

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES  
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
February 26 and 27, 2007**

**Monday, February 26, 2007 – Friday Harbor Laboratories Commons Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Myhr called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Present: Council Members Lichter, Rosenfeld, Peterson, Knapp, and Ranker; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Carolyn Morrison; Public Hearing Specialist, Lisa Brown; Human Resources Manager, Pamela Morais; District Court Administrator, Marion Melville; Community Development and Planning Director, Ron Henrickson; available Elected Officials and appointed Department Heads; and interested members of the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The Council Members and the Administrator will meet for an informal dinner at which no County business will be discussed.

**WORK SESSIONS**

**10:00 a.m.** - A work session was held with County Council and the Administrator on Council priorities. Council Chair Myhr introduced Ken Sebens, Director of Friday Harbor Laboratories who welcomed the group.

Council Chair Myhr welcomed everyone stating that he was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet to reflect on the past and plan for the future. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Rose, who thanked department heads present for showing their support by convening to observe. He indicated that a subject matter list would be started if necessary. Mr. Rose introduced Ms. Morais who was present to facilitate the process for the retreat. Ms. Morais suggested they first discuss group dynamics and meeting guidelines, then outlook and expectations. Mr. Rose encouraged casual and informal exchanges for this meeting and introduced new Council staff member Lisa Brown, Public Hearing Specialist.

Ms. Morais distributed meeting guidelines for the council to consider for the purpose of this session. Councilmen Lichter and Rosenfeld wished to continue with the Council Chair leading the meeting rather than using a facilitator. Discussion ensued and it was agreed by all to continue with Ms. Morais' direction and to use the proposed guidelines for the purpose of this session. Council Chair Myhr temporarily relinquished his Chair for the process. Ms. Morais explained her process, laying out what she had planned, and asked the Council to consider the following:

1. How each member would describe their personal values that define their work
2. Have each member list some of their personal traits
3. Look at the vision of what they wanted to accomplish by being elected
4. Set some time frames – what newcomers will see when they come in 5, 10, and 50 years
5. What the downside would be if these goals and accomplishments were not met

Public comments were submitted and the group recessed for lunch. Upon resuming, the group arrived at two lists resulting from the discussions. The lists emerged as definitions of "Wrecked" (what is currently, or potentially problematic in SJC) and "Great in the year 2020" (possibilities for the future).

What WRECKED looks like:

- When we move from a position of protection to restoration on environmental issues
- Serious drop in school enrollment
- "White" drugs and alcohol are more prevalent
- Not supporting diversity of economy
- No open agriculture land
- Inability to manage and direct almost inevitable growth
- Gangs
- Unsustainable lifestyle (can't sustain successive generations)

- Too expensive for diverse communities
- Unbalanced economy
- Difficult for young families and fixed income seniors
- Excessive development (build-out size)
- Little diversity of community: economics, demographics, and ethnicity
- Graffiti
- Excessive traffic
- Lack of available parking
- Rudeness / anti-social behavior
- Noise / sirens / traffic
- Excessive help wanted signs in businesses
- Failed Schools
- Failed infrastructure
- Escalating housing prices
- No 'dark night sky'
- Rundown homes and junked cars in front yards

What GREAT looks like in 2020:

- Only doubling of population
- Vibrant economy with places to work (jobs) and available labor pool for employment
- Diverse Community: a) Ethnic; b) Economic; c) Age, c) Occupations/professions; d) Affordable housing
- Open agriculture lands with viable farming community of 300+
- Still attractive for tourism
- Restoration of all marine related activities
- Clean water/air
- SJC government has a positive reputation
- Healthy shoreline habitat / better sea grass health
- No sprawl as GMA is defined
- Restored fishing community
- A significant healthcare industry in the San Juan Islands
- Puget Sound Salmon Recovery is on par
- Thriving Schools – enrollment, teachers, ratings, and results
- Active arts community
- Density designations on the Comprehensive Comp Plan remain the same as in 2007
- High rise housing (several stories) available in Urban Growth Areas (UGA) with mixed use (rentals, mixed income)
- European model of growth and development with density in specific, defined areas (UGA's and the Town of Friday Harbor)
- Same number of bird species as present today
- Highly developed non-motorized transportation
- Interconnecting trails and pathways
- Radically reduced lawsuits against county government compared to current filings
- County code and regulations are in sync with the vision by 2020
- A community vision of what islands will look like in 2050 (vision illustrated using computer graphics)
- A developed and promoted island ethic that is supported by the community
- Community agreement on these indicators including: a) Self-sufficiency (possible result in smaller government); b) Sustainability; c) Controlling growth
- We have implemented the Eco-based Management (EBM) system
- Reduce citizen requirements for County services resulting in smaller county government and reduced taxes
- Strong support from, and relationships / partnership with, the State on island issues (ferry)
- Rotate Council meetings to other islands. Have welcome, responsive partnership of government and citizens
- We have a good, healthy community with positive physical, mental, and social health indicators
- Government has accurate data for decision-making

