

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

- a) 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Election of Chair of Board of Commissioners and Committee Assignments for 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve to elect Commissioner Sharon Dillon as Chair of the Board of County Commissioners and approve the committee assignments. Chairman Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:04 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Presentation: Remodel Proposal - Humane Society of Skagit Valley

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

Janine Ceja, Director of the Humane Society of Skagit Valley was present to give the Commissioners notice of plans to complete a portion of phase 2 of their expansion to the Humane Society. The expansion included the addition of four rooms to house their cats. Ms. Ceja shared that after the passing of former Director Sandy Nelson, the Humane Society had received many donations for this project.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Ceja for the information, asked what size the addition would be, and informed her that after staff reviewed the Humane Society's request, a response would be sent to them.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:39 a.m.

- c) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Presentation: WSU Cooperative Extension Programs

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:00 a.m. and introduced Don McMoran, Director of WSU Extension Center.

Mr. McMoran introduced Holly Thompson, Food Sense Youth Program Coordinator. Ms. Thompson updated the Commissioners on their collaborative Community Food Assessment which, she reported, had received additional grant support. Ms. Thompson discussed work and research being performed by WSU Extension Center and each of their partners and the collaborative process of writing for a second grant from the USDA. If awarded the grant, she said that they will be able to improve access to healthy food.

Another program being offered by WSU Extension Center was Cooking Matters for Families and Ms. Thompson reported that 50% of people who take the course eat healthier and 20% of people who take the course improve their budgeting skills and no longer run out of money for food. Ms. Thompson said that in 2013 WSU Extension would be completing their Community Food Assessment, finish the Skagit County Food Network, and enroll 12 families in the Cooking Matters course.

Regional Extension Program Manager Jim Funck discussed their biofuel project. He said that gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel can be made from hybrid hardwood poplar trees. Mr. Funck said that their goal was to prepare Washington for the production of 400 million gallons of fuel by 2022 by increasing awareness and understanding of the project, seek input on the project, and network and identify stakeholders in the project. He said that industrial tree farmers would be needed for this sustainable project and offered the Commissioners a tour of one of the growing sites in the area.

Commissioner Dahlstedt suggested Mr. Funck get in touch with Skagit County's Forest and Agricultural Advisory Committees.

Mr. McMoran reported on his irrigation research designed to combat silver scurf in potatoes which included evaluating irrigation methods of four different potato farmers and comparing them to the drip irrigation method. Mr. McMoran concluded that the drip irrigation method saved the most water and yielded better potatoes, but the cost to convert from big gun irrigation reels was too expensive.

The Commissioners thanked WSU Extension for the updates and Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:54 a.m.

- d) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. 1. Public Comment Period

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Maggie Sullivan of Bellingham was present to inform the Commissioners that she saw their recent letter regarding coal trains and she was pleased that Skagit County was interested in being involved in the scoping process.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:34 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board