

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003**

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.                      Discussion and Possible Action – An Interim Ordinance Amending Portions of Skagit County Code (SCC) Chapter 14.04, Definitions and SCC Chapter 14.16, Zoning Ordinance Including Sections 14.16.160, Natural Resource Industrial, 14.16.320 Rural Reserve, 14.16.400 Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands, and Adopting a New Section 14.16.865, Agricultural Processing Facility Performance Standards, to Clarify the Allowances for Agriculturally Related Permitted and Accessory Uses in the Rural Reserve and Natural Resource Industrial Zoning Districts

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, February 26, 2003, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson, and Don Munks present.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – AN INTERIM ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF SKAGIT COUNTY CODE (SCC) CHAPTER 14.04, DEFINITIONS AND SCC CHAPTER 14.16, ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUDING SECTIONS 14.16.160, NATURAL RESOURCE INDUSTRIAL, 14.16.320 RURAL RESERVE, 14.16.400 AGRICULTURAL-NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS, AND ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 14.16.865, AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING FACILITY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, TO CLARIFY THE ALLOWANCES FOR AGRICULTURALLY RELATED PERMITTED AND ACCESSORY USES IN THE RURAL RESERVE AND NATURAL RESOURCE INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS.**

Gary Christensen, Interim Planning and Permit Center Director, reviewed a proposed interim ordinance, which would amend sections of Skagit County Code in addition to adopting a new section of the Code. The interim ordinance adds clarity to allowed uses of rural reserve and natural resource industrial lands. It also adds specific language regarding agricultural processing facilities and activities associated with tourism that promote local agriculture.

The Board of Commissioners determined that the definition of “agricultural accessory uses” is incomplete with regard to the full intent of the goals and objectives articulated in the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan and the Growth Management Act.

Chairman Dahlstedt stated that the existing code provisions do not adequately address the realities of agriculture today. To remain economically viable, farm owners and operators must be in a position to process, market, and add value to their product. He added that farmers have suffered from the loss of local food processors in recent years. For agriculture to prosper, they need the ability to create their own value-added food processing facilities.

A lengthy discussion ensued at which time several small corrections were made to the ordinance. It will be valid for six months and during that time, a Public Hearing will be conducted by the Skagit County Planning Commission. Recommendations will then be submitted to the Board prior to permanent adoption.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to adopt the interim ordinance, as outlined by Mr. Christensen. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Ordinance No. 020030006)**

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**ADJOURNMENT.**

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

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Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners