



CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
Sedro-Woolley Municipal Building  
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Mike Anderson  
Mayor

July 1, 2008

Sharon Dillon, Ken Dahlstedt, Don Munks  
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Will Honea  
June 30, 2008 memo re: "County Rationale for Intervention in Janicki LUPA Appeal"

Dear Commissioners:

Here we go again. Attached is a memo sent by your own Will Honea to the cities and towns dated June 30, 2008. Honea's memo includes a number of allegations including, "serious ethical and legal concerns" about S-W officials that are plainly and obviously false. It appears that Honea is once again speaking for Skagit County, representing the policies of the commissioners and doing so in a manner that is destructive to the limited trust that remains between Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County. Does Honea speak for you? If not, who does Honea represent?

I have done my best to turn the other cheek to the repetitive, unfounded and inaccurate attacks from Honea. We have endured email after email from Honea without comment. I will not, however, let yesterday's memo stand without comment. My comments follow in a myth vs. fact format:

Honea says:

Mayor Anderson and Supervisor/Attorney Berg should not talk to the press; "...Berg and Anderson made numerous statements and arguments that are plainly inconsistent with the interlocal agreement establishing the Governance Board."

Reality:

We are fortunate in Skagit County to have multiple sources of news. Kirk Tollefson covers S-W City Council meetings and on June 25<sup>th</sup>, following our regularly scheduled Council meeting, he asked about the Garbage Board. Eron and I responded accurately and honestly. We believe in open government; indeed, the people of Skagit County do not have the time to attend every meeting and the press serves a vital public interest in sharing our work. We do not need Will Honea's permission to speak the truth. Informing the public about policies impacting the community is something we believe is positive. Here is the story:

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<http://www.kbrcradio.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/solidwaste625.MP3>. If you listen to it you'll hear that we said nothing that would cause any harm to the board's work and neither did Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris who was interviewed but not attacked by Honea in his memo.

Honea says:

“Sedro-Woolley takes the position that the Governance Board has no authority to weigh in on Sedro-Woolley's plan to site the Deluxe facility in Sedro-Woolley”.

Reality:

False. This is another of Honea's unsubstantiated claims. Furthermore, Sedro-Woolley has no plan to “site Deluxe in Sedro-Woolley”. Sedro-Woolley has the legal obligation to process a building permit application in accordance with the law through a quasi-judicial process. The SWSGB has the authority to grant a system operator agreement – Sedro-Woolley does not. Skagit County has the authority to grant a solid waste handling permit – Sedro-Woolley does not. At no time has Sedro-Woolley ever suggested that it has the authority to grant a solid waste handling permit or enter into a system operator agreement while married to the County in the interlocal that binds us together until 2013.

Honea says:

“Sedro-Woolley's hoped for revenue will necessarily come at the financial expense of every other city and town”.

Reality:

False and illogical. In the event Deluxe gets a building permit from S-W, a solid waste handling permit from Skagit County and a system operator agreement from the SWSGB, it will have convinced the super majority of garbage board members that its proposal is a good idea. I would suggest that Deluxe will need to convince a super majority of members that it will both increase recycling and decrease tipping fees for it to make sense. Why would the members of the SWSGB, including S-W, vote for a proposal that costs our ratepayers more money?

I think Skagit County's wasteful use of \$240,000.00 in system funds for pointless litigation under Honea's direction is what is costing our ratepayers money. S-W represents about 10% of the flow to the County, we would rather have \$24,000.00 to spend on our developing food waste recycling program than to share in Honea's expensive lawsuits

Honea says:

“With the foregoing in mind, Sedro-Woolley hopes to obtain a 6% utility tax on Deluxe’s gross receipts.”

Reality:

Ordinance 1499-05 establishes the City’s utility tax at 2%. There is no question that in the event Deluxe locates in S-W, obtains a building permit, a solid waste handling permit and negotiates a system operator agreement, S-W would hope to derive some much needed economic stimulus from Deluxe’s operations. If there are two transfer stations in Skagit County in the future, I would think the marketplace would ensure that the ratepayers get the competitive advantages – Deluxe might pay a tax not levied at the other facility, but Deluxe might also be significantly more efficient at commoditizing MSW. Who knows, I don’t have the same predictive powers as Honea appears to have and I don’t see our communications as being productive when filled with false assumptions about other peoples’ motives.

Honea says:

“As discussed further below, Sedro-Woolley’s efforts will also likely have the effect of foreclosing various options and alternatives this Governance Board should rightly have the opportunity to consider.”

“Sedro-Woolley is attempting to pre-decide the decision it contractually promised to entrust to the Solid Waste System Governance Board.”

Reality:

The City of Sedro-Woolley is processing a **BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION**. What exactly does Skagit County government want us to do? Again, Sedro-Woolley does not issue solid waste handling permits or grant system operator agreements. Honea argues that S-W is putting the cart before the horse by processing a land use permit application. Please recall that Skagit County **required** Deluxe to obtain a land use permit before it would accept Deluxe’s application for a system operator agreement. Deluxe is doing exactly what Skagit County asked it to do; Sedro-Woolley is doing exactly what the law requires us to do.

