

## BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 7, 2005

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Jayni L. Kamin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The chairperson led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call - Present: Cmmr. Dist. 1 – Lynda Ring Erickson; Cmmr. Dist. 2 – Tim Sheldon; Cmmr. Dist. 3 – Jayni L. Kamin.
4. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated March 22, 2005 and briefing meeting minutes of February 28 and May 17, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; S-aye.**
5. Correspondence and Organizational Business
  - 5.1 Correspondence
    - 5.1.1 U.S. Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers acknowledged the request for resumption of the Skokomish General Investigation Study.
    - 5.1.2 Washington Counties Risk Pool submitted a copy of their 2003-2004 Financial Statements Audit Report. (Original on file with Budget & Finance)
    - 5.1.3 Mason County Planning Advisory Committee Applicant: Diane H. Edgin.
    - 5.1.4 Letters in support of the Parents Television Council's nationwide campaign to win "Cable Choice" for families to give consumers a choice as to what channels they pay for: Frank DuMars & Vera Sutton.
    - 5.1.5 Evergreen Elementary School invited the commissioners to a gallery reception to honor their artists on Wednesday, June 15, 2005.
    - 5.1.6 Notice that Linda Kirk Fox, PhD has been appointed as Dean and Director of Washington State University Extension, effective June 1, 2005.
    - 5.1.7 Ward Weaver requested the County oil Razor Road. (Copy to Public Works)
    - 5.1.8 Board of Equalization Applicant: Herman H. Nelson
    - 5.1.9 Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association wrote concerning modifying the rate increases proposed for the sewer and water systems. (Copy to Utilities & Waste)
    - 5.1.10 Comcast gave notice of price changes for cable services effective with July 2005 billings.
    - 5.1.11 Arnold Fox asked that the City and County partner to develop a homeless shelter.
  - 5.2 News Release – Health Care Needs of our Community. Staff: Steve Goins presented the press release.
  - 5.3 Special Recognition of Staff Member. The Board presented a gold star pin to Mick Sprouffske for his hard work and dedication to the Mason County Forest Festival and the logging show.
6. Open Forum for Citizen Input
  - 6.1 Mr. Jeff Carey, President of the Allyn Community Association stated the association would like to know how the revenue from the housing sales and REET taxes generated from the Allyn area are spent. He said the funds are intended for the immediate community and said he understood the Allyn area does have impact on the countywide services but he felt some portion of it should be spent on the Allyn area directly.

Mr. Carey stated the Allyn Community Association was in support of the Belfair Area Round Table (BART) group that has been formed in North Mason. He stated the association would not be a member of the group, because inherently there would be toss-ups between what one community wants and what the other community wants.

Mr. Carey mentioned he appreciated the county's web page and the planning documents available on there. He requested that when changes are made to a document they are identified so a person doesn't have to compare to find the changes.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 2**

Mr. Carey requested communication between the Allyn Association and the Transportation Improvement Program Citizen Advisory Program (TIPCAP) be established, so they can both be informed of improvements that are needed and wanted.

Mr. Carey stated he is a member of the Trails Committee and would like to see the Historical Society Taskforce be required to study the comprehensive plan. He stated it was an after-the-fact tool for the Trails Committee.

Mr. Carey commented there are three non-profit groups listed on the web page and he feels they should not be listed among the government business web page, unless the opportunity would be offered to all non-profit groups.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated they would look into it.

Cmmr. Kamin asked if he was referring to what was listed under the community links.

Mr. Carey replied "yes".

Mr. Carey stated Allyn sewer system is under funded and he spoke to Mr. Micheau, Director of Utilities and Waste. He would like to see it addressed now while issues in the Belfair area are being addressed so it was not repeated when the Belfair system was done.

7. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; K-aye; S-aye.**
8. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - 8.1 Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement 1550BAYE with Bay East Association and Yacht Club for litter control on a portion of Lynch Road.
  - 8.2 Approval for the ER&R Manager to utilize the post for quotes/telephone bid procedures to purchase one new 12' pull type rotary gang mower. The approximate cost is \$13,000.
  - 8.3 Approval for the ER&R Manager to utilize the post for quotes/telephone bid procedures to purchase a used Ford Explorer for the DUI Task Force Coordinator position. The maximum cost is \$13,000 and will be funded with a grant.
  - 8.4 Approval for the ER&R Manager to call for bids to furnish Mason County with one new 2006 cab and chassis with service body for Public Works. Bid opening is to be Friday, July 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
  - 8.5 Approval of Senate House Bill 2060 Low Income Housing Agreement between Mason County and Mason County Shelter in the amount of \$30,000.
  - 8.6 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Calvin (Mrs. Rubie)Becker – utilities \$101.19; Terry D. (Mrs. Kathleen) McFarlane – utilities \$127.81 & food \$222.59; and Jeffrey C. Lowe – food \$200.00 for a total of \$651.59.
  - 8.7 Approval of Certification Re: Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusions – Lower Tier Covered Transactions for Superior Court Clerk's office.
  - 8.8 Approval of Warrants

