

Envision Skagit reps get answers

By Jason Miller

On Feb. 8, Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen Committee members hosted a community meeting in Concrete to gain public input on the future of Skagit County. The meeting was held in the Commons room at Concrete High School, with upwards of 30 people attending.

One of the meeting's core objectives was to "hear the community's thoughts on what they value in the Skagit Valley, what they're concerned about, and what they would like to see happen over time," said Kirk Johnson, a Skagit County planner who is the Envision Skagit project manager.

Three questions were posed to attendees, who provided answers and then voted on their responses to achieve consensus.

Question 1: What do you value most about the Skagit Valley that needs to be retained over time?

Top responses: Natural resources; quality of life; safe, small communities; recreation opportunities.

Question 2: What do we need to work harder on in the future? What would improve the quality of life for Skagit residents?

Top responses: Efficient, frequent public transportation throughout county, especially rural areas; avoiding dead end projects (incinerator); access to local, organic food.

Question 3: Where should the (projected increase in) population go?

Top responses: Near infrastructure, growth in cities; livable, walkable communities; mixed-use (residential/commercial).

Envision Skagit 2060 is a cooperative community effort designed to help shape Skagit Valley for the next 50 years. The project's Citizen Committee will develop and recommend a broadly supported, 50-year plan for Skagit Valley by drawing on community input and public recommendations.

For information on the Envision Skagit 2060 project, go to www.skagitcounty.net/envisionskagit or contact Emma Whitfield at emmaw@co.skagit.wa.us.