

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 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 9:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

Dale Pernula, Director, and Ryan Walters, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, were present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

a) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

1. Discussion: Planning and Land Use Legislative Reform Ordinance

Mr. Pernula explained that staff had completed a new draft of the Planning and Land Use Legislation Ordinance based on the Board of County Commissioners direction at the July 2, 2013, meeting with the Department, legal staff, members of the Planning Commission, and the Public Participation Committee.

Mr. Pernula noted that the new draft Ordinance included a number of changes from the existing code. He indicated that some of the changes in the new draft Ordinance included the following: the Planning Enabling Act would be retained as the basis under which the Planning Department and the Planning Commission operated under; the Planning Commission terms would be set at four (4) years with required staggering of terms for the initial appointments; the conflict of interest provision would be narrowed; the Planning Commission would be given explicit authority to adopt its own bylaws; the County would be required to submit comprehensive plan amendments and development regulations for public participation; the Planning Department would be required to conduct at least one (1) Planning Commission in-service training event each year; the County must advertise written comment periods and public hearings at least 21 calendar days ahead of time; and written public comments periods must end at least two (2) days after the public hearings.

There was a discussion regarding the unresolved issue of when the Planning Commission terms would begin. The Commissioners discussed whether the Planning Commission terms would begin earlier in the year, maybe in March, or later in the year, maybe in September. The Commissioners all indicated that the draft Ordinance should be submitted for written public comment and that a public hearing should be held.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve that the draft Planning and Land Use Legislation Ordinance be open for written public comment until Tuesday, September 24, 2013, and that a public hearing on the Ordinance is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Planning and Development Services to discuss.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:29 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

1. Presentation: Certificate of Appreciation to Alan Meritt for his Service on the Conservation Futures Advisory Board for the Farmland Legacy Program

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

Kendra Smith, Farmland Legacy Program Coordinator, was present to introduce Alan Merritt and to thank him for his accomplishments on the Skagit County Conservation Futures Advisory Board for the Farmland Legacy Program.

Farmland Legacy Board members Carolyn Kelly, and Keith Wiggers, were present to thank Mr. Merritt for his hard work and dedication on the Board.

Mr. Merritt thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Farmland Legacy Program.

Commissioner Wesen presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Alan Merritt rendered on behalf of the people, the community and in the public interest, by helping to protect 8,000 acres of prime farmland in perpetuity, faithfully, and unselfishly, from March 1997 to July 2013.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Meritt for his service.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:43 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Board of Health:

Chair Dillon convened the Board of Health at 10:00 a.m.

Peter Browning, Director of Public Health, was present to introduce the agenda items.

1. Discussion: Assessment of Sexual Health Education Programs

Sierra Rotakhina presented her final project for her Master's Degree in Public Health. Her project was an assessment of the sexual health education in Skagit County and ways to work with the school district. Ms. Rotakhina said that she partnered with Skagit County Public Health, the University of Washington's School of Public Health, Planned Parenthood, and Public Health of Seattle and King County to provide some of the curricula in Skagit County. The project was conducted through interviews with sexual health educators including school nurses. Ms. Rotakhina indicated that Skagit County had a strong network of organizations working on the issue of sexual health who could work together to effectively serve the community's youth.

Ms. Rotakhina concluded by providing her findings and indicated that they supported the importance of continuing to engage educators in conversations about sexual health in order to establish the best school-based sexual health programming possible.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Rotakhina for her presentation.

2. Discussion: The State of Washington Community Transformation Grant (CTG)

Carol Hawk, Director; Marjorie Bell, Program Coordinator; and Alyssa Pavitt, Program Coordinator of United General Hospital's Community Transformation Grant (CTG) discussed the purpose of the CTG. Washington State Department of Health received funding through the Centers for Disease Control as part of the Affordable Care Act to be used to help prevent chronic diseases. The grant is a five (5) year grant and Skagit County received approximately \$54,000 in funding.

Ms. Hawk indicated that the strategic focus of the grant funding was directed at east Skagit County. She indicated that this was the second year of the grant and provided an update of the second year results and discussed the Community Health Outreach Programs (CHOP).

Ms. Bell provided a video and discussed the healthy eating, active living components, and various events of the CTG program.

