

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, Ron Wesen, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order at 9:32 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Dillon led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

- a) *8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Executive Session (Potential Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i))
- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Presentation: Governor's 2012 Smart Communities Award for Outstanding Achievement in Creating Livable and Vibrant Communities

Chair Dillon indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to recognize and thank the 60 plus community leaders who were directly involved in the Envision Skagit 2060 project.

Commissioner Wesen said that planning for the future was an effort to identify what's special about the place we live.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said that planning was an opportunity to avoid the kinds of mistakes that so many other places have made.

Senior Planner Kirk Johnson briefly described the overall project goals, project time frame, and the roles of the various steering and technical committees.

Senior Planner of Growth Management Services with the Department Commerce Doug Peters provided an overview of the Smart Communities Award process, including the criteria used in evaluating the nominations, and the issues for which Envision Skagit 2060 was particularly recognized by the judges.

Mr. Peters explained that the Smart Vision Award for Comprehensive Planning was awarded to Skagit County for its Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen Committee Final Report and Recommendations. Envision Skagit 2060 was recognized for "comprehensively addressing actions that Skagit County, local cities, and key Skagit stakeholders could take to respond to growth pressures over the next 50 years.

There was a brief video greeting from former Governor Chris Gregoire.

Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen's Committee members Gus Ramos, Peggy Flynn, Tim Rosenhan, and Kim Mower spoke about process and collaboration of the Committee.

Mayor of the Town of La Conner Ramon Hayes thanked the Commissioners and the Citizen's Committee and provided a brief history of how the Citizens Committee evolved. He spoke about the survey of industrial lands being conducted by the Port of Skagit County.

Steering Committee member Patsy Martin; and Ecosystem Technical Committee member Martha Bray provided information about their various roles on their committees.

Kirk Johnson read a statement from Steering Committee member Shirley Solomon who was not able to attend the presentation.

The Commissioners recognized recipients of Envision Skagit 2060 Governor's Smart Vision Award Certificates, as follows:

Envision Skagit Steering Committee

Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland;
John Doyle, Town of La Conner;
Jan Ellingson, Realtor;
Margaret Fleek, City of Burlington;
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District;
Gary Christensen, Skagit County Planning and Development Services;
Rebecca Ponzio, Puget Sound Partnership;
Larry Wasserman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community;
Margaret Studer, Futurewise Board Member;
Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council;
Paul Kriegel, Forest Industry Representative;
Ryan Larsen, City of Anacortes;
Patsy Martin, Port of Skagit County;
Jack Moore, City of Sedro-Woolley
Kevin Morse, The Nature Conservancy;
Jana Hanson, City of Mount Vernon
Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agriculture Association;

Agriculture Technical Committee

Don McMoran, Washington State University Extension;
Kendra Smith, Innovative Environments;
Hart Hodges, Western Washington University
Karma Anderson, Environmental Protection Agency

Ecosystem Technical Committee

Martha Bray, Skagit Land Trust
Jon Riedel, North Cascades National Park;
Calus Svendsen, Skagit Valley College;
Bob Warinner, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife;
Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning and Development Services;
Rick Haley, Skagit County Public works;
Roger Fuller, The Nature Conservancy;
Gary Slater, Ecostudies Institute;
Stephen Stanley, Washington State Department of Ecology

Growth Management Technical Committee

James Mastin, Skagit Council of Governments;
Gabe Phillips, Skagit Council of Governments
Ted Gage, Samish Indian Nation
Ed Knight, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Sara Young, Port of Skagit County
Rebecca Bradley-Lowell, City of Mount Vernon

Forestry Technical Committee

Steve Courtney, Sierra Pacific Industries
Paul McFarland, Washington Department of Natural Resources;
Ken Osborn, Arbor Pacific Forestry Services;
Steve Tift, Longview Timber Company;
Paul Wagner, Atterbury Consulting;

Envision Skagit Citizen Committee

John Cheney
Kerri Cook
Cory Ertel
Peggy Flynn
Jim Meyer
Kim Mower

Grace Popoff
Gustavo Ramos Jr.
Doris Robbins
Tim Rosenhan
Ryan Sakuma
Nate Youngquist

Skagit County GMA Steering Committee

Mayor Dean Maxwell, City of Anacortes
Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington
Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon
Mayor Mike Anderson, City of Sedro-Woolley
Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner

Envision Skagit Consultant Team

John Lombard, Lombard Consulting
Sara Breslow, University of Washington
Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental
Mark Personius, Growth Management Consultant;
Dr. John Bolte, Oregon State University;
Dr. Kellie Vache, Oregon State University
Kelly Mann, Urban Land Institute Northwest
Bill Kreager, Communities Design
Ed McMahon, Urban Land Institute
Dr. Robert Land, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Envision Skagit Staff Team

Linda Christensen, Skagit County Planning and Development Services
Ryan Walters, Skagit County Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Emma Whitfield, Skagit County Administrative Services
Josh Greenberg, Skagit County GIS Services
Brian Young, Skagit TV21
David Lowrance, Skagit TV21
Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning and Development Services

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:35 a.m.

