

Anderson Island Citizens' Advisory Board

Date, time and location of the meeting:

June 9, 2006 19:30 PST (7:30 p.m.)

Time meeting was called to order:

19:35 PDT (7:35 p.m.)

AICAB members present, and name/title of guest speakers:

Listed in order by seating position from CAB members' left to right:

Anthony Tognazzini [AT]

Jim Singer [JS] – Treasurer

David McGoldrick [DMc]

Phyllis Zander [PZ]

Debbie Lowe [DL] – Chair

Randy Anderson [RA] – Acting Chair

Peter Seto [PS] - Vice-Chair

Erik Hodge [EH] - Secretary, Recording Secretary

AICAB members absent:

Chuck Hinds [CH], Tom Huffar [TH]

Guest Speaker:

Harold Smelt [HS], Manager, Pierce County Water Programs

The two-initial abbreviations in square brackets, e.g., [AB], were used throughout these minutes for AICAB members as well as others who spoke.

Agenda:

- Old business
- Pierce County Water Programs Presentation
- Speed limit reduction request from AICTF
- Ferry Report
- Community Planning Board
- Letter to AICAB to County Executive
- New Business

[RA]: Called the meeting to order and announced that he will be serving as honorary Chair for this meeting.

[RA]: Requested adoption of the agenda

[PS]: Moved to adopt

[PZ]: Seconded motion

[RA]: Agenda adopted.

[RA]: Asked for corrections to May meeting minutes. None received.

[PZ]: Moved to approve minutes.

[DL]: Seconded motion

[RA]: Minutes approved.

[RA]: Called for Treasurer's Report

[JS]: Distributed handout We've spent about \$1000 so far this year. Have \$500 working capital in our checking account.

[RA]: Thank you Jim.

[RA]: Introduced Harold Smelt, Manager of Pierce County Water Programs.

Pierce County Water Programs Presentation

[HS]: Came out to address AICAB due to expressed concerns that the surface water management taxes being collected on Anderson Island will go toward projects in Gig Harbor. He will explain the county's water programs and how the tax dollars are applied. The Water Program dept has a staff of about 55. They focus on storm water management, flood control, water quality and preservation of floodplain functions. Specifically areas on work on Anderson Island are shellfish response and maintenance of public systems.

The current rate structure is composed of two basic principles:

1 – Fee for service (it is a utility)

2 – Rates collected in a specific area are spent in that area. They promised the County Council in 1989 when the utility was formed that the monies collected in an area would be used in that area.

PC has 26 watershed areas, and the County keeps books for each area. AI has its own pot of money for itself. No monies collected on AI go to any other area.

[JS]: Is Ketron Island is part of the AI area?

[HS]: Not sure, might be possible.

[HS]: Services provided by Water Programs include: maintenance, operations, administration, planning, education, water quality, monitoring, inspections & enforcement, and mapping.

[PZ]: How do I get billed?

[HS]: Surface water management fee appears on your tax statement.

[PZ]: What happens to the money if it's not used?

[HS]: It continues to grow. There's presently a balance of \$750,000 accumulated for Anderson Island.

[PZ]: Do we get an accounting of projects it's used for?

[HS]: Currently no, but we can break it down for you if you want in the future.

[HS]: Shellfish response will be the primary area that monies will be directed toward in the future.

The 26 watersheds have been broken down into 10 planning areas. AI is grouped in with the area with the Key Peninsula.

[PZ]: Do you take into consideration population growth?

[HS]: Yes, we look at future conditions, land use and zoning.

One project listed on the AI plan is future flooding anticipated as development continues. Three tasks the County has asked Water Programs to do:

1. Expand services
2. Simplify fee structure
3. Redistribution of some costs

1. Expansion of services includes:

- a) Shellfish program – asked to broaden the program with more education, more inspections, and whatever is needed to protect shellfish
- b) Lakes management
- c) Groundwater management

Plan needs are identified by Key Peninsula-Island Basin Plan and could be met by AI's current balance of \$750,000. There is no timeline for expenditure of any of the funds. Only limited by staff availability.

PC Water Programs only provides services in unincorporated Pierce County. Not in incorporated areas.

Surface Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will probably recommend to Council that the majority of the funds be used in the area in which they are collected. February or March 2007 the Surface Water Advisory Board will present it's final recommendations to the Council. AICAB can make formal recommendations to the SWAB.