3. Discussion: Creating a Smoke Free Campus

Ms. Pavitt discussed ways to reduce tobacco and alcohol advertising which were specifically aimed at youth in the community. Ms. Pavitt indicated that nearly 90% of youth that smoked, started smoking before the age of 18, and that it was important reach out to them before they start smoking. She reported that the amount of money that was spent on alcohol and tobacco advertising directly correlated to the number of youth drinking and/or smoking. Ms. Pavitt said that 42 stores in Skagit County had been surveyed about the placement and the amount of tobacco and alcohol advertising and that United General Hospital had partnered with Albert's Red Apple in Concrete to assess the placement of advertisements, and to develop an official alcohol and tobacco advertisement strategy.

There was a discussion about the possibility of the Skagit County campus at 1800 Continental Place being a smoke-free campus and the benefits to the employees and the community. Commissioner Wesen asked about the number of smoke-free government campuses in the area. Ms. Pavitt indicated that United General Hospital would provide the Board of County Commissioners with a listing of government campuses that were smoke-free.

4. Miscellaneous

Sandi Pacciotti, Communicable Disease Manager, introduced new staff member Anna Ross, Public Health Nurse. Corinne Story, Environmental Health Manager, introduced new Food Program temporary part-time staff member Lydia Meintel-Wade.

Chair Dillon adjourned the Board of Health a 11:04 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Presentation/Update: Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG)

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:06 a.m.

Kevin Murphy, Director of the Skagit County of Governments (SCOG), provided a PowerPoint presentation and background on SCOG. He indicated that SCOG was a voluntary organization of local governments which was formed to provide a collaborative forum for resolving problems, and developing policies and plans that were common and regional. He explained that SCOG was established in 1967 and operated under an Interlocal Agreement, bylaws, and that the enabling legislation was RCW 36.64.080 "Council of Governments." Mr. Murphy said that SCOG facilitated communication and cooperation among local agencies; led two regional planning programs; Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning (RTPO), and provided administrative and technical support to local governments.

Mr. Murphy said that SCOG members included the City of Anacortes, Port of Anacortes, Town of Concrete, City of Burlington, Town of Hamilton, Town of La Conner, Town of Lyman, City of Mount Vernon, City of Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, Port of Skagit, Skagit PUD, Skagit Transit, Samish Indian Nation and Swinomish Tribal Community. He noted that SCOG had recently developed a long range goal for the agency which would be focused on transportation and economic development planning.

Mr. Murphy said that SCOG was a regional transportation planning resource that facilitated, advocated and educated through technical and professional expertise, provided public outreach, provided grants and other funding opportunities. SCOG serves as the lead agency for the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) which was enabled by Washington State law, and the Skagit Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO) which was enabled by federal law.

He explained that SCOG was responsible for the prioritization and selection of projects using funds received from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) which could be used for transportation projects. In addition, SCOG received funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which could be used for non-motorized transportation.

The transportation planning efforts SCOG was required to undertake are: to work closely with State and Federal legislators to inform them about funding needs for transportation related projects and programs in Skagit County; administer the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to financially assist start-up and existing businesses in Skagit County in an effort to retain and create jobs. The funds (grants) come from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Murphy for the presentation.

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

1. Public Comment Period

Henry Hash, Public Works Director, introduced new staff member Jim Mickel, Skagit County Public Works Controller. Mr. Hash recognized Jim Martin for his hard work as the Interim Controller.

Mr. Mickel provided a brief background of his work history.

The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Mickel to Skagit County Government and wished him well in his new position.

Ed Stauffer of West Alger said he did not realize that SCOG was formed in 1967 and spoke about his experience with the Lane County of Oregon's Council of Governments. He indicated further explanation was needed regarding SCOG's role in the Growth Management Act (GMA) Steering Committee. He inquired when the Industrial Lands Survey would be completed. Mr. Stauffer addressed concerns that the Transfer of Development Rights Committee (TDR) July meeting had been postponed and that the meeting was only recently held within the past week. He expressed concerns that a draft of the preliminary TDR market analysis was going to be brought forward to the Board of County Commissioners by the Planning Department and that the TDR Committee did not know the content of Phases I, II, or III. He indicated that the TDR Committee members that were present at the last meeting had expressed disappointment at results of the marketing survey because it was too general and incomplete.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

Public Hearing regarding the Planning and Land Use Legislative Reform Ordinance has been scheduled for September 24, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

The City of Mount Vernon Environmental Impact Study Scoping Hearing for Jail Sites is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

The Commissioners thanked Skagit County voters for supporting the jail project.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:48 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board