

## SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019  
Burlington City Council Chambers  
Burlington, Washington

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes, Chair; Commissioner Joe Lindquist, Skagit PUD, Vice-Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon; Chairman Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Mayor Joan Cromley, Town of Hamilton; Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County; Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Julia Johnson, City of Sedro-Woolley; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; and Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County.

### STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Katie Bunge, Assistant Planner; Pam Carlson, Finance Manager; and Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner.

### MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT

Two members of the public were in attendance.

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Mayor Gere called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

3. Chair's Report: Mayor Gere reported that she had finished the Executive Director's evaluation along with Commissioner Janicki and Mayor Boudreau. Executive Director Kevin Murphy was noted for outstanding performance, including leadership at the local, regional, state and federal level along with mentorship and staff development. Mr. Murphy is known for his expertise and steadfast professionalism at SCOG as well as in the Population Health Trust. Mayor Gere recommended that Mr. Murphy spend more time one-on-one with Board members, and provide insight and education to Board members regarding the Road Map to Washington's Future report by the Ruckelshaus Center.

Mr. Murphy gave a brief overview of the Road Map to Washington's Future process and report. The Ruckelshaus Center was hired to review Growth Management Act work across the state and give recommendations on a variety of subjects. Since report completion, the Ruckelshaus Center has been holding open houses across the state. It is uncertain how the Washington state legislature may act as a result of the final report. Mr. Murphy agreed to coordinate a meeting with the Board on key findings from the Ruckelshaus report.

4. Executive Director's Report: Kevin Murphy reported that yesterday was the Skagit County Housing Summit. The afternoon session focused on issues related to homelessness, while the evening session focused on panel questions and housing affordability. Mr. Murphy stated the summit was helpful for continuing conversations around these issues, and thanked those who attended and participated.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of September 18, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Certification

AP voucher batch #130032, and #130078 in an amount totaling \$13,354.91; and payroll certification for September 2019 in the amount of \$32,210.93.

Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented, and Mayor Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

- a. 2020 Proposed Budget: Mr. Murphy presented the 2020 draft budget to the Board, stating that the 2020 proposed budget is similar to the 2019 budget.

The majority of the budget consists of staff salaries and benefits. The 2020 budget assumes continued Growth Management Act support at the current level. Professional services are also listed in the budget. The Household Travel Survey, a project in this and next year's Unified Planning Work Program, will have a contract signed soon. This contract is the majority of professional services for the next year to year and a half.

Mr. Murphy described an unforeseen change to the budget. Skagit County would like SCOG to switch to, and purchase, a different copier for integration into the Skagit County IS network. Currently, SCOG leases a copier for around \$3,200 annually. The purchase of a new copier would be a one-time cost of \$10,000. This will be added into the proposed budget for the next version, and will be included in the budget as an action item in November.

Commissioner Janicki asked about the budgetary impact if SCOG were to oversee a committee for the 2020 Census in the next year. Mr. Murphy responded that this would depend on the extent to which the Board would want SCOG to be involved in the work. If the Board feels there should work done at SCOG for a Census committee, a scope of work and roles would need to be prepared.

Board members discussed current efforts to ensure a complete count in the 2020 Census across the region. Chairman Cladoosby shared that he is a board member of the Group Health Board Foundation, which has funding available that can be used for local census work. A goal of the available funding is to promote health equity for people of color in Washington state.

Commissioner Wesen related that he had attended a Burlington Chamber of Commerce meeting with Mayor Sexton, and the Chamber has information related to the 2020 Census available. Work is being done to communicate the Census in Burlington.

7. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Mayor Gere and Commissioner Wesen expressed their thanks to those who attended the Housing Summit.

Commissioner Janicki informed the Board that a replacement for Senator Bailey's vacant seat in the Washington state senate will be appointed on Friday by Snohomish County councilmembers, as well as Skagit and Island County commissioners. A questionnaire was sent to candidates regarding their views on the Growth Management Act. Commissioner Janicki said that many candidates responded that the Growth Management Act was outside their sphere of influence, indicating why projects such as the Road Map to Washington's Future are important to shed light on state growth issues.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Burlington City Council Chambers.

9. Adjourned: Mayor Gere adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Information Items: The Board of Directors was provided with a monthly financial update.

Approved,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Murphy, Executive Director  
Skagit Council of Governments

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes  
Board of Directors Chair  
Skagit Council of Governments

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT