

Board's Official Business

Highlights from Monday's Commissioner Meeting

March 8, 2011

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The following comments were made by citizens in attendance at the meeting and reflect their personal opinions:

- The Brinnon Motel is not operating and is impacting other businesses such as restaurants that have laid off staff. The County was urged to put out the RFP for the operation of the motel as soon as possible.
- The DOE is wrong in not allowing the County to place a ban on net pens. Whatcom County passed their SMP with a net pen ban.
- Net pens cause a stressed environment on the sea bottom where they are placed.
- A member of the Committee that worked on the LASMP reported that the committee all agreed that net pens should be banned in Jefferson County and since Whatcom County has banned them it doesn't make sense that DOE won't allow Jefferson County the same ban.
- Mitigation will not contain or stop the pollution that is caused by net pens and they should be banned.
- A representative of the Jefferson County Sportsman's Association invited the Board and the Public to the "First Shots Event" which is an introduction to shooting sports on March 26, 2011 at 10 a.m.
- The State had no idea of the impact of fish farms on the environment when the Shoreline Management Act was adopted and the Board was encouraged to insist that the language of the SMP not allow fish farms.
- The people making comments on the SMP today should be told that if the Board doesn't have a hearing on these issues they won't be able to consider the comments and a suggestion was made that the Board confer with their legal counsel about the content allowed in this comment period.
- Fuel costs \$9/gallon in England and the price of gas keeps rising here and may be \$4/gallon by the tourist season which will drastically effect the tourist trade here.
- A man that works for a company that grows salmon in Washington State took issue with comments about foreign ownership of net pen businesses because they provide jobs in this country and all of the issues on net

pen aquaculture were reviewed several years ago and it was found that the risks are not great.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Board approved all of the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

AGREEMENT: Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 17 Water Availability, Supply and Demand Assessment; Public Utility District (PUD) #1

Advisory Board Appointment: Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee, Representing Recreational - Boater; Term Expires March 7, 2015; Shelby Smith

Payment of Jefferson County Vouchers/Warrants Dated February 28, 2011 Totaling \$199,048.95

COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING SESSION:

The Commissioners each provided updates on the following items:

Chairman Austin is in Washington DC representing the County at the National Association of Counties meeting. The trip costs are paid through a federal grant.

Commissioner Johnson noted that there is a federal legislative proposal to put together a group of agriculture representatives to come up with a new agriculture program. The gravel extraction tax legislation has not moved out of the Ways and Means Committee. The septic system repair loan program is waiting for capital funding of \$1.5 million from the State. Commissioner Sullivan reported that he was on a conference call with the Coastal Counties ferry caucus last week. A letter and a number of bills have gone forward to the legislature about the ferry system. There doesn't seem to be support for a separate ferry district at this time.

Philip Morley noted that the County will be issuing an RFP for the Brinnon Motel in the near future.

Bid Opening: Official County Newspaper:

The Board asked staff to review and make a recommendation for bid award between the bids received from the Peninsula Daily News and the Jefferson County/Port Townsend Leader.