Salary Clearing Fund	148538-149011	\$1,240,308.68
Claims Clearing Fund	89852-90251	\$845,449.85
  - 8.9 Approval for the Chairperson to sign Amendment B (decrease of \$53,264) & Amendment C (increase of \$90,000) to the E911 Wireline Operations Contract #E05010.
  - 8.10 ~~Approval of amendment No. 1 to an existing consultant contract between HDR/Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. and Mason County for additional work on flood plain management, specifically studies related to channel migration in the Skokomish River Valley for an additional \$110,000.~~ REMOVED

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 3**

- 8.11 Approval of amendment to contract No. 0463-44226 in the amount of \$4,500 between Mason County Juvenile Court/District Court Probation Services and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.
- 8.12 Approval for the Chairperson to execute the Road Design Drawings for CRP 1821, Agate Road/Malaney Creek culvert replacement project.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda items 8.1 – 8.12 as read. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**

There was a three-minute recess until 9:30 a.m.

9. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time

- 9.1 Public hearing continued from May 3, 2005 – establishing the rates for water and sewer services at Harstene Pointe. Staff: Doug Micheau Utilities and Waste Director, stated in consideration of the comments received at meetings with the Harstene Pointe Utility Committee and the community members the staff has revised the initial rate proposal to read as follows:
  1. Rates for “undeveloped” lots were revised to maintain the same proportionate share as was represented in previous rate ordinances and as reflected in the proposed rates for “developed” lots.
  2. Set-asides for capital reserves were deferred until 2008 to allow relief during the initial period of capital expenditures. The amount was also reduced to \$15,000 per year.
  3. The debt service for the State Revolving Fund Loan, which will fund the treatment plant outfall extension, was reduced from \$40,000 per year to \$30,000 per year to reflect greater certainty in loan terms and funding commitment.
  4. Increased the revenues in the rate model to account for a July 1<sup>st</sup> rate increase in 2005.
  5. Adjusted the proposed rates for water and sewer in the resolution to reflect the proportionate share of costs/needs that the rates are intended to support (i.e. much higher increases for sewer rather than water because most of the increases are attributed to needs in the sewer system).

Mr. Micheau reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 13.16 of the Mason County Code. He said the rates that were in the previous schedule for Harstene Point water and sewer expired at the end of 2004.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked if meters were addressed in the proposal.

Mr. Micheau explained meters were not addressed in the proposal because it would have represented an additional \$80,000 in expenditures on the waterside. When improvements on the waterside of the system are improved it will certainly be an improvement that would be required as an element in the project in order to receive outside funding.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked if there was an anticipated timeline for the waterside improvement.

Mr. Micheau replied that at the rate of the current development he believes it would be in the next five to seven years.

Cmmr. Kamin asked if the proposal included additional staff time.

Mr. Micheau stated it did include the additional staff time that would be needed. He said that currently staff is approaching with a brushfire approach to the water and sewer system there. The State has set stringent requirements to maintain the permit as to how the sewer plant needs to be operated. Staff is working on a schedule that would balance the required monitoring and routine maintenance that is needed.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 4**

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Atwood, President of the Board of Directors at Harstene Pointe, presented a letter to the Board. He thanked Mr. Micheau and Commissioner Ring Erickson for entering into an honest dialogue with the community members. He requested the Board not rush into any decisions regarding the higher sewer and water rates. With \$265,000 in the bank and with \$183,000 projected by Mr. Micheau to be cash on hand at the end of the year, there's no urgent need to increase rates.

