

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 9:30 a.m. and excused Chairman Wesen's absence due to a meeting he was attending on Whidbey Island.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Dahlstedt led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

- a) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Washington State University Extension - Kay Haaland, Director:

1. Program Presentation

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Education Director Don McMoran stated that the presentation would be focused on the center's outreach to underserved audiences.

Adult Program Coordinator Anne Merritt shared information with the Commissioners about the program: Ideas for Living, which teaches life skills to adults with the help of volunteers. Ms. Merritt said that the program is unique to Skagit County and was established in 1993. 10 of the 15 classes are offered in Spanish and 24 organizations utilize their services. Ms. Merritt stated that the cost for running Ideas for Living was almost nothing since volunteers are utilized to provide the lessons, and classes are held at locations which do not charge room service fees. Ms. Merritt is the only part-time coordinator for the program and she is paid from funds received from United Way and other grants. Ms. Merritt stated that 2,500 adults participated in 176 life skills classes in 2010 and that participants have asked for more classes on time management, parenting, communicating, and family relationships. Ms. Merritt said that there would be training sessions offered in the fall for new facilitators.

Sarita Role-Schaffer updated the Commissioners on the Latino Farming Program and Viva Farms. Ms. Role-Schaffer stated that the Latino Farming Program Offered bi-lingual agricultural entrepreneurship and business planning courses as well as hands-on classes at farms. Ms. Role-Schaffer stated that she was hoping to expand their farm to farmer tours.

Ms. Role-Schaffer said that the Viva Farms Incubator Program is the stepping stone for many graduates of the Farming Program to begin their business in Skagit Valley. She reported that the Viva Farms Highway 20 and Higgins Fresh Market stand would be opening in one week and that it would be open seven days a week offering

fresh, local food. Ms. Role-Schaffer also stated that the Viva Farms CSA Program was doing well. CSA Shareholder's get one box of produce each week and that it was an important way to invest in farming, the environment, your health, and your local economy. The cost starts as low at \$250 and it supports 30 different farms. To sign up for a CSA, people can email [sarita@growfood.org](mailto:sarita@growfood.org), visit [www.VivaFarms.org](http://www.VivaFarms.org) or call the Skagit County WSU Extension Office at 360-428-4270. Ms. Role-Schaffer stated that they could still take late CSA shareholders this season and that in order to deliver directly to a workplace, they only needed 5 people to sign up.

Commissioner Dahlstedt and Ms. Role-Schaffer discussed Viva Farms CSA and their partnering and competitiveness with other Skagit County farms.

Ms. Role-Schaffer pointed out that all shareholders of this season's CSA, except for one, were first time participants. She said that Viva Farms did not want to take shareholders from other farms and that they hoped Skagitians would demand that local products from Skagit County be sold at the local grocery stores.

Don McMoran informed the Commissioners that he recently applied for tenure and he said the presentation could be watched at <http://breeze.wsu.edu/p11936232/>

Mr. McMoran said that he has had farmers approach him who have shared their ideas of wanting to see more about agriculture on the Skagit 21 station. Mr. McMoran stated that WSU Skagit County Extension will be producing a video with the help of Narin Munkhong and they wanted to request the use of Skagit 21's video editing equipment. Narin Munkhong submitted a letter to the Commissioners outlining their request.

The Commissioners congratulated Mr. McMoran on his possible tenure and said they would like to see an agricultural video on Skagit 21.

Commissioner Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:05 a.m.

b) 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Budget and Finance - Trisha Logue, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding Amending the 2011 Skagit County Budget

Commissioner Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

Financial System Administrator Chris Stamey explained each proposed budget amendment which included requests from the following funds: Assessor, Youth and Family Services, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Health, County Roads, Conservation Futures, Emergency Communications, Drug Enforcement Cumulative Reserve, Boating Safety, Interlocal Cumulative Reserve, Equipment Rental, Central Services.

Commissioner Dillon understood that the only item that would impact the general fund was the request from the Assessor. The Commissioners and Mr. Stamey discussed the request. Commissioner Dillon wanted to commend Skagit County departments for tracking their budget and keeping on task.

Commissioner Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 10:39 a.m. Seeing no public present for testimony, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the budget amendment as presented by Chris Stamey on June 28, 2011, with the exception of striking the Assessor's Office item of \$3,200. These recording fees will be posted at the time of application using the new tax assessment software resulting in a greater efficiency to the County. **(Resolution No. R20110205)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chairman Ron Wesen's absence was excused

- c) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Update from Mount Vernon Downtown Association - Kathleen Bisagna, President and Georgiann Dustin, Executive Director

Commissioner Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

President of the Mount Vernon Downtown Association Kathleen Bisagna updated the Commissioners on the work their association has performed. She stated that they were designated at a National Main Street and that they work to promote a vibrant and prosperous downtown by celebrating its historic character. They work to restore and maintain historic buildings, promote the business community, and hold community events to increase awareness of downtown's offerings. Community events include the Annual Fall Festival, Street Fair during the Tulip Festival, Trick or Treating in October, and the Bite of Skagit. Ms. Bisagna discussed new events including Art in the Alley, and The Spirit of the Spud, which will enhance walkability and increase visitors to the downtown area. Ms. Bisagna shared that Georgiann Dustin is now a certified preservationist.

Ms. Bisagna discussed their plans for The Spirit of the Spud event which involves preparing the world's largest batch of potatoes au gratin. She stated that they hope to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ms. Bisagna and Ms. Dustin asked if the Commissioners if they would consider a special dispersement of funds from the Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Fund to help support this event.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked that they contact Budget and Finance Director Trisha Logue to discuss a possible dispersment.

Commissioner Dahlstedt and Ms. Bisagna discussed the overwhelming benefits of shopping locally and supporting your own community. They also discussed the idea of a presentation comparing facts from shopping locally verses globally.

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

No one was present during the public comment period.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

The Commissioners reminded everyone to be safe during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday.  
Commissioner Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:33 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