Honea says:

“...it is plainly evident that Sedro-Woolley officials guided Deluxe to the site across the street from the Sedro-Woolley High School, and have been working ever since to promote the Deluxe facility using methods that raise serious ethical and legal concerns.”

Reality:

False. Sedro-Woolley officials did not guide Deluxe to any site and certainly not to that site. Any siting efforts that we participated in encouraged Deluxe to select a site further away from the school. Honea then claims that an email exchange from October of 2007 establishes some sort of illegal activity. I do not appreciate his unfounded allegations or his threat to attempt to stir up litigation with the Weyerhaeuser Corporation. Please provide me with copies of any correspondence of any nature between Skagit County officials/employees and the Weyerhaeuser Corporation related to this topic. I ask for this as a courtesy, but if required, please accept this as a request under RCW 42.56.

In advance of the Council adopting Ordinance 1599-08 which authorized condemnation of the old James Young and Sterling highway ROW, Eron talked with the property owner (Weyerhaeuser's representative was Tonya Hebert) and both of the prospective buyers of the property. As Commissioner Dillon is well aware, this road project was approved by Mayor Dillon and the City Council as part of our 2005 Transportation Plan. As the City was moving forward with reconnecting that arterial link, it seemed prudent to talk with the property owner and potential buyers about our intentions. Does Skagit County think we should have handled that differently?

Honea says:

“We would submit that the desire to divert a System-wide local governmental assessment to Sedro-Woolley's coffers provides the only logical explanation thus far furnished for the extreme lengths to which Sedro-Woolley officials have gone to promote the Deluxe facility at a proposed location mere feet from the Sedro-Woolley High School, in the face of overwhelming opposition from city residents.”

Reality:

The only person “furnishing” this explanation is Skagit County Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Honea. Again, the City of Sedro-Woolley has processed a building permit application in accordance with the legal requirements imposed upon the City. The City has not done anything out of the ordinary with regard to Deluxe and its application. What are the “extreme lengths” the County refers to? What is the County's interest in using inflammatory language?

Following past memos, letters and emails from Honea, you three have apologized to me. You indicated that his conduct was not a true representation of the County and you even indicated to me that you were working with the elected prosecutor to address this problem. Nothing has changed. The problem is worse than ever.

Now the County is directly attacking the City of Sedro-Woolley in memos and emails and in correspondence to the press, attempting to intervene in a local land use appeal without any authorization as required by RCW 36.01.030 in an open public meeting, and when you read the memos together with the assurances from the County about its intent, it is clear that something doesn't add up. When I talk to you on the phone or in person (I talked with both Sharon and Don last week), I hear one thing – when Honea communicates with us, I hear something quite different. Will you help pay our legal costs for your frolic into a city land use action?

Day after day, our governments work together. Currently, we are partners on a sidewalk project, a road project, we help pay for your river gauges, and we are spending a great deal of time assisting you with the important issue of fixing the ALS service and participating in flood control issues, you provide us with email and technical support, we share an interest in parks, trails and recreation programs, your road crews help our road crew, etc. Our partnership on these issues of importance to everyone in Skagit County, and the long-term success of County-wide projects hinges on our interactions. We can interact like professionals with the basic assumption that we are all here for the right reasons, trying to help people for the future, which is how I approach you in my interactions, or you can take the Honea approach.

The scorched earth campaign the County has begun in an effort to damage Sedro-Woolley's reputation hurts. When Skagit County's officials speak, people believe what they have to say regardless of whether they are speaking the truth. Honea's attitude is that "you are either with me or against me" and the result is when a member asks a question or engages in policy debate, Honea's immediate blistering emails and memos close those doors. Just look at the emails and memos from Honea yesterday to Burlington City Attorney Scott Thomas. We are an important part of the community in Skagit County and we need your support and assistance – not a string of damaging, inaccurate and inflammatory emails, letters and memos. I am very disappointed that you continue to allow these tactics to speak for Skagit County.

**My request to you is simple. If Honea speaks for Skagit County, then I want to hear directly from my elected commissioners what you are trying to accomplish from these memos – especially yesterday's memo. If Honea does not speak for Skagit County, then please take immediate measures to see that memos such as this one do not appear above the signature of a County employee in the future.**

This is Loggerodeo week in Sedro-Woolley. We are very busy preparing for the celebrations and the big parade on Friday. Maybe Skagit County should come and be a part of this great celebration of community rather than focusing the power and resources of the County government on harming Sedro-Woolley. Let's collaborate on extending the Cascade Trail through S-W. Let's work together to develop ball fields at Northern State. Let's do something that actually makes a difference for the people we represent.

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I have not yet given up hope that we can work together, but it's hard to imagine how that will happen if we are repeatedly getting Honeaed. I would appreciate a prompt response to my request.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF SEDRO WOOLLEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Anderson", written over the typed name below.

Mike Anderson, Mayor

cc: SWSGB Members  
City Council