The Harstene Utilities Committee still has three issues they would like to see addressed prior to the rates being increased. They would like more information about the cost of the outfall and the anticipated cost for infiltration and inflow work to better assess their needs for the next several years. The second issue is the allocation of charges between the owners of developed lots and the owners of undeveloped lots, who, however, have laterals to their lots and who are entitled to connect to the water and sewer systems when they build. He questioned who would be responsible to pay for repairs if there was an inflow problem associated with poor connections between the owner's drainpipe and the sewer line. The third concern is that Mr. Micheau has stated there has not been maintenance done to the system, and yet previous waste discharge permits called for an adequate operation and maintenance program for the entire sewage system. Maintenance records were supposed to be maintained on all major electrical and mechanical components of the treatment plant, as well as the sewage system and pumping stations. If the previous permit requirements were ignored, perhaps at the time the revenues were diverted to the Rustlewood and Beard's Cove systems to pay for improvements to those systems. They requested it be investigated. He requested that their concerns be addressed prior to the rates being raised.

Mr. Micheau responded to Mr. Atwoods concerns. He said the analysis he had prepared and in reviewing the analysis that the Harstene Pointe committee had given him, he was able to work out a lower rate increase by using the proposal he was presenting. The amount that was figured into the rate increase would cover approximately a few blocks of mainline replacement, which is not a significant amount. He said he could virtually assure there would be at least that much mainline system repairs to be done. As far as the deferral on maintenance he feels the county has done a very good job of trying to run a lean operation in the past. The issue of lack of maintenance has not been due to money for the system but rather a lack of staff to perform the maintenance. Currently there is one staff person running two plants, which creates a time issue for maintaining both plants. Next year he will propose another budgeted position to assist with the operation and maintenance of the plants.

Cmmr. Kamin stated she appreciated Mr. Micheau trying to be proactive and looking to the future as well as meeting the current needs.

Public Comment Closed.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated raising rates is never good news, but the other side of it is there's a need to be good stewards and not run the systems into the grounds. When the systems are run into the ground people are placed in the position of having to absorb horrendous costs because of a catastrophic event. She stated she trusted Mr. Micheau's professional judgement with regards to the issues. Clearly it is a system that is in need of change. Because of help from the state it will result in a \$300,000 fix rather than a \$3,000,000 fix.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he applauded the efforts of the Home Owners Association, the Utilities Committee and staff for getting together and discussing the issues. He said although the money in reserves appears to be a large sum, it will decrease rapidly over the next several years and certainly even quicker in the event an unexpected expense arises. He said he was comfortable with the proposed rate increases Mr. Micheau has developed after consultation with the members, utility committee and the Board.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 5**

Cmmr. Kamin stated that costs are going up everywhere and there does need to be a plan for unexpected costs. She felt the proposed plan was very conservative.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 49-05 establishing utility rates and charges for customers for the Harstene Pointe water and sewer systems and amending chapter 13.16 of the Mason County Code and setting an effective date. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; K-aye; S-aye. (Exhibit A)**

Cmmr. Sheldon excused himself at 9:58 a.m. He stated he was very supportive of the next two items on the agenda.

- 9.2 Public hearing to consider the adoption of the Mason County Master Trails Plan. Staff: Doug Micheau, Parks Department Director stated the plan contains a framework and guiding policies that will assist the county in moving forward with the development and implementation of trails projects until a comprehensive and detailed plan with specific trail alignments and projects can be developed. The Trails Planning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board hold a public hearing to obtain comments on the plan prior to adoption.

Cmmr. Kamin asked Mr. Micheau where should people be directed that would like to know the details of the plan and which trails would be done first.

Mr. Micheau responded that in the first year the countywide Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) would be done which would lay the groundwork for the annual process by which people would provide input each year for the next trail to be funded. He is also working with the 4-H Leadership Program to facilitate cooperative efforts on some of the trails. This year they will be helping out with the Truman Glick Park trails, and possibly next, the Sand Hills Park development of a trail that would go around the upper part of the park. They are also offering guidance on the Kennedy Creek Falls trail. The CFP would be the first step to define the specific trails and the priority of them once they are defined. A call for projects from the public or organizations would be done in March or April of each year. After that they would be run through a screening to determine if they met the requirements of the plan. Once they are screened and prioritized they would be sent to the Board for consideration of funding in the following years plan.

Mr. Micheau said that if the proposed plan was adopted the Public Works Department would be requested to look at road projects as they are done to see if there are accommodations for trails or pet path amenities that could be done in conjunction with the road project. He stated he will be working with the state on the Purdy bridge replacement to look at ways to accommodate pedestrian travel and whether or not it could link up with the river corridor.

