

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
REGULAR SESSION – MAY 23, 2005**

The Board of Island County Commissioners convened in Regular Session at 11:00 a.m. on May 23, 2005 for a roundtable with Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads, held in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Island County Annex, 1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, Wa. Other topics for the regular session followed at 1:30 p.m. as outlined on the agenda.

**ROUNDTABLE MEETING WITH ISLAND COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND
APPOINTED DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads Attending

Tom Baenen	Greg Banks	William J. Byrd	Sharon Franzen	Michael Merringer
Betty Kemp	Elaine Marlow	Don Meehan	Wm. L. McDowell	Dick Toft
Mike Shelton	Bill Oakes	Linda Riffe	Dan Sherk	

Assessor. Mr. Baenen expressed his appreciation to everyone for their support during the recall effort. He is very pleased that the recall suit was dismissed, all 12 alleged actions judged to be without fact or legal grounds. The Office currently is in the midst of re-valuations for North Whidbey and North Camano Island, and as of this morning, approximately 82% completed with field work and input.

Budget Director. Ms. Marlow gave the annual reminder: first week in July will start the 2006 budget process.

Commissioners. Commissioner McDowell talked about the good news for NAS Whidbey this round not having been included on the base closure list; in fact, gaining 139 people. As far as a commercial airport on Whidbey Island, he was not aware of any new developments; his personal desire would be to see a Port District for Oak Harbor handle that.

County Clerk. Ms. Franzen updated the group on personnel issues within her office.

GSA. Betty Kemp received an employee resignation.

Human Resources. Mr. Toft observed it amazing how much turnover there is in the County, for whatever reasons.

Juvenile Court Services. Mr. Merringer will be filling a vacant position within the office shortly; has begun the interview process for the Juvenile Detention Center Manager.

Prosecutor. Mr. Banks reported that following the Alexander murder case sent back from the Supreme Court ruling, that prosecution was reinstated and trying to get the Court of Appeals review of that decision before there ever is a trial; should know by the end of that period whether the case will be heard in Seattle or here in Coupeville. Other items:

-The on-line version of the Island County Code should be on line by May 27th.

-For future discussion and follow-up, brought up the idea of instituting a per diem meal reimbursement

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which in the long run would save county resources and time looking over individual vouchers and reimbursements. Could look at what is spent county-wide on average per day and look at what other counties are doing. Mr. Toft acknowledged that issue had come up during bargaining unit discussions as well.

Public Works. Mr. Oakes, reported on various projects:

Bayview Road project - advertised, bids to be opened the first week in June [*May 26th @ 9:00 a.m. Room #116*]. Construction begins about 45 days after bids are opened and the project will last at least until the end of November. It is a single lane construction, with no road closures planned.

Madrona Way Project, 1200' long, to stabilize the slope and shift the road away from the shoreline. There will be about a 10-day [weekdays during working hours] closure for that project while a machine drives micro piles.

Town of Coupeville Main Street project is currently under way.

Juvenile Detention building is going up basically without major surprises; walls are going up to start the second floor.

Treasurer. Ms. Riffe updated the group about current work efforts within the Treasurer's Office; adjustments made now up through October 13, 2004 and the effort is on-going. Almost all tax payments have been posted. State Auditor will be on site within the next couple of weeks to begin the next audit cycle.

WSU Extension. Mr. Meehan recently sent an e-mail as an "initial" survey to Elected officials and Department Heads seeking thoughts on the idea of the group simply meeting with one County Commissioner monthly, instead of having the Roundtable as an official public meeting. So far, preference is to retain the current Roundtable as an open public meeting of the Board.

Adjourn 11:18 a.m. Next roundtable scheduled for June 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Other topics for the Regular Board session followed at 1:30 p.m. as outlined on the agenda, along with Diking Improvement District #4. This portion of the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Shelton, Chairman, Wm. L. McDowell, Member, and William J. Byrd were present. By unanimous motion, the Board approved minutes from the meeting of May 16, 2005.

VOUCHERS AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

The following vouchers/warrants were approved for payment by unanimous motion of the Board:
Voucher (War.) #214176-214468\$917,095.87.

