

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, with Commissioner Peter Browning, and Commissioner Joe Burns present. Chair Ron Wesen's absence was excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Browning called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) *9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Browning led the attendees in the salute to the flag.

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

1. Proclamation Recognizing August as Skagit County and World Breastfeeding Month

President, Skagit Lactation Coalition Sharon Sullivan provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Proclamation recognizing August as Skagit County and World Breastfeeding Month. Ms. Sullivan noted that this year's theme was "Strengthen What Works". She said that the theme focused on celebrating the strength, community support, autonomy, and empowerment of breastfeeding families as advocates work to improve policies, systems, and environments for successful breastfeeding. She reported that recognizing National Breastfeeding Month supported ongoing discussions about necessary policy and practice changes to strengthen community support for babies and families. Ms. Sullivan also summarized the health benefits of human breastmilk, and provided information about the Lactation Coalition's members.

Ms. Sullivan highlighted the various 2026 cultural and social observances taking place which include the following: Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week, Military Lactation Celebration, Black Breastfeeding Week, Workplace Lactation Week, Latinx Breastfeeding Week, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week.

United General District 304 WIC Registered Dietitian/Supervisor Sydney Costello provided information about Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) breastfeeding support, and various programs that promoted health and well-being.

WIC Program/Community Action of Skagit County Lactation Consultant Teri Shilling introduced new mothers and fathers to speak about the importance of community and the support they received in their breastfeeding journey. She also honored three breastfeeding advocates who retired this year: Tina Story, Jennifer Sass-Walton, and Wende Dolstad.

Commissioner Browning read the Proclamation recognizing August 2026 as Breastfeeding Month and encouraged our state and national representatives to continue to support full and adequate funding for essential childhood nutrition programs such as WIC and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Additional information can be found at: <https://skagitlactationcoalition.com/>

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/08032026.zip>

2. Proclamation Recognizing August as National Emergency Management Awareness Month

Department of Emergency Management Chief Julie de Losada reported that National Emergency Management Awareness Month was observed in August each year. She said that the observance was designed to elevate public awareness of the emergency management profession. Ms. de Losada highlighted the critical role emergency managers play across preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery, and advocated for the necessary resources at all levels - local, tribal, state, and federal.

Commissioner Burns read the Proclamation recognizing August 2026 as National Emergency Management Awareness Month and encouraged local residents to share in our appreciation for emergency managers in all sectors who work diligently to prepare, protect, and serve our cities, towns, and county against hazards and risks.

Commissioner Browning recessed the proceedings at 9:55 a.m.

c) [*10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Washington State University Skagit County Extension Quarterly Update](#)

Commissioner Browning reconvened the proceedings at 10:32 a.m.

Washington State University Skagit County Extension Director Don McMoran provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Gearing Up for Safety Program, Dean Raj Kholsa visit to Skagit County, and upcoming 2027 workshops.

Pest Control Board Program Coordinator Katy Hayes provided a PowerPoint presentation about the 2026 season update for the Skagit County Horticultural Pest Control Board.

Skagit County 4-H Coordinator Ashley Saenz provided a PowerPoint presentation about the 4-H Program.

Ideas for Healthily Living/Food Preservation Coordinator Jennie Bryan-Goforth, Food & Consumer Sciences Associate Professor Diane Smith, and Food Loss & Waste Prevention Coordinator Rita Ordonez provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Family and Consumer Sciences Program.

Commissioner Browning read the Proclamation recognizing the week of September 28 through October 4, 2026, as Food Waste Prevention Week in Skagit County, and encouraged all residents to use food well to prevent wasted food with the goal of saving money, conservating resources and supporting a healthy planet.

Commissioner Browning recessed the proceedings at 11:28 a.m.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/08032026.zip>

d) [*11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:](#)

Commissioner Browning reconvened the proceedings at 11:34 a.m.

1. [Public Comment Period](#)

Larita Humble of Lake Cavanaugh commented on the monthly special Kid's Club event that she and two other volunteers hosted at Lake Cavanaugh, and the need for recycling in her community.

Elke Macartney of Anacortes commented on an article by Kathleen McCaffery (retired Battalion Chief and Tesla's former Global Fire Liaison) regarding the dangers of lithium battery storage facilities fires.

Lora Stansbury Weiss of Skagit County commented on the dangers of lithium battery storage facilities.

Ken Dunning of Mount Vernon commented on the Spokane fires, Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) fire, and forest fires.

Jenae Dahl of Skagit County commented on Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) detaining people during traffic stops.

Anthony Romano of Rockport commented on water issues with his property and various legal issues.

Rebecca Peck of Bow commented on the Personal Services Agreement No. C20260292 with Summit Food Service, LLC for the provision of food and commissary services at the Skagit County Community Justice Center. Skagit County, the Questica Openbook website: <https://skagitcounty.openbook.questica.com/>, burglaries, and funding the Sheriff Department.

Link to public comments submitted:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/08032026.zip>

2. [County and Individual Success Stories](#)

None provided.

3. [Miscellaneous \(announcements, letters, etc.\)](#)

The Commissioners commented on various past, and upcoming meetings.

III. [ADJOURNMENT:](#)

Commissioner Browning adjourned the proceedings at 11:59 a.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Joe Burns, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board