Ms. Morais invited public comment which was submitted. After a brief recess, Ms. Morais stated that the Council's goals were good, overarching ideas. She asked the Council members to review the current vision statement to see how they fit in with it. She guided the Council in categorizing the lists into areas of Economy,

Government, Island Community, Land Use, Environment, Public Health and Safety, Arts and Recreation, and Transportation.

**RECESS** - At 4:30 p.m., Council Chair Myhr recessed the meeting until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2007

<b>Tuesday, February 27, 2007 – Friday Harbor Laboratories Commons Room</b>
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**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Myhr called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. Present: Council Members Lichter, Rosenfeld, Peterson, Knapp, and Ranker; County Administrator Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Carolyn Morrison, Public Hearing Specialist Lisa Brown; Pamela Morais; District Court Administrator, Marion Melville; Community Development and Planning Director, Ron Henrickson; available appointed Department Heads; and interested members of the public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Rosenfeld, to approve the minutes of **February 20 and 23, 2007**. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Ranker, to approve the Final Consent Agenda of **February 27, 2007**, as follows:

**A. Appointments:**

1. Approve the appointment of Mary Blackstone to the SJC Land Bank as a representative of Orcas Island to fill an unexpired term which will begin immediately and expire December 31, 2008.

**B. Correspondence:**

1. Sign the letter to Mary Blackstone confirming her appointment to the SJC Land Bank as a representative of Orcas Island.
2. Sign the letter to Joan Pedrick thanking her for her interest in becoming a member of the SJC Land Bank and informing her that her letter of interest will be kept on file for any future vacancies.

**WORK SESSIONS**

**9:14 a.m.** - A continued work session was held on Council priorities. Mr. Rose began by making reference to the notes from Monday's session, and then turned the floor over to Ms. Morais who distributed categorized lists entitled "Visioning Notes from 2/26/07 – In the Year 2020, 'great' looks like." She asked the Council to consider how they currently conduct business, and whether it works to attain these visions. Throughout the day the lists were amended as required and discussions included: Land use, affordable housing, and European model developments. Mr. Henrickson gave a synopsis of 'European model' development. He discouraged development patterns that impact infrastructure. It was also noted by the Council that precise data from staff prior to presentation from affordable housing organizations would be helpful. Promotion and support of community vision, ethics, economic diversity, cultural diversity, and public health and safety were also discussed.

Another important topic was the environment and eco-based management. It was agreed that outreach and education should be provided to the public regarding the Shoreline Master Plan and that staff reports to the Council for accurate information would be helpful in determining strategies, and also serve to assist the County in cultivating dialogue with its citizens. Augmenting and connecting trails throughout the islands and non-motorized transportation were discussed.

It was noted that working from accurate data is imperative for decision making regarding government policies. A desire to finish the Charter and to use more open, welcoming, and responsive government processes was also expressed. A revision to the Citizens' Access Guidelines was discussed as well as holding meetings on other islands.

Mr. Rose recommended a review session in six months, allowing the Council an opportunity to hear from as many constituents as possible in the meantime.

**ADJOURNMENT** – At 3:02 p.m., Council Chair Myhr adjourned the meeting. There were no meetings scheduled for the week of March 5, 2007. A special meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2007 and the next regular meeting was scheduled for March 13, 2007.

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**These minutes were approved and signed on March 13, 2007. The original document is retained in the Council's permanent proceedings file dated February 26 and 27, 2007. Attest: Carolyn K. Morrison, Clerk.**