(This is where Erik Hodge began taking notes).

[PS]: Shellfish licensing done by the state, groundwater study, lake problems discussed with state as well. County Council has asked them to look at all of this then?

[HS]: There is a need at County level to look at watershed/harvest area to preserve them. State will close them down if there's a problem.

[PS]: We see the harvest that is destructive of bottom, Nisqually Indians using jets to get geoducks, all from the mainland

[HS]: Numerous recreational areas around here, beyond AI

[PS]: Not many do; it's all mud

[EH]: There is a DNR beach just South of Yoman Landing but never seen anybody doing recreational harvesting from there.

[HS]: state law says closure of area contact local jurisdictions which are then required to create a shellfish protection district. Council is saying let's plan/budget for it since it's required. County doesn't like closures.

[PS]: Large number of recreational boaters anchor (Tacoma YC & Bremerton YC), am convinced of flushing of fecal material into bay especially on 3-day weekends

[HS]: Recreational boat usage is on list, will fall into education part - how, where, when to dump tanks.

[DMc]: What's reason behind the closures?

[PZ]: Sometimes education doesn't change effort. Needs policing and fines.

[HS]: Education drives home point that people who do this don't necessarily live on island

[PS]: At end of day, only 2 failed systems w/dye testing were found so it's not the sole problem

[HS]: Most shellfish closures are due to rainfall event; Oro Bay may not have that. Shellfish harvesting can be done 72hrs+ after rainfall has ended. Storm event dramatically contributes to shellfish closures based on many years of data; weather, time of year, seals in the area ...etc. Coliform typing, using DNA, they try to determine the mammal that created it. People are split 50/50 on whether that (expensive) test. Meeker creek DNA testing, for example, DNA samples were found to be from rodents.

Options:

- 1) 1 area: "flat fee" (tax) for Key Peninsula & islands
- 2) Planning areas: AI is still in Key Peninsula, Fox Island

3) 4 water resource inventory areas (WRIAs) (in Pierce): Puyallup, Nisqually, Chambers, Kitsap (incl AI). There are only pots of money that way. Consultant is currently looking at impact of rates (revenue-neutral) on specific areas. Kitsap area fees would go up. AI would be paying for Gig Harbor projects.

[AT]: Will this money go to a particular area?

[HS]: Money collected in one area goes to that area.

[DMc]: How much is their pot?

[HS]: Gig Harbor has \$5 million in bank, not spending as much there as collected so far. In general Kitsap is collecting more than spending.

[EH]: If you're collecting more and there's already 5\$M just sitting there, what happens to the money as it accumulates?

[HS]: It's sitting there earning interest to cover future problems. \$700,000 on AI is planned, substantial increase over past.

[PZ]: what's timeline on spending \$700,000?

[HS]: no timeline yet; would take 20 years to do all projects based on current revenues; staff is the limiting factor

[PZ]: \$700,000 done ten years from now may only cover half of the project

[HS]: Looking at getting land as soon as possible even if project there is way down the road

[PS]: Delight to have you come speak to us. We are paying hidden cost of surface-water retention, Riviera lots are too small so it's almost impossible to place a house except on center of lot due to filtration trenches. You mandate site development?

[HS]: Yes

[PS]: So each one of us is paying an enormous price due to filtration trenches resulting in clear cutting of lots.

[HS]: Many developers site appropriately. Not the case here?

[PS]: Protecting School House Creek from Winter storm run-off is more valuable to the Island than later on replacing the culvert because it's being choked by water.

[HS]: Flooding problem has many solutions; preferred is: (1) keeping water in the water shed, put in a retention pond to let the water where it can infiltrate into the ground. Less

preferred is: (2) detention pond where water is held and metered out at slower rate.
Finally, last resort is: (3) build bigger pipes / culverts

[PS]: Bottom too poor to sustain fish...etc. due to upstream development; am afraid of that on AI

[HS]: Have put in ponds with fences, water hold-back to prevent that. Surface water mgt focuses on correcting problems (past sins), development regulations are other side of that, burden (cost) of development is on land owner. In theory development can continue without making things worth. Reality is cumulative effect.

[PS]: Bluntly-applied process, people who won't impact vs those who would have to pay the same.

[HS]: There are exceptions available. Low-impact development; trying to put together series of tools for developers that stress minimizing impervious areas and to retain natural vegetation on the site, putting in small rain gardens, a small depression on the property where water goes and infiltrates, rather than a trench and a pipe.

