

**Meeting Notes**  
**Envision Skagit Citizen Committee**  
**September 30, 2010 – 1:00 to 4:30 pm**  
**Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room**  
**1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon**

**Attendees:**

Kerri Cook	Gustavo Ramos, Jr.	Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Project Manager
Cory Ertel	Doris Robbins	Lisa Dally Wilson, Facilitator
Peggy Flynn	Tim Rosenhan	Josh Greenberg, Skagit County GIS
Jim Meyer	Ryan Sakuma	Linda Christensen, Skagit County Project Assistant
Kim Mower	Nate Youngquist	
Nicole Pomerleau		
Grace Popoff		

**Meeting Handouts:**

1. Citizen Committee Orientation Packet – Snail Mailed to Committee Members
2. Citizen Committee Supplemental Reading Material – (distributed at meeting)
3. Agenda (emailed)
4. Citizen Committee Overview (from FAQs and Application materials) (emailed)
5. 2010 – 2011 Citizen Committee Meeting Schedule (emailed)
6. Envision Skagit 2060 – Citizen Committee Communication and Participation Agreement (emailed)
7. Envision Skagit 2060 Proposed Ground Rules for Citizen Committee (distributed at meeting)

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m. with a welcome to the committee from project manager Kirk Johnson.

Lisa Dally Wilson introduced herself as the facilitator for the citizen committee and walked through the agenda items and desired meeting outcomes.

Each committee member then introduced him or herself, speaking for a few minutes about why they chose to apply for the citizen committee, their hopes for the process, and their background and experience.

**Project Overview, Recommended Reading**

The Committee members were provided a supplemental reading packet containing report excerpts and articles covering a wide range of issues and perspectives relevant to the project. Committee members are asked to read through the materials in the next two to three weeks.

Committee members requested a table of contents for the reading packet; and a list of technical references of people who might be asked to provide briefings to the committee. (The project's Steering and Technical Committee members are listed in the citizen committee orientation packet).

Kirk provided an overview of the project, including its origin, work to date, and current status of the model.

### **Overview of Envision Model**

Kirk and county GIS (geographic information system) analyst Josh Greenberg provided an overview of the Envision model.

- The project has developed four **initial** scenarios – Plan Trend, Agriculture-Forestry, Ecosystem, and Economic Development – that the citizen committee will use as the **starting point** for its work.
- **The citizen committee will not be selecting a preferred future from one of these four** – rather, it will develop an entirely new future that achieves desirable results across the broad range of indicators reflecting environmental, economic, and natural resource goals.
- The committee discussed whether the titles of these initial modeling scenarios are polarizing. Some felt that they are. Others thought they did a good job of representing different policy priorities, with the understanding that the committee will be developing its own, preferred future or scenario. This will be a topic for future discussion, and will also be discussed with the project’s Steering Committee.

### **Purpose and Goals of Citizen Committee**

Kirk spoke to the purpose of the Citizen Committee. He said that the committee’s task is to recommend a long-term vision for the county, thinking out 50 years, and taking a big-picture view - “from 30,000 feet.”

One fundamental question that will be addressed by the Committee is: where population and employment growth will go over the next 50 years.

The Citizen Committee Overview handout (distributed by email and at the meeting) also discusses the role of the Citizen Committee in developing recommendations.

Kirk said that the county in its grant contract with EPA has committed to achieving specific environmental outcomes from the project, which are described in the grant excerpt in the first section of the supplemental reading materials.

### **Committee Details**

Lisa Dally Wilson led a discussion of committee communications, scheduling, rules of engagement, and ground rules.

### **Communication Expectations**

The committee agreed to the following communication protocol:

1. Email will be our primary means of communication and it is assumed that all committee members check email regularly – unless they noted that they need a call in the case that a quick turnaround response is needed (Nicole, Ryan and Nate).
2. Members will print out any attachments to email that are 15 pages or less. In the case that attachments are greater than 15 pages, Skagit County will snail mail the document. All documents will also be available on the ftp site.
3. Committee members provided additional contact information for use in short turnaround contact. Cell phone numbers will not be available in printed documents or published as requested.

4. The committee is willing to use Doodle surveys in the case that a meeting needs to be rescheduled or additional activities scheduled.
5. An ftp site has been set up by Skagit County for use in posting documents. Instructions for accessing the ftp site have been provided to the Committee (2nd page in binder provided at meeting). All members are encouraged to attempt to access the site for use in future document sharing.

#### 2010-2011 Meeting Schedule

A proposed 2010 – 2011 calendar of meetings and events was generated based on an initial query of committee member availability and provided to the Citizen Committee by email. This schedule was discussed and it appears that most dates work for most members. The committee was asked to reserve these dates in their calendars. Evening meetings were again discussed, and were difficult for many members of the committee. All public meetings will be held in the evenings. There are two evening meetings and one evening event currently scheduled.

General availability of the group includes Mondays (with the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month), Wednesdays (with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month), Thursday afternoon (with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month), and half days on Fridays. The only evening that is a possibility for all/most members is Monday.

There were several conflicts with a meeting providing an overview of Envision results that is currently scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. This meeting may be rescheduled.

#### Communication and Participation Agreement

A personal communication and participation agreement was emailed and also distributed at the meeting. This agreement contains conditions that committee members agree to abide by in order to remain on the committee. The following comment was made during discussion of the agreement.

- Communication Agreement – some discomfort with proposed rule 7 – “agreement to set aside the urge to persuade.” After some discussion, committee agreed to strike rule. Lisa asked that they each work hard to truly listen to what others have to say; don’t instantly be developing rebuttal.

Committee members signed and submitted the Communication and Participation Agreement at the meeting.

#### Ground Rules

- Proposed ground rules were distributed at the meeting and discussed by the Citizen Committee. Members will review them as homework and they will be approved at the next meeting.
- Committee agreed it did not want to use Robert’s Rules procedures – instead it would work toward consensus.
- The committee agreed it was important that a large majority of the group be present when actual decisions are made; they did not want to establish a formal number for a quorum, but did feel it is important to have a large number of committee members present for decisions.
- In situations where the committee can’t achieve consensus, there was discussion of what size majority would be required (of members present at a meeting) to move a decision or recommendation forward (proposed rule 6).

- The proposed ground rule #6 says 2/3rds majority; a committee member proposed changing that to 3/4ths, to emphasize the importance of coming as close to consensus as possible.
- The committee agreed to consider this issue between now and the next meeting, and decide upon and approve the ground rules at that time.

### **Visioning Homework**

Committee members were asked to take photographs of places, resources and people in the Skagit. Places that you love, cherish, that are special. And also to take pictures of challenges in the Skagit, things that threaten what they cherish about place. Disposable cameras were made available to committee members. ALL ELECTRONIC IMAGES OR DISPOSABLE CAMERAS MUST BE PROVIDED TO LINDA CHRISTENSEN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>. If members want to do their own printing, they can bring the photos to the next meeting (Visioning Workshop) on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm and subsequent “Meet and Greet” was held with invited Steering Committee members, County Commissioners and Mayors.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Citizen Committee will be held Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:30. Location tbd.

### **Near Term Schedule**

Thursday, October 14 1:00 – 4:30 pm Visioning Workshop

Wednesday, October 20 8:30am – 4:30 pm All Day field trip – Lower Valley

Wednesday October 27 7:00 – 8:30 pm Robert Lang Presentation – Lincoln Theatre

Thursday October 28 7:30 – 9:00 am -Optional Breakfast -Robert Lang and County Commissioners – Calico Cupboard Mount Vernon