Cmmr. Kamin asked if any of the old right of ways or roads that are owned by the county but were not in use could be opened or explored for possible trail use.

Mr. Bill Tabor, County Engineer replied yes, they could be explored for possible trail use.

**Public Comment Opened**

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated it was an incredibly well done report and plan. She stated it was a credit to the volunteers and staff that worked so hard to come up with a great plan. The Trails Plan is such a positive opportunity for the public but also for partnerships that could be developed with local service organizations in the community for facilitating the development.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 6**

Mr. Jeff Carey, member of the Trails Committee stated the plan was only the framework document, but should serve the county for many years to come because it is well written. He commented on neighboring counties and how well and in depth their plans are written.

Cmmr. Kamin thanked Mr. Carey for his comment. She stated that the neighboring counties do have well-developed trail systems and plans but they are much more urbanized. Mason County is unique because it is largely rural area, which does bring other considerations that need to be addressed.

Cmmr. Kamin stated there are many opportunities for the county within the plan and certainly with a vision for where the county could go. Connecting our communities and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens that live here and to provide additional opportunities for people to come enjoy and experience Mason County was the goal of developing the Trails Plan. She gave a special thanks to Ms. Barbara Adkins, Planner for her hard work on the development of the plan.

Public Comment Closed.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Kamin moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 50-05 adopting the Mason County Master Trails Plan. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; K-aye; S-absent. (Exhibit B)**

- 9.3 Public hearing to consider the current status of the interim revision to the Mason County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for the Skokomish Valley to allow for the construction of agricultural structures when they are for the purpose of containing livestock manure. Staff: Bob Fink, Planning Manger reviewed the history of the interim ordinance. The hearing today was set to monitor the interim amendment and to allow for public comment on the status of it.

Mr. Fink stated since the approval of the interim ordinance, the farmer that was involved with the conservation district has proceeded with a contract to build a structure, although he has not applied for the permit with the county yet.

Mr. Fink stated the Legislature has appropriated \$560,000 for the Mason Conservation District to construct an aerobic digester to control manure waste in the Skokomish Valley. The interim ordinance also is necessary for the construction of the digester.

The interim provision is set to expire on September 16, 2005. It is not necessary to extend the ordinance at this time and there is no action by the Board being requested.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked if it was just an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Fink replied that was correct and stated it was also to update the Board on the events that have taken place since the approval of it.

Cmmr. Kamin asked Mr. Fink if the farmer that was considering the construction of a storage shed would need to get his application for a permit before the interim ordinance expires.

Mr. Fink stated if the ordinance was not extended or otherwise amended by September 16, 2005 than yes that is the window of opportunity to apply for the permit to build the structure.

Cmmr. Kamin asked why the ordinance would not be considered for a permanent ordinance at this time.

Mr. Fink replied that it would be very likely that the county would benefit by making it a permanent ordinance but there are a number of activities going on in the county with other agencies, related to both the

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 7, 2005 - PAGE 7**

Hood Canal and the valley itself. The county is considering an investigation of the river and flood conditions in the valley that would provide part of the scientific basis for any future amendments to the county regulations. In order to adopt the ordinance on a permanent basis it would be prudent for the county to make sure that they have the best available science in hand to explain and justify any changes. The interim ordinance was adopted because of the urgency situation that the funding would be lost for the anaerobic digester. The ordinance also addressed the need to contain manure and other waste from entering the river, which is very critical for Hood Canal, and was reflected by the actions in the Legislature this year.

There was no public comment and action by the Board was not necessary.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)

10.1 Approval to reject all bids to furnish Mason County with one new 2006 full sized van with all-wheel drive and interior furnishings for the Coroner as recommended by the ER&R Manager. The bid opening was June 3, 2005 and one bid was received but did not include all-wheel drive as requested. Staff: Dave Loser, ER&R Manager stated after a discussion with the Coroner he would wait for the Washington State contracts to be opened towards the end of the year, and purchase it from there.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the rejection of the bid received to furnish one new 2006 full sized van with all wheel drive and interior furnishings for the Coroner. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.**

11. Administration – None

12. Board's Reports and Calendar – The Board gave reports on meetings that they had attended since the last Commissioners' meeting. Also, outlined their meeting schedule for the next week.

13. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Jayni L. Kamin, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

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Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

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Tim Sheldon, Commissioner