HIRING REQUESTS & PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dick Toft, Human Resources Director, presented the following personnel action authorizations, approved by unanimous motion of the Board:

Dept.	PAA #	Description/Position #	Action	Eff. Date
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Clerk	038/05	Deputy Clerk I	503.02	Replacement	5/23/05
Public Works	039/05	Sol. Waste Attd II	2248.19	.4 FTE Replacement	5/23/05

AMENDMENT #1 – INTERTIDAL CONSULTING AGREEMENT

Don Meehan, Director, WSU Extension, presented Contract Amendment #1 with Intertidal Consulting Agreement between Island County, through its Marine Resources Committee, and Gary Wood, dba Intertidal Consulting. The primary updates are to remove certain scope of work items that were not funded and replace with items that were funded. The amendment breaks out into finer detail the products sought.

By unanimous motion, the Board approved as presented, Contract Amendment #1 with Intertidal Consulting Agreement (RM-EXT-05-0042) between Island County, through its Marine Resources Committee, and Gary Wood, dba Intertidal Consulting.

**SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISLAND COUNTY AND SARAH SCHMIDT, DBA
TERRAFILIA**

On presentation with explanatory comments by Mr. Meehan, the Board by unanimous motion approved Services Agreement between Island County and Sarah Schmidt, dba Terrafilia (RM-EXT-05-0050) for two projects: one, roadside litter assessment supporting an interdepartmental agreement with the Health Department, and the other to upgrade, renew and replace the publication “Getting to the Water’s Edge on Whidbey and Camano Island”.

BANKING SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PROCESSING

Linda Riffe, Island County Treasurer, presented for the Board’s consideration and approval, as had been discussed several times at various Staff Sessions, the Key Bank Internet Merchant Services Agreement and the KeyPay Services Agreement, which will provide Internet credit card payment services for property taxes.

By unanimous motion, the Board approved Key Pay Services Agreement with Key Bank National Association (RM-TREAS-05-0016) and the Terms of Service Agreement with Key Merchant Services LLC and NOVA Information Systems Inc. (RM-TREAS-05-0047).

**CONTRACT WITH SNOHOMISH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

By unanimous motion, the Board approved Contract #E04-031 with Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (RM-DES-05-0054) authorizing a time extension of the 2003 Department of Homeland Security Grant and the reallocation of equipment funds, Contract Amount \$300,639.

**HEARING SCHEDULED: APPEAL # 195/05, VICTOR HANZELI, APPELLANT - APPEAL
OF HEARING EXAMINER’S DECISION ON PLP 334/04, JOHN ROBINETTE**

As recommended by Phil Bakke, Planning & Community Development Director, the Board by unanimous motion scheduled a Public Hearing for July 11, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners

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Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, WA. to hear Appeal #195/05, Victor Hanzeli, Appellant, appealing the Hearing Examiner's Decision on PLP 334/04, John Robinette, Applicant, Westcoast Inc. seeking preliminary long subdivision approval for the proposed subdivision of an approximately 17.72 acre parcel into 21 lots [690 Camano View Drive, Camano Island] .

STAFF SESSION SCHEDULE, JUNE, 2005

The Staff Session schedule for June was approved by unanimous motion of the Board, with the regular staff sessions scheduled for June 1 and 15, 2005, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, WA.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS APPROVED

By unanimous motion, the Board approved the following Health Department Contracts:

Amendment #2, Contract #C13034 with the Department of Health/Consolidated Contract for continuation of budgeted program funding; Amendment amount \$17,969 for new total contract in the amount of \$635,431 (RM-HLTH-02-0094)

Amendment #7, Contract #0063-42385 with DSHS for Medicaid Administrative Match extending contract period at current reimbursement level; Amendment amount \$-0-; total contract \$594,508.57 (RM-HLTH-98-0021)

Amendment #2, Contract #0463-41968 with DSHS for the Foster Care Passport program funding Health Department staff to assist with San Juan County Passports; Amendment Amount \$2,055.40 for total contract in the amount of \$29,259.40 (RM-HLTH-01-0064)

Contract Collection Agreement with Whidbey Island Bank for Promissory Note and Deed of Trust between Island County Water Quality (Sellers) and Gerald R. and Betty Isaacson (Buyers) on which the unpaid balance of principal is \$9,639.15.

Contract Collection Agreement with Whidbey Island Bank for Promissory Note and Deed of Trust between Island County Water Quality (Sellers) and Mark LeVang (Buyers) on which the unpaid balance of principal is \$20,200.58.

Contract Amendment for Contract Collection Agreement, November 29, 2004 for Chapel with Whidbey Island Bank .

Contract Amendment for Contract Collection Agreement, November 30, 2004 for Faulkner with Whidbey Island Bank

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Having been reviewed by appropriate County staff and recommended for approval, the Board by unanimous motion approved the following liquor license applications:

Special Occasion Liquor License # 091224 by Camano Island Yacht Club for a special occasion to be held on June 18, 2005, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Camano Island Yacht Club, located at 129 N. Sunset Drive, Camano Island, WA

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Special Occasion Liquor License # 091793 by Goosefoot Community Fund for a special occasion to be held June 8 & 22, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Bayview Corner Cash Store, located at 5603 Bayview Road, Langley, WA

Corrected Liquor License – Ferryboat Café, Clinton [approved 3/28/05 License # 087652-6C – Interstate Common Carrier] with the correction to: License #087652-2B – **Beer/Wine Rest – Beer/Wine**

APPROVAL OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION - COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

As provided under RCW 36.64.080, the Board of County Commissioners together with the governing bodies of the City of Oak Harbor, City of Langley, Town of Coupeville, Port of South Whidbey and port of Coupeville, Coupeville, may establish and form a regional agency to study regional and governmental problems of mutual interest and concern. Articles of Incorporation for the Island County Council of Governments, approved and signed by the Cities, Town and two Port Districts, were approved by unanimous motion of the Board (#RM-BOCC-05-0058).

**APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

By unanimous motion, the Board made the following appointments and reappointments to various Boards and Committees:

Appointed Ron Van Dyke, Coupeville, to the Central Whidbey Historic Preservation Advisory Committee representing “District Resident” to a 4-year term expiring August 13, 2009

Appointed to the Joint Administration Board (Tourism) Theresa Metzger, Camano Island representing the Camano Chamber of Commerce

Reappointed to the Board of Equalization James K. Johnston, Oak Harbor, and Jane Strohecker, Camano Island, for 3-year terms expiring May 31, 2008

Reappointed to the Island County Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) for 4-year terms expiring May 17, 2009: Don Lee, Coupeville; Steve Frostad, Oak Harbor; and Robert Friedman, Camano Island

**RESOLUTION #C- 60-05/R-25-05 SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR DIKING
DISTRICT # 4 APPORTIONMENT OF BENEFITS**

At 10:15 a.m. a public meeting of Diking Improvement District No. 4 (DID4) was held, for the purpose of considering the scheduling of a public hearing on the Apportionment of Benefits.

As presented and suggested by Bill Oakes, Public Works Director, the Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution #C-60-05/R-25-05 in the matter of setting the public hearing date for Diking Improvement District No. 4 Apportionment of Benefits, on July 11, 2005 at 10:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA. [*Resolution #C-60-05 on file with the Clerk of the Board*]

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**RESOLUTION #C-61-05/R-24-05 – APPROVING SPECIFICATIONS & AUTHORIZING
CALL FOR BIDS FOR ONE (1) NEW 2005/2006 DUMP TRUCK CAB & CHASSIS**

As presented, the Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution #C-61-05/R-24-05 in the matter of Approving Specifications & Authorizing Call for Bids for One (1) New 2005/2006 Dump Truck Cab & Chassis, with bid opening set for June 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in Meeting Room #116, Administration Building, Coupeville, WA. *[Resolution #C-61-05 on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

**AWARD OF BID – ONE NEW 2005 770d JOHN DEERE MOTOR GRADER
WITH FINDINGS OF FACT APPROVED**

As presented and recommended by Mr. Oakes, the Board awarded bid for one new 2005 John Deere 770D Motor Grader to Pape Machinery, Mt. Vernon, in the amount of \$176,089.50, including tax and trade-in allowance. A separate motion, the Board unanimously approved Findings of Facts reflecting the reason to award the bid to other than the lowest bidder. *[Findings of Fact on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

AWARD OF BID FOR MADRONA WAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

As recommended by Mr. Oakes, the Board by unanimous motion awarded bid for the Madrona Way Reconstruction project under CRP 02-11, Work Order #35, to SRV Construction, Inc. in the amount \$841,859.20.

ADOPT-A-ROAD LITTER CONTROL PROGRAM RENEWAL AGREEMENTS

The Board by unanimous motion approved the following Adopt-A-Road Litter Control Program renewal agreements, as recommended by Mr. Oakes:

- Central Whidbey Lions: Libbey Road from 0 Highway 20 to West end of Libbey Road.
- Central Whidbey Lions: from Engle Road (to include Scenic Park and Driftwood Park) from Coupeville Town limits to ferry turnaround.
- Central Whidbey Lions: West Beach Road from Libbey Road to Van Dam Road.
- Whidbey Audubon Society: West Beach Road from 1 Mile North of Hastie Lake Road to 1 Mile South of Hastie Lake Road.
- Swantown Neighbors: Swantown Road from West Beach Road/Crosby Road to Wieldraayer Road.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1 – KPG, P.S.

The Board approved, by unanimous motion, Supplemental Agreement No. 1 – PW-02-2039(A) between Island County and KPG, P.S. for on-call civil engineering services, changing completion date to May 31, 2006 and increasing maximum amount payable to \$200,000.

**RESOLUTION #C-62-05/SW-04-05 – SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE MP-20D MICROPURGE
FLOW CELL UNIT**

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As presented and recommended by Mr. Oakes, the Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution #C-62-05/SW-04-05 In the Matter of authorizing QED Environmental Systems, Inc., to supply a MP 20D Micropurge Flow Cell, with pH & conductivity standards kits, Zorbell and Sonde Storage Solution without competitive bidding, for Groundwater Monitoring. QED Environmental systems, Inc. is the sole manufacturer and supplier of the MP-20 micropurge flow cell unit recommended by the County's contract engineer, SCS, as the best unit available. *[Resolution #C-62-05 on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

PURCHASE ORDER #7412 FOR MP-20D MICROPURGE FLOW CELL

By unanimous motion, the Board approved Purchase Order #7412 for QED Environmental Systems to purchase the MP-20D Micropurge Flow Cell for Groundwater Monitoring from QED Environmental Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$5,838.25, including tax.

**RESOLUTION #C-63-05/R-25-05 AUTHORIZING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO
COMMENCE CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS, BAYVIEW ROAD PROJECT**

On the recommendation of Mr. Oakes, the Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution #C-63-05/R-25-05 In the Matter of Authorizing the Prosecuting Attorney to Commence Condemnation Proceedings, under Bayview Road Project CRP 98-17, Work Order #229. *[Resolution #C-63-05 on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT – DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT – SOUTH WHIDBEY
COMMONS**

Gary Hess, Public Works Engineer, asked for the Board's approval of Request for Amendment #2, Grant Agreement Number 02-64002-043, to the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development for the Community Block Grant – South Whidbey Commons. In order to amend the grant contract for Phase 2, construction phase, this form needs to be submitted to CTED to put into motion CTED's procedures. South Whidbey Commons received a private \$250,000 grant and CTED believes that fulfills requirements for funds raised in order to move forward.

By unanimous motion, the Board approved Request #2 for amendment to the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, related to the Community Block Grant for South Whidbey Commons.

HEARING HELD: ISLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Public Hearing was held beginning at 2:45 p.m. on the Island County Water Resource Management Plan (2514 Watershed Planning Process). The Public Input Review Draft of the Plan *[GMA Record #7932]* has been available from the Island County Health Department (Coupeville), the Camano Island County Annex, and libraries in Stanwood, Oak Harbor, Coupeville, Freeland, Langley and Clinton.

