

Board of Health Record Of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: August 19, 2025

The Skagit County Board of Health met in regular session on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, with Chair Peter Browning, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present. Commissioner Ron Wesen's absence was excused.

I. [CALL TO ORDER:](#)

Chair Browning called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. [AGENDA:](#)

a) [10:00 a.m. Board of Health Approval of Record of Proceedings](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Record of the Proceedings for June 10, 2025 and July 28, 2025. Chair Browning seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Ron Wesen's absence was excused.

1. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 **(Approved)**

2. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, July 28, 2025 **(Approved)**

b) [10:05 a.m. Public Health Director Remarks](#)

Public Health Director Keith Higman commented on Governor Bob Ferguson's appointment of Dennis Worsham as the state's next Secretary of Health, the North Star meeting on September 9, 2025, taking place at the City of Mount Vernon Library Commons, and Population Health Trust's Powerful Partnership event on October 2, 2025, taking place at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon.

c) [10:10 a.m. Population Health Trust Appointments:](#)

Public Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided information about new members joining the Population Health Trust Community Health Advisory Board (PHT): Jeremy Haitt with the Skagit Valley Boys and Girls Club, Alex Gee with Skagit County Public Health, and Lindsay Lopes with Behavioral Health, North Sound BH-ASO. She also provided information about the renewal of members, and members that were leaving the PHT Board.

Discussion ensued about the work the PHT Board did and how their work provided guidance to the Board of Health.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Resolution confirming community members to serve on the Population Health Trust Community Advisory Committee for a three-year term starting on August 19, 2025 and expiring on August 19, 2028. **(Resolution No. R20250189)** Chair Browning seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Commissioner Ron Wesen's absence was excused.

d) [10:15 a.m. Presentation: Skagit County Public Health Emergency Communications Plan](#)

Community Health Coordinator Karsyn Hansen presented the Skagit County Public Health Emergency Communications Plan (Plan). Ms. Hansen said that the purpose of the Plan was to provide effective internal and external communications guidance in response to an incident or event that threatened the health of residents of Skagit County. She said that effective communication was essential to protect public health during emergencies.

Ms. Hansen mentioned that the Plan was reviewed and updated at least once every other year, and that it was maintained by Skagit County Public Health. This year's update included Centers for Disease Control (CDC) crisis risk communications principles, plain language guidelines, clarification around roles and responsibilities, communications during an emergency, and risk communications activities.

Discussion ensued about communicating public health information throughout the county.

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Link to Skagit County Public Health Emergency Communications Plan:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/08182025.zip>

e) [10:40 a.m. Health Officer Update](#)

Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand commented on the bat that was found in Skagit County that tested positive for the rabies virus, and the medical treatment for rabies. He reminded everyone not to touch or handle wild animals, especially bats.

f) [10:45 a.m. Public Comment](#)

None provided.

III. [ADJOURNMENT:](#)

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 10:50 a.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

BOARD OF HEALTH SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Peter Browning, Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Health

Ron Wesen, Commissioner