- c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing March as Human Rights Month in Skagit County

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:39 a.m.

Dave McConnel, KSVR, spoke about the GMOs film "*Genetic Roulette*" event that was taking place on Thursday, March 7, 2013, at Skagit Valley College, at Phillip Tarro Theatre; and the Dana Lyon concert on Thursday, March 21, 2013, taking place at Skagit Valley College in the Phillip Tarro Theatre.

Kathy Reim spoke about the Transgender/Transformation event taking place on Saturday, March 9, 2013, at the Skagit Valley College in the Multipurpose Room.

Holly Thompson spoke about the Skagit Food System event taking place on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at Skagit Valley College in the Multipurpose Room.

Kathryn DeFilippo spoke about the Women in Leadership event taking place on Saturday, March 23, 2013, at Skagit Valley College at the Phillip Tarro Theatre.

Felicia Mento Rodman shared information on 1095 Skagit. She indicated the goal of 1095 Skagit was to nourish children throughout the County.

Jim Justice spoke about the film "*Escape Fire*" taking place on Thursday, March 28, 2013 at the Lincoln Theatre.

Susan Redd spoke about the Alfred Currier art exhibits for the month of March which will be displayed at various businesses throughout downtown Mount Vernon, Skagit Valley College, and the Burlington Library.

Commissioner Wesen read the proclamation recognizing March as Human Rights Month in Skagit County.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 11:11 a.m.

d) 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 2012 Fixed Asset Certification

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:15 a.m.

Chris Stamey Financial System Analyst presented the physical inventory of all the 2012 Skagit County owned acquisitions, dispositions, non-computer equipment, computer equipment, listings of buildings, land, parks, development rights, right-of-ways, roads, and bridges.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Stamey for all of his hard work.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the certification of the 2012 Fixed Asset Inventory. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 11:20 a.m.

e) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

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

1. Public Comment Period

Ed Stauffer of Bow commented on the public meeting taking place at 7:00 p.m. this evening regarding funding options available for the construction and operational costs of a public safety and jail building. He voiced his support of the public process and the need for open government.

Dale Pernula Director of Skagit County Planning and Development Services Department commented about the building permit process. He reminded everyone who was contemplating building this summer to call the Department at (360) 336-9410, or come and visit the Department as soon as possible in order to obtain a building permit. He mentioned the Department's building permit hours were from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The permit process can be viewed at the Department's website, located at <http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/Asp/Default.asp?d=PlanningAndPermit&c=General&p=mainbuilding.htm>

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Wesen moved to approve the Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, January 29, 2013, Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded, the motion passed unanimously. **(Approved)**

f) 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 1:30 p.m.

1. Discussion: Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Farm, Fish, and Flood Initiative

Director Henry Hash was present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

Natural Resources Division Manager Dan Berentson reported that over the past several months, Skagit County had been meeting on a monthly basis to work on drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Western Washington Agricultural Association, Dike and Drainage Partnership.

Chris Knight from The Nature Conservancy shared the mission statement of the Farms, Fish and Flood Initiative (3FI), which is to create and advance mutually beneficial strategies that support the long-term viability of agriculture and salmon while reducing the risk of destructive floods.

Allen Rozema Executive Director of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland spoke about his organization's goal of preserving as much of the agricultural land base as possible.

Mr. Hash pointed out the Memorandum of Understanding presented was a draft for the Commissioners to review and/or revise at their discretion. He indicated that no action from the Board was required at this point.

Darrell Hamburg of Dike District No. 17 spoke about his role with the Dike Districts which he indicated was to keep the levies intact without any upstream or downstream impacts to the local community.

There was a brief discussion about working collaboratively to achieve the Farms, Fish and Flood Initiative.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

g) 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Public Meeting - Financing Options Available for the Construction and Operational Costs of a Proposed Jail

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 7:01 p.m.

Sheriff Will Reichardt provided an overview of the existing jail facility and noted that the jail opened in 1984. It was initially designed to house 75 inmates and it currently houses approximately 175 to 200 inmates. He reported on safety risks occurring due to overcrowding and noted that the jail population was expected to double over the next thirty (30) years.

Jail Project Manager Marc Estvold reviewed the three options provided to the Coordinating Council. The first option considered was to remodel the existing facility, which he said would be expensive, would be ineffective due to the design of the existing facility, and did not allow for future expansion. The second option considered was outsourcing inmates which had high operational costs and would be the least desirable due to the lack of control over costs. The third option considered was to construct a new facility which was considered the most efficient option because operational costs could be controlled, there would be no disruption of service to the existing facility, and the new facility could be designed to accommodate future expansion.

Mr. Estvold said that there were the two sites that were being considered. One site was the Truck City property on Suzanne Lane, and other was Alf Christianson Seed site.

He went on to provide brief estimate of the project's time line. He indicated that the project funding source would be determined by the spring of 2013, interlocal agreements with users would be entered into by the spring of 2013, the project proposal would go to the voters in the summer of 2013, the facility design was expected to be completed by the spring of 2015, and construction of the facility was estimated to be completed by the summer of 2017.

Financial Advisor Susan discussed the financial alternatives being considered to pay for the \$55 million facility, the anticipated increased staffing and the program costs to serve a larger inmate

population. She said one option would be to levy a three-tenths of one percent sales tax countywide. The other option would be to issue a bond levy for the construction of the jail which could only be used to fund the construction of the jail and not the operational costs. She explained that sales tax funds could be used to pay for the construction and operational costs.

Chair Dillon opened the public comment period at 7:40 a.m.

Kathy Mitchell of Bow said the average voter would need more information about why other options considered by the Coordinating Council were eliminated and said in general, people would need more information; Mike Janicki of 810 Talcott Street in Sedro-Woolley, said he supported using a combination of funding by using property tax and sales and use tax; Carol Ehlers of West Fidalgo Island showed a graph depicting how property taxes are distributed. Ms. Ehlers indicated that 11% of the population paid 89% of the property tax. She spoke about a future flood project that would be funded entirely by property taxes. Jared Couch, a Skagit County Corrections Deputy commented on the dangerous working conditions he and fellow deputies faced due to the overcrowded jail. He indicated that sales tax was the most equitable way to fund a new jail. Rich Weyrich, Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney, said that the victims of crimes were missing from the debate. He invited the public to visit the criminal calendar on any Thursday to witness the people that have been victimized by the criminals. Dan Mitzel of 12537 Eagle Drive in Burlington spoke about the decline in property values because of public safety issues. He said building a new jail was a part of solving the public safety problems. Mr. Mitzel said he supported the sales and use tax. Anthony Young of 27th Place in Anacortes spoke about the relative safety of the Skagit Valley. He said he supported the sales and use tax. Ed Stauffer of Bow said he supported the sales tax, if there had to be a tax. Ron Coakley of Lake Drive in Clear Lake, said he had been employed in the Corrections Department for more than twenty (20) years. Deputy Coakley discussed the over populated conditions of the jail, the high costs of outsourcing inmates, and said that the sales tax was a fair and equitable option. Ronald John of 16942 Sockeye Drive in Mount Vernon said he endorsed the sales tax option. Mr. John addressed his concerns about the design of the jail. Gary Shand of Conway, the former Skagit Chief Corrections Deputy stressed the importance of building a new jail; Lisa Janicki of 810 Talcott Street in Sedro-Woolley spoke in support of the property tax option. Mayor of Burlington Steve Sexton said that the City had a 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax on the ballot. Mayor Sexton indicated that income from the sales tax was unreliable and should not be the only source of funding for the jail. Mount Vernon City Council Member Dale Ragan spoke about the need to properly educate the public about the jail project. Ron Wortham of 161 Mountain View Road in Mount Vernon asked what would happen to the existing jail.

Commissioner Wesen indicated that the current jail would not be demolished. He said he supported the sales tax option because the funds could be used to operate the jail. Commissioners Dillon and Dahlstedt said they supported the sales and use tax option.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

The Commissioners attended an executive session on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:19 a.m. The purpose of the executive session was Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). (Matters relating to County enforcement actions, actual litigation, or potential litigation.) The following attorneys were present at the executive session and provided legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners: Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea, and Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jill Dvorkin. Other attendees: County Administrator Tim Holloran, Planning and Development Fire Marshall Kelly Blaine.

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 8:46 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board