Commissioner Comments and Action

Commissioner Shelton heard a lot of talk about the powers and what a mosquito control district could and could not do; unfortunately the mosquito control district is embedded in state law and if there were some way the County could design its own, it would probably make it far more palatable than designed in RCW. In relation to the West Nile virus, the Commissioners do expect County Health Department officials to bring forth issues that are of concern and present those to the Board. One of the reasons he voted to hold this public hearing was to hear what the public had to say about the formation of a mosquito control district. Had that not occurred the Commissioners would not know other than those who commented previously whether this was something the public by and large supported or not. In addition to all the comments heard today, the Board received a number of e-mails from people opposed to the formation of such a district. Those who testified today in favor of a mosquito control district were the first he had heard. To his knowledge almost 100% of the e-mail messages have been opposed to a mosquito control district. West Nile virus is an emerging pubic health problem; whether it emerges to be a significant problem or of greater significance than now time will tell. In his opinion at this particular time he did not support a mosquito control district, but he pointed out that did not mean if the public health problem emerges as a significant problem in Island County that he would not be willing to revisit the issue. Once appointed the mosquito control district could run the district but he had to believe that people appointed would be sensitive to the fact that the spaying of pesticide was not an effective way to control mosquitoes. That goes against the public health model because it is all about prevention. Statistically at this point it does not appear too likely there will be someone in the county die from West Nile virus.

Commissioner Byrd stated that mosquitoes are a fact of life. There are some pockets in Island County that have a severe problem, but it is not known what those are at this point and probably need to do more surveillance to find out what that problem might be. He thought West Nile virus was here to stay and that we probably needed to get a better handle on what kind of problem is here. The machine being used on Camano Island attracts mosquitoes and then those are sent to the state for analysis, with a read out as far as what kind mosquito and if it is a carrier of West Nile virus. Something like that would be of great benefit to the County to at least know what we are dealing with. It is a shame to wait to find out if more people die before doing something but at this point he did not feel the risk was that great and there needs to be more information about forming a district.

Commissioner McDowell thought it way too early even if the Commissioners agreed to put it on the ballot right now. With statistics, he could not believe the public would vote for it at this point. This is something that should be watched; see what happens on the East Coast or where the virus is increasing the fastest and if it becomes a real public health threat then put the issue on the ballot. The issue on the ballot would have to get a yes vote and he could not believe at this point in time it would ever get yes vote.

Public Hearing concluded; Resolution not adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on April 7, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. [March 31st is a 5th Monday and there is no regularly scheduled meeting].

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

William J. Byrd, Member

ABSENT WHEN SIGNED
Mike Shelton, Member

BOARD OF CO. COMMISSIONERS EST ISLAND COUNTY 1853 WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at Noon in the Island County Courthouse Administration Building, 1 N. E. 7th Street, Room #116, Coupeville, Wa.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow County Commissioners' participation in a joint Council of Governments meeting with Elected Officials from Island County, Cities of Oak Harbor and Langley, Town of Coupeville, and Port Districts. The main topics of the meeting were to include: Proposed interlocal agreement for COG; Proposed by-laws for COG; Discussion: use of new $10.00 Document Recording Surcharge for low-income housing projects – interlocal agreement; and Legislative Update and other issues of mutual interest and concern.

Attendance:

Island County Commissioners:
Mike Shelton, Chairman
Wm. L. McDowell, Member
William J. Byrd, Member
Lloyd Furman, Mayor, City of Langley
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Ed Van Patten, Port of Coupeville

Proposed Interlocal agreement and proposed by-laws for COG

The proposed interlocal agreement and proposed by-laws for the Council of Governments were not discussed at this meeting.

Use of New $10.00 Document Recording Surcharge For Low Income Housing Projects

Discussed use of the new $10.00 document recording surcharge for low income housing projects and an interlocal agreement that would be required between the County, Town, and Cities. The group approved the concept outlined in a letter dated 1/30/03 from Steve Gulliford, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Island County, which was a 25/75% split of use of money: 25% operating costs and 75% for long term capital costs. Chairman McDowell will write Mr. Gulliford to request that he draft a proposed interlocal agreement between the County, Cities and Town, as required under HB2060, based on that concept for future review and discussion.

Other Items of Mutual Concern

City of Langley is satisfied with the progress the Legislature is making with regard to proposed bills [SB 5409 and SHB 1231] to address the issues that rendered the petition method of annexation unconstitutional. The City of Langley therefore requested the Board of Island County Commissioners hold on any further action for appointing a local boundary review board.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on April 7, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

BOARD OF CO. COMMISSIONERS EST ISLAND COUNTY 1853 WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

William J. Byrd, Member

ABSENT WHEN SIGNED
Mike Shelton, Member

ATTEST: Elaine Marlow
Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board