

## BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

FEBRUARY 14, 2006

1. Call to Order – The regular meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by the Chairperson.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The chairperson led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call - Present: Dist. 1 – Lynda Ring Erickson and Cmmr. Dist. 3 – Jayni L. Kamin; Excused Absence: Cmmr. Dist. 2 – Tim Sheldon.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
  - 4.1 Correspondence
    - 4.1.1 Washington State Department of Natural Resources sent their 2005 Annual Report and a 2005 Major Public Lands Map. (Both on file with the Clerk of the Board.)
    - 4.1.2 Washington State Department of Ecology would like to coordinate a working group to discuss water quality programs in Oakland Bay. (Copy to Health Services and Planning)
    - 4.1.3 Washington State Department of Natural Resources sent their Decision Approving Mason County Forest Practices Ordinance No. 129-05.
    - 4.1.4 Washington State Liquor Control Board sent the following listing of liquor licensees presently operating establishments in Mason County whose licenses expire on May 31, 2006 and are currently being forwarded renewal applications: Bobaloo's Bar & Grill, Belfair; Pat's Little Red Barn, Belfair; Will Bill's Food, Drink and Groceries, Belfair; McGavick Nansted Winery, Grapeview; Lake Cushman Grocery, Hoodspout; D.J.'s Lake Limerick Mini Mart, Shelton; Sodhi Cheveron, Shelton; Walter Dacon Wines, Shelton; and Hunter Farms, Union. (Further information on file with the Clerk of the Board)
  - 4.2 News Release – Mason County Road Signs --Charlie Butros, Public Works Director, read aloud the news release requesting the public's assistance to reduce the costs of the materials and labor spent on vandalism, theft, and other damages to County road signs. They are requesting citizen assistance to reduce sign vandalism by reporting the events to the Mason County Sheriff's Department.
  - 4.3 News Release – Latimer's Landing – Betty Wing, Interim Parks Director, reported that Latimers Landing next to the Harstine Island Bridge received extensive damage from the February 11<sup>th</sup> windstorm. The County is in negotiations with a waterfront consultant to design and develop the site for a replacement float using real estate excise tax (REET 2).
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input – None
6. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Kamin/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-absent.**
7. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Kamin/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13 and December 20, 2005 and February 7, 2006; briefing minutes of November 14 and 21, 2005. Motion carried. K-aye; RE-aye; S-absent.**
8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
  - 8.1 Approval for the Facilities & Grounds Manager to call for bids for building revisions to Buildings 1, 5 and 9. The bid opening date is March 9, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.
  - 8.2 Approval of the Interlocal Agreement KC-050-05 Amendment A between Kitsap County and Mason County for the household hazardous waste collection and disposal services for Mason County residents.
  - 8.3 Approval of the contractual employment agreement for the Sand Hill County Park Attendant position for a two year term with Anna White & Joseph Goff.
  - 8.4 Approval for Public Works to call for bids for the 2006 Manufacturing and Stockpiling of Mineral Aggregate. Bid opening to be Friday, March 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

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- 8.5 Approval for Public Works to call for bids for CRP 1851, Beeville Road for a culvert replacement at milepost 2.09. Bid opening to be Friday, March 10, 2006 at 9:15 a.m.
- 8.6 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to call for bids for one new 2006 Cab and Chassis with Service Body for the Sign Shop. Date of bid opening to be Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
- 8.7 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for Richard W. Emerson - housing \$600 and Chip Thomas Proctor - utilities \$247.88 for a total of \$847.88.
- 8.8 Approval to reappoint Drew Noble to the Mason County Water Conservancy Board for a six-year term ending July 22, 2012.
- 8.9 

Claims Clearing Fund	Warrant # 101237-101632	\$643,484.22
Salary Clearing Fund	Warrant # 155084	\$375.00

**Cmmr. Kamin/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the agenda items 8.1 – 8.9 as read. Motion carried. K-aye RE-aye; S-absent.**

9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time

- 9.1 Public hearing to consider setting boundaries for the Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District.

