

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development - Gary Christensen, Director:

Gary Christensen informed the Commissioners that there would be one miscellaneous item to discuss regarding the Envision Skagit 2060 project which Senior Planner Kirk Johnson would bring forward.

1. Update on Current Planning Permitting and Land Use Processes

Senior Planner/Team Supervisor Brandon Black informed the Commissioners that he supervised the "current planning" section of the department and that they work with Skagit County Code, Title 14 – Unified Development, which pertains to current development regulations in place including zoning, land divisions, variance requests, special use permits and other similar work. Mr. Black stated that by giving a brief overview of the review process, the Commissioners and public could be better informed of the current planning process.

Mr. Black introduced his team: Senior Planners Marge Swint and Grace Roeder, Associate Planner Michele Szafran, and Planning Coordinator Tawnee Bosman. He stated that these are the people citizens meet with when they would like to do something with their property. Mr. Black described each of their job duties and said that they have 96 combined years of dedicated work experience for Skagit County.

Mr. Black described the types of items they review and many of the different steps involved in answering citizens questions. Mr. Black stressed the importance of pre-development meetings and pre-application meetings and stated that these meetings are intended to answer the applicants' questions as well as determine the project's feasibility. Mr. Black stated that the pre-development meeting is free and that there is a fee for the pre-application meeting, but that the pre-application meeting is helpful when an applicant wants to be sure to move their project through the permitting process faster. Mr. Black presented a flow chart to the Commissioners and described the

somewhat complicated procedures which make up the Level One Administrative Review Process. He pointed out that each step has a deadline and that there were many variables which could change the flow of the application and either speed it up or slow it down which is why it is difficult to tell applicants how long their permit will take.

Commissioner Dillon said that she reviewed the flow chart and calculated that it could take 134 to 448 days for the final decision on an application.

Chairman Wesen said that he understood that applicants need to be as clear and complete as possible when filling out their application or speaking to staff at Planning and Development Services so that they can get the answers they need regarding their property.

Mr. Black agreed with the Commissioners and pointed out that not all costs and regulations are set by Skagit County, but that many are imposed by the State of Washington.

Mr. Christensen stated that approximately five years ago an outside agency assessed Planning and Development Services Department's process to review applications and that they determined that the best way to have a timely permit is to submit a completed application.

## 2. Miscellaneous

Senior Planner/Team Leader Kirk Johnson was present to update the Commissioners on the Envision Skagit 2060 project. He stated that the draft recommendations will be shared with them on Thursday, June 9, 2011, and that the committee is seeking comments on the draft recommendations.

Mr. Johnson stated that the committee has held 17 meetings since September 2010 and have spent over 100 hours on the project. Mr. Johnson said that the committee is made up of very thoughtful and independent people. Mr. Johnson paid no merit to a recent claim that suggested their proposed policies were being driven by outside, independent forces. Mr. Johnson ended by acknowledging all the members for their hard work.

Commissioner Dillon said that she was impressed by the committee's efforts to solicit community input.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said he was impressed by the group of individuals who have worked diligently in an open process to carefully plan for future growth. Chairman Wesen thanked everyone for all of the time spent on the project planning for Skagit County's future growth and development. Chairman Wesen quoted Jim Meyer and said, "If you don't look through the mist and clouds, then you're not able to see where you're going."

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:32 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Recognition of Leadership Skagit Group - Sedro-Woolley Senior Garden Project

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:35 a.m.

Director of Community Services Jennifer Kingsley was present to recognize the Leadership Skagit Team, Skagit Seven, for their work on the Victory Garden at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. Ms. Kingsley shared a PowerPoint which showed the steps and collaboration involved in creating the raised flower boxes. Ms. Kingsley discussed the benefits that this project will have for seniors at the senior center for years to come and thanked Skagit Seven for all of their hard work. Director of the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center Ellen Palmer also thanked the Leadership Skagit Team, Skagit Seven, for their work on the project and stated that they were a pleasure to work with and helped bring recognition to the building with their functional, beautiful project.

Resource Manager at Skagit County Community Services Bob Hicks said that he was impressed with the team's planning skills and hard work and that they were able to bring together individuals and companies from the community who contributed towards the project.

Skagit Seven team member Karen Kipling read a letter of thanks to all of the partners within the community that donated time and or money towards the project and she emphasized how each donation, large and small, greatly helped this project.

The Commissioners all thanked the Leadership Skagit Team, Skagit Seven for their project and Commissioner Dillon read and presented the Skagit Seven team with a certificate of appreciation.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:00 am.

- c) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Joline Bettendorf of Mount Vernon was present and expressed her concerns regarding the upcoming recommendations from the Envision Skagit 2060 project.

Ms. Bettendorf stated that she attended every meeting and became alarmed when she realized the direction the committee was going and did not believe that the committee has received well-rounded presentations and concerns regarding what Skagit County should look like in 50 years. Ms. Bettendorf brought a document that she is hoping to have published and she discussed three major concerns: only one approach to future growth was being explored, no one is questioning the plan which "must be put into action or we are doomed", and each presentation the committee attended came from firms who build large communities. Ms. Bettendorf believed that special interests were steering the committee and that they did not receive enough public comment to move forward. She asked the Commissioners to please read her letter carefully.

- d) \*1:30 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Anacortes Ferry Dock Rehabilitation and

Guemes Island Ferry Dock Repair - Project Completion (500 I Avenue, Anacortes)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:36 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board