[PS]: Was last PALS code best means and practices adopted?

[HS]: The way it's currently written is those are available given a special review by engineer. Need to convince regulatory agencies, Department of Ecology, that we're controlling the drainage. Rigorous review of development. Available through development engineering; let them know you're doing low-impact development

[PS]: Major impact on AI is logging that produces runoff. Has happened in Little Burien. Any involvement by you?

[HS]: Told not to get involved in that. Assumption is it will grow back. Is a hole in the system. Forest properties went to legislature in 2002 and specifically got that land to not pay fee.

[PS]: Headwaters of Chambers Creek in Lakewood where Wal-Mart is going in, don't see retention pond.

[HS]: Entire parking lot is underground detention facility. Not headwaters; goes all the way out to Graham via Lake Steilacoom. Leech creek goes into Fircrest. Lakewood is not under our purview since they're incorporated; water programs is only for unincorporated Pierce County.

[PS]: Already paying through PALS process, so adding additional taxation is additional burden.

[HS]: Disagree; that's part of cost of developing the land. Surface water mgt fees are for existing problems only.

[PS]: OK, I see the difference

[DMc]: For these projects on Anderson Island, you don't have to acquire property to do that?

[HS]: Not significant land purchases. Person for our area out of work 2 months; wasn't able to find all the details. Barbara Ann Smolko will be coming back out to AI with final draft when it's ready for public review.

[HS]: Last thing County Council asked us to do (dueling Council members) asked us to look at "regional" costs. Terry Lee, who represents this area, feels that currently only this area where harvest happens (Kitsap/Gig Harbor) is paying costs of shellfish; wants to spread costs county wide. Councilmember Bunney feels same about drainage systems levees give County-wide benefit so everybody should pay for that benefit. Question: who benefits the most? Who generates need for the service? And, who should pay? A guess is that Advisory Board will recommend to Council that lion's share of costs should stay where they are. 90%/10% is my bet on final recommendation. \$500K/year on shellfish, 2.5M/yr on river levees.

Next: continued discussions with advisory board. Scott Redman is on the board; third Thurs 5:30-8:30 in University Place at Environmental Services Building. Don't want to discuss this issue during election year; gearing for final recommendation to Council starting in Feb or March 2007. Could put us on list to get update emails, ...etc. Fees set in Jan for entire year. 2007 actions will show on taxes in '08.

[PZ]: Send our concerns to Scott Redman?

[HS]: Or make formal recommendation to my advisory board. It's an informal group. Harold.Smelt@co.pierce.wa.us

[Yolanda Nelson]: Fees collected for years, why hire consultant now?

[HS]: Looking at many changes, new services, changing collection areas, financial modeling too much for staff (engineers and environmental planners, not accountants)

[PS]: If Riviera subdivision were to ask your office for help designing storm water system to allow for leaving forests on developed land, would you help design the system and wouldn't that benefit everybody (avoid single drainage ditches)

[HS]: Individuals can buy into it, buy capacity from us. Drivers are to take care of current problems, not to build future capacity. Would have hard time prioritizing a "convenience" project.

[AT]: Make assumption that water that percolates is better than drains to lake

[HS]: Yes. Saltwater intrusion a problem

[PS]: Not everywhere.

[HS]: More and more water piped to Puget Sound.

[RA]: Thank you.

[HS]: Send email with any further questions.

Speed limit reduction request from AICTF [at 39:30 into MP3 recording]

[Bob Garmire][BG]: Sums issue from last meeting. CTF has put together letter to Mr. Zeigler, Dir of Public Works, as moved by [DMc] at May AICAB meeting. (Waits for AICAB members to read the letter)

[DL]: There's no "School" speed limit at school posted?

[BG]: No. Proposed 20 mph "when children are present" due to year-round use by children. Bit off only 3 items to not overwhelm them.

[EH]: The letter sounds OK to me. We had discussed being more specific as to where the signs would go...

[BG]: We'll let the county engineers decide all that.

[PZ]: 20 mph zone would start at the ferry and end where?

[BG]: at least 1000' from loading zone, this side of White's turn off. We know of two cars recently that didn't make it around those corners going faster than that.

[Yolanda Nelson]: what about 20 mph sign that's already there?