Debbie Riley, Environmental Health Manager, reported that in June 2005 the State department of Health downgraded a portion of Annas Bay growing area from Approved to Prohibited. The area was downgraded due to high fecal coliform bacterial levels in marine water samples.

In order to protect the public health Department of Health monitors shellfish beds to determine if there are pollution impacts to shellfish area.

A response strategy is being developed that will build on the work being done by various state agencies, county departments, Mason Conservation District, WSU Cooperative Extension, SeaGrant, Skokomish Tribe, the citizens of the area and other interested parties.

The goal is to reopen commercial shellfish beds in Annas Bay through a significant reduction of fecal coliform pollution.

The Mason County Department of Health Services was awarded a two-year, \$142,340 centennial clean Water Fund Grant titled "Skokomish Annas Bay Restoration Study"

The proposed boundaries would be that area of Lower Skokomish River Watershed extending from Union around Annas Bay to and including Potlatch State Park bounded on the west by Highway 101. The east boundary of the shellfish protection district would butt up against the boundary of the Lower Hood Canal Shellfish Protection District in Union and follow the watershed boundary along the ridge meeting Highway 101 at the southern most point.

Cmmr. Kamin questioned where the southern boundary is located.

Mrs. Riley explained it is where the ridgeline meets Highway 101. She noted that the GIS staff is working on obtaining the parcel list for the area.

A question was raised as to the timeframe for the closure.

Mrs. Riley stated they plan to give it their full attention until it reopens.

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Lalena Amiotte, Skokomish Dept of Natural Resources, voiced her support of the Health Services' work. They are doing as much as they can to work in collaboration. It is important that they have this closure so they can address the issue and have no further problems.

Cmmr. Kamin asked how does this affect the Tribe's harvest. She questioned if they are doing any shellfish harvesting.

Ms. Amiotte replied they are not doing any shellfish harvesting. Most of the work is in the northern end of the Canal. This is something that is a concern to them that they want to jump on board. It potentially could have an impact for commercial revenue.

Bill Taylor, Taylor Shellfish, thanked the county for this action. They do have some shellfish in the area. They will be looking closely at harvesting in the area.

The public comment was closed.

Cmmr. Kamin stated this is an important step to take as a local government. It is not easy. It will have long lasting impacts to the community. Hopefully they can clean it up within two years or sooner.

Mrs. Riley noted one of the goals is to put their ongoing work on the county website under water quality in the Public Health section.

**Cmmr. Kamin/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve a resolution creating a shellfish protection district in the Annas Bay Area of Hood Canal. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye RE-aye; S-absent. Resolution No. 08-06 (Exhibit A)**

**Recess**

The board recessed at 9:50 a.m. until the next scheduled item at 10:00 a.m.

- 9.2 State of the County Address – Chairperson Lynda Ring Erickson introduced the elected officials and department heads in attendance. Stated that Mason County is in incredibly good condition. There are many things to be thankful for well into the future. The financial condition is very good in that the revenues are exceeding the general expectations and having the businesses and employment base grow. Mason County is the second fastest growing employment base in the State of Washington. They are the fourth fastest growing county in the state.

The County needs to handle the growth and prosperity well. She hoped they would be careful not to build a bureaucracy that goes beyond the services provided for the citizens. They want to approve the staffing levels and offer all the citizens a good package of services. They also want to offer the employees a good place to work. Over time they need to take great care that they do not build a democracy that cannot be supported by the tax base.

It needs to be kept in mind that Mason County is a rural service delivery organization. Counties are not the same as cities. They don't have the same responsibilities or the same taxing capacities. They will continue to offer what they believe is a quality rural level of service which includes roads, criminal justice services which are the primary constitutional obligation; also planning, water quality, and environmental and public health.

Since they are in a good financial condition and don't want to build a bureaucracy or offer services that are not consistent with counties.

