

**Skagit County Rural Element Public Workshop, 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update  
Tuesday, May 19, Board of County Commissioners Administration Building**

**1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon**

**5:30 – 9:00 pm**

<p><b>5:30 pm</b> (30 mins)</p>	<p><b>Open House – Building Lobby</b> Various organizations involved in rural planning issues are invited to set up information tables in the lobby</p>
<p><b>6:00 pm</b> (10 mins)</p>	<p><b>Workshop – Commissioners Hearing Room.</b> Introductions, review workshop agenda and goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Axthelm – Chair, Skagit County Planning Commission</li> <li>• Dale Pernula – Director, Skagit County Planning &amp; Development Services</li> </ul>
<p><b>6:10 pm</b> (30 mins)</p>	<p><b>Brief presentations on Skagit County rural character and land uses</b> Introductions of presenters – Kirk Johnson, Planning &amp; Development Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County</li> <li>• Bill Dietrich, Fidalgo Island Resident and Author</li> <li>• Maggie Sullivan, Alger Subarea Plan CAC Chair</li> <li>• Tim Rosenhan, Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen Committee Member</li> <li>• Wilfred Voigt and Jessie Mattingly, Birdsvew Brewery</li> </ul>
<p><b>6:40 pm</b> (45 mins)</p>	<p><b>Small group discussions</b> Participants break into small groups to discuss Rural Element questions (see back side of this agenda). Goals of small group discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak</li> <li>• Planning Commission members equally disbursed among the small groups</li> <li>• Track major themes of small-group discussion on flip charts</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:25 pm</b> (20 mins)</p>	<p><b>Small group reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups report back to the whole</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:45 pm</b> (15 mins)</p>	<p><b>Individual comments.</b> Members of the public may comment to the Planning Commission and other attendees. (Length of individual comments will depend on the number of people wishing to speak.)</p>
<p><b>8:00 pm</b> (10 mins)</p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>8:10 pm</b> (50 mins)</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Commission convenes</li> <li>• What issues resonate with Planning Commission members after hearing the presentations, discussion and public comments regarding the Rural Element update?</li> <li>• Questions? Issues for further research?</li> </ul>

## RURAL ELEMENT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each group will begin with a different question, to ensure all questions receive adequate attention:

1. How do you define Skagit County's rural character?
2. What do you value or cherish about the rural community in which you live, work, or recreate?
3. What concerns do you have for the present and the future of Skagit County's rural areas?
4. Are current Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations effective at protecting the rural landscape, character and lifestyle by:\*

  - a. Providing for a variety of rural residential densities and housing opportunities.
  - b. Maintaining the character and historic and cultural roles of existing rural communities.
  - c. Ensuring that land uses are compatible and in keeping with the protection of important rural landscape features, resources, and values.
  - d. Assuring economic prosperity for rural areas; and
  - e. Assuring that appropriate and adequate rural levels of service are provided.

\* Per *Rural Element Goal A – Rural Area Characteristics*.

Small group participants may focus their individual comments on one of the subgoals (a-e) and do not need to try to address all five.