[BG]: That's just an amber-colored sign which is a suggested speed, not a limit. County would have to have a "reduced speed ahead" sign then the "20 mph" sign. In event of accident we would have guidelines for insurance, law enforcement for violations, ...etc.

[PZ]: Why not drop to 25 mph instead of 20 mph?

[BG]: 20 is a low suggestion; engineers will figure out appropriate amount. Suggesting 20 will more likely get them to come out. They will do radar checks, traffic counts, grading of road, visibility, ...etc.

[JS]: Moves to support the letter

[DMc]: Seconds the motion

[BG]: Have already sent the letter to Mr. Zeigler. AICAB needs to send a letter endorsing the CTF's request. Also sent copy to Lt. Gooch and deputy Hoffman to make same appeal. They have expressed concerns to [BG] that limit there needs to be reduced.

[PS]: At Interlaken, speed limit is now 25mph, how does 20mph help anything. Am opposed to changing law by putting up sign and new sign will just be different-colored warning sign, in effect. We don't have accidents; a few people running off the road, but not accidents. Don't want to do anything on island where people are not required to take responsibilities for their own actions. That's an important island value.

[DL]: in school area we should do what all other school areas do.

[PS]: It's impossible to go fast around the school because we all know the school is there.

[PZ]: lots of new people coming to island, need to account for that. 20mph is slow, some older cars need to get a run at that bend coming off the island.

[BG]: That's going up the hill. Last week someone cited going 65mph heading for ferry.

[PS]: He won't be reading the sign and slowing down

[BG]: Agree, but office has more authority to do something (verbal or written violation)

[DL]: What is third?

[BG]: Interlaken, during boating season. Lots of people/children run across from parking lot to boat launch.

[DL]: Marshall Ivey, who monitored Lake Florence boat launch last summer, last year was shocked how fast people were driving through there based on speed-check sign that was there.

[BG]: Want to remind people

[JS]: Hard on Mathews to maintain speed at or below 25mph. Worst culprits are fire dept on response to call.

[DL]: What is Crime Task Force's recommendation for Interlaken?

[BG]: leave up to engineers. Signage: children present warning, at least a speed limit sign closer to there. Very few signs on island. 2 on Lake Josephine

[RA]: Would support this letter as is

[BG]: Engineers will decide appropriate action

[Vote recorded]: 7 aye, 1 no

[DMc]: How are we going to support that?

[EH]: Will draft it and send to AICAB for review first.

[DMc]: state considered and voted on at this meeting, as strong as possible.

Ferry Report:

[DL]: ([CH] is at Department of Ecology project in E. Wa). County rec'd 2 bids for AI ferry-terminal work, low one at \$1.6M 200K more than anticipated. Contract will be signed in a few weeks; work will be done off-site, late Sept installation with plenty of time to prepare. One issue brought up is giving preferential loading for people with medical condition to get on within a certain amount of time of a doctor's appointment. Also, ferry committee has received requests from several people that there be an 11:00 last ferry on either Friday or Saturday night. May meeting report is on-line.

[PS]: asks [DMc] if he is content with committee's work... should this island survey be shelved until Nov?

[DMc]: not aware of that

[DMc]: Ah, you missed the last meeting

[PZ]: Louise Bray to get back to it

[PS]: internal restructure work, so she has to sit around until that's settled. Nothing happens on survey/AICAB until then (Oct/Nov)

[DL]: LB Only hired for short time

[PS]: So we may miss out on her services

[RA]: When is next county ferry committee meeting?

[DL]: August (quarterly)

[PS]: (Addressing [DMc]) your concerns about having a survey that had public input and is well-thought-out will not be realized unless November is soon enough.

[DMc]: Won't make July meeting, hopefully ferry committee will be represented at that to deal with this. Had anticipated survey public meetings would occur this summer.

[PS]: Had expected this meeting to be survey meeting.

[DMc]: Need to go ahead with it without County's involvement

[JS]: Several obstacles for LB, hire consultant to do her job, reorganization

[PS]: Thought we could do public-input / town hall to make her job easy. Why aren't we being used by County for this? Should schedule town hall meeting. July meeting would work; need someone to do the work. CH not interested in the survey is my impression.

[PZ]: Thought survey was result of public thought? Create survey after we get public input.

[JS]: Figure out main issues to get public input.

[PS]: DMc: give us input, then DL and I will work on this.

[DMc]: Will send list of issues to AICAB members.

[DL]: This is the right meeting for this due to mailings for quarterly meeting.