ATTENDANCE: *[GMA Record #7931]*

Audience: Consisted of some 30+

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Press Whidbey News Times, Eric Berto, Reporter

Staff Keith Higman, Environmental Health Director
Doug Kelly, Hydrogeologist, Island County Health Department
Sheilagh Byler Watershed Planner, Island County Health Department

WRAC Don Lee, Water Resource Advisory Committee, Chair

Don Lee provided some background information. There are no decisions to be made at today's hearing; rather the purpose of the hearing is to take public comments on the Plan. WRAC staff will compile comments from this hearing, and as appropriate incorporate those comments into the Plan. WRAC was established by the Board about six years' ago consisting of 12 citizen members [four from each Commissioner District] assigned the overall task of advising the Board and County Commissioners relative to water resources, focusing on potable [drinking] water. All WRAC meetings were advertised and open to the public. The 2514 Watershed Planning Act was passed in 1998 providing the framework for local citizens and others to identify and solve water related issues at the local level. This area is part of WIRA #6 (Water Inventory Resource Area), WRAC's work on the Plan consisted of three phases:

- 1) Original phase \$50,000 - establish and define plan structure
- 2) Research phase \$200,000 undertaken by Doug Kelly. Included investigating a better means to determine seawater intrusion on both islands. Efforts included monitoring and data from 400 different wells around the County in order to gain sufficient information to develop a new means of predicting seawater intrusion. This new tool should help predict areas that may be susceptible.
- 3) Research/Documenting Phase \$250,000 - writing a plan, holding public meetings/hearings

The work for the past five years has been divided into various topic papers such as conservation, education, water rights, etc. Within the last few months, WRAC finished the final chapter of the topics and put the Plan together. After putting the draft plan together, three public meetings were held: Camano Island, South Whidbey and North Whidbey. The cities and town within the County must also approve the Plan; WRAC has a role in approving the Plan, as does the State through DOE. Ultimately after all input from citizens, the committee and others, the Plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners who have the final authority to sign the Plan. Acceptance by the cities and town is anticipated by June 2nd, with a final hearing before the Board of County Commissioners proposed for June 20.

Karen -, Whidbey Island Conservation District, Coupeville, the District having served in a technical advisory position, spoke in support of the Plan, already finding it an extremely helpful tool with respect to BMPs and critical recharge areas.

Toni Piazzon, Summit Loop, Coupeville, suggested if there are water availability issues, development should be matched to the amount of the resource rather than approving more and more development that adds to the water crunch.

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Commissioner Shelton pointed out that the County does not issue a building permit unless there is a verified water source; also, the County has a seawater intrusion policy.

Mr. Higman commented that in other areas of the State the process of watershed planning is used as a mechanism to understand the relationship between the use of water from river systems and how that affects growth and development, salmon and habitat, etc. When Island County originally applied for these funds, staff recognized the county was different than the rest of the State. The intent of Phase 2 assessment, the entire focus was trying to develop new tools to do a better job of predicting how applications today in the future will affect the resource, and staff believe that has been done. Island County has been very proactive in the past in terms of ground water management, and adopted some standards that are more stringent than State standards. The County spent a lot of time looking at seawater intrusion, the County's way of identifying if there is water available to match projected growth in a particular area. One of the big issues addressed by the Plan is to use a tool that is predictive before the fact.

Donna Painter, Oak Harbor, had questions about the science used. She observed throughout the Plan where there are indications of guesses and estimates but nothing definitive. On the other hand developers want to clear, grade and pave roads as wide as possible. The environment should be protected as much as possible and make sure that the water can perc down and get into the ground. She called the Planning Department a few weeks' ago with regard to a class 5 stream running through a property and suggested rather than tight-lining it over the bluff, offered the use of her property; she has not heard back from the Planning Department about that. She sees conflicts with County departments and what the Plan says and wanted to know if the Plan would bring everyone together. The Plan also says that maybe the people do not want to live where the water is. If the Plan is approved, she inquired if the suggestions would be instituted in future development. She mentioned she knew of an 87 acre development with 8 to 10 lots and a road 60' wide paved.

