

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County, Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County; Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes; Commissioner Germaine Kornegay, Skagit PUD; Commissioner Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County; and Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation.

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Brocksmith, Skagit Watershed Council.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Janicki called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.
2. Written Public Comments: Mr. Hamilton explained that while there is no opportunity for verbal public comment during the remote meeting, written comments were accepted between the time when the meeting materials were released, and the day prior to the meeting. No public comments were received during that timeframe.
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of February 17, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Certification
AP voucher batch #136119 and #136298 in an amount totaling \$18,379.46; and payroll certification for February 2021 in the amount of \$34,262.10.
 - c. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Certification
AP voucher batch #136547 and #136704 in an amount totaling \$26,238.59; and payroll certification for March 2021 in the amount of \$34,262.10.
Chairman Wooten moved approval of the consent agenda items as presented, and Commissioner Browning seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Action Items
 - a. Imperial Mining Corporation's Mining Proposals in the Upper Skagit River Watershed in British Columbia: Commissioner Janicki explained that Richard Brocksmith from the Skagit

Watershed Council brought this information to the Board of Directors, and was interested in having the Board approve a letter asking the government of British Columbia not to allow mining in the headwaters of the Skagit River Watershed in British Columbia.

Mayor Gere stated that she had taken up the issue with the Anacortes City Council, and had prepared a letter and resolution. Anacortes has coordinated with Indian tribes and cities that had already taken a stand on this issue, and also coordinated with Skagit PUD.

Chairman Wooten encouraged the Board to take action. Mayor Boudreau stated that before taking action, she would like to see what a draft letter and resolution for consideration.

Commissioner Omdal stated that heavy metals from mining activity may affect crops and irrigation in the Skagit Valley, and noted Port of Skagit commissioners had unanimously passed a resolution to oppose the activity.

Board members discussed various aspects of the mining proposal including mitigation of project impacts, the implications of outsourcing heavy metal mining to developing nations, and past practices of the Imperial Mining Corporation.

Commissioner Janicki stated that she could draft a letter as Chair of the Board. Commissioner Browning asked to ensure that the letter would go to the right place, specifically a governing body within the British Columbia government.

Chairman Wooten moved to provide a letter and resolution to the Canadian government opposing the Imperial Mining Corporation action. Mayor Gere seconded the motion, and the motion carried, with Mayor Boudreau and Commissioner Wesen opposed.

5. Discussion Items

- a. First Reading of Proposed Bylaws Change: Mr. Murphy reminded the Board that a conversation began two months prior regarding changing the meeting dates and times to ensure a quorum for the Board of Directors meeting. After that initial discussion, an ad-hoc group met and considered meeting options. Skagit Transit governing body meetings may move to mornings, which is an action this other board would take independently. There are options for the Board of Directors to meet less often, potentially meeting four times a year rather than monthly. Meeting less frequently than monthly would require a bylaws change because the bylaws currently state that the Board of Directors will meet "once a month." The bylaws state that any change of the bylaws requires a two-thirds majority vote of all members.

Chairman Wooten inquired about anticipated future meeting length. Mr. Murphy responded that meetings would likely last around 30 minutes, but special meetings can also be called as needed. If Skagit Transit moves their meetings to the morning, the SCOG staff recommendation would be to move the Board of Directors to 1 p.m. with a Transportation Policy Board start time of 1:30 p.m., for months that both SCOG governing bodies meet.

Commissioner Janicki noted that Skagit Transit is currently moving into a large construction project, and expected that their governing body meetings would run longer than they typically have in the past. Mayor Sexton expressed concern about how these meeting changes could impact a return to in-person meetings with Skagit Transit and SCOG.

6. Chair's Report: Commissioner Janicki had nothing to report.
7. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Murphy notified the Board that letters and resolutions regarding the Imperial Mining Corporation's Mining Proposals are included in the meeting packet.

8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Mayor Sexton shared that Burlington’s Skagit First Steps Center is scheduled to open on May 15.
9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 2:15 p.m. via the GoToMeeting remote meeting platform.
10. Adjourned: Commissioner Janicki adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Information Items: The Board was provided with a monthly financial update, letters and resolutions regarding Imperial Mining Corporation’s Mining Proposals, an intergovernmental-review form, and Board notes from March 17, 2021.

Approved,

Date: _____

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County
Board of Directors Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

