5) timely petitions from the public and three (3) Amendments from the County. Ms. Rogers reviewed each petition and the comments.

Petitioner Applications:

LR22-01 Bertelsen Farms Small Scale Recreation & Tourism Rezone - Department recommends inclusion
LR22-02 Skagit Partners Fully Contained Communities Amendment - Department recommends deferral
LR22-03 Wolden Critical Areas Review Amendment - Department recommends exclusion
LR22-04 Seawater Intrusion Monitoring System Amendment - Department recommends exclusion
LR22-05 Farmworker Housing Agricultural Accessory Use Amendment - Department recommends inclusion

County Amendments:

C22-1 Wind Turbine Use Amendment
C22-2 Critical Areas Correction
C22-3 Guemes Island Overlay Side Setback Amendment

Ms. Rogers noted that the Board of County Commissioners could choose to take action by including the petition in the docket for further review, defer the application until the next annual amendment cycle or exclude the application from the docket without prejudice.

John Ravnik of Burlington and Bruce Lisser of Mount Vernon commented on the farmworker housing concept.

The staff report, public comments, and full text of each petition are available on the 2022 Docket webpage located at: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/2022CPA.htm>.

1. Deliberations/Possible Action - Resolution Establishing the 2022 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code and Map Amendments

The Commissioners deliberated on what action to take.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve to establish the 2022 Docket of Proposed Comprehensive Plan Policy, Code, and Map Amendments as indicated in Exhibit A of the Resolution. (**Resolution No. R20220119**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Browning recessed the proceedings at 11:27 a.m.

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

Chair Browning reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

None provided.

2. Public Comment Period

There was no one present to provide public comment.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Wesen commented on the Edison drainage meeting and the Deming Logging show that he attended last week.

Commissioner Janicki commented on the North Star Project presentation at the Law and Justice Council meeting today and the Pressentin Park ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, June 10 in Marblemount.

Chair Browning commented on the landslide at Big Lake and a potential solution deal with beavers.

Chair Browning announced that he was a resident of Big Lake and recused himself from voting on the Resolution to reestablish Lake Management District 1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution to submitting the question of reforming Skagit County Lake Management District No. 1 (Big Lake) (**Resolution No. R20220120**) Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Browning recessed the proceedings at 11:44 a.m.

e) *1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Presentation/Discussion - Skagit County Flood Control by Executive Director of the Skagit Drainage and Irrigation Districts Consortium Jenna Friebel

Chair Browning reconvened the proceedings at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed Executive Director of the Skagit Drainage and Irrigation Districts Consortium Jenna Friebel and Chairman of the Board for the Skagit County Dike District Partnership Daryl Hamburg.

Mr. Hamburg provided a brief overview of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing process and explained that FERC was an independent agency that regulated the interstate transmission of electricity as well as licensing hydropower projects. He said the Seattle City Light was going through the process to relicense the Skagit Project which includes the Gorge, Diablo and Ross Dams. He said that relicensing was required every 30 to 50 years, Mr. Hamburg explained that the relicensing process started with a meeting in Newhalem in December 2018.

He outlined the request for storage and the importance of requesting increased flood storage due to climate change, studies of change in seasonality and the 2021 flood.

Mr. Hamburg explained that the Dike District Partnership, Skagit County and the Drainage District Consortium were in partnership to request a change to the storage program.

Ms. Friebel provided a summary of the FERC process and storage requests. She also outlined the formal FERC process; climate change; summary of Ross Dam fall operations and the flood storage proposal to shift flood storage from December 1 to November 1 and increase total required flood storage volume from 120,000 acre-foot of storage to 200,000 acre-foot.

Discussion ensued about working on flood storage with City Seattle Light, Army Corps of Engineers and the County.

City of Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau thanked Mr. Hamburg and Ms. Friebel for the work they were doing on the flood storage proposal.

Senior Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea spoke in support of the proposal to increase flood storage volume.

Dike, Drainage, and Irrigation Improvement District 12 Commissioner Ellestad commented on recognizing agriculture as a user group.

Chair Browning recessed the proceedings at 1:48 p.m.

Link to PowerPoint

presentation: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/O6132022.zip>

f) 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Strategic Plan Work Session

The work session commenced at 2:31 p.m. The purpose of the work session was to discuss the Strategic Plan with SBrand Solutions.

Attendees:

Chair Peter Browning,
Commissioner Ron Wesen
Commissioner Lisa Janicki
County Administrator Trisha Logue
Deputy County Administrator Kayla Schott-Bresler
Human Resources/Risk Management Director Bonnie Beddall
SBrand Solutions Consultant Sheryl Trent
Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson
Community Action of Skagit County Outreach Manager Steven Simmons
Facilities Management Director Ken Hansen
Planning and Development Services Director Hal Hart
District Court Judge Jenifer Howson

Link to Strategic

Plan: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/O6132022.zip>

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning i adjourned the proceedings at 4:07 p.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Peter Browning, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board