In terms of work done by the Health Department, Mr. Higman pointed out that the process was a community-based process and the Department served a supportive role. The Hydrogeologist tells him that the only way to ever know in Island County how much water there is would be to dig up the whole County; so, there are estimates made, the only way in a scenario where there are marine waters surrounding very narrow islands to define where the resource is and where it is not available. The Department was embarking upon a process utilizing a new tool to define water availability, as never before. The availability of water in this scenario in terms of water level elevation may not match past development patterns. The County does have means by which it monitors existing systems, groundwater and chemistry, and measures in place to match extended or continuous growth within that water system to the availability of water. There will be a better opportunity to do that in the future. With respect to a variety of other issues brought up relating to development impacts, the WRAC spent a lot of time not just focusing on ground water, but the globally picture of water and proposed a number of recommendations in the holistic view of water.

Chairman Shelton noted that there were other issues in terms of development, road widths and paving; those kinds

of things are requirements the County has in order to develop a piece of property. Certainly, the County will not be going back to single lane roads for a development, but is trying to limit the amount of

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paving that can be done. In the rural part of the County with very few limited exceptions, the large rural developments are a thing of the past since there is a five acre lot requirement. From his point of view, the County will not tell folks they can only clear for a house site and nothing else can be touched.

Al Williams, Ft. Nugent Road, Oak Harbor, acknowledged that he had more questions than comments. He was concerned about the quality of life and protecting the water supply. Some concern stems from having heard about studies, then comments that conflict, for example, a letter to the Editor recently indicating there is plenty of water. Attending a meeting, then told there is a problem with seawater intrusion and a need for conserve water. He was curious as to what this would lead to, particularly in light of those who want to develop. The Plan talks about a number of options available; at the same time the County continues to issue building permits. In terms of water rights, he believes in "first come first served". Concerned also when big dollars start coming, using influence, for those who want to develop.

Mr. Lee commented that as far as WRAC membership, by and large people who volunteered had an interest in water one way or another, and he was enthused about the quality of people and their backgrounds who came forward to serve on WRAC. There have been over 200 meetings at least two hours each, all open to the public. The County has been designated a Sole Source Aquifer, a federal designation in 1982; the aquifer system underneath the County contains five separate aquifers, every one made up of lenses. After looking at the geology, maps and other data, it has been determined there is no way anyone would ever define exactly how much water there is; there is enough water to support the population. The question is not so much how much water, rather where it is and is it going to be contaminated.

Mr. Kelly was confident the County would never know how much water there is or how many homes it can support, which is the reason for trying to figure out where the water is and is there water for any given development, focusing on development tools and trying to look at long term trends and cumulative impacts, trying to get best available science. There is water; it is not necessarily where people live or want to live. As far as special interest twisting, he encouraged those interested to look at the County's record so far.

Wayne Long, Summer Drive, Oak Harbor, suggested that it seemed as though five years ago when this was established and studies began, it was a matter of looking at individual issues without a foregone conclusion. Today, the individual studies have been compiled and placed into a position of acceptance as best available science. He asked if it was the best available science and would the County had done it any differently to provide additional information had he known about this particular conclusion and this objective? Has the goal changed at all?

Mr. Lee responded that WRAC broke down the plan into "bite size chapters". Five years ago WRAC was overwhelmed as to how to understand the water supply. Some of the information is based on best available science, some is basic common sense and logic. WRAC recognized this county is unique and agreed it would be helpful to have an association of water purveyors. The county has over 850 public water systems and WRAC wanted to encourage networking, and was able to get that done.

Doug Kelly, stated that best available science, although defined in WAC, has no "test". The approach has been to try and include as wide an audience as possible and DOE was involved from the beginning

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as was the State Department of Health. There has been “buy-off” from all state agencies all along the way. This is fairly new, especially this county’s scenario where this county is significantly different than most of the rest of Western Washington. This is an on-going process. Ten to twelve years’ ago the County came forth with the first seawater intrusion policy in the State, and has been proven out. The State DOE subsequently to that adopted almost an identical policy. That is being done again having found short-comings in the previous policy, and ten years’ from now he guaranteed the county would be doing so again, taking what was learned through this process and what may be learned over the next few years.

Gordon Given, Coupeville, referred to Page 28 of the Plan, related to ground water usage and monitoring by way of meters. It was his understanding of hydrology of water percolating through the ground is that it takes a number of years for that water to get down in the ground, it is not instantaneous. He is a water purveyor of a Group B water system that is being required to put in a water meter on the pump to find out whether there are any leaks. He asked if this was a precursor for possibly having meters on all homes and then the County charging for those?