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The financial condition allows the county to begin to invest in some of the deferred facilities such as the fairgrounds. She announced they have investigated purchasing the existing fairgrounds and it is agreed that is not a viable option given the deed that gives the property to the Port of Shelton. The County has looked for and is starting the process to make the decision to relocate the fairgrounds. The preferred piece of property is at the corner of Highway 101 and 102. They also are going to put some money into the existing fairgrounds so it can operate safely for the next 3 – 5 years while the transition is made. Once the decision is made on the site they will appoint a citizen and stakeholder advisory group to report back to the Board in the early fall regarding the phasing and needs of those buildings. The other facility that has obtained a lot of conversation is the Public Works facility. The Public Works Director has worked with consultants to narrow the scope of potential sites down to two. One of the sites still under consideration would allow them to partner with a lot of the infrastructure on the fairgrounds facility. There are opportunities to save the public money.

She felt that through the focused resources through the state (real estate excise tax) and some of the rural counties funds they will be able to bond for these facilities without any increase in taxes.

They reorganized the administrative structure in 2005 under the Commissioners. They eliminated the position of county administrator and felt that enriched the role of the department heads in terms of reporting directly to the Commissioners where they study policy issues and recommendations and try to make good use of the resources. They have focused on better communication with the public and improved the website. They have added meetings in Belfair in order to engage the north end community more directly in the conversations about government.

The County has completed the Comprehensive Planning process. When people are appointed to boards, commissions and committees now they are asked to sign a document disclosing any potential conflicts of interest.

The County has funded new ball fields at Sandhill. They have helped with funding of property purchase for Turning Pointe for the construction of a domestic violence shelter. Also, they purchased property for future construction for Habitat for Humanity. They have completed a Trails Plan that is a work in progress. They achieved a long discussed trade with Manke Lumber Company to acquire the property at the corner of Highway 101 and 102 in exchange for a piece of property at Johns Prairie Road (Public Works Shop). They have added staff positions in the Auditor, Assessor, and Sheriff and feel they have stabilized a lot of staff.

They passed a Historic Preservation Ordinance and have appointed a board to start the work. There are many valuable historic buildings that are worth preserving.

Of the five positions added to the Sheriff's Department they have run into a roadblock to obtain places in the training academy to get the officers trained to go out on the street. They are striving to get that corrected as quickly as possible.

There are a number of large utility projects that are primarily in the north end of the county and need to be coordinated around the reconstruction of some of the roads the state has funded.

It is understand the state's goal is to have the Belfair Bypass finished by 2010 and start work on the improvements of State Route 3 through Belfair in 2011. The County will need to make sure they sequence the sewer contracts and construction so they don't end up digging the road up twice.

The Sandhill Park had some slow down in putting in the grass. Latimer's Landing needs work done. They hope to have Phillips Lake developed as a passive recreation area. It is one small lot and does give families access to the lake.

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The County is looking at housing issues. With the cold weather coming they are up against the wall. The staff will work with the City of Shelton and the north end community to ensure there is available emergency shelter throughout the county. They appealed to the federal government to get additional funding because they are a logical host community for emergencies such as earthquakes or tsunamis in surrounding communities. They are committed to planning for emergency preparedness to serve the citizens as well as those from other areas.

They are looking at a plan to get state money for restoration of the historic courthouse as well as reviewing the older plans and moving onto a future plan that allows adequate and appropriate workspace for the staff.

They will work hard to continue partnerships with schools, businesses, fire departments and health care to ensure the best value is given for the tax dollar.

The Board meets with department heads on Mondays as a committee of the whole, which is a more formal briefing session. This is open to the public to listen to the staff do their work.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) - None
11. Board's Reports and Calendar – The Board shared highlights on some of the meetings attended the previous week and announced their calendar for the upcoming week.
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Lynda Ring Erickson, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

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Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

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Jayni L. Kamin, Commissioner