[PS]: for the record: am concerned paying \$1.6M for hydraulically-operated float on exposed North shore of AI is not good expenditure of our money; will sink like last one.

[AT]: Same float as Ketron?

[PS]: Yes, but they face a different way. We face right up to narrows

[PZ]: If [DMc] starts the list and sends it to us, we can all give input and will ask Elmer for thoughts that might be discussed at the meeting.

[DL]: please set definite time frame for this. Need to make flyers...etc. No more than two weeks from today. Put a few issues on the flyer to get people interested.

[BH]: ferry tickets issue

[DMc]: will ferry committee run that part of the meeting?

[PZ]: Yes, and they should all be there since they have all the information.

[PS]: Next fare increase in two years?

[EH]: in 1.5 years, start of 2008.

[PZ]: Will send thoughts to [DMc]

[Yolanda Nelson]: before rates changed had bought a lot of tickets in advance and lady said to save them (senior tickets) until fall

[Pat Lowe]: Was told the same thing, but if they raise the rate again you should be able to turn it in, pay the difference, and use it.

[Bernice Hundis]: Community Club sells ferry tickets on island to senior citizens

[JS]: Jeff at store said they haven't started on the new machine; not sure when that will be installed.

Community Planning Board:

[DL]: Mike Erkkinen, Senior Planner of Planning and Land Services, is setting up initial meeting with members: Randy Anderson [RA], Richard Anderson, Chuck Hinds [CH], Debbie Lowe [DL], Peter Seto [PS], Kathleen Maddox, David McGoldrick [DMc], Doran Slater, George Smith, Edgar Stephenson, James Stewart, Anthony Tognazzini [AT]. 9 Anderson Islanders + 1 open spot, 3 Ketron. July 8th is the initial meeting.

[Bernice Hundis]: 8th is OK for CC. 10am-5PM.

[DL]: Mike Erkkinen said they will talk at the initial meeting about filling the last spot.

[AT]: Someone on island not received a response yet.

Letter to AICAB to County Executive [at 1:19:31 into MP3 recording]

[PS]: have received no response (to original email). Perhaps we should reiterate the urgency?

[DL]: sent brief one yesterday in hard copy to him to follow up on this.

[PS]: (reads letter which can be read at:

http://www.aicab.org/documents/PierceCounty/2006/correspondence/20060425_Peter'sLetterToLadenburg.pdf)

[JS]: Question of protocol. Did we see this letter?

[DL]: no, but follows motion from April meeting. That is covered in the minutes.

[AT]: we didn't discuss walk-ons in 1st paragraph

[Bernice Hundis]: That was discussed.

[PS]: I think it reflects the discussion, and was meant to smooth some roughed feathers.

[DL]: all three points were covered in that meeting.

[PS]: Last paragraph, we were misinformed, but it turns out we will have to pay for Gig Harbor water improvements.

[DL]: Will forward any reply we get on to AICAB

[PS]: we didn't agree to have McNeil share the lot as well. Can't limit it to AI.

[JS]: Ketron people could use it

[PZ]: Put up Ketron-only sign, three spaces.

[PS]: Free parking on AI VS. non in Steilacoom is odd

[PZ]: Not in County's best interest to reduce income.

[EH]: not sure of effect; might increase traffic and overall money if development increased as a result

[RA]: any challenge of Ketron's right to ferry service?

[DMc]: will be in community plan discussion

New Business:

[none]

From the Floor:

[Yolanda Nelson]: nobody is here from road department, but Mr. Bair two meetings ago asked for stop sign at Edgewood Dr and Otso Pt. There is one on Camus but not right next to it on Otso. Not sure why, and have not received a response.

[RA]: Attended AIA meeting; John is chair of their committee. There is a new gripe form offered by County for things like this. That puts paper in county Roads commission hands and they are obligated to respond. AICAB has no road committee; that's AIA's committee.

[Yolanda Nelson]: Groups on the island can't seem to work together. Why is this meeting so unattended?

[Bernice]: Community Club has dropped the Over-80 party next year. Maybe island is too diluted because lots of groups doing lots of things.

[PZ]: if it's topical, people will show if interested. Addresses [PS]: when will box get done for posting at store?

[PS]: it's in the works.

[DL]: set-up of chairs and tables before meetings: [AT] and [TH] still have one more to do (3 total).

Meeting adjourned at 9:38