Chairman Shelton answered that the requirements of a meter would not ultimately end in any charges to the property owner by the County. One of the things discussed in the conservation piece of the plan is that as people recognize how much water they use and if they are charged for it, that has a direct impact on the amount of water that they use.

Mr. Lee added to note that one of the things that is evident is that it does take quite awhile for water to get down from the surface into the ground, anywhere from three to ten years plus. It is critical to retain the recharge for the whole county.

Toni Piazzon brought up the point that Oak Harbor piped its water in from the Skagit River, dependent on mountain snow fall and rain water, thus Island County is not solely dependent on ground water. She asked about estimates relating to best case or worst case scenario; what is being done about seawater intrusion and how to predict seawater intrusion.

Chairman Shelton recognized that in certain areas of the County there is a seawater intrusion problem and the Plan addresses that very issue, and how it is to be done differently than previously in a much more scientific and related way. He pointed out that there are chlorides that naturally occur in some wells that has nothing to do with seawater intrusion. Those areas with a known intrusion problem he guaranteed that as the County follows the seawater intrusion plan would have a better handle than ever before, and in a predictive way.

Commissioner McDowell made the point that 13 years’ ago when he was first elected the County as far as water issues had a few wells being monitored. That information was basically put in a drawer, so that data does exist. The County hired a Hydrogeologist recognizing Island County is very dependent upon groundwater. This County has gone from basically collecting data to being on the cutting edge in the entire State as far as groundwater, and believed the County would maintain that lead. The Plan clearly shows recommendations on saltwater intrusion, with completely refined maps. He is proud of the effort the group of citizens on WRAC, along with staff, put together.

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Commissioner Byrd observed that most identified seawater intrusion problems are located right along the shoreline. When building first started on Camano and Whidbey, most wanted to build along the shoreline and drilled wells along the shoreline. Over time, he stated that we had gotten smarter, and most folks on the shoreline are regulating their wells to a point where they actually know how much they can pump per day, etc. In addition, Commissioner McDowell, pointed out that zoning had changed within the County dramatically over the last several years, so some of the problems caused by subdivisions in the Fifties and Sixties will not have an opportunity to be recreated.

With no others indicating a desire to comment, the public input portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner McDowell referred to Page 18 of the Plan, line 29, the language stating “Each new exempt well increases the potential opportunity for groundwater contamination”. He was not sure why that would be limited to exempt wells, and thought it should be each new well. Page 37, recommendations, line 5, states “Exempt wells drilled within or adjacent to service areas pose resource management and public health threats to water systems”. He thought that a huge jump from saying there is a potential opportunity for groundwater contamination to saying it is a public health threat.

Mr. Higman responded that those two sections of the document were meant to address two somewhat different items. The first one, any new well that is drilled provides an opportunity for a conduit to groundwater, and in terms of this particular section, it was not meant to say that only exempt wells do that, but this section is talking about exempt wells. The modifier of exempt was placed in front of “well” only because it is within that section.

With regard to page 37 and the phrase “public health threat” Mr. Higman clarified that the same public health threat there if contamination occurs in a well it is those wells that are in closest proximity to that well that have the greatest risk. He suggested asking WRAC to add the same modifier.
Consensus: add the same modifier to that sentence.

Commissioner Byrd suggested correction of a typographical error on page 34 to take out the extra words “of areas”.

With that, the Board by unanimous motion, continued the public hearing until June 20, 2005 at 10:45 a.m.

Commissioner McDowell indicated he would not be able to attend that hearing on June 20th but would make any other comments, if any, in writing for that hearing.

[Notice of Continuance GMA Record #7933]

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Island County offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2005 in observance of Memorial Day holiday and reopen Tuesday, May 31st. The next regularly scheduled Monday meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be June 6, 2005 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
REGULAR SESSION – MAY 23, 2005**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND DIKING
DISTRICT NO. 4 COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman

Wm. L. McDowell, Member

William J. Byrd, Member

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board