

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

1. Discussion/Possible Action: 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

Dale Pernula, Director, was present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner, noted that like other jurisdictions around the Washington State, Skagit County was required to conduct a periodic review and update of its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to ensure consistency with updated State laws, population and employment projections. He said that according to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.130 (5)(b) Skagit County was required to complete the update of the Comprehensive Plan, development regulations and urban growth areas by June 30, 2016. Mr. Johnson reported on State required development regulations.

Mr. Johnson requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve the release of the 2016 Update Scoping Memo for public review and comment including a public hearing before the Board. He said that the Memo would be used as a guide for the Department and the Planning Commission in their work on the update. He spoke about the docketing update process which would include a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners where the Commissioners would set the docket.

Scoping Memo and Process for 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/10132014/>

Mr. Johnson noted that the entire 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update proposal would be available for public review and comment pursuant to the provisions of Skagit County Code 14.08. He said that the Department had launched a 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update webpage that can be found at: [www.skagitcounty.net/2016update](http://www.skagitcounty.net/2016update). He said that the Board of County Commissioners had indicated that it was satisfied with the current Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use and Zoning, and Development Regulations. It was noted that due to the extensive 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update process which was adopted in 2007, the Planning and Development Services Department felt that the map did not require updating.

Commissioner Dillon expressed her support to use the Planning Commission as the 2016 Update Advisory Committee, and to do a limited update of the Comprehensive Plan. She said that she believed the five (5) week period for public comment time was

also a good idea.

Commissioner Dahlstedt addressed his concerns that in the past, Comprehensive Plans had not been effective and spoke about the previous plan to move population from the Big Lake area to the Bay View Ridge area. He said that he would prefer to see a plan where urban dense areas in the urban growth area were annexed into the cities.

Chair Wesen discussed the history of the previous Comprehensive Plan Updates and the structure of the Growth Management Act (GMA). He encouraged people that would like to make changes to the Comprehensive Plan to provide their comments to the Planning and Development Services Department by Thursday, November 20, 2014.

Comments on the Proposed Scope for the 2016 Update can be e-mailed to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us); or mailed to Proposed Scope for 2016 Update c/o Debra Nicholson, Planning and Development Services, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve authorizing the Planning and Development Services to release the 2016 Update Scoping Memo for public review and comment, including the public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room with the public comment period closing on Thursday, November 20, 2014. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

## 2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Planning and Development Services to discuss. Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:11 a.m.

## b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension

Don McMoran, Director Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension, provided a brief update of the transition which involved transferring employees and equipment from the County to WSU. He went on to discuss the Interlocal Agreement for the provision of Cooperative Extension Services and thanked the Commissioners for their support during the transition process.

### 1. Quarterly Program Update

Dorothy Elsner, 4-H Program Coordinator, noted that 4-H had been in existence since the 1900's and that they had recently celebrated 113 years. Ms. Elsner provided an update of the 4-H Program and said that her immediate focus for the next year would be to attract and train new 4-H members and volunteers.

Joan DeVries, Livestock Program Advisor, noted that the program was in Snohomish, Skagit and Island Counties. She said that the goal of the Program was to train and provide information regarding livestock production, breeding, and housing livestock using the best farm management practices to people who had recently purchased farms or were new to farming. Ms. DeVries spoke about livestock classes; proper handling and care of livestock; renovated horse pasture; profitable small scale farms and proper animal handling.

Catherine Buchalski, WSU Beach Watcher Program Coordinator, noted that for the past eleven months the program had been structured on research, monitoring, education, outreach, restoration and stewardship. Ms. Buchalski provided information on beach water quality monitoring; forage fish monitoring; and intertidal monitoring. She noted that her position was grant funded and the grant was due to expire at the month. She said that the Beach Watcher Program would be closing and that a new program would

begin in November 2014. The new program would be called the "Friends of Skagit Beaches".

Jean Gauthier, Entomology Coordinator, formerly known as the Horticultural Pest Board Coordinator, she said that she had an academic background in botany, horticulture, entomology and a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Environmental Horticulture said that she began working with WSU in July of 2014, and reported on Apple Maggot monitoring. She noted that no positive Apple Maggot sites were found in 2014. She reported the Pest Board would be shifting its focus from the Apple Maggot to include other pests that concerned farmers.

Mr. McMoran thanked the Commissioners for their support of Skagit County Cooperative Extension's programs.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:50 a.m.

c) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Skagit County Auditor - Jeanne Youngquist:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:01 a.m. and excused Commissioner Dahlstedt's absence.

1. Presentation by Elections Supervisor David Cunningham: Make Your Vote Count

David Cunningham, Elections Supervisor, announced that the Voter Guide and ballots would be mailed out this afternoon. He provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted that the ballot packet contained the ballot, a secrecy sleeve, return envelope, a yellow sheet with additional instructions, and an original mailing envelope. He went on to explain how to vote your ballot; ballot problems; and other problems.

PowerPoint presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/10132014/>

**Important Dates:**

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 - ballots go in the mail to Skagit County voters;  
Monday, October 27, 2014 - last day for new voters to register; must be done in person at Skagit County Elections;  
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 - Election Day; and  
Tuesday, November 25, 2014 - Election is certified.

Online Voter's Guide is available now at [www.skagitcounty.net/elections](http://www.skagitcounty.net/elections).

For Information and Questions Contact:

Skagit County Elections

700 S. Second Street, Suite 201

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Telephone: (360) 336-9305

Website: [www.skagitcounty.net/elections](http://www.skagitcounty.net/elections)

E-mail: [sselections@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:sselections@co.skagit.wa.us)

Jeanne Youngquist, Auditor, reminded parents and grandparents that the election would be a good opportunity to teach young ones about how important it was to exercise your right to vote.

Commissioner Dillon noted that every voter should make sure that they are voting accurately because every. She said every vote counts and that elections are sometimes decided by only one vote.

Chair Wesen stressed the importance of reading the Voter's Guide and educating yourself about the candidates and initiatives on the ballot.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:25 a.m.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m. with Commissioner Dahlstedt being present for this portion of the proceedings.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There was no one present to provide County and Individual Success Stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Seeing no public present to provide comment, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public comment at 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Dahlstedt announced that the County was pursuing funding to replace the Burlington Northern Overpass and that the County had recently been awarded \$2 million in additional funding from the Washington State Department of Transportation for the project.

Commissioner Wesen spoke about the meeting he attended on Friday, October 10, 2014, with representatives from Skagit County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's in Seattle to review the tentatively selected plan to improve flood protection on the Skagit River. He reported that the group made the decision to move forward with the next phase to complete the study.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:35 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chair

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board