

# Commissioners' Record Of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: June 2, 2026

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The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Peter Browning, and Commissioner Joe Burns present.

## I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

## II. AGENDA:

### a) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Work Session with Forest Advisory Board

The purpose of the work session was to discuss State Forest Board transfer lands.

#### Attendees:

Chair Ron Wesen  
Commissioner Peter Browning  
Commissioner Joe Burns  
County Administrator Trisha Logue  
Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson  
Columbia Policy Advisory Group Consultant Eric Johnson  
Forest Advisory Board Member Jamie Hillery  
Forest Advisory Board Member John Gold  
Forest Advisory Board Member Peter Janicki  
Communications Manager Jenn Rogers

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:02 a.m.

### b) [\\*11:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:05 a.m.

### c) [\\*11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the WSU Skagit County Extension Center's Master Gardener Discovery Garden](#)

Chair Wesen introduced WSU Skagit County Extension Center Director Don McMoran.

Mr. McMoran thanked the county for their longstanding partnership with the WSU Extension Center which benefited residents in Skagit County with access to valuable research and information. The Discovery Garden was a treasure that benefited the community thanks to the passion of volunteers and value of partnerships.

Master Gardener Program Coordinator Alex duPont, Deborah Smeltzer with the Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation, Master Gardener Diana Wisen, and Master Gardener Kari Ranten provided information about the Discovery Garden and discussed the benefits provided year-round to residents at the Discovery Garden and by the Master Gardener volunteers. It was a community resource for beauty, education, connection, and inspiration.

The Commissioners discussed their appreciation for the volunteer Master Gardeners and the resources available to the community through their work.

Commissioner Browning read the Proclamation recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WSU Skagit County Extension Center's Master Gardener Discovery Garden.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:26 a.m.

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

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Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:32 a.m.

1. [Public Comment Period](#)

Ingrid Hinton of Mount Vernon commented on Puget Sound Energy's battery energy storage facility on Samish Island and the impact on neighbors. She asked that the county assist their residents instead of the wealthy company.

Patty Laughlin of Mount Vernon commented on Immigration Customs and Enforcement activity at the courts located at the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

Elke Macartney commented on additional information she learned about battery energy storage companies and their facilities' effect on mental health. Companies often performed "grooming" behaviors within a community before working towards locating a project within the community. She found that NextEra helped build the new Mount Vernon Library and they were one of the sponsors of Burlington Berry Dairy Days.

Lora Stansbury Weiss commented on compromise and provided information about less toxic battery energy storage technologies. She asked for safer and smarter solutions for residents and businesses.

Ken Dunning of Mount Vernon commented on additional research he had done on battery energy storage facilities and left his findings with the Commissioners.

Rebecca Peck of Bow commented on the moratorium passed on data centers, Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) activity, and asked for additional action and protections for residents from ICE.

Anthony Romano of Rockport commented on property matters and concerns.

2. County and Individual Success Stories

Success stories were not shared.

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

The Commissioners discussed events and meetings they had or would be attending.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:58 a.m.

e) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Commissioners Briefing

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:26 p.m.

The purpose of the briefing was for the Commissioners to provide an update on items of interest from meetings they had attended and for Administrative Services to discuss any items of interest with the Board.

Attendees:

Chair Ron Wesen  
Commissioner Peter Browning  
Commissioner Joe Burns  
County Administrator Trisha Logue  
Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson  
Human Resources/Risk Management Director Bonnie Hong  
Communications Manager Jenn Rogers

f) 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Social Event - Leadership Skagit Class of 2026 Graduation Celebration  
(Swinomish Casino & Lodge, 12885 Casino Drive, Anacortes)

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## III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 1:26 p.m.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Wesen, Chair

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Peter Browning, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board

